

THE PARISH NEWS

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



Moments from the 2026 Women's Retreat

Slowing Down to Listen

Dear Friends,

In a world filled with noise, urgency, and constant commentary, Lent invites us to slow down and pay attention — to God, to one another, and to the quiet movements of the Spirit within our own lives. Here at CCoL, we are discovering new ways to slow down and listen. To that end, our Lenten services are going to deviate from our usual format. Our worship time will be guided by the theme "Listen," a seasonal worship series created by Worship Design Studio. This series will help us explore what it means to listen deeply and faithfully during a season traditionally devoted to reflection, prayer, and renewal.

Throughout the Sundays in March, our services will include multiple practices of listening and prayer. Lent is not only a time of giving something up; it is also a time of making space. By intentionally creating moments of stillness and attention in worship, our focus can sharpen in new, holy ways.

I pray that your Lenten season will be filled with meaningful moments, with deep listening to feed your soul, and with whatever encouragement you need for your life.

With you on the Journey,

Rev. Jen



MARCH SPECIAL EVENTS

- 4 Lenten Study Session 3
- 7 Kids' Night Out!
- 8 Daylight Saving Time starts
- 14 Rummage Sale
- 15 Annual Meeting & Chili-Mac Fest
- 18 Lenten Study Session 4
- 22 Sock it to Me Sunday
- 29 Palm Sunday



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

Gail Bellows
Colleen Blake
Ed Cornish
Rebecca Craven
Richard Friday

Dianne Ledder
Jane Lyons
Mary Smith
Rich Van Doren

CCoL Office Update

As mentioned in last month's Parish News "Council Update Jan 8, 2026" meeting summary, our Office Administrator Poliana Yee has taken an approved 3-month leave of absence. In the meantime, Jane Jackson, our retired Administrator, agreed to temporarily fill-in during this period helping with some of the office tasks, primarily publications. We want to welcome Jane back to CCoL for this short-term assignment. Sandy Clyde, Rev. Jen, and some of the other staff will also help keep things running smoothly in the office until Poliana returns in early June.

If there are any questions please contact Rev. Jen or Mark Hickox, Personnel Committee.



THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LITTLETON

330 King Street, Littleton, Massachusetts 01460

978.486.3245 | office@ccol.org

Warrant for the Annual Business Meeting of The Congregational Church of Littleton Massachusetts

The Members of The Congregational Church of Littleton are hereby notified to gather in the Sanctuary for our worship service and Annual Meeting on **Sunday, March 15, 2026 at 10 am** to act on the following articles:

Article I To review the minutes of last year's Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 16, 2025 and the Special Business Meeting of June 1, 2025 and to vote upon the acceptance of the same.

Article II To accept the annual reports of the Collector, Treasurer, and various church committees.

Article III To approve the slate of nominees presented by the Nominating Committee.

Article IV To receive the annual report of the Auditor.

Article V Church Council moves that The Congregational Church of Littleton draws an amount of no more than \$155,000 (\$80K for steeple/belfry; \$75K for HVAC) to be reduced by the amount raised by donations and fundraising, from our invested funds (endowment) to pay for the repair of the steeple/belfry and replace the HVAC system.

Article VI To adopt a budget for the current calendar year commencing January 1, 2026.

Article VII To conduct any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori McElroy

Church Clerk



**WANTED:
YOUR SMILE**

**Mark Your Calendar
for May 6 & 7!**

Our new **pictorial directory** is in the works! Photo sessions will take place on **May 6 & 7**. This is your chance to be part of something special and help us create a resource that strengthens our connections. **Watch for sign-up details soon!**

Have you moved?

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!



**EVERY SHEEP COUNTS!
IS YOUR INFO UP TO DATE?**

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
Office@ccol.org

Michelle Rawlinson
Christian Education Director
CEDirector@ccol.org

Sandy Clyde
Financial Administrator
SClyde@ccol.org

Peter Scantlebury
Sexton
Pete.Scantlebury@ccol.org

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

Tim Potter
Handbells Director



Thanking our Scouts for their year-round acts of service

Council Update Feb 12, 2026

After a reading from Fredrick Buechner, Rev. Jen opened the meeting with prayer.

Ed Cornish and Pete Scantlebury updated the Council on various subjects. The Mitsubishi system in the lower level will have to be replaced. Property is working out several quotes, but the system replacement could cost up to \$66,000. A new faucet has been installed to replace the one that was difficult to turn off in the kitchen. The Committee is gathering quotes about replacing the water heater. A leak in the Pastor's office has been fixed temporarily. The church has a new dumpster vendor.

The Council voted to recommend a General Fund budget of \$369,259.28 with a deficit of \$16,899.94. The budget will be voted on at the Annual Meeting on March 15. Pledging/giving for 2026 is \$5000 greater than 2025 at \$223,000. Hall rentals and fundraising will add funds, and Finance will take about \$91,942.44 from Invested Funds as in the past. The recent auditor dropped out but former member, Rob Moodie, agreed to review the 2025 books this one time.

In the Warrant for the Annual Meeting there will be a question about funding the steeple repair and including a question about funding replacement of the Mitsubishi system. A meeting will be held after worship on February 22 to inform the congregation about the replacement and cost of the Mitsubishi system.

Rev. Jen reminded Council that Lent begins on February 18. The theme is **Listen**. For the six weeks of Lent there will be prayer stations in the sanctuary including one to light a candle, one to write a prayer, and one with prayer books to write a reflection. After finding out that the Sunrise Service on Easter could no longer take place at Telephone Hill, the clergy is looking at Westlawn Cemetery as the new site.

In preparation for the Pictorial Directory that will be completed in the spring, pictures will be taken of committees to be included in the directory.

Chris Dupuis announced that the Talent Show has been postponed until April 12.

Rev. Jen 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



SNOWBALL MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE
Colesbury Kids
FIND YOUR STRENGTH IN GOD

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**WHERE: CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LITTLETON
330 KING ST**

WHEN: AUGUST 17-21, 2026

TIME: 9AM - 12PM

COST: \$35 PER CHILD

SPACE IS LIMITED
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS
CONTACT MICHELLE RAWLINSON AT
CEDIRECTOR@CCOL.ORG

We Need You!

Join us in guiding challengers in discovering how to find strength in God.

August 17-21, 2026

If you like having fun and working with children, we are looking for you!

We are in need of volunteers to lead stations at Vacation Bible School (craft, science, music, snack & recreation), crew leaders and a photographer as well as decorators to assist beforehand. If you are interested in assisting for the entire week or just a day or two and have questions you can contact the CE Director Michelle Rawlinson at cedirector@ccol.org.



Sock it to Me Sunday - March 22nd

Make sure to bring a donation of New (must be new) adult white socks into worship with you. During the service, you will have a chance to "Sock it" to Rev. Jen as she attempts to catch your donated socks. (Thrown at her gently, of course!)

New white socks are one of the most needed items at city shelters. Keeping feet clean, warm and dry is essential when one is unhoused. The Worcester Area Mission Society will be facilitating the distribution of the socks to those in need.

We can all help by "Socking it to me"!



Laughter, fellowship, and one unforgettable apron. Thanks, Warren, for keeping the Men's Retreat lively!



**330 King Street
Littleton MA**

Kids'
NIGHT OUT!

We are providing dinner and popcorn



← Register here

Have your kids join us to watch a G-rated Movie!

\$25 per child
(additional \$10 for each sibling)

March 7th 5-8pm

Hosted by:
The Congregational Church of
Littleton Youth Group
(and a team of CORI-checked adult volunteers)



ANNUAL MEETING

*& Chili-Mac Fest -
March 15*

Join us on **Sunday, March 15** for our **Annual Meeting**, a time for all church members to help shape the year ahead as we vote on the new budget and other agenda items (details on page 2 of this newsletter).

After the meeting, stay for our beloved **Chili & Mac-n-Cheese Fest!** For just \$5 you'll enjoy hearty fixings, cornbread, and great fellowship—and cookies are only 50¢ a pack. All proceeds support our youth group programming and our local food shelter.

Come for the business, stay for the comfort food!

HVAC Needs to Be Replaced

The HVAC in the Sunday School level needs to be replaced. The HVAC provides heating and cooling as needed at the basement level. It ensures a healthy environment for all activities there.

The existing unit, purchased in 2016, has been determined to have been improperly installed according to the manufacturer's guidelines. This poor workmanship has contributed to recurring system failures.

Multiple attempts have been made to diagnose and conduct repairs to no avail. A new service vendor's inspection which included a comprehensive leak test revealed workmanship issues that render the current unit unreliable. A full system replacement was thus recommended.

The Property Committee recommends we commit to a system replacement instead of attempting to keep the existing system functioning. A new HVAC will be more reliable and should not need unexpected repairs through a maintenance program. It will, in our opinion, be less costly, in the long run.

We currently have three quotes to replace the HVAC system. This will be a subject of a vote at our next Annual Meeting, which will be March 15th.

Bring a Friend to Church Sunday April 12

The Welcoming Committee is delighted to share that **Sunday, April 12**, will be "**Bring a Friend to Church Sunday**"! It's a wonderful opportunity to spread the good news about our church community—our church family, our missions, Sunday School, Youth Group, Vacation Bible School, and all the meaningful ways we grow and serve together.

Research shows that 86% of new congregants first come to church because someone they know invited them. A simple invitation can make a lasting difference.

To celebrate the day, the Welcoming Committee will host a special coffee hour where we can meet, greet, and extend hospitality to all who join us.

Please mark your calendar and consider who you might invite to share in this joyful Sunday.



Caregivers Support Group



*The Caregivers Support Group will meet on **Wednesday March 11th from 7:00 - 8:30 pm** in the Parish Hall.*

This is a support group for 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.

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.



Our **Mardi Gras Breakfast on February 15** was full of great food, bright colors, and happy company. Thanks to everyone who helped make it a fun morning! Enjoy these snapshots from the celebration.



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



Rummage Sale ★ March 14 ★ 8am-1pm

The **Rummage Sale** is almost here! Now's the perfect time to gather those gently-used men/women/children clothing, footwear and linen in your attic or basement. Your donations make this CCoL tradition shine—every item helps support the church and its ministries.

Donation Drop-Off: Bring items to the Parish Hall **March 11–13**.

Setup: Volunteers are welcome for setup on **Friday, March 13 from 12–4pm**.

Spread the word to friends and neighbors, bring your goods, and join us for a lively and fun sale day!

Join us for Knitting & Community!

Our **Knitting for Others** crew has been meeting for a few months, enjoying fun projects and great company in the Conant Room. We've made prayer shawls, blanket squares, Easter butterflies, and more—and we're always open to new ideas!

When we meet: **Every 4th Thursday, 7:00–8:30 PM**.

Next meeting: **March 26**.

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

Questions? Contact **Jeanne Bracken** at 973 430 7102 —she'd be happy to help!



Talent Show Update

Our annual **Talent Show** has a new date: **Saturday, April 12!** There's still time to polish your act (or see if your cat will cooperate). **Please sign up in the Parish Hall by March 31** so we can prepare the program.



Get ready for songs, skits, surprises and the beloved potluck Act Two!



Men's Breakfast - Saturday, Mar. 21

\$5 gets you a great meal and even better company.

The men handle the cooking (pray for them). Everyone else enjoys the food, the fellowship, and the morning off.

Sign up in the Parish Hall!

MONTHLY MEETINGS

MISSION OUTREACH

First Sunday, 11am

DEACONS

First Monday, 6pm

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



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United Church of Christ

330 King Street
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