

THE PARISH NEWS

JANUARY 2026 THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LITTLETON, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Living Hope Together

Dear Friends,

Happy New Year!

As we step into 2026, we do so carrying both the joys and the burdens of the year behind us. Living in hope for the new year does not mean ignoring the realities of the world or pretending that life is easy. Instead, Christian hope is rooted in God's faithfulness—trusting that even in uncertain and unknown times, God is present, active, and at work among us.

Hope also takes shape in community. In the life of the church, hope is made visible when we worship together, pray for one another, and offer compassion to those who are hurting. Each act of kindness, each shared meal, each moment of listening becomes a sign of God's kingdom breaking into our everyday lives. As a congregation, we are called to be people who embody hope by working for peace and justice—extending welcome, practicing generosity, and trusting that God can bring new life even where we see weariness or loss.

As we move through 2026, may we be a church that works to bring hope into the world. Not a shallow optimism, but a deep and steady hope anchored in Christ, who promises to make all things new. Let us look for signs of God's grace in our neighbors, our ministries, and our own lives, and let us be bold in sharing that hope with the world. Together, may we act as people who believe that God's future is unfolding among us, even now.

With you on the Journey,

Rev. Jen

A Special Welcome to Our New Readers!

If you are receiving the Parish News for the first time, Welcome! We hope you'll take a moment to read this newsletter and learn more about the things we are up to at The Congregational Church of Littleton.

We are a progressive Christian congregation working hard to love our neighbors as ourselves through worship, service and companionship. You are most welcome to join us on a Sunday morning for our 10am worship service or give our pastor, Rev. Jen a call anytime.



JANUARY SPECIAL EVENTS

- 1 Happy New Year!
(CCOL Office Closed)
- 10 The California Dreamers Concert
- 17 Annual Sew-In
- 25 New Member Info Session
- 30 1st day of Women's Retreat



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

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 takes 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

On-line Giving

To donate online, scan the QR code or click the **Please Donate Here** button at the top of the church website!



Winter Weather Alerts & Closures!

❖ Sunday Worship & Evening Gatherings:

If it's snowy and you're wondering about services or meetings, check **WCVB Channel 5** and look for our email alerts.

❖ Snow Removal:

- Parking lot: our plowing contractor handles it.
- Walkways: Pete Scantlebury, our sexton, takes care of them.
- **Want to help?** Volunteers are always welcome! Bring a shovel and join us by **8:30 a.m.** to clear the way for coffee hosts and musicians.

❖ Church Office:

If **Littleton Public Schools are closed**, the church office will be closed too.

❖ Evening Meetings:

Each group decides. Contact your committee chair or facilitator for details.

Your safety matters most—travel carefully!

Thinking About Membership? Let's Chat!

Curious what it means to be a member at CCoL?

Did you know our church is supported entirely by its members and the legacy of those who came before us?

*Join **Rev. Jen** for a relaxed Information Session right after worship on **Sunday, January 25**.*

Whether you're just curious (no pressure!) or ready to take the next step, you're welcome!

Can't make it that day? No problem—email Rev. Jen to set up a time.

She'd love to connect with you!

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LITTLETON, United Church of Christ

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

Church Office Hours
Tuesday, Wednesday &
Thursday: 10—3 pm

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

Poliana Yee
Office Administrator
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Tim Potter
Handbells Director

Join Us for Our 5th Annual Sew-In!

Saturday, January 17, 2026 | 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM



Let's come together for a day of creativity, fellowship, and giving back! We'll be making cozy fleece hats, mittens, scarves, and headbands to benefit WAMS (Worcester Area Mission Society) and help those in need in our community.

No sewing experience? No problem! We'll teach you, and there are plenty of non-sewing tasks too. Everyone is welcome—bring a friend!

What to bring:

- Your sewing machine (if you have one)
- Sewing supplies (including sharp scissors)

Lunch provided by the Fellowship Committee—because good food makes everything better!

Sign up in the Parish Hall and be part of something meaningful.

Council Update Dec 11, 2025

Rev. Jen opened the meeting with a reading from *Kneeling in Bethlehem* by Ann Weems called "Plastic Angel" and followed it with prayer.

Ed Cornish and Pete Scantlebury spoke for the Property Committee. Sandy Clyde will get contractor bids from now on. The company Four Seasons investigated the Mitsubishi system which is now obsolete because the refrigerant it uses will not be available once the stock supply is gone. The company is looking into the cost of fixing the two leaks or the cost of a new system using the latest refrigerant. A new system could cost \$40,000. The five-year inspections of the elevator and sprinkler system will take place in the spring for a total cost of \$4600. MassDOT will fill in the hole in the front of the church on December 12.

The Council celebrated the fact that Janet Anderson has agreed to be the church's Collector. Kathy Keenan told the Council that as of November 30, the pledge amount is on target. Loose collection is 10% below the goal, but events during the year have been very successful. The invested funds earned \$177,421 to this point. There are some committees under budget and some who will finish the year over budget. Sandy Clyde and the committees have been working to keep the budget

expenses under control; however, the year will probably finish with a budget deficit somewhere under \$10,000.

During the year the Finance Committee will publish articles about including a bequest to the church in a member's will. Angel Maldonado Lopez brought up the fact that the church is not on the list of charities for companies to match donations. The Committee will investigate.

Mark Hickox read the motion from the Personnel Committee to approve the Account Reimbursement Plans for the Senior Minister (up to \$4750) and the Christian Education Director (up to \$400). Also included is the Parsonage Allowance for the Senior Minister in the amount of \$7000. The Council approved all three.

The Steeple Working Group put together packets with updated information and a survey and have made them available in the sanctuary. They would like the surveys back by the end of December. They will review the survey responses and update the congregation on January 11.

Under Other Business Kathy Keenan announced that the contractor Colby Field has offered to pay for and install a Giving Tree to honor those who have given gifts to the Endowment Fund.

Brad Hamilton closed the meeting with prayer.

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.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Our Christmas Eve Pageant was a hit!

The cast consisting of adults, youth and children brought *"What Child Is This?"* to life with incredible energy and heart. From memorizing their lines to delivering them with confidence and flair, they truly shone on stage—what a joyful celebration of the season!

A heartfelt thank-you to all parents and volunteers whose time, support, and creativity made this beautiful tradition possible. We couldn't have done it without you!



SAVE the DATE for VBS 2026





Scout Sunday - February 8

Celebrate Scouting with us at the Congregational Church of Littleton!

All Scouts—past and present—are invited to attend worship in uniform.

⌚ **Service: 10 AM**

☕ **Coffee Hour:** Parish Hall after the service

Reconnect with old friends and make new ones as we honor the spirit of Scouting and community.



Ready for a Night of Music and Fun?

The countdown is on! On **Saturday, Jan 10**, join us for an unforgettable evening with The California Dreamers—our very own local stars!

Expect great music, good company, and plenty of energy to kick off 2026 in style. Bring your friends and get ready to dance!

Details:

- ❖ **Concert:** 7-9pm (Doors open @ 6pm)
- ❖ **Refreshments:** Available (donations welcomed).
- ❖ **Tickets:** \$20 General Admission | \$15 Seniors (60+) | \$10 Youth (12 & under)
Purchase in advance through the office or at the door.

Don't miss it—this is the perfect way to start the year!

2026 CCOL Women's Retreat - Registration Due Soon!

Theme: Choose Your Own Adventure

Dates: Friday, Jan. 30 – Sunday, Feb. 1

Location: Grotonwood Camp & Conference Center (Prescott Lodge)

We're excited for this year's retreat! Based on your feedback, we're offering a variety of sessions—yoga, meditation, Bible study, arts and crafts—so you can truly "choose your own adventure."

Your Adventure Awaits—Come Grow, Rest, and Laugh Together!

This year's retreat offers something for everyone—yoga, Bible study, arts and crafts, and plenty of time for fellowship. Prescott Lodge provides cozy rooms with private baths and a warm gathering space with a fireplace.

Registration forms are due by January 7!

Find them in the Parish Hall or online. Payment is appreciated ASAP but not required with your form.

From Norway with love:

Merry Christmas to all at Littleton Congregational Church!

Please keep the YouTube live sendings coming. That is my best hour of TV each week. This was my Communion Table on Worldwide Day of Communion where 3 friends joined me and there were waffles for fellowship after. Of course, we followed along with the service at 4pm Norway time.

With wishes for Christmas and New Year's Blessings,

Paalla Overgaard



Living Micah's Call in Burlington

The Central Association of the United Church of Christ is inviting members to join together for a time of witness at the ICE Field Office in Burlington MA on January 21st 11-1pm. Currently, people are being held there in unsanitary conditions. This non-violent act of bearing witness is important as we live out the tenets of our faith found in the verses from the prophet Micah, "What does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?".

Be sure to look for more information in the weekly Eblast later in the month.

Leaving a Legacy

As you plan for the future, please think about leaving a legacy that supports our church's missions. Your bequest can help sustain our community for generations to come. Please see or email the Treasurer (treasurer@ccol.org) if you have any questions.



December 12, 2025

Congregational Church of Littleton
330 King Street
Littleton, MA 01460

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your gift of \$595.00 from your Deacons' Donation and your Good Friday Walk. Your support is not only appreciated, it is essential. More people than ever before are turning to us for help, and because of generous donors like you, we are able to continue to meet this growing need.

Every day, we see families who never imagined they would need a food pantry. Many are facing tough choices - groceries or rent, heat or medicine. Your kindness is the lifeline for so many.

Thank you for standing with us, and with those who need us most.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Cathy

Patricia A. Stern
Executive Director

-John, a Shirley resident



Did you know?

The Fellowship Team at CCoL serves two purposes: Fundraising and motivation to declutter our homes. Monies raised from the donations from your closets and your attics offsets the church budget and also subsidizes the expenses of the social stuff—Ice Cream Social, Mardi Gras breakfast, paint parties.

Caregivers Support Group



The Caregivers Support Group will meet on **Wednesday January 7th, 7-8:30 pm** in the Youth Room.

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.

WEEKLY GATHERINGS

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.

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.



Sound Bath Meditation Returns!

We're thrilled to welcome back Linda DeVincenzo from Wildflower Holistic Wellness after the wonderful feedback from September!

When: Saturday, Feb 7, at 10 AM

Experience soothing sounds and vibrations that calm the mind and refresh the spirit. Bring a mat or blanket for comfort.

Space is limited—reserve your spot!

Questions? Contact the Office.

Give yourself the gift of peace!

Join us for Knitting & Community!

Our crafting crew has been meeting for a few months now, and we're loving the projects and the laughter! We gather in the **Conant Room** to create handmade items for charities and enjoy great company.

We've worked on prayer shawls, blanket squares, Easter butterflies, and more—and we're always open to new ideas.



When We Meet: Every **4th Thursday of the month**, from **7:00-8:30 PM (or so)**.

All skill levels are welcome—even beginners! While we've mostly been an all-female group, we'd love to welcome anyone interested.



The **Progressive Dinner** returns on **Saturday, February 28**—like speed dating, but with food (and way less awkward).

Sign-up sheet coming soon. BYO appetite... and maybe a nap schedule.

Men's Breakfast - Saturday, Jan. 17

Good food. Great company. Just \$5!

The men cook—everyone else relaxes, eats, and enjoys.

Sign up in the Parish Hall today!



Coming Soon: Talent & Tasty Treats!

Sunday, March 22

Our **Talent Show & Potluck** is back—save the date and start planning your act (and your dish)!



Please note that the church office will be closed on **Monday, January 19th** in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



MONTHLY MEETINGS

MISSION OUTREACH

First Sunday, 11am

DEACONS

First Monday, 7pm

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

First Tuesday, 7:30pm (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



*The Congregational Church of Littleton
United Church of Christ*
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Littleton, MA 01460
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A Friend

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

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LITTLETON, UCC

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

