

The Parish News

November 2025

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LITTLETON, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Together in Gratitude...

Dear Friends,

Each November, we are invited to pause and remember the goodness that sustains us—even in uncertain times. For us, thankfulness is not just a moment on the calendar, but a spiritual practice that grounds us in love, justice, and community. This season calls us to name the blessings, both large and small, that nourish our souls: the laughter of a child, the warmth of shared meals, the strength found in one another.

Practicing gratitude is more than remembering to say thank you—it's a way of seeing the world. It invites us to look beyond our own comfort and extend grace to others. In a culture that often measures worth by productivity or possessions, we proclaim a different truth: that each person is a beloved creation of God, deserving of dignity, compassion, and care. In this light, thankfulness becomes a radical act—an act that resists despair and builds hope.



As I write this, I am halfway through my time with you as the sabbatical pastor fill-in for Rev. Jen. It has been and continues to be a privilege to serve in that role. Thank you for the understanding, care, and generosity that you have shown.

In serving here, I am reminded of the old children's story of Stone Soup. In that story, a stranger comes to town. He tells the townsfolk that he has a magic stone that makes the most marvelous soup but first, he needs a pot in which to put the magic stone. One curious towns person provides a large soup pot. But then, the stranger says, "Ah if only we had some water to fill the pot." Another provides the water, and the wood to get the fire started to boil the water. On and on the stranger

This month, may we practice gratitude with open hearts and open hands. Whether by volunteering, writing a note of encouragement, or simply noticing our blessings, let us embody our thankfulness through action. As we gather around tables this month—literal or metaphorical—may we remember those who are excluded from the table and commit to building a bigger one. For in every act of love, every step toward justice, and every moment of grace, we give thanks for God who moves among us, offering encouragement and strength.

I am deeply thankful for this community of faith and all of the ministry we have yet to share. May your November be full of hope and your Thanksgiving meaningful.

With you on the Journey,



Rev. Jen

...and Grace

goes, saying the soup would be great, but it just needs a few other things. Pretty soon, the carrots, onions, and all the other makings go into the pot and eventually a delicious soup is made, enough to share with everyone.

That story reminds me of my experiences here with you. Everyone is willing to share what you have, whether it is in the community garden, or the Tuesday night meals, or sewing new quilts, or in many other ways. Your generosity of your financial resources and time make this church a beacon of light for the community of Littleton and beyond. May God continue to bless your efforts to be good stewards of the many gifts you have been given that enrich, not only this church community, but all you meet in your daily lives and work.

Rev. Sarah

Have you moved?

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

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



Consecration Sunday Luncheon

The Stewardship Committee invites you to a special luncheon following worship on November 16th. RSVP cards were mailed out—if yours has gone missing, please stop by the office to sign up. We hope to see you there!

A Season of Abundance in the Garden

What a year it's been! In our 18th growing season, we're thrilled to share that **2,103 pounds** of fresh produce were donated to **Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry** at Devens. That brings our **grand total to over 35,000 pounds**—an incredible milestone made possible by your generosity and dedication. Wow!

Our mission remains the same: **God's work on God's land—a true labor of love.** Each year, we rely on the kindness of those who donate seeds, plants, time, and energy. This year, we're especially grateful to **Theo's Market Garden**, who stepped in to provide what Cataldo's once did—and they've already committed to donating again next year! Thanks to many generous individuals, we also planted a record-breaking **100 tomato plants!**

A heartfelt thank you goes out to every volunteer who helped prepare the garden with fabric mulch, planted, fertilized, watered, weeded, harvested, delivered, and finally tucked the garden in for the winter. Our growing season runs from early May to mid-October, and many of you showed up again and again. Whether you came once or many times, your hands made this ministry flourish.

The staff at Loaves & Fishes continues to express deep gratitude for the fresh produce. This year, they welcomed **350 new families**—the highest number in their 40+ year history. The need is greater than ever, and your efforts are making a real difference.

If you're interested in joining this meaningful mission next season, please reach out to Deb Rosson or Sue Cummings, co-chairs of the **Garden at Church Meadows**. Thank you for being part of this beautiful, nourishing work!

Deb Rosson on behalf of the Garden at Church Meadows Team



WE ARE
grateful
FOR YOU!

To my CCoL friends:

Many thanks to all for your condolences at the passing of my dear partner Murray. The cards, texts, letters and support was especially appreciated due to the challenges of time and distance between here and New Zealand. He will be remembered as a "good Kiwi bloke" and enjoyed getting to know many of you during his visits to Littleton. He was especially grateful for his honorary membership on the Property Committee.

Blessings,
Susan Janes

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
CEDirector@ccol.org

Amber LaSante
Digital Media Coordinator
Amber.Lasante@ccol.org

Poliana Yee
Office Assistant
Office@ccol.org

Sandy Clyde
Financial Administrator
SClyde@ccol.org



Holiday Gift Bag Gratitude

A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who participated in the Holiday Gift Bag Project on Saturday, October 4. 11 volunteers came together to assemble thoughtful gift bags for incarcerated individuals, in partnership with Concord Prison Outreach (CPO). Your time and care made a real difference.



Thank You - Thank You Very Much!

A big thank-you to everyone who came out for our **Elvis Tribute Night** with Rick Anthony on Saturday, October 18! It was a fun evening of music, memories, and community—and thanks to your support, we raised **\$650 for the Steeple Fund!** Whether you danced, sang along, or simply enjoyed the show, we're so glad you were part of it.

New AED Installed – Training Opportunity

Thanks to several generous donors and a substantial discount from Zoll Medical, we now have an **Automated External Defibrillator (AED)** installed in the **Parish Hall**. This life-saving device is now available in case of emergency. Please do not open or tamper with the cabinet unless there is an emergency, as the alarm is active.

The AED is user-friendly and includes voice prompts, but we strongly recommend taking a CPR/AED training course to be fully prepared.

A **free training** session is scheduled for:

➤ **Monday, November 10 at 7PM**

Sign-up sheet is in the Parish Hall.

Thank you for helping us keep our community safe and ready to respond.



Thank You, Bargain Hunters!

A huge thank-you to everyone who helped make the **October 11 Rummage Sale** a success! Whether you donated items, volunteered your time, or came to shop, your support made a big difference. Together, we raised \$1,077 to support the church budget.

Now we turn our attention to the Harvest Fair on November 22—let's keep the momentum going!



You can attend worship in the following ways:

"LIVE" via YouTube: live-youtube.ccol.org

"LIVE" via Facebook: 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.

Hope and Joy from the CCoL Stewardship Committee

As you've heard, this year's stewardship theme is **"Together with Joy!"** Over four Sundays in late October and early November, we've invited you to reflect on how our church brings us together with **Intent, Purpose, Hope, and Joy**.

It's been inspiring to hear from our guest speakers about the intentional ways we share God's love, and how our faith community brings comfort, meaning, and joy to so many. These stories remind us of the vital role CCoL plays in our lives and in the wider community.

As we begin preparing the **2026 budget**, it's essential that our leadership has a clear understanding of our collective financial commitment. Your pledge helps ensure we have the resources to continue our mission and support those who rely on us.

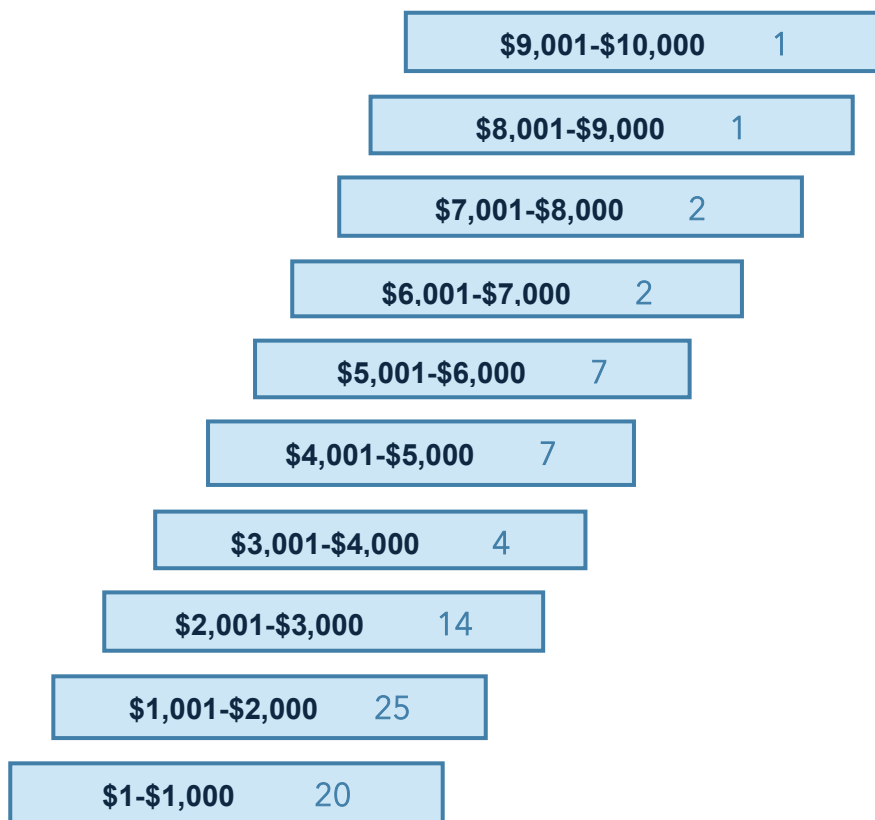
As this chart shows, CCoL has a strong tradition of faithful giving. We invite you to prayerfully consider your support for the coming year and to bring your **Estimate of Giving Card to Consecration Sunday on November 16**. You can also set up recurring donations online from the church website (www.ccol.org).

On **November 16**, we will gather your Estimate of Giving Cards with **INTENT**, bless them with **PURPOSE**, and celebrate with **HOPE**—culminating in a **JOYful (and delicious!) Community Brunch**.

We look forward to celebrating our shared commitment to one another and to God's work through CCoL in the weeks ahead.

With gratitude,
The Stewardship Committee

Giving in Action: 2025 Pledge Snapshot



In 2025 we had **83 Pledges!**

TOGETHER FOR JOY

Please consider making the next step up in pledging for 2026.

Thank you for your support to Congregational Church of Littleton!



TOGETHER
FOR JOY

PLEDGE CARD

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

I/We plan to give \$ _____ ☐ weekly ☐ monthly ☐ annually

for an annual total of \$ _____ towards our mission and ministry.

☐ I will give online. ☐ I would like pledge envelopes.

Current envelope # (if applicable) _____

I/We understand that this pledge can be changed at any time.

Signature _____ Date _____

Top 5 Reasons to Give Online

- 1. Convenient & Flexible**
Give anytime, anywhere, 1-time or recurring.
- 2. Stay Consistent**
Your gift supports church life even when you can't be at church.
- 3. Secure & Easy**
Safe, encrypted and take less than a minute
- 4. Trackable**
Access your giving history anytime for peace of mind
- 5. Helps the Church Plan**
Steady support means stronger ministries & outreach



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



As we begin planning for Advent, we'd love to know if your child(ren) would like to participate in the Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve at 5:00 PM.

Please let Michelle Rawlinson know at cedirector@ccol.org.

Pageant practices will take place after church each Sunday starting December 7th. youngest members.

Dessert Auction



Sunday November 23rd
after Worship

Support Youth Group programming and mission work by baking a dessert and/or bidding on a delicious Thanksgiving treat. Your sweet contribution helps fund meaningful youth activities!

Council Update Oct 9, 2025

Rev. Sarah Hubbell, our pastor while Rev. Jen is on sabbatical, opened the meeting with prayer.

Pete Scantlebury spoke for the Property Committee about several projects the Committee is working on. Cataldo snowplowing is increasing by 4% and the committee is looking at other companies. Work is being undertaken on the Mitsubishi system to find a leak that has been happening because it was not installed properly. The fire extinguishers were inspected and recharged, and the Fire Department completed their inspection of the church. The defibrillator has been installed in the Parish Hall and Jim Cahill is coordinating training. Larry Wenz has been cleaning up the south perimeter of the church grounds and has refinished the deck. Due to mice damage, the dishwasher at the parsonage has been replaced. The Committee is working to control costs for the budget.

Kathy Keenan summarized the Finance Committee report. Income is at 83.7%. Pledging is on target at 76.1%. We have had 10 families fulfill their pledges for this year and 22 families donated but did not fill out a pledge card, which goes towards the \$10,000 in extra income that was budgeted. We are at about 60% of the \$10,000. One family donated directly to the deficit. Various successful events have contributed to the church income. We celebrate a net gain on investments of \$133,175! Collector tasks are being shared by several people, and they are looking for a volunteer for back up.

The Steeple Working Group spoke to small group meetings with 40 participants. The Wednesday evening meeting was recorded and should soon be available for folks to watch. Some of the questions posed by the participants include: How long will the repair last? What will the final quotes be? How will payment terms be defined? What kind of materials will be used and how long will they last? The next meeting concerning the steeple plans will be in November.

Deb Rosson announced that the Garden at Church Meadows has sent a total of 2035 pounds to Loaves and Fishes! She thanked Rev. Hubbell for officiating at the closing of the garden. Deb also gave Sandy Clyde kudos for all she handled while Poliana Yee was away with her family on the death of her father and spoke of sympathy for Poliana.

Rev. Hubbell spoke to the Council about her background and told Council members she is glad to be here at CCoL. She closed the meeting with prayer.



PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Progressive Dinner Fun!

On Saturday, September 27, 29 people gathered for a wonderful evening of food, fellowship, and fun during our **Progressive Dinner**. Thanks to all who hosted, cooked, and participated—it was a night to remember!



On-line Giving

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



Year-End Financial Reminders

As we enter this joyful—and often busy—season, we want to share our **Year-End Timeline** to help ensure a smooth financial closeout. Your attention to these important dates is greatly appreciated and will make a big difference in wrapping up the year efficiently.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the church office or reach out to a member of the Finance Committee.

Year-End Key Dates

➤ December 24

All reimbursements and invoices dated through this day should be submitted by then. *If you have any expenses or invoices from the final week of December, please submit them as soon as possible.*

➤ December 31 (by 9AM)

Final deadline for submitting any remaining reimbursements and invoices to ensure they are processed by year-end.

➤ January 5 (by 9AM)

All pledge income intended for **2025** must be received by this time to be applied to the 2025 giving year. *Any donations received after this date will be credited to 2026.*

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation. Your help in meeting these deadlines allows us to close the year with care and integrity.

With gratitude,
CCoL Finance Committee

Advent Kickoff: Dessert Potluck & Hanging of the Greens

On Saturday, November 30—the Saturday after Thanksgiving—we'll gather to welcome the Advent season with a dessert potluck and Hanging of the Greens. This is a special time for our church community to come together and decorate the sanctuary with wreaths, trees, and other festive touches.

Everyone is invited! If you have family visiting for the holiday, bring them along to share in the joy and fellowship. Let's celebrate the season together!



HELLO NoVeMbER



BIRTHDAYS
THIS MONTH

BETSY UNKEL
craig keast
FRITZ KNEELAND
karen BERGAN
LYNNE WEBSTER
MICHAEL MONTEMAGNO
nancy vandoren
SAM BELL

Sing With Us!



Love music, laughter, and connection? Come join the choir—open to all from middle school and up!

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

Singing Dates: Nov 23, Dec 14, Dec 18, Christmas Eve, plus one TBD

Not sure?

- *Can't make every date? That's okay.*
- *Nervous? We'll help you learn.*
- *Need a lift? Choir might be just the thing.*

Questions? Talk to Charlotte—she'd love to hear from you!

Caregivers Support Group



CCoL offers a monthly support group for Care Givers on the second Wednesday of every month. The next meeting will takeplace on **Wednesday November 12th, 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 facilitated by Dianne Ledder and Martha Shethar. Refreshments will be offered.

TUESDAY

WEEKLY GATHERINGS

NEIGHBORHOOD SUPPER

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



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

Reminder! The 2026 CCoL Women's Retreat is being held Friday January 31st to Sunday February 2nd! This would make an amazing gift to any of the special women in your life. Gift certificates will be available upon request. Registration forms will be available soon! We look forward to seeing you and the adventure we go on.

**In Honor of Veteran's Day & Thanksgiving, the CCoL Office will be closed on
Tuesday, November 11
and Thursday,
November 27.**



Harvest Fair Fun!

Join us **Saturday, November 22, from 9 AM to 2 PM** for the annual **Harvest Fair**—a day packed with **crafts, baked goods, raffles, and community fun**. It's the perfect way to kick off the holiday season and support local talent!

We need **bakers, raffle basket creators, and volunteers for setup and cleanup** to make this event shine. Got a knack for baking or crafting? Want to lend a hand? **Contact Marilyn (978-399-8318) or Deb (978-501-4314) today** to pitch in and get drop-off details.

Let's make this year's Harvest Fair the best one yet—see you there!



I'm excited about the HARVEST FAIR!

In fact, I get excited about a lot of things, especially treats, so look for **"Luna's Treats for Humans"** on the raffle table. I hope you like the games, books, Advent calendar, cozy blanket, sweets, and other treats I've collected (with help from my human).

~ Your friend, Luna



Thanksgiving gets all the glory—but November's got some quirky side gigs. From Diabetic Eye Disease Month to National Fun with Fondue Month (yes, really), this month is packed with oddball observances you never saw coming. Here's a taste—no gravy required:

- Historic Bridge Awareness Month
- Lung Cancer Awareness Month
- Sweet Potato Awareness Month
- National Home Care & Hospice Month
- National Fun with Fondue Month
- Diabetic Eye Disease Month
- World Vegan Month
- Adopt a Senior Pet Month
- Movember (or Noshavember)
- Banana Pudding Lovers Month
- Worldwide Bereaved Siblings Month
- National Peanut Butter Lovers Month





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***

