



# The Parish News

October 2025

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LITTLETON, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST



## *There She Goes Again*



Dear Friends,

As you know, I have been blessed with the opportunity to take a sabbatical this year—a time for rest, renewal, and reflection. In the summer, I took the first part of my sabbatical, and now, during the month of October, I will be stepping away once again to travel, read and focus on my writing. This dedicated time will allow me to explore new ideas, spend intentional time with my family, nurture my spiritual life, and return refreshed and ready to serve our church with renewed energy and vision.

While I am away, we are fortunate to have the Rev. Sarah Hubbell providing pastoral coverage. Sarah is a gifted pastor with a warm and caring spirit, and I am confident you will be in good hands. She will be available for worship leadership, pastoral care needs, and any other concerns that may arise during the month. Please reach out to her if you need support during this time.

I am deeply grateful to you, the members of the Congregational Church of Littleton, for granting me this opportunity. Sabbatical time is a gift, not only to me and my family, but also to the life of our church, as it allows for fresh ideas and renewed vision to take root. I look forward to returning in November, eager to share what I have learned and to continue our shared ministry.

With you on the Journey,

*Rev. Jen*

### **Have you moved?**

We strive to keep our directory and mailing lists up to date. Please email the church office: [office@ccol.org](mailto:office@ccol.org) with all the information and updates to be included.

We don't want you to miss any happenings at CCOL!







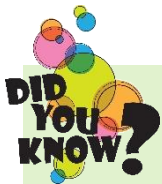
## Thank You for Lending a Hand

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped disassemble John Hutchin's handicapped ramp on Thursday, September 4. With many hands and willing spirits, we were able to take it apart carefully and transport the pieces back to the Church for storage.

John has been a dedicated and active member of our church community for decades, serving on several key committees. As he prepares to sell his home in Groton, he has come to terms with the reality that living independently is no longer possible.

This effort was a beautiful reminder that *many hands truly do make light work*. Thank you again for showing up with care and kindness.

The Property Committee



**Offertory pledges and giving** support the church's daily operations, programs, and ministries.

**Special collections** (Kick-Off, Christmas, Easter) help supplement the operating budget.

Our **Invested Funds/Endowment** contribute about **6% annually** to the budget and help ensure long-term financial stability.

**Proportional Giving** (averaging \$8,000–\$9,000/year) supports the **Southern New England Conference of the UCC**, which provides valuable resources and guidance to our church.

Your generosity helps sustain our mission and ministry—**thank you!**



To: Friends & Family of CCOL

We are so grateful for your prayers, thoughtfulness, food, cards and stories as we mourn my mother's passing. I am learning to address her 'earthly life' counting on her move to a heavenly realm. Her faith was deep and wide and her network of family and friends unimaginable in her 101 years! It was and is comforting to know we are in this community of Christ that demonstrates love for us. We send God's blessings to you all.

Joyce & Roland Gibson



On the Saturday after Thanksgiving (November 30th) we will be welcoming in the season of Advent with a dessert pot-luck and hanging of the greens. This is a time when the community can come together to decorate the church with the wreaths, trees, and much more. All are welcome, so, if you still have family members hanging around from Thanksgiving, bring them along!

### CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LITTLETON, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

330 King Street  
Littleton, MA 01460  
978.486.3245 | ccol.org

**Church Office Hours**  
Tuesday, Wednesday and  
Thursday: 10–3 pm

**Rev. Jennifer Munroe-Nathans**  
Senior Pastor  
Rev.Jen@ccol.org  
508.868.4927

**Peter Scantlebury**  
Sexton  
Pete.Scantlebury@ccol.org

**Michelle Rawlinson**  
Christian Education Director  
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Office@ccol.org

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Financial Administrator  
SClyde@ccol.org

## ***The Garden at Church Meadows is Enjoying a Bountiful Season***

As the growing season winds down, we're thrilled to share that nearly **1,775 pounds** of fresh produce have been delivered to **Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry**—a true testament to the power of community and care.

All **100 tomato plants** were generously donated by individuals and local farms, and they've produced a stunning variety of tomatoes that are *still* being harvested! We're also looking forward to gathering a bountiful crop of **butternut squash** before the end of September.

Here's a snapshot of one of our beautiful one-day harvests—just a glimpse of the love and labor that goes into this mission.



The clients at Loaves & Fishes are deeply grateful for the fresh, nutritious food. In fact, the pantry welcomed **350 new families** this past year—the highest number in its **42-year history**. The need is greater than ever, and your support plays a vital role in helping feed our neighbors.

**Thank you** to everyone who has helped, donated, and prayed for this mission of love. Your generosity is making a real difference. Deb Rosson on behalf of the Garden Team

## **Important Update from the Finance Team**

Dear Church Family,

We're reaching out with an important update regarding our church's budget and inviting your prayerful participation.

Earlier this year, our congregation approved a very lean budget with a projected deficit of just over **\$16,000**. Based on current giving trends, we anticipate a **carryover deficit into 2026** unless additional support is received.

### **Why Your Support Matters**

Our ministries — including worship, children's programs, pastoral care, outreach, and building maintenance — all depend on a balanced operating budget. Closing this gap ensures we can continue to meet our commitments to staff compensation, utilities, outreach, and mission support without interruption.

This is more than a financial need; it's an opportunity to practice **generous and sacrificial giving**, trusting in God's provision as encouraged in **2 Corinthians 9:6–8**.

### **How You Can Help**

If you feel led to contribute, gifts may be designated "**Budget Deficit**" and given in any of the following ways:

- During the offering at church
- As an increase to your current pledge
- Online
- By check (mailed or dropped off at the church)



### **Questions or Assistance?**

If you have questions or need help with making a gift, please contact **Deb Rosson, Treasurer**.

We ask that you prayerfully consider what the Lord may be calling you to give—not out of obligation, but from a heart of **trust and gratitude**.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness to Christ and to this church community.



With gratitude,  
**Kathy Keenan**

Chair, Finance Committee

Finance committee team: Betsy Unkel, Jen Goltsberg, Deb Rosson (treasurer), Patricia Prescott (collector), Susan Janes (ex-officio), Rev. Jen (ex officio) and Brad Hamilton (ex officio)

### **You can attend worship in the following ways:**

**"LIVE" via YouTube:** [live-youtube.ccol.org](https://live-youtube.ccol.org)

**"LIVE" via Facebook:** [live-facebook.ccol.org](https://live-facebook.ccol.org)

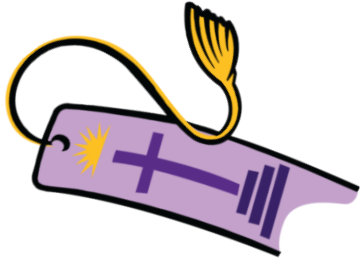
**And of course ... In person every Sunday at 10 am in our sanctuary**

We recommend YouTube as it has the best audio, fewer glitches and people can chat with one another during the service.

Closed-captioning is also available on YouTube after the Sunday 10 am service, usually later in the day.



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



## A Special Welcome from Our Children

The 1st–5th grade class has been busy creating beautiful, hand-painted bookmarks to welcome newcomers to our church. Each bookmark features a heartfelt message crafted by the children and decorated with their own watercolor designs.

If you notice someone new attending a worship service, please let Michelle Rawlinson know so we can offer them one of these special bookmarks—a small gesture of hospitality from our youngest members.

### On-line pledging

Did you know you can make a pledge or donation online? Just scan the QR code or click the “**Please Donate Here**” button at the top of the church website!



**Who Are We?** We are a passionate group committed to nurturing the spiritual growth of children and youth within our church community. Our mission is to create a safe, welcoming space where young people feel heard, supported, and encouraged in their faith journey.

As the **Christian Education Committee**, we meet monthly (on the **first Tuesday via Teams**) to brainstorm ideas for fellowship, friendship-building, and community outreach. Our work supports a wide range of programs, but **you don't need to teach Sunday School, lead Youth Group, or volunteer with Vacation Bible School** to be part of the team. All are welcome to join us in shaping meaningful experiences for our children and youth.

## Something Spooky Is Brewing... ☺

The **CCoL Youth Group** is excited to announce the first annual “**Trick or Treat So Others Can Eat**” event, happening **Sunday, October 26 at 5 PM!**

Instead of collecting candy, our youth will be visiting a selected, pre-informed neighborhood to **trick-or-treat for canned goods and non-perishable items**—all to support the **Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry**. It's a fun and meaningful way for our young people to make a real impact in the lives of local families.

After the collection, all youth and their parents/guardians are invited to gather at the parsonage for **ghoulish refreshments by the campfire**—a perfect way to celebrate the evening together!

Let's make this spooky season one of generosity and community spirit!



Trick or Treat  
so Others Can Eat



## Meet Our October Guest Pastor

While Rev. Jen is on sabbatical during October, we are blessed to welcome the Rev. Sarah Hubbell as our guest pastor. She brings a wealth of experience, compassion, and spiritual insight to our congregation, and we look forward to her leadership and presence during this time.

Rev. Sarah is a retired UCC pastor who served as an associate pastor and pastor in churches in MetroWest and as a hospice chaplain. Prior to becoming ordained, Sarah worked as a National Park Ranger in various park areas in Utah, Arizona, Massachusetts, and Maine. She is married to Doug. They have two grown children and a small schnoodle dog named Chloe. Sarah currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Central Massachusetts Association of the Southern New England Conference of the UCC.





## Council Update Sept 11, 2025

Rev. Jen opened with a reading, "The Blessing with Roots" by Father Killian McDonald, followed with prayer.

Pete Scantlebury reported on the many activities and repairs he and the Property Committee have accomplished. The ramp built for John Hutchins has been removed because his home has been sold and the lumber has been saved behind the church. Pete thanked all who helped disassemble it. Mass Save has done great work at little cost to install extra insulation and e-vents to the church. The temporary repair work done to the spire is holding. Quotes for permanent repairs or replacement are being gathered. Small group meetings will be held to explain plans and costs to the congregation. Clean-up is ongoing at the retention pond next to the parking lot. The church furnace needs a tune-up and valves replaced. The furnace is reaching the end of its lifespan and will have to be replaced at some point. Because the Mitsubishi system in the Sunday School area was not properly installed there is some sort of leak in the system. Larry Wenz is working to find a reliable contractor to address the issue.

Kathy Keenan spoke for the Finance Committee to report that pledging is on target at 66.6% budgeted. Unfortunately, Property expenses are over budget. Music and Stewardship will use up their entire budget. The Finance Committee is hoping that committees can cut back on some expenses. The various special collections have not reached the goals that were set, and the Committee hopes that the Christmas special offering will reach or even exceed its goal. The budget may be in deficit at year-end. Tricia Prescott is stepping down as Church Collector, so Rev. Jen asked Council members to think about someone for the position. An outside auditor has been confirmed. The budget sheets for the next calendar year will be sent out at the end of September and are due back December 1.

Now that the church is using SharePoint, Teams meetings instead of Zoom meetings are saving the church \$600 a year. Poliana Yee will set up the meetings for us.

The AED and cabinet are ready for installation. The Property Committee will work on where and when to install it. After installation, instructions on its use will be explained to all who are interested.

Susan Janes has been looking at plaques or "giving trees" to display and honor the Memorial Gifts given to the church. Some of those ideas come at quite a cost and she is trying to figure out how the church can afford to make it possible.

The Welcoming Committee has asked Deb Austerman and Sarah Nastasia to supply lists of families who have recently moved within a 5-mile radius of the church. Postcards will be sent to them telling them about our church.

Brad Austin told the Council that the theme for Stewardship this fall is "Together With". Inspiration Sunday is October 26 and Consecration Sunday is November 16. Between those two dates there will be interactive activities.

Deb Rosson announced that there will be a tearoom outing at Vintage Tea and Cake in Lexington on November 1.

Rev. Jen will soon be voted in as Moderator of the Central Association of the UCC. Jen spoke about the fact that the Nominating Committee is small and two long term members are hoping to step down. To help the Committee encourage church members to serve on the various committees, Rev. Jen asked that each committee submit by the November Council meeting a one-page description of what the committee actually does, when it is most busy, and any other points that Nominating can use in a "sales pitch".

Brad Hamilton closed the meeting with prayer.

**October**  
IS MY  
**Birthday**  
(Yes, the whole month)

Amber LaSante  
Deb Austermann  
Erin Capozzi  
LaGina Austin  
Laurie Drinkwater  
Lynn Masson  
Olivia Field



## Sound Bath Meditation Supports the Steeple

About 20 participants gathered for a peaceful and restorative Sound Bath Meditation on September 13. Surrounded by soothing tones and gentle vibrations, attendees experienced a time of deep relaxation and reflection.

Proceeds from the event went toward supporting the repair of our beloved steeple, helping preserve an important part of our church's history and presence in the community. Thank you to all who attended and contributed!



Crafters caught in the act at SeaGlass Night!



## WEEKLY GATHERINGS

TUESDAY

### NEIGHBORHOOD SUPPER 5:30-6:30P

CCoL has hosted Neighborhood Suppers for over 30 years, with cooking duties rotating weekly among 4 Littleton churches. Each church plans the menu and provides a team. Suppers are free — donations are welcome.

WEDNESDAY

### SEWING GROUP – 10A-12P

Sewing group meets to create items for those in need. Don't sew? Bring your knitting, crochet, or handcrafts. Sewing? Bring your machine! All are welcome.

### AL-ANON – 10A

Al-Anon is a walk-in support group for those affected by alcoholism. Meetings are held Fridays in the Conant Room.

FRIDAY

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

### MISSION OUTREACH

First Sunday, 11am

### DEACONS

First Monday, 7pm

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

First Tuesday, (Online)

### CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

Second Wednesday, 7pm

### WELCOMING COMMITTEE

First Thursday, 7pm

### PROPERTY

First Thursday, 7:30pm

### CHURCH COUNCIL

Second Thursday, 7:30pm

### DIGITAL MEDIA COMMITTEE

Third Thursday, 7:30pm (Online)

### KNITTING FOR OTHERS

Fourth Thursday, 7-9pm

## SAVE THE DATES!



CCoL's Missions Committee is partnering with Concord Prison Outreach (CPO) to assemble holiday gift bags for incarcerated individuals on **Saturday, October 4, from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM**, and we have room for **a few more volunteers** to help make it a success.

Whether you can give an hour, a few hours, or stay for the whole day, your time will make a real impact. A **sign-up sheet is available in Parish Hall**—please add your name and availability.

The **Holiday Gift Bag Project** provides incarcerated individuals with simple, thoughtful items like toiletries, writing materials, and a personal greeting card—small gifts that offer dignity and hope during the holiday season.



Mission Outreach will be collecting **"Dollars for Diapers"** during coffee hour on October 5th to support the Worcester Area Missions Society's immigrant program. WAMS spends about \$2,000 a month on diapers, and thanks to a special deal with a merchant, monetary donations go further—so please bring dollars, not diapers!

## 2026 CCoL Women's retreat - Jan 30 - Feb 1, 2026

Planning is underway for the 2026 Women's Retreat at Grotonwood! If you'd like to join the fun of organizing this 3-day retreat, come meet after church on Sunday, October 5 at 11:30am. Either way, save the date for this fulfilling weekend—prep the family now and add it to your Christmas list!

## Habitat for Humanity® Fundraiser

Raise your glass at **"A Toast to Hope" — Thursday, October 16, 7–9pm** at Devens Common Center. For \$30, enjoy delicious food and spirited drinks, all while supporting Habitat for Humanity® builds in Ayer. Get your tickets and details at <https://ncmhabitat.org/events>.



## Rummage Sale, October 11, 8am -1pm

Fall is the perfect time to refresh your wardrobe and clear out your closets! We're collecting gently used items for the upcoming **Rummage Sale**, including:

- Clothing, coats & jackets (all sizes)
- Shoes, purses, hats & accessories
- Linens

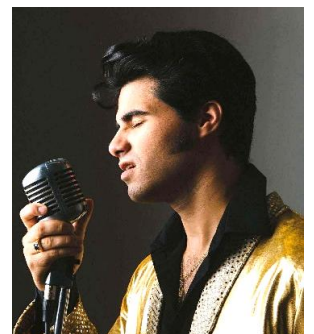


If it's **clean and in good condition**, we'd love to give it a second life. Setup begins October 10 at noon. Thank you for your generosity!

## Elvis Is Coming to Littleton!

Get ready to shake, rattle, and roll! Join us for a rockin' evening with **Rick Anthony**, New England's nationally award-winning Elvis Tribute Artist on **Saturday, October 18, from 6–10 PM!** Enjoy live music, nostalgic vibes, and great company—all for just **\$20 per person**. Tickets can be reserved by calling the office or purchased at the door.

Proceeds support the **Steeple Fund**, so come for the fun and stay for the cause. Don't miss this unforgettable evening of hip-swiveling entertainment!



## SINGING 101: Calling All Shower Singers!

If you only sing where people can't hear you, or if you wonder how to take your singing to the next level (for example, out of the car and into the Choir), this fun and low-stress evening is for you!

We'll explore how the voice works, make noise (maybe even music) together, learn a few skills needed to become a confident singer, and embrace the saying "If you can walk, you can dance; if you can talk, you can sing".

I look forward to seeing you on **Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm!**

Charlotte



IN CELEBRATION OF  
INDIGENOUS  
PEOPLES' DAY, THE  
CCOL OFFICE WILL BE  
CLOSED ON **MONDAY,**  
**OCTOBER 13.**



## Caregivers Support Group



CCoL offers a monthly support group for Caregivers on the second Wednesday of every month. The next meeting will take place on **October 8<sup>th</sup>, 7-8:30 pm** in the Parish Hall.

This is a support group for people of all ages who have the responsibility for the welfare of a family member or friend. It is a safe space in which to share needs and resources. This is open to all in the Littleton community and nearby towns and is NOT limited to CCoL members. Please invite friends, family and anyone who may benefit from this program.

The meeting is hosted by Dianne Ledder and Martha Shethar. Refreshments will be offered.

## Harvest Fair Craft Nights – All Are Welcome!

Join us for evenings of creativity and connection as we prepare for the **Harvest Fair on November 22<sup>nd</sup>**—no crafting experience needed! Just bring your hands, heart, and enthusiasm. Make one for yourself and one for the fair!

We'll meet on **Wednesdays** from **6:30–8:00 PM** on the following dates:

- **Oct 8** – Wine Bottle Decoupage
- **Oct 22** – Shell Decorating (TBD)
- **Nov 5** – More Decoupage (TBD)
- **Nov 19** – Turkey Decorations (a fan favorite!)

Spot brown & orange M&Ms? Grab them—we'll reimburse you!

Come to one or come to all—we'd love to have you!

We're also looking for **bakers, baskets, and help with setup & cleanup.** **Questions?** Contact Marilyn (978-399-8318) or Deb (978-501-4314) for details and drop-off info.



## Join the Choir – Join the Fun!

**Who should join the Choir? You!**

If you enjoy singing, laughing, learning, and being part of a warm community, come sing with us. Open to all from **Middle School and up.**

**Rehearsals:** Mondays, 7–8:30/9:00 PM, starting **Nov 3.**

**Singing Dates:** Nov 23, Dec 14, Dec 18 (Blue Christmas), Christmas Eve, and one more TBD.

**Worried about joining?**

- Can't make every date? Just let us know.
- Tired? Choir might energize you!
- Busy? It's just a couple of months.
- Not confident in your voice or music reading? We'll help you learn.
- Can't carry a tune? Come to **Singing 101 on Oct 16** or talk to Charlotte.

Choir connects us to a tradition of musical praise—from psalms to Jesus to today. Be part of it!



**Join the Choir!**

## Tea Time with Friends!

**Saturday, November 1 @ 11:00am**

**Lexington Tea Room**  
(aka Vintage Tea & Cake Company)  
@ 21 Muzzey Street, Lexington



Step into a **bright, sun-filled tea sanctuary** and enjoy a cozy morning of friendship, finger sandwiches, and sweet pastries.

**\$30/person** (plus tax & gratuity) – includes a delightful selection of treats, with **gluten-free options available.**

**We'll be carpooling**—no worries if you need a ride!

**Sign-up sheet is on the Parish Hall bulletin board.**

Let's sip, savor, and share some joy together!



*The Congregational Church of Littleton*  
*United Church of Christ*

330 King Street  
Littleton, MA 01460

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**AT THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LITTLETON  
ALL ARE WELCOME, AND ALL MEANS ALL.**

## **Congregational Church of Littleton, United Church of Christ**

*You Are Welcome Here*

*No matter who you are or where you are on  
life's journey, you are welcome here.*

*We affirm each person as a child of God  
and worthy of God's love.*

***This includes YOU:***

Whether you are tall or short, whether you wear denim or silk, whether you were raised in a church or have never been in one before, whether you are a family of one or many, whether you can bound up the stairs or need to use the elevator, whether you were born yesterday or are working on your second century; Whatever the color of your skin, your sexual orientation, your gender identity, your politics, your income, your education, your mental or physical health, or anything else that distinguishes you, we want you to feel included.

Our mosaic is made more beautiful with every additional shape, size and color.

***At this church, all are welcome,  
and ALL means ALL***

