

THE VISITOR

TOWNSEND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

🌿 *At the Heart of the Community - With the Community in Our Hearts* 🌿



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Neighbors in Need

TCC participates in this UCC offering every October. Please read the description below and consider supporting this fund; there will be an envelope in your bulletin on the weeks we are collecting.

Thank you.

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.



In everything
give thanks.

1 Thessalonians 5:18, NASB

October 2025 Calendar

- 1 World Communion Sunday
- 13 Council Meeting
- 16 Free Community Dinner
- 19 Special All-Church Meeting
- 26 Nov. Newsletter Deadline
- Nov. 1 Turkey Supper

Starting Oct. 15-every Wednesday:
Handbell Practice at 6:30 pm, and
Choir Practice at 7:30 pm.

Remember to check the members-only portion of the TCC website for updated reports.

All-church meeting on October 19, after worship, to discuss potential union with New Beginnings

Look at the end of this newsletter for a form to fill out if you know of questions you would like to have answered at this meeting. This potential union has many complexities and questions left to the last minute may not have immediate answers.



October 2025

Volume 48 No. 9

Pastor: Rev. Gregory Schmidt

TCC Administrative Asst.:
Judy Karkane
Office Line: 978-597-8925

Village Common Children's Center Line: 978-597-0834

Editor: Cathy Hill

TOWNSEND
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH,
UCC
PO BOX 487
TOWNSEND MA 01469

E-MAIL ADDRESSES:

Church Secretary:
secretary@tccucc.org

Newsletter:
newsletter@tccucc.org

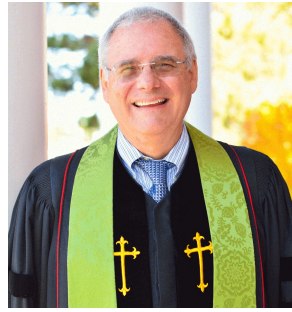
Village Common Children's Center: vccc@tccucc.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:
Monday-Friday: 9 am - 1 pm

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS:
Mon-Wed 9-1, or by
appointment.

**Visit our web page at
www.tccucc.org and visit
us on Facebook**

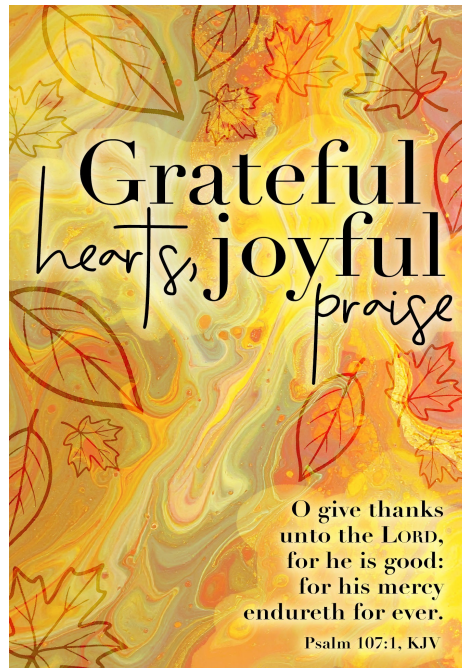
**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26**



Pastor's Letter

Due to unavoidable circumstances, there will be no Letter this month. We look forward to hearing from Pastor Greg next month.

--Cathy



October Community Dinner

The Free Community Dinner for October will take place on Thursday, October 16, from 5 to 6 pm. The menu will include American Chop Suey, salad, green beans, garlic bread, and cookies for dessert. The dinner is take away with tables available to eat in. Water will be available for a beverage.

Please sign up during coffee hour or contact the church office or Wanda Wilson if you would like to donate food or your time to the dinner. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Wanda Wilson



Rejoicing with Handbells!

Calling all those who would love to make a joyful noise! Please consider joining the handbell choir this year beginning on October 15. We play during the Christmas season, lent, and take the winter off. We rehearse on Wednesdays from 6:30 to 7:30 in the sanctuary. Anyone who can read some music from eighth grade to 101 (...and can climb the stairs to the balcony) is welcome! We have a lot of fun while preparing music to share during church services. We are also looking for substitute players, if a more permanent commitment does not fit your schedule. Please contact the church office if interested.

Hope you can join us!

Wanda Wilson





The First Turkey Supper on Nov. 1!

Please plan on joining us for the first turkey dinner of the church year! We will be serving our famous turkey dinner on Saturday, November 1 from 5-6:60 pm in Fellowship Hall. The cost will be \$14 with no more than \$30 charged for families with young children. The sign up sheets for donations of food and workers for that evening will be available in Fellowship Hall after church! If you know where you want to sign up, what you would like to donate, or have any questions, please contact Lee and Kathy Duckett or the church office at 978-597-8925.



Our PACH Outreach Collection

A huge thanks to everyone who brought in personal hygiene supplies, or contributed funds, to support the Pepperell Outreach Community of PACH. We filled

the large wicker container in the sanctuary and collected over \$300 (exact amount unknown at this time).



HOLIDAY FAIR

Nov. 23, 2024

Our Holiday Craft and Greens Fair is less than two months away on Saturday, November 23! It's a wonderful community event but it takes many people to make it happen. We had a very successful fair last year and we hope to see our church full of people again this year, ready to see our Greens, Raffle Baskets, and Crafters, etc.

Please come to work the day of the fair in any area for an hour or so before or after your own shopping and delicious luncheon. There are many volunteer opportunities and it's fun to be part of the day.

Thank you to all those who have signed up to run the various areas of the fair!!

Bistro: Last year, June once again did a great job of overseeing the Bistro, along with her other duties, but we're hoping one of you will be willing to take this on.

Regifting: Co-chaired by Lee McTighe and Jody Burnham. Don't forget to put gently used or new/non desired items aside for our Regifting Table. This is a popular area of our fair and people of all ages just love to look for special bargains.

TCC Crafts: Please consider donating a craft that you have made throughout the year to our church Craft Table. We have such a talented church!

Baskets Raffle:

Chris Clish, chairperson. If you would like to contribute a gift



basket for the Baskets Raffle and need inspiration for a theme, a whole page full of ideas was published in the digital version of the September newsletter, which can be found on the TCC website, www.tccucc.org. This area is stunning and a big draw for our community.

Bake Table: Co-chaired by Karen Baer and Judy Russell. We would love any jams, relishes, and fudge along with your delicious baked goods, for our Bake Table - to make it look like an old time shop.

It is truly an exciting and festive day and you will want to be part of it!

Look for our posters at coffee hour or email Cathy for copies.

Apple Pie

Night: will be held on Thursday, November 13.



June will track down the apples for this, but is grateful for all our TCC bakers. If you enjoy baking and getting together with friends, then you don't want to miss out on the pie making night. Things get started at about 5 pm, but you can show up whenever you can.

Thank you to all who work at our fair, and who come and bring friends to our special day.

*2025 Holiday Fair Committee
June Cloutier and Cathy Hill*



Greens Table News

Looking for small and medium size baskets, and cemetery containers, for the Greens Table!

Don't toss those used baskets...donate them! We could also use any decorations for baskets: useable bows, pine cones, small items that would look great to decorate a greens basket... Some of our best decorations have come from church members! Please contact the church office or Wanda Wilson if you have any treasures you would like to part with! We are also looking for places to cut evergreens as well because a couple of our spots are not available this year.

Thanks in advance for your generosity,

Wanda Wilson



The Village Common Children's Center

**Hello TCC Friends!!
Happy October 2025
from VCCC!!**



Our new school is well on its way and we are excited to be moving into the wonderful season of fall!! September was spent with everyone getting to know each other, as well as the classroom environments. As warm temperatures continued, we all enjoyed extended time outside on the playground as well walks on the rail trail and picnics on the Common! The staff and children definitely celebrated the joys of the fall season with all its colorful splendor! The children went on nature walks and brought back beautiful colored leaves, acorns, pine cones, bark and sticks which they then used to create some wonderful pieces of nature inspired artwork. In the Preschool/PreK classroom the children also used these items



of nature in the Math & Science Center where they worked on the concepts of sorting and classification. Parents very generously donated apples to our classes which allowed for apple taste tests and more math-based sorting and classification activities! There was LOTS of fall cooking projects that went on throughout the month with the Toddler class making yummy pumpkin spice cookies, and the Preschool/PreK class making equally yummy apple cake, apple crisp and homemade applesauce!! Donated pumpkins allowed for some fun, messy science and sensory explorations in all of the classrooms as well as some very tasty pumpkin seeds!



The big highlight for the month of October will be

our Halloween-themed activities and games! The children will have fun wearing their costumes and "trick or treating" through the school hallways collecting treats from stations that we will set up around the school!!

I'd like to take this opportunity to once again thank the TCC Council and the TCC Congregation for your continued support of VCCC, we couldn't offer the community this wonderful program without you, and you have our sincere gratitude. From all the VCCC Staff, the VCCC Board of Directors and myself, we wish you all a healthy and happy fall season!!

Carol Ciccolini,
VCCC Director





The Birthday Fund

This is a fun way to contribute above and beyond your regular giving to the church to something above and beyond our normal operating budget. We appreciate those who have participated so far. Simply make a donation on (or around) your birthday in the amount of your age (Memo: Birthday Fund)! Participate and watch our gifts grow!



Paul Emerson; Charles Greene; Isaac Woodward; Betty Mae Tenney; Debra Boutwell-Reeves; Sarah Goyette; Lisa Hunt; Tracy Winslow; Rosie Emerson; Kyle Fossey; Alex Beauchesne; Meg Genoter; Lee McTighe; June Cloutier; Louise Coalter; Deanna Capone; Gretchen Churchville.



Our TCC Governance Council

Moderator: Carole Gustafson
Assoc. Moderator: Beth Klein
Minister for Congregational Care: Judy Russell
Minister for Finance: Nick Zielenkiewicz
Minister for Outreach: Cynthia Tremblay
Minister for Property: Wanda Wilson
Pastor: Rev. Greg Schmidt

beyond by making her famous sauerkraut for everyone!

Wedding Anniversaries:

Rob and Becky Burnham,
13 years on October 13
David and Dede O'Hair,
34 years on October 13
Bill and Louise Coalter,
58 years on October 14
Pen and Jody Burnham,
48 years on October 15
Jon and Cheryl Borko,
16 years on October 30

OUR CONCERNS:

Carole G is requesting prayers for her brother-in-law Larry and sister-in-law Shelley who were in a car accident in August.

Melissa M is requesting prayers for a family member who just found out that they have cancer and are unsure if treatable.

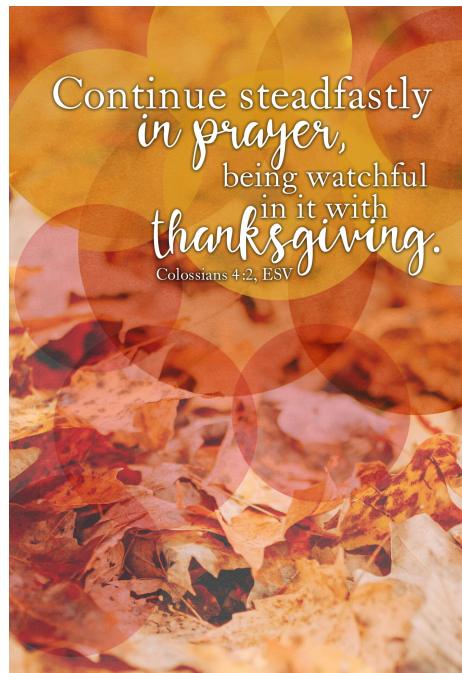
Kristina C is asking for prayers for Terri M as she recovers from surgery.

Sandy L is asking for continued prayers for her sister, Linda and her son, Ronnie, who have had recent medical problems.

Carol S is asking for continued prayers for Elaine D. Elaine is finally on a medication that is working. She misses everyone at church and sends greetings to one and all.

Beth K is requesting prayers for a successful surgery and recovery for our church secretary, Judy K.

The Wilson's ask for continued prayers of healing for a neighbor's child who had a stroke, is slowly



OUR BLESSINGS:

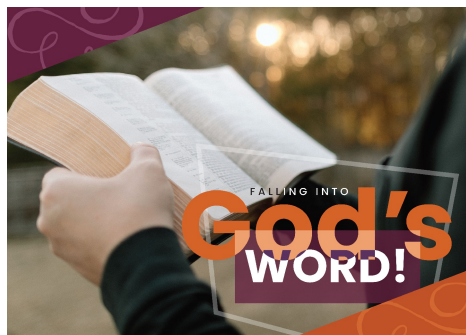
Kristina C has a joy for her Mom and Dad, Wanda and Dave, who have shown them love and support throughout the years.

We give thanks for all those who organized, contributed to, and attended our roast pork supper on Sept. 27. We raised \$1,367 for the ministries of our church. An extra thanks to Jody who went above and

recovering and has been taken off hospice.

We offer prayers of consolation to all the family and friends of Sharon Schmidt's mother, who passed away on Sept. 25.

We offer prayers of healing and hope for all those in our immediate and extended families who are in the midst of battling cancer, and for all those who care for and support them.



LECTIONARY, OCTOBER 2025

October 5, 2025 -

17th Sunday after Pentecost

First reading and Psalm:

Lamentations 1:1-6;

Lamentations 3:19-26 or

Psalm 137

Alternate First reading and Psalm:

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4;

Psalm 37:1-9

Second reading: 2 Timothy 1:1-14

Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

October 12, 2025 -

18th Sunday after Pentecost

First reading and Psalm: Jeremiah

29:1, 4-7; Psalm 66:1-12

Alternate First reading and Psalm:

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c; Psalm

111

Second reading: 2 Timothy 2:8-15

Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

October 19, 2025 -

19th Sunday after Pentecost

First reading and Psalm: Jeremiah

31:27-34; Psalm

119:97-104

Alternate First reading and Psalm:

Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm

121

Second reading: 2 Timothy

3:14-4:5

Gospel: Luke 18:1-8

October 26, 2025 -

20th Sunday after Pentecost

First reading and Psalm: Joel

2:23-32; Psalm 65

Alternate First reading and Psalm:

Sirach 35:12-17 or Jeremiah

14:7-10, 19-22; Psalm

84:1-7

Second reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8,

16-18

Gospel: Luke 18:9-14



COMMUNITY NEWS

Haunted Trail - Oct. 11, 7-9 pm

The Annual Haunted Trail event, sponsored by the Friends of the Townsend Library and the VFW Auxiliary, to be held in the woods outside of the library.

The trail runs from 7-9 pm, but there will be spooky vendors and food trucks on site starting at 5 pm.

Admission is \$10 (cash only); \$1 off if a non-perishable item (food, personal hygiene or paper products) is donated for TEO.

This is not an event intended for young children.



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST NEWS

Every month, the SNEUCC has learning events, both in person and online. To view these events, go to: www.sneucc.org/events

A Devotional to Share

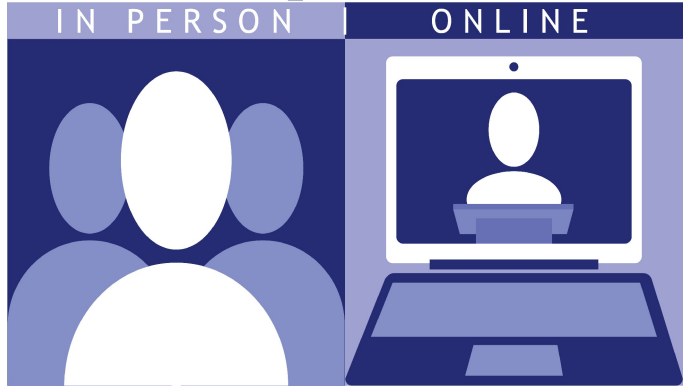
I had some room in our newsletter this month, so I am taking the opportunity to share a devotional from this summer that resonated with me. I hope it calls to something within you, as well.

Cathy

Townsend Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
3 Brookline St., PO Box 487
Townsend MA 01469-0487

Worship/Sunday School at 10 am

Worship With Us



SHARING OUR SPACE WITH THE COMMUNITY AND FRIENDS

Weddings, Child Dedications, Holiday Parties, Baby and Wedding Showers, Family Reunions, Organization Meetings



We are blessed with a beautiful sanctuary and great space within our building for use that we are able to share with others. If you or someone you know is

looking for a location for an event, contact our church secretary at 978-597-8925. This use of our building helps support the maintenance of our facility.



OUR COMMON PURPOSE STATEMENT

Being in an intimate relationship with God in the present, we are an ever-learning, action-oriented, justice-seeking, community-caring church. Our purpose is to use our gifts to make God's love real and alive for everyone.

We are committed to ministering through the use of our gifts, learning to live the Christian way of life, and being together in Christ by seeking to fulfill these three commandments of Christ:

- ❖ *To love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength (Mark 12:30)*
- ❖ *To love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31)*
- ❖ *To love one another as Christ has loved us (John 13:34)*

