

THE PARISH NEWS

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



Living Resurrection in Ordinary Time

Dear Friends,

The lilies have faded, the trumpet is gone, and the great celebration of Easter morning has passed. Even so, the heart of our faith was never meant to be contained to a single day. Resurrection is not just something we celebrate, it is something we are invited to live. The question before us now is this: what does it mean to carry resurrection into the ordinary days of our lives?

As I write this, at least twice a day for the past week I have driven past the forsythia bushes in front of the parsonage. I almost missed the fact that the bright yellow buds are just about to burst into bloom. It has been too easy to rush past them on my way to or from church. In this season of spring, we can witness countless, quiet resurrections if we pay attention. Buds open on branches that seemed lifeless just weeks ago. The earth softens. Light lingers in the evening sky. These small, steady transformations remind us that new life rarely arrives all at once and with a trumpet. More often, it unfolds gently—in patience, in persistence, in hope that refuses to give up. So too in our lives of faith: resurrection might look like a repaired relationship, a renewed sense of purpose, or simply the courage to begin again.

As a community, we are called to be people of resurrection not only in moments of celebration, but in the rhythms of everyday life. We practice resurrection when we choose kindness over indifference, when we listen deeply, when we show up for one another in times of joy and sorrow alike. The risen Christ meets us not only in the empty tomb, but in the ordinary spaces we inhabit each day and in bright yellow flowers. May we have eyes to see and hearts to trust that new life is always stirring, even now.

Keep your eyes open!

With you on the Journey,

Rev. Jen



Dear Church Pals

It's easy to get distracted (for example, when you see a squirrel), but at breakfast today I remembered we all need help sometimes, whether it's to pour out the kibble or retrieve a toy from under the couch.

I'm proud to be part of a community that's always ready to help others and have fun doing it. (Every church activity should include a walk in the woods.) I'm just a little dog, but you proved that together we can do big things!

*Your friend,
Luna
(Terrier Mix)*

Dear Luna,
Thanks to your very impressive marketing skills and companionship, the CCOL Good Friday Walkers raised \$2,404.90 for Loaves & Fishes. We are so very proud of you and look forward to seeing you on the trail in 2027.



Val Loughman
 John Morey
 Sarah Nastasia
 Kevin O'Connor
 Julie Smith
 Kevin Surette

Thanks and Gratitude

My deepest gratitude to the CCoL community for the amazing support and care offered to me and my family following the death of my mom. From the delivered care packages, to cards and prayers and the amazing presence of church members at the memorial service in Connecticut, this community has shown the kind of Christian love that makes the church a beacon of hope in the world.

*I am so thankful for you all.
 Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.
 With loving appreciation,
 Rev. Jen*

MAY SPECIAL EVENTS

- 6 and 7 Photo Sessions for Pictorial Directory
- 10 Mother's Day and Confirmation
- 14 Scholarship Applications Due
- 16 Progressive Dinner
- 24 Pentecost Sunday. *Wear Red*
- 25 Memorial Day – Office Closed.
 Watch the Town Parade from the church lawn.
 Breakfast sandwiches hosted by Mission Outreach 8am through



Watch the Parade from the church front lawn.

Mission Outreach will be selling Breakfast Sandwiches. Proceeds benefit Habitat for Humanity's local builds.

Things to know: The Littleton Memorial Day parade steps off from Donelan's at 9 am and proceeds to the Common, to King St. to Woodlawn Cemetery on New Estate Rd. All friends of CCoL are invited to gather on the Church front lawn - plenty of free parking and the doors will be open for bathrooms. Plan to arrive before 9 am as the side streets will be closed to traffic as the parade route follows King St to New Estate Rd.



Remember Uncle Sam's Poster?

The caption read "I Want You!"

He did then, and the **Pictorial Directory Committee** wants you now! Time is running out to make an appointment - the photos will be taken on May 6 and 7 from 3 to 8:30 pm.

Also, while the professional photographer is at the church, generational /family photos, apart from the directory can be scheduled. A great opportunity!

For more info, contact: Jim (jim@snowacres.com) Linda Cahill (lindajim1987@gmail.com), Kathy Keenan (kxkeenan1@comcast.net), Larry Starr (larrytstarr@comcast.net) or Valerie Starr (vlwolf@comcast.net)

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

Sandy Clyde
 Financial Administrator
SClyde@ccol.org

Michelle Rawlinson
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CEDirector@ccol.org

Peter Scantlebury
 Sexton
Pete.Scantlebury@ccol.org

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

Tim Potter
 Handbells Director



A few photos
from the
**Annual CCoL
Talent Show.**
Thank you to
the Music
Committee for
organizing this
fun event



Time for Spring cleaning!



In conjunction with Deb's Beds, CCoL is co-hosting a yard sale on **May 9, 8am . to 1 pm!** **Deb's Beds** is a nonprofit organization providing beds to children in need, specifically children in Massachusetts. Deb's Beds has been making a difference in the lives of children who sleep on floors or with inadequate bedding. Deb's Bed's builds, delivers and sets up twin and bunk beds complete with mattresses and bedding. Deb's Beds relies on 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!

Caregivers Support Group



The Caregivers Support Group will meet on **Wednesday May 13**, from 7-8:30 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.

Last call! Warren Scholarships deadline – May 14

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



Men's Breakfast – Saturday, May. 16

Good food. Great company. Just \$5!

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

Council Update April 9, 2026

Rev. Jen gifted Brad Hamilton a gavel to officially open the meeting!

Ed Cornish gave a summary of what the Property Committee accomplished lately. The Conant Room refurbishment is almost complete. The lock on the Men's room has been replaced. The committee has a burn permit and will burn brush on April 10. The septic System has been pumped. The elevator and the fire protection system have passed inspection.

Chair of Finance, Kathy Keenan, attended a seminar with information on church security. The Council has been considering what the church needs for security and has installed the doorbell camera so far. Both pledging and loose cash are above their goals but they both will even out as the year progresses. The Fellowship Committee gave \$2000 from the proceeds from the California Dreamers concert and the rummage sale to the General Fund. The Easter offering total is over the amount budgeted. Personnel is a little under budget, but Property is over budget due to the snowy winter where plowing came in at \$2472.75 over the \$5000 budget. Transferred from the Invested Funds at 6.25% was \$91,942.44 to the General Fund and \$13,646.82 to be divided between the Deacons, Scholarship, Long-term Music, and Long-term Maintenance (Properties). Unfortunately, due to the world situation the Invested Fund lost \$65,834.16 in March. Hopefully as the world situation becomes less volatile that loss will be made up.

To ensure that the new HVAC system in the Sunday School area is designed and installed correctly, a project manager from Balancing Technologies, Inc. will design the system, supply trusted contractors to choose from, and supervise the installation. The project manager will give the Property Committee costs for just the Sunday School area, costs for the offices and Parish Hall to be prepped for future installation and then costs for installation of both together. There will be an informational meeting about the HVAC system on April 19 and the congregation will vote on the engineering on the 26th. The Council created a warrant for the meeting on the 26 with a motion to draw an amount of no more than \$22,292 from Invested funds to pay for the HVAC system review, engineering design, installation oversight and final system testing for services as quoted not to exceed and to be provided by Balancing Technologies, Inc.

Rev. Jen announced the Committee Night is scheduled for June 8 at 6:30 with pizza and salad provided. The group will take part in a Build a Church Workshop. Rev. Jen thanked everyone for their participation in the Lenten programs. The booklets from the pews have been saved and the entries will be compiled. Easter Sunday was fabulous with 186 attending! This year's confirmation class is a wonderful group. Part of their preparation is a field trip to Badgers for exploration of "Life Eternal".

Before Brad Hamilton closed the meeting with prayer, Brad Austin commended those who prepared so well for the Annual Meeting that it went so smoothly.

- Submitted by Holly Magner



Summer Kids Bags

In addition to the Loaves & Fishes regular grocery offering Summer Kids Bags

These bags are filled with kid-friendly favorites to help ensure children have easy, nourishing options when school is out.

Suggested items:

- Shelf stable yogurt (like Go Go Squeeze)
- Mac & Cheese
- Canned pasta
- Applesauce packs or pouches
- Peanut butter
- Crackers
- Oatmeal in packets
- Cookie Mix

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Books, Books

Look for the boxes of books in the Parish Hall. Take what you like ... Yours for the taking!

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Look, look, look!

The Conant Room has been rehabbed! Thanks Larry Wenz it looks FABULOUS.

A picture will not do it justice. Stop by the room – also known as the library – next to the kitchen in Parish Hall.

For that project the shelves have been

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



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.

Questions? Contact the CE Director Michelle Rawlinson at cedirector@ccol.org.

**EARLY BIRD RATE
BEFORE 6/1
\$30 PER CHILD**

**SNOWBALL
MOUNTAIN
CHALLENGE**

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

Hello Friends of the Garden at Church Meadows

Hello everyone,

We had an amazing turnout April 12 at the garden!!!

Thank you to all who could show up.

Right now we are giving the planting rows a chance to Get some air, the plastic has been removed.

Those rows need weeding if you have a chance to go there on your own. Also, the fence (closest to the field) needs work, the weeds are really taking over.

Cut them at the bottom if you can so they stop growing. The entire fence needs work.

We have environmentally friendly planting rows to go down soon and we will be using straw on some of the rows also. That will one day become mulch. The rain barrels are filling up!

Thank you all!

Sue and Deb



Kindness is Simple

**KIND
NESS**

CCoL started an effort to connect members and friends who NEED help with members and friends who can PROVIDE help. If you have some "giving time" available, check out the Sign-Up sheet in the Parish Hall and we will attempt to match you up with someone in need. Please list the particular type of help you can provide, such as running errands, providing a ride or a meal.

We are also looking for people who can help with simple handyman tasks, such as hanging pictures, changing light bulbs or adjusting a stuck door or window.

Questions? Call the CCoL Office at 978.486.3245 or email the KIS network at:

KISNetwork@ccol.org.

Progressive Dinner

May 16

We are planning a **Progressive Dinner** for **May 16**.

Never attended one? You are in for a treat!

Attendees are directed to one house for appetizers and drinks, then assigned to another house for dinner and then everyone meets back at church for dessert and a Name that Tune contest

We need people to sign up to **host**: appetizer/ drinks and/or dinner as well as people to bring desserts to Fellowship Hall to share!

Please save the date and sign up using the form attached. If you have previously attended, all you have to do is confirm your contact information and if you are volunteering to host.

Questions? – Reach out to Deb Rosson, Val Loughman or Kathy Keenan

Dinner Sign Up

A Time for Fun and Fellowship

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 – check below:

APPETIZER HOST

of guests you can accommodate _____

DINNER HOST

of guests you can accommodate _____

DESSERT (I will bring to church) _____

_____ I will **NEED a RIDE**

_____ I Can **Drive Others** (How many?) _____

\$26,000 has been raised for our Steeple repair project
We are at 65% of our goal!



At the March annual meeting, the congregation voted to support repairs to one of our church's most visible features—the steeple.

The approved motion authorized the Church Council to draw up to

\$90,000 from the Invested Funds for the steeple repair and belfry refurbishment.

We encourage members and friends to support the Steeple Project with a special donation, to 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.

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 and outreach.



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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.

TUESDAY

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.

WEDNESDAY

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

Knitting and Community

The crafting crew has been meeting for a few months and we're loving the projects and the laughter!

We gather in the Conant Room to create handmade items for charities. We've worked on prayer shawls, blanket squares, Easter butterflies, and more. We're always open to new ideas and making new friends.

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

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

Questions? Contact **Jeanne Bracken** at 973 430 7102



Eleanor Pickard's "**Liberty & Justice For All**" quilt was in the Concord Academy Quilt 250 exhibit with nearly 250 other local quilt artists' pieces as a kick-off to the Concord 250 celebration. She later had the honor of speaking about her quilt as part of the Quilts 250 book launch in Concord - a stunning commemorative book that her piece is prominently featured.

~ Submitted by Ashley Joyner

Want to meet Eleanor?

Stop by the Wednesday morning Sewing Group in Parish Hall! She and few folks gather from 10-noon creating and sharing their amazing talents. The sewists distribute most of their efforts to area non-profits such as Women's shelters, hospice patients, Veterans organizations.

Also they provide a pretty good inventory for the annual fall fairs.



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
Second Thursday, 7:30pm

DIGITAL MEDIA

COMMITTEE

Third Thursday, 7:30pm (Online)

KNITTING FOR OTHERS

Fourth Thursday, 7-9pm



Sewists Lori, Ellen and Joan



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.**

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