



*New
Member
Sunday*
March 8, 2026



THE
APRIL 2026

PARISH NEWS

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LITTLETON, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Christ is alive and is present with us here and now

Dear Friends,

1 Corinthians 15 includes the words, “Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?” Some Easter mornings, when death feels all too near, those words land differently. For me, this will be one of those years, and I am thankful for the comfort of Paul’s words.

In early March, my family said goodbye to my mother. Her death has made this Lent and Easter feel closer to the heart of these words than ever before. Grief has a way of sharpening our awareness—of love, of absence, and of the beauty and fragility of our own lives. Grief comes in waves, sometimes quiet and sometimes overwhelming, and it has invited me to sit more honestly with both sorrow and hope.

As I walk this path, I find that my faith in life beyond death is something I am clinging to in a very real way. I do not claim to know what lies beyond, but I trust that love is never lost. In God, it is held, transformed, and carried forward.

On Easter morning, we will rejoice that Jesus Christ overcame the grave and broke the power of death for us all. We celebrate that each death we encounter in this life is not the end. The resurrection we celebrate on Easter is not only about what happened long ago—it is about the promise that love endures, that life continues, and that death does not have the final word. We rejoice that the presence of Christ is not contained by the limits of geography or time. The singular event we recognize on Easter morning resonates across the years into every aspect of our lives. Christ lives on. Christ is alive and is present with us here and now.

I am deeply grateful to be part of a community where we can hold these truths together—loss is painful and resurrection is real; people die and Christ remains. A place where we can rejoice and grieve, question and trust, all at once. Your presence, your prayers, and your compassion are a living expression of that resurrection hope.

This Easter, even as we proclaim, “Christ is risen. Christ is risen indeed,” I will be holding those words a little more tenderly, trusting that they speak not only to the world, but also into the quiet places of our own lives.

With you on the Journey (and thank you for being with me on mine),

Rev. Jen

**EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE: 6:10 AT WESTLAWN CEMETERY
WORSHIP SERVICE: 10 AM IN THE SANCTUARY**

April

BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Jeanne Bracken | Jen Goltsberg |
| Richelle Dupont | Cloud Kilpatrick |
| Nancy Friday | Lin LeBallister |
| Devin Gannon | Dick Lyons |
| Jen Goltsberg | Kristin Montemagno |
| Ginny Johnson | Marz Rawlinson |
| Devin Gannon | Jacob Rosson |

Easter Sunrise Service

As the first light of Easter morning begins to color the sky you are warmly invited to gather for a Sunrise Service at our new location, Westlawn Cemetery, New Estate Rd., Littleton at 6:10 am. In the quiet beauty of this sacred space, we will come together to celebrate the hope and promise of resurrection, surrounded by the stillness of dawn and the gentle awakening of a new day.

This service is a shared offering of the Congregational Church of Littleton and the First Parish Unitarian of Littleton. All are welcome to join in this time of reflection and prayer, as we greet the risen Christ and proclaim the good news of Easter together. Bring a friend, dress warmly, and come experience the peace and joy of Easter morning.

Bring a Friend to Church Sunday April 12

April 12 is "**Bring a Friend to Church Sunday**"! It's a wonderful chance to share our church family, ministries, and the many ways we grow and serve together.

Did you know that most newcomers visit because someone invited them? A simple invitation can make a big impact.

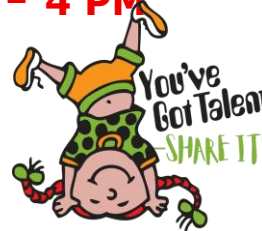
To celebrate, the Welcoming Committee will host a special coffee hour to greet all who join us.

April 12 Annual Talent Show - 4 PM

Talent and Food ... we've got both

Act 1: The annual Talent Show featuring members And friends of CCoL put their best foot forward with music, storytelling, humor, dance and so much more.

Act 2: Meet the cast at the Potluck supper following the show in Parish Hall. Bring a dish if you're able, but there is always an abundance of talent and food.



APRIL SPECIAL EVENTS

2 Maundy Thursday

3 Good Friday
Good Friday Walk

5 Easter Sunday

12 Bring a Friend to Church Sunday
Talent Show and Potluck Supper

20 Patriots' Day -
Office Closed

Men's Breakfast – Saturday, April 18

\$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!



Luna's Good Friday Walk

Please join us in our annual Good Friday Walk to benefit Loaves and Fishes.

We will gather at 8:30 on Friday, April 3rd at 8:30 am in the church parking lot. The walking route will be determined by the weather and ground conditions. Sponsor sheets are available but feel free to join us and make monetary donations that will be collected at the time of the walk.

Due to the increasing numbers of families they serve, Loaves and Fishes is constantly running out of certain items, even those delivered by the Boston Food Bank. That is why they depend so much on food drives and donations.

Items most needed by Loaves & Fishes include

- Ensure
 - Coffee, Cocoa & Tea (no K cups)
 - Snacks (such as crackers, GF needed, too.) Granola bars, cereal, shelf stable yogurt for kids
 - Condiments - ketchup, mayonnaise
 - Depends (unisex): size small, medium, large (not provided by food bank)
 - Feminine products especially menstrual pads
 - Diapers - especially the larger sizes 5 & 6
 - Hearty Soups (Progresso) - not condensed
 - Albacore Tuna (solid)
 - Toddler and Baby Food
 - Cake Mixes, some Gluten Free
 - Frosting
- Vegetable Oils (almost always out)

While monetary donations will be collected for the Good Friday Walk, donations of specific items are always welcome and can be left in the big red box in the entry way at the church.

The need is great and steadily increasing. Please contribute in whatever way you can.

Dear Human Friends,

On April 3, Good Friday, I'll be taking Charlotte, for a walk to raise money for Loaves & Fishes, the local food pantry, I'm pretty sure it's called "Good" Friday because every year I get to meet up with my buddies from the Congregational Church (where I attend Choir rehearsals with Charlotte) and walk on interesting trails--really Good, right? Sometimes I see goats or horses, and if it's warm, I play in the water at the edge of the lake. Last year a cute puppy walked with us. It's an exciting day!

Most important, though, is the opportunity to help folks who don't always have enough to eat. I remember what that was like, before I was rescued from the streets and found my forever home. Though I often wish I could open the refrigerator, the truth is, I'm always well fed. I have two square meals a day and plenty of treats. If you would like to sponsor me, here's how.

- Give cash or a check* to Charlotte in person.
- Mail a check* to Charlotte at 73 Foster St., Littleton, MA 01460
- Mail a check* to the Congregational Church of Littleton, 330 King Street, Littleton, MA 01460
- *checks should be made out to the Congregational Church of Littleton
- (CCoL) with "Loaves & Fishes, Luna" in the memo line

Loaves & Fishes is a great organization:
<https://loavesfishespantry.org/about-us/>

This is my 4th year taking Charlotte on this walk, rain or shine. Please help make it the best one ever!

Your friend,
Luna
(Terrier Mix)

Church Council Update March 12, 2026

Brad Hamilton opened the meeting with a well-prepared prayer.

The Property Committee recommended that the Mitsubishi System replacement be taken off the Annual Meeting Warrant. New information has come to light and the 3 quotes for the work were difficult to compare. Someone has been contacted who will map out the scope of the work and become the project manager. He will work to get the contractors on the same page. It was discovered that the ERV system that brings in fresh air and exhausts inside air is not working, so that will also become part of the project. The Council voted to remove the replacement of the Mitsubishi system from Article V of the warrant until this preliminary planning is completed. The goal is to complete the project by the summer.

A new hot water heater has been installed. Somehow a red squirrel got into the building, but the intrepid committee members trapped it and removed it to outside! Property is renovating the Conant Room! A new ceiling has been installed, wallpaper has been removed and Larry Wenz is painting the walls. Even unfinished, the room is brighter and more inviting.

Kathy Keenan reported for Finance. Both pledging and loose cash are above the goal, but both will even out as the year progresses. Fundraising events, including \$1000 from the California Dreamers Concert, will add funds to the budget throughout the year as well as the Easter and Christmas collections. Rental will grow this year because the Parish Hall is rented out in July for a drama camp and for a private party coming in this month. While the Personnel account is a little below budget, Property is over budget due to the snowy winter. World events have caused a loss in Invested Funds but prayerfully the market will stabilize as the year progresses. The Finance Committee recommended a budget for 2026 at \$369,259 with a projected deficit of \$16,899. The Council unanimously voted to recommend the proposed budget to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on March 15.

In the prayer to close the meeting, Brad Hamilton included condolences and prayer for Rev. Jen and her family.



Annual Meeting Recap on Steeple Repair

March 15, 2026

At the Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 15, the congregation of the CCoL voted to support repairs to one of our church's most visible features—the steeple. The approved motion authorizes Church Council to draw up to \$90,000 from the Invested Funds to fund the steeple repair and belfry refurbishment.

We encourage members and friends to support the Steeple Project with a special donation, as it will help reduce the amount needed from the Invested Funds.

Donations may be made online through Vanco or by check. Please note "Steeple Project." Questions? Contact Sandy at sclyde@ccol.org. Thank you for your generosity.

Pictorial Directory Photo Sign Up!

The photographs will be taken on **May 6 & 7 Between 3pm – 8:30pm.**

Please sign-up after our service for a time to have your photograph taken for the pictorial directory.

There is \$10 "sitting fee" for each person/family, payable at the time the pictures are taken. If this cost is a burden for anyone, the church will provide that payment.

For more information please check out the poster on the bulletin board.



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.

For example, John Hutchins, who passed away on February 1 of this year, included our church in his will with a gift that will be placed into invested funds. His name will be added to the legacy tree, which is expected to be installed on a church wall later this year. In addition, he directed his trust to continue paying his monthly pledge for the next ten years. Through these gifts, John's legacy will continue to live on here.

Please see or email the Treasurer (treasurer@ccol.org) if you have any questions.

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.

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

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LITTLETON, *United Church of Christ*

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

Poliana Yee
Office Administrator
Office@ccol.org

Sandy Clyde
Financial Administrator
SClyde@ccol.org

Peter Scantlebury
Sexton
Pete.Scantlebury@ccol.org

Tim Potter
Handbells Director

Welcome to the Congregational Church of Littleton

Ellen Morey

I was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio, I got a bachelor's degree in fine arts at Earlham College. Following college, I worked at the Springer Theatre Company in Columbus, GA, (where John and I met) and then at a costume rental company in Atlanta for two and a half years. After we married and moved to Medford, MA I worked in the costume shop at ART in Cambridge for six years until I had my first child. Following his birth, I stayed at home and did some sewing jobs which allowed me the flexibility to raise both sons, Patrick born in Jan. 1993 and currently living in Manchester, NH, and Daniel born May 1995, and lives in Quechee, VT with his wife Kristen. No grandchildren yet. I was a Boy Scout leader for 20 years, (both sons are Eagles) and stayed on after my sons were no longer involved.

I enjoy being outdoors, walking, hiking and biking. In the warmer season I like to canoe or kayak if given the chance, and happy to sail if someone has the boat. At home I enjoy reading, sewing and knitting and all sorts of puzzles.

I was raised in a Presbyterian church, and we were longtime members of First Church, Malden and then First Church Somerville. I enjoyed singing in the choirs at both churches. We moved to Littleton in 2024, to join the Hager Homestead co-housing community. We were drawn to CCoL because it was so close to our new home. We stayed because of the active, dedicated, and welcoming congregation.



John Morey

I was born in Albany, NY and grew up in New York's mid-Hudson river valley. After the Army and graduate school, I lived for nine years in Columbus, GA. Ellen and I met and were married in Georgia,

and then moved to Massachusetts and lived in our home in Medford for 37 years. Our two sons were raised there: Our older son Patrick is 33 years old and lives in Manchester, NH. Our younger son Daniel is 31. He lives with his wife Kristen.

I received my PHD in experimental psychology from the University of GA in Athen, GA. I was an experimental psychologist doing training research and evaluation for the US Army for 33 years: nine years at Ft. Benning, GA and 25 years for a government contracting firm in Andover, MA. My projects included marksmanship, teamwork training and medical simulation.

My interests include fixing things and reading social history. I am heavily involved in our co-housing community governance in the areas of facility management, workshop operations, and membership and marketing. I have been an extra in movies and TV shows filmed in the Boston area.

Matt Scorsone

I've lived in many states and attended dozens of churches. I met my wife in Oregon and we moved here together. I have always loved God and sought his guidance as it is by his providence I am here today.



I enjoy cooking, telling stories and role-playing groups and being of service. I am but a humble tool and happiest when asked to help or serve my Lord and each other.

Rachel Scorsone

I grew up in Millis, MA attending and confirmed in the UCC church there. I sang in the choir beginning in high school and through college. I moved across the country to Oregon in 2018 to pursue a Masters degree in acupuncture and lived there for six years. I met Matt there playing Dungeons and Dragons. We moved to Nashua, NH in 2024 and just got married in October 2025. We are expecting our first child in

August and looking forward to joining the church family here at CCoL and settling in for many years to come with our new and growing family. I am currently licensed and practicing acupuncture in NH and currently serving as president of the New Hampshire Acupuncture and Asian Medicine Association.

Dan Camba

I am from Long Island, NY, where I was born and raised in the Catholic faith by my mother and father. My interests include golf, hockey, theatre, and travel. Giving back to the community has always been important to me. Over the years, I've had the privilege to volunteer in a variety of roles, such as coaching and mentoring, caring for animals at the MSPCA, and serving as a Physical Therapist with the Boston Ballet Adaptive Dance Program. Professionally I work as a Data Analyst for an insurance company based in Worcester, MA.

I was drawn to CCoL initially because of its proximity to our home, but what truly drew me in was the welcoming church community and its acceptance of both myself and my wife. I am also grateful that our children Juliana and Madelyn have the opportunity to participate in Sunday school and the youth group.

Nicole Camba

While I am originally from Madison, WI, I spent most of my childhood in Tyngsboro, where I attended the Dunstable Congregational Church-where my husband, Dan and I were married. Our family has grown to include our two wonderful daughters Juliana (12) and Madelyn (9) and we've lived in Littleton for over eight years. Professionally I work at a financial services firm in Boston, where I serve as the head of Client Service. Outside of work, I enjoy traveling, running, playing golf, reading and practicing both Pilates and yoga. Giving back has always been important to me in the past, I have volunteered with BuildOn in Senegal, cared for animals at the MSPCA, and in various service projects through my workplace.

We first visited CCoL when our daughters were very young and we were drawn to the warm, welcoming community spirit. For a few years, we attended church with my mother in Dunstable but more recently, we found ourselves returning to CCoL- and we couldn't be happier to be back as part of this wonderful community.

Warren Scholarships

The deadline to submit scholarship applications for the Doris and Russell Warren Scholarship fund is **May 14, 2026.**

Applicants should submit a brief essay highlighting college choice and studies program, church related activities and/or service. For example VBS, youth group leaders, committees.

Scholarships are open to all CCoL members for college level courses, as well as enrollment fees for church related conferences. College students may apply any time during their enrollment but only once during college enrollment.

Essays should be emailed to Marilyn Converse.
s-mconverse@verizon.net

Questions? Reach out to a committee member: Deb Austermann, Brad Austin and Marilyn Converse.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Youth Group ChiliMac Fest Was a Success!

We are thrilled to share that this year's ChiliMac Fest raised \$542 to support our youth programming and Loaves & Fishes. What a wonderful blessing!

A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who cooked, baked, stirred, served, and to all who purchased Chili and Mac 'n Cheese. Your generosity and participation made this event both delicious and meaningful.



We Need You! -Join us in guiding challengers in discovering how to find strength in God. August 17-21

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 and recreation), crew leaders and a photographer as well decorators beforehand. Interested? Openings for a day or two and/or the entire week. Reach out to CE director Michelle at cedirector@ccol.org





Caregivers Support Group

The Caregivers Support Group will meet on **Wednesday April 8.**
7-8:30 pm.

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.

Kindness is Simple

The **KIS-Network** (Kindness is Simple Network) has been able to help several people throughout our congregation and we are excited to keep it going. We are currently looking for more people willing to make meals and/or give rides to appointments. If you are interested in helping you can email KISNetwork@ccol.org or sign up in Parish Hall.

Time to spring clean!

In conjunction with Debs Beds, we will co-host a yard sale on May 9th from 8 a.m. to 1 pm!

Deb's Beds is a nonprofit organization providing beds to children in need, specifically targeting children in Massachusetts. Debsbeds has been making a difference in the lives of children who sleep on floors or with inadequate bedding. Debsbeds builds, delivers and sets up twin and bunk beds complete with mattresses and bedding. Debsbeds relies on its volunteers and fundraising for materials, mattresses and bedding!



We will be accepting donations at specific times the week prior and we could use help with set up, assistance during the sale and cleanup!

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.

FRIDAY

AL-ANON – 10A

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

Deb Rosson – Finance Committee

Good morning. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Deb Rosson, and I have been an active member of this church for more than 28 years. Over that time, I served on the Property Committee for 20 years and have co-chaired the Garden at Church Meadows for all 18 years of its existence-we're about to begin our 19th season.

For the past six years, I have served as the church's treasurer, which means I also attend Finance Committee meetings as an ex-officio member. When I first agreed to take on the role of treasurer, I had no prior experience and didn't consider myself a "numbers person." I had taken a few accounting courses in college, but nothing beyond that.

In fact, roles such as church treasurer, auditor, and collector do not require prior experience. The same is true for the Finance Committee chair or its members. The team supports one another and relies on our finance by-laws, policies and procedures, and the financial records and experience from previous years. Another key ingredient is the blessing of having an outstanding finance administrator-thank you, Sandy Clyde.

My years on the Property Committee did give me some helpful exposure. At that time, I had access to the church's financial software, ICON, and I helped formulate the property budget each year. This allowed me to become familiar with some of the church's financial processes. Our previous treasurer also helped guide me through the transition when I stepped into the role. All of that-along with being an active member who regularly attended Property and Council meetings-gave me the confidence to serve as treasurer.

Over the past six years, I've learned so much. Most importantly, I've learned that my lack of experience was never a barrier. Three years ago we upgraded to QuickBooks, which has made the financial systems even easier to understand.

I hope that hearing about my experience encourages some of you to consider serving on the Finance Committee or taking on one of its related roles. If you have questions about any of these positions and would like to talk further, please feel free to reach out. Our current Finance Committee members are Betsy Unkel, Jennifer Goltsberg, Kathy Keenan (Chair), and Janet Anderson (Collector). Ex-officio members include myself (Treasurer), Brad Hamilton (Council Chair), and Reverend Jen. Sandy Clyde also attends all finance meetings and provides a clear review of the monthly financial records. Thank you.

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



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.





Thanks to our Good Sport pastor who donned her goggles and helmet for the joyful Sock Toss.

Thanks to all who donated and tossed in white socks to help our neighbors in need..



Congratulations to the DuBreils. Long-time members and friends at CCoL may recall their presence here in Littleton. Dorothy was a retired pastor and Louis apparently remembered as a talented carpenter. Louis, 99, was recently honored and awarded the Boston Post Cane as the town's oldest resident. At about the same time Dorothy and Louis celebrated their 72nd wedding anniversary.

Save the Date: Progressive Dinner – Saturday, May 16

Never been to a Progressive Dinner? You're in for a treat!

Guests start at one home for appetizers and drinks, move to another for dinner, and then gather back at the Parish Hall for dessert and fellowship.

We're looking for:

- Hosts for **appetizers/drinks** and **dinner**
 - Volunteers to bring **desserts** to share at the Parish Hall
- Please sign up by Monday, May 4** using this form.
 Questions? see Deb Rosson, Val Loughman or Kathy Keenan

**Progressive Dinner sign up — A Time for Fun
 and Fellowship May 16, 2026**

Today's Date _____

Name _____

Street Address _____

Town _____ Cell # _____ (for communication of last minute changes)

of guests in your party _____

Allergies or Food preferences (Vegan, Gluten Free, etc.) _____

I need a ride - Yes / No # of riders _____

Volunteer To host: **Appetizer** _____ # of guests you can accommodate _____

To host: **Dinner** _____ # of guests you can accommodate _____

Bring a **dessert** (to church) _____ Willing To Drive Others _____



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, 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.***

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

