

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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IT'S TIME TO PUT UP THE HOLIDAY FAIR LAWN SIGNS!

Let Cathy or June know if you don't already have one.



*Daylight Savings ends at 2 am
on Sunday, November 2.*

November 2025 Calendar

- 2 All-Member Meeting
 - 10 Council Meeting
 - 13 Pie-Making Night
 - 20 Greens Making Night
 - 22 Holiday Fair!
 - 23 December Newsletter Deadline
 - 30 First Sunday of Advent
- Handbell Practice every
Wednesday at 6:30 pm
- Choir Practice every Wednesday at
7:30 pm



November 2: Do We Want to Federate?

Also happening on November 2 is an all-member meeting to discern and decide whether we, as a church, wish to officially start researching the pros and cons of forming a federation with New Beginnings United Methodist Church; this would be the starting point of making this a reality. See Pastor Greg's letter for more information, and please plan on attending if at all possible.

– Cathy





November 2025

Volume 48 No. 10

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

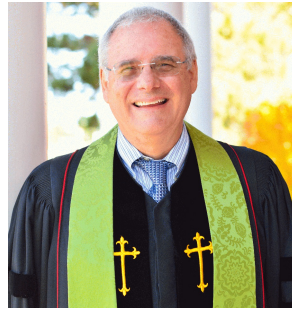
**Village Common Children's
Center:** vccc@tccucc.org

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, NOVEMBER 23**



Pastor's Letter

Dear Friends,

The first Sunday in November is going to be a special one for us. Indeed it might be a monumental one in the life of the church.

In addition to falling back an hour, and celebrating communion, following our worship service we are going to vote on whether to enter into formal discussions and creating working groups to explore a federation with New Beginnings United Methodist Church. **This WILL NOT be a vote to join together.** At this time we will simply be voting to move forward with the intent being that, should all the discussions go well, sometime in 2026 we will vote to join together.

As I have mentioned time and again, we will need to think outside of our small box if this church has hopes of surviving the next decade. Federating with New Beginnings will not solve our problems, but it will be a first step towards a new, and hopefully bright, future for both congregations.

Yes, there are going to be lots of meetings and lots of conversations. With your input and involvement we will have to come to terms with the money issues before us. We will have to wander through the unknown of bringing to

denominations together in a way that serves the history and polity of both churches. We will have to create new bylaws and figure out how the collection will be taken each week on a regular basis.

In other words, there is a lot of work ahead of us. But with your help and the Holy Spirit at work in the process, nothing is impossible. In fact it might even be invigorating for all of us.

So I hope you will join us on November 2nd as we vote on whether or not to move forward with this process. As always, if you have any questions or concerns please don't hesitate to reach out to me.

See you in church.

Greg



Greens Cutting

Please consider joining the group of greens cutters! We travel around the area to cut a variety of greens to be used in our baskets for the Greens Table at the fair, time to be determined at the convenience of the group. Please contact me if you questions, have greens you could provide or we could cut, and/or if you would like to help out.

Wanda Wilson - Greens
Chairperson 978-597-6803



Time to Clean Up! Many Hands Make Light Work!

Weather permitting, we will be having a clean-up day on Thursday, November 6 or November 8 at 10 am. We will be raking, trimming the bushes, and cleaning up the brush around the church grounds to get our church ready for winter. We also need to put the storm windows onto the sanctuary windows. Two of our usual helpers will have had knee surgery and one will have had back surgery, and are out of service right now, so please consider joining us to help out! We will choose the day that gets the most respondents.

Wanda Wilson - Minister for Property



In the month of November, our Outreach focus will be **Heifer International**. Renée Fossey is planning on having a table at our Holiday Fair, but will also have the materials available earlier in the month; she will be happy to talk to you about it after worship!

HOLIDAY FAIR

Sat., Nov. 22, 10am - 3pm

As of this writing, our annual church fair is less than four weeks away. These weeks of preparation will seem to fly by so fast. Thank you to all our chairs who have stepped forward for this festive day.

The fair is being chaired once again by June Cloutier and Cathy Hill, but it is run by all the people of the church! The day goes by quickly and extra helpers allow everyone the time to enjoy a Bistro lunch and browse the wide variety of goods available!

Please email June about what you can do on fair day.

Also, remember to pick up a copy of the Holiday Fair flyer after worship to post at your favorite places.

RAFFLE BASKETS

These stunning baskets have always



been a focal point of the fair (in Fellowship Hall) thanks to all the members of the congregation. Whether you are an "old hand" at this or want to jump in for the first time, please participate by picking a theme and filling a basket with creative items. If you would like to participate, look for the sign-up

sheet in Fellowship Hall after church. Chris Clish is chairing this table and it will really help her to know ahead of time how many baskets she has for display.



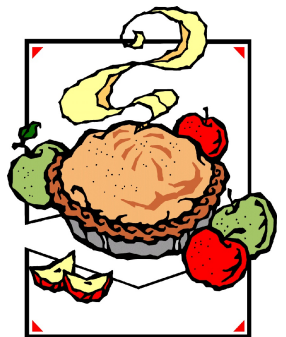
BAKE TABLE

What's your baking/kitchen specialty? Cookies,

brownies, breads, muffins, coffee cakes, jams, fudge (always sells out!). Whatever it is, please consider bringing something to the bake table Friday or Saturday morning. We have many fabulous cooks in our church; you can make holiday assortments, if you wish, and packaging for individual sales is always helpful. If you have questions, reach out to Karen Baer.

APPLE PIES

Apple Pie Night will be Thursday, November 13 from 6-8:30ish. No



matter what baking skills you have, you will enjoy this high-spirited evening filled with fun and fellowship. Bakers of all ages gather together as our apple peelers, slicers and crust rollers make dozens of pies that will be frozen and sold on the day of the fair. Whether or not you can come on NOVEMBER 13, there are a variety of items we need: flour, sugar, butter, or to provide freezer space, or plan to help at the bake table the day of the fair. Sign up at coffee hour after worship or by contacting June Cloutier.

CHURCH CRAFT TABLE

Please think of donating something handmade to our TCC craft table. We are a very talented church and we'd like to show the community. The donation may be priced by the artist and will be returned if not sold.



JINGLE BELL BISTRO

Our Jingle Bell Bistro is a savory and popular area to rest and have a delicious lunch! June Cloutier is overseeing this area (although anyone willing to step up and chair this event would be hugely appreciated!) and will be asking for kitchen help soon as well as requesting some of our delicious soups, desserts, morning muffins, etc. We always have people rave about our offerings; we would be lost without our in-house restaurant that day.



If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact June Cloutier or, for questions about crafters, contact Cathy Hill.



REGIFTING / GRAMMA'S ATTIC

There is truth in the old adage "One man's trash, is another's treasure." Our regifting table has delighted browsers, either before or after their purchase of greens. We accept just about everything to regift, except **NO ELECTRONICS or FURNITURE**. What people do enjoy perusing is jewelry, dishes, Christmas decorations, and linens. Nothing too large, please.

We are also including books in Gramma's Attic. We have been saving our fiction all year. We would love your fiction and Children's books, another HUGE seller. Unfortunately, non-fiction, just doesn't sell; please do not bring any non-fiction books.

You can either deliver your "treasures" or books to the office during the week, or, during the week leading up to the fair, you can leave them on tables that will be set up in the old vestry, one for regifting, one for books.

At the Holiday Fair, come browse our treasures and pick up a book or two, to entertain you during those long winter months.

Your purveyors of "stuff,"

Jody, Lee, and Tracy



Greens Night!

Please plan on joining us on at 6 pm on Thursday, November 20, in



the vestry for Greens Night! This is an evening of creating baskets of greens to sell at the fair using the greens we have recently cut from around the area! There is holiday music playing while we enjoy each other's company and the wonderful smell of evergreens. It is a

rather festive night with lots of laughs and many workers helping to make our part of the fair a huge success. Many experienced friends are always willing to share ideas on how to make the baskets, and even making your bow if you need one!

So please join us! You will be glad you did! Any questions...contact the church office or me.

Thank you for your time,

Wanda Wilson





The Village Common Children's Center

Hello TCC Friends!! Happy November from VCCC!!

Our new school is well on its way—hard to believe that we are moving towards the end of the Fall season already!



The staff and children had fun celebrating the joys of the Fall season with all its colorful splendor through lots of different art,



cooking and reading activities!

The big highlight of the month of October had to be our new Halloween event—“Trunk or Treat”.



The children (and staff!) dressed in costume and went “Trick-or-Treating” through the school parking lot where parents and staff had decorated their cars in fun, spooking decoration!!

Back in the classrooms they then participated in lots of Halloween themed activities and games!

November will find us all looking forward to the



Thanksgiving holiday, which allows us further impress upon the children the importance of family and friends. The children will also

explore curriculum themes about farming, the harvest, and colonial days! We will also once again host our now annual “Thanksgiving Feast” where all the VCCC families will contribute to a lunchtime “feast” where all three classrooms of staff, children and any parents/grandparents who can attend will share lunch together upstairs in Fellowship Hall. We are very grateful to TCC for allowing us to use that space so that the entire school can make the Thanksgiving holiday a little more special by sharing that lunchtime “feast” together.

From all the VCCC Staff, the VCCC Board of Directors and myself, we wish you all a healthy and happy month of November, and a very Happy Thanksgiving!!

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!



MaryBeth Collins;
Grant Bruns;
Claire Nixon;
Stephen Gay;
Kim

Wojcuilewicz; Danielle Beauchesne; Beth Klein; Dick Lee; Bailey Mulrenan; Jennifer Climo; Holly Card (nee Gustafson)



OUR BLESSINGS:

Throughout the year, many parishioners offer their help with repairs and upkeep of our church grounds and building. Many thanks to Tad Rochette for spending a week this past month to paint Fellowship Hall and polyurethane the floor. We also sent the drapes out to be cleaned as they have not been cleaned since they were hung...twenty years ago. The room looks great! Donations of time, such as this keeps our church looking great while keeping the cost down!

Thank you!

Wanda Wilson

Cynthia T is asking for prayers for her daughter Kate and Frank who were married on October 14.

Wedding Anniversaries:

Dick and Nancy Lee,
52 years on Nov. 3
Nick and Julie Zielenkiewicz,
49 years on Nov. 14
Charles and Debbie Greene,
50 years on Nov. 15



OUR CONCERNS:

Karen B is asking for prayers for the family of Walter K who passed away on October 3.

Lee M is requesting prayers for her friend, Frank, who is having medical issues.

We offer prayers for those who have been hospitalized, including Don K, Lorraine M, and Carole's brother, Bill. We also pray for their families and caretakers.

Prayers for Jodie B as she recovers from surgery.

We pray for Sandy L who is experiencing medical issues.

Prayers for the Cutler family who mourn the unexpected loss of Ed, who passed away on October 19. If anyone in the congregation would like to send a card, Cheryl would welcome this; please contact Cathy Hill or the church office for their current address.

We continue to pray for all those whose lives have been impacted by natural disasters, war, and other violence. May they know that God is with them as they struggle.

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,
NOVEMBER 2025**

November 2, 2025 -

21st Sunday after Pentecost

First reading and Psalm: Habakkuk
1:1-4; 2:1-4; Psalm
119:137-144

Alternate First reading and Psalm:
Isaiah 1:10-18; Psalm
32:1-7

Second reading: 2 Thessalonians
1:1-4, 11-12

Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

November 9, 2025 -

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

First reading and Psalm: Haggai
1:15b-2:9; Psalm 145:1-5,
17-21 or Psalm 98

Alternate First reading and Psalm:
Job 19:23-27a; Psalm
17:1-9

Second reading: 2 Thessalonians
2:1-5, 13-17

Gospel: Luke 20:27-38

November 16, 2025 -

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

First reading and Psalm: Isaiah
65:17-25; Isaiah 12

Alternate First reading and Psalm:
Malachi 4:1-2a; Psalm 98

Second reading: 2 Thessalonians
3:6-13

Gospel: Luke 21:5-19

November 23, 2025 -

24th Sunday after Pentecost

First reading and Psalm: Jeremiah
23:1-6; Luke 1:68-79

Alternate First reading and Psalm:
Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 46

Second reading: Colossians 1:11-20
Gospel: Luke 23:33-43

November 30, 2025 -

First Sunday of Advent

First reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

Psalm: Psalm 122

Second reading: Romans 13:11-14
Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44



**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

COMMUNITY NEWS



TOWNSEND
ECUMENICAL
OUTREACH

From the TEO website:

“Every dollar, piece of clothing, or can of food helps us further our mission of assisting those in need.

Donating funds to TEO allows us to purchase food at a greatly reduced cost, which makes your donations go further. We also use those funds to support community members when they need a helping hand with everyday living expenses.”

Please visit the TEO website to find ways to help,

<https://www.teo-ma.org/>



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



In this month, where we tend to focus on giving thanks, the following daily devotional came to mind, written by one of my favorite devotional writers a couple years ago. They always seem to have a slightly different perspective that makes me ponder just a little bit more...

Active Ingredient: Gratitude

Phiwa Langeni

One of them, when he saw that he had been healed, returned and praised God with a loud voice. - Luke 17:15 (CEB)

Medicine containers display lists of all the ingredients used in the medication. There’s usually a separate section that shows its active ingredients—the items in the medicine that make it effective. All the ingredients work together to be a healing agent, but it’s the active ingredients that really make the medicine effective.

Luke tells the story of ten men with skin disease, banished to the outskirts of town to live out their “unclean” days isolated from others. When they see Jesus passing by, they cry out for mercy, and he sends them to the priests to be declared clean again. As they go, their skin clears up. One of them returns to thank Jesus, who declares the man healed due to his faith.

If those ten men had ingredient labels, one would notice the ingredients of faith (in believing that Jesus could be merciful to them) and obedience (in going to the priests as instructed before their skin even cleared). For the one who returned, gratitude would be the active ingredient. All ten were cured from their skin condition. Only the one was also healed.

Indeed, gratitude acknowledges God as the source of healing and wholeness. Considering the labels of ingredients in our own lives, I hope someone looking would find love, perhaps faith and obedience, maybe some compassion, and even a little peace would be nice. But if they were to look at the active ingredients, would they find gratitude?

Prayer

Give us the courage to lead with gratitude so that we might be healed from our physical, spiritual, emotional, societal, and every kind of affliction that ails us. Amen.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

The Rev. Phiwa Langeni is the Ambassador for Innovation &

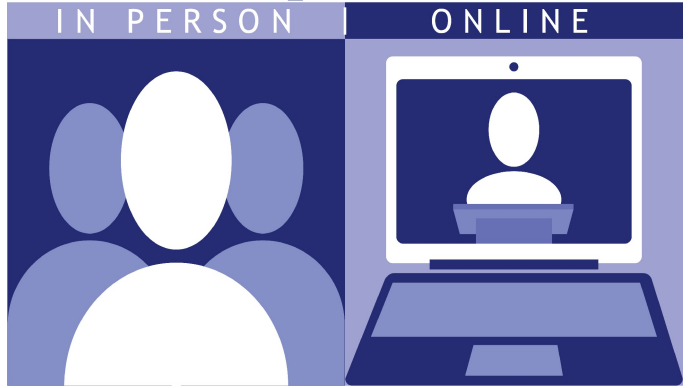
Engagement of the United Church of Christ. They are also the Founder of Salus Center, the only LGBTQ resource and community center in Lansing, MI.

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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)*

