

THE VISITOR

TOWNSEND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

♥ At the Heart of the Community - With the Community in Our Hearts ♥



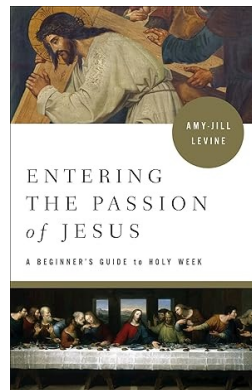
In this edition . . .

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SAVE THE DATE - MAY 9!

We will be holding an Auction this year on May 9. Please see the brief article on page 3 .



Lent Begins on February 18

Please consider joining us for a Lenten book study - see details in Pastor Greg's article on the next page.

February Calendar

- 1 Annual Business Meeting
- 7 Regifting Yankee Swap
- 9 Council Meeting
- 18 Ash Wednesday Service
- 19 Free Community Dinner
- 22 March Newsletter Deadline
- 23 Start of Lenten Book Study
- 28 Turkey Supper

*Choir practice every
Wednesday at 7:30 pm*

**Due to the snow storm, our
annual business meeting
will now be held on
Sunday, February 1, after
the worship service.**



Turkey Supper - February 28

Kathy and Lee Duckett are hosting our supper on February 28; they are planning on Turkey with peas and corn. Once the January supper is over, please keep a lookout for their sign-up sheets. *Thanks.*



February 2026

Volume 49 No. 2

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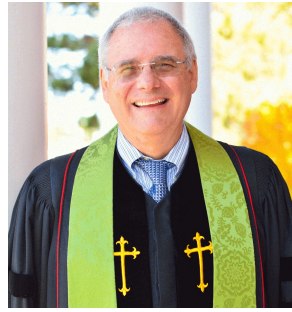
**Village Common Children's
Center:** vccc@tccucc.org

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, FEBRUARY 22**



Pastor's Letter

OK, it is time for the Winter Olympics to begin. I am actually kind of excited to see some of these events. But, as always, it raises questions in my mind. For instance, what's the deal with curling? It is like watching paint dry, only on ice. More importantly, why do the ice skaters always choose the worst version of songs for their performances?

That got me thinking about other things I don't really understand. For instance:

→ Why do pickup trucks all have to have double headlights? Are today's single headlights not blinding enough?

→ Why is Donald Trump so excited about killing drug shippers in the Carribean when he pardoned the biggest drug kingpin we had in prison? And, having pardoned him, then claimed he didn't even know who he was.

→ Also, how is it that the most smartest president we have ever had (his words) keeps bragging that he is reducing prices by hundreds and thousands of percent? "Drug prices are coming down by two thousand percent"? I always thought a 100 percent drop in the price of something took it to zero. Guess I'm not that smart after all.

Maybe you have the answers to some of these questions. If so let me know. ("Greg, you're an idiot" as already been suggested.)

There is one other question with which I have to wrestle in 2026 - what really happened during Holy week? If, like me, you are curious to learn about this then I invite you to join our book study on Mondays at 5:30 pm. We will be reading **"Entering the Passion of Jesus"** by Amy-Jill Levine. Steve Pierce and I will be facilitating the conversations. Order a copy of the book and join us for an insightful discussion. This book study will run from February 23 until March 30.

Finally, I invite you to join us in our sanctuary on Ash Wednesday, February 18, at 12 noon for a brief (30 minute) worship service and the imposition of ashes.

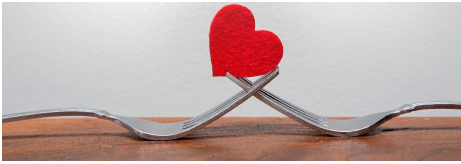
Greg



New Date! Regifting Yankee Swap - Feb. 7

Our regifting Yankee swap needed to be rescheduled; it will now be held on Saturday, February 7 at 6:30 pm. There will be a potluck dessert to kick off the evening.

Please remember that this is a silly swap and must not include items you bought yourself - only items gifted to you that you have no use for!



Free February Community Dinner

TCC's free Community Dinner for February will be offered on Thursday, February 19, from 5:00 to 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. It is a dinner for those in the community who face food insecurity or are lonely. The evening offers a time to visit with others while enjoying a free healthy meal. The menu will include American chop suey, salad, garlic bread and cookies for dessert. It is a take away or eat in dinner, with water offered for a beverage.

Those wishing to donate their time or food to this dinner may sign up during coffee hour on Sundays or by contacting Wanda Wilson. Preorders are encouraged by contacting the church office 978-597-8925.

We hope you can join us!

Thank you for your time,

Wanda Wilson



Agapé Handbell Choir

The Agapé Handbell Choir had a wonderful fall and advent season! The nine members were healthy and able to play in church for six Sundays. They worked hard to learn some more advanced pieces, and I thank them for their dedication to the choir!

Unfortunately, two members, who are moving away, are unable to play this spring. The handbell choir is looking for new members who can join them in creating a "joyful noise" for the church services. Anyone from eighth grade to 101, who can read music, and navigate the balcony stairs will be joyfully welcomed!

Please speak with Wanda Wilson, the director, for more information if you are interested.

Thank you for your time,

Wanda Wilson



Fund-Raiser Concert in our Sanctuary

A local resident composer, and occasional church attender, Rudy Zimmerman, will be presenting his 7th symphony, **the Miracle**, at our church. This solo performance will be held on **Saturday, March 21 at 11 am**. Rudy has designated this to be a fund-raiser for the church so there will only be a free-will offering, otherwise there is no cost to attend. Tell your friends and come hear this WORLD PREMIER performance.



An Auction Heads Up!

Carole Gustafson and Wanda Wilson will, once again, be chairing the Church Auction on May 9th at 6:00 pm in Fellowship

Hall, with a preview at 5:00 pm. Daryl Pelletier from the Brookline Auction House will be leading us in lively bidding. The invitation letter for donations to vendors will be sent out soon. Like other years, there will be a variety of interesting items, gift cards, service donations, a matching fund drive, and gift baskets offered. Food and beverages will also be available to feast on! Please start thinking about what donation(s) you will be offering to the auction this year. It is our biggest fund-raiser of the year and lots of fun!

Hope you can join us!

*Carole Gustafson
Wanda Wilson
Co-chair people*



The Village Common Children's Center

Hello TCC Friends!! Happy February 2026 from VCCC!!

Well, it's hard to believe that our school year is now technically half over! We have started registration for the 2026-2027 school year and are looking forward to again bringing full enrollment to the school! If any TCC families are

looking for childcare and early learning experiences for their little ones, please do not hesitate to call me at 978-597-0834 for more information about our enrollment process.

The month of January found us with temperatures much too cold for the most part to safely bring the children for outside play, so the teachers brought winter fun inside the classrooms instead!! The children wore their mittens to play in the snow in our sensory tables! They painted blocks of ice all colors of the rainbow, had fun with some ice and salt science experiments, and even did some indoor "ice skating" using wax paper "skates" on the rug!!

We are looking forward to lots of holiday fun during the month of February as we celebrate Valentine's Day with the children, which also gives us further opportunities to focus on the concepts of kindness, friendship and families. We will read stories, play different games, create beautiful art projects, and of course continue with the cooking projects that the children always enjoy!

From all the Staff, the VCCC Board of Directors and myself, we wish our TCC family a healthy and happy month of February!

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!!

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!



Bill Reeves; David Ryder; Paul Martineau; Heather Nixon; Alice Struthers; Charlie Hersey; Linda Ireland; Cindy Miller.



OUR BLESSINGS:

Louise and Bill wish to thank everyone who has signed up to help make the January supper a success. Without your help there wouldn't be an enjoyable evening out for many people ♥

Congratulations to Lou D who celebrated his 99th birthday on

January 24, and has been offered *The Boston Post Cane* for Townsend, which is the local observance of a New England tradition honoring the town's oldest resident

Elaine D wants folks to know that she is happy in her new home at Rivercourt; visitors and cards are appreciated.

We give thanks for the dreams of good people, and pray for the strength to make our own dreams a reality.



OUR CONCERNS:

Kathy D is asking for prayers for her friend, Judy who was newly diagnosed with cancer at the beginning of the year.

Renee F is asking for prayers for her friend, Ken who is recovering from surgery.

Karen B is asking for prayers for her sister-in-law, Barbara who is recovering from a fall.

Prayers for Moe T who is undergoing a medical procedure on Jan 29; we pray this goes well and that his recovery is swift.

We offer prayers for Tad R and his family; Tad's sister recently entered into Hospice care.

We pray for the daughter of a friend who has been diagnosed with a brain tumor.

We pray for Stephanie who is recovering after emergency surgery.

We pray for all those dealing with seasonal illnesses.

We pray for all those touched by violence, and we pray for the perpetrators.

We pray for all those serving in the armed forces and for their families.

We pray for all those who are unemployed or underemployed.

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, FEBRUARY 2026

February 6, 2023 -

4th Sunday after the Epiphany

First reading: Micah 6:1-8

Psalm: Psalm 15

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

February 8, 2026 -

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

First reading: Isaiah 58:1-9a (9b-12)

Psalm: Psalm 112:1-9 (10)

Second reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 (13-16)

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

February 15, 2026 -

Transfiguration Sunday

First reading: Exodus 24:12-18

Psalm: Psalm 2 or Psalm 99

Second reading: 2 Peter 1:16-21

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

February 22, 2026 -

First Sunday in Lent

First reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Psalm: Psalm 32

Second reading: Romans 5:12-19

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

For God
so loved
the world.

JOHN 3:16



COMMUNITY NEWS

**Free Mini Golf at the
Townsend Public Library on
Friday, February 27, 5-9 pm
and Saturday, February 28,
10 am - 4 pm.**



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



The 2026 Climate Hope Art Contest

On January 14, the UCC officially launched the 2026 *Climate Hope Art Contest* for children and youth! The theme this year is “A Future with Hope.” Children and youth are invited to draw, paint, or color works of art that bring this theme to life. The UCC will have winners for different age groups and an overall winner who will receive an all-expense paid trip to visit Washington, DC with a parent or guardian.

Art submissions will be accepted from February 6th to March 20th.

Go to this site for more information:

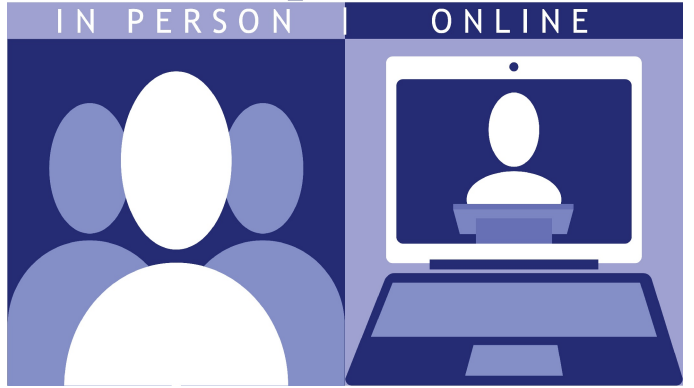
https://www.ucc.org/the-uccs-2026-climate-hope-art-contest/?inf_contact_key=d0c2c2c59e350e8d2303022cdf5cd6741b0a3f0fd3ee5d9b43fb34c6613498d7

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Townsend Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
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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)*

