



Welcome to CCoL—New Members Sunday March 16th, 2025

The Parish News

APRIL 2025

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF LITTLETON, UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

A Good Enough Time for Reflection, Renewal, and Rejoicing

Dear Friends,

April brings us closer to Holy Week. Once again we are invited to journey through the powerful narrative of Jesus' final days. From Palm Sunday's triumphant entry into Jerusalem to the somber reflections of Good Friday, this week offers us an opportunity to reflect deeply on the themes of sacrifice, love, and redemption. At CCoL, we honor these moments not as stand-alone events in history, but as powerful invitations to examine our own lives and relationships. We can use this time to seek out ways to live more authentically and compassionately. Holy Week calls us to hold both the pain of the world and the hope of transformation with open hearts.

On Maundy Thursday, April 17th, we will once again recall the joy and pain of the Last Supper followed by a Tenebrae Service that recalls the events leading up to Jesus' crucifixion with gathering darkness. On Good Friday we will gather for a Pot-luck supper of soup and bread. A simple meal as we ponder the sacrifice of

Jesus and hear some readings for the night. Good Friday is a time to acknowledge the injustices, suffering, and grief present in our world, standing in solidarity with those who continue to face oppression.

Then in the darkness of early morning, we will gather on top of the AT&T Hill to witness the sunrise and to celebrate Easter. As we gather on Easter Sunday, we celebrate not only the resurrection of Jesus, but also the resurrection within our own lives and communities. Easter is a reminder that transformation is always possible, and that the light of hope can shine even in the darkest of times. As we rejoice in the promise of new beginnings, let us carry that hope into the world, working together to create a more just, compassionate, and loving society.

May this season of Easter inspire us all to live out our faith with renewed energy, embracing the power of resurrection in our hearts and in the world.

With you on the Journey,

Rev. Jen



The Annual Meeting — Sunday, March 16th

The Finance Committee presented brief highlights on 2024 budget/actual results as well as proposing a deficit budget for 2025 which the congregation approved. We want to thank the congregation for their support in stepping up to turn a deficit into a positive position for 2024. With God's help and the congregation's faith, hopefully we can do it again in 2025!

**CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
OF LITTLETON**
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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**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 live-stream our
Worship Services**

We are recommending YouTube as the go-to platform for viewing our services. It has the best audio, fewer glitches and people can chat with one another during the service. There is closed-captioning available— view the service on YouTube after the Sunday 10 a.m. service. Usually later in the day.

April Birthdays

2 Molly Hamilton	15 Jeanne Bracken	23 Julia Gannon
4 Clare Palumbo	Lin LeBallister	25 Jane Jackson
Zolivia Nastasia	16 Laura Cahill	26 Jennifer Goltsberg
5 Marz Rawlinson	17 Glen MacNeil	28 Richelle Dupont
6 Devin Gannon	Ginny Johnson	29 Mary Harrington
11 Jake Rosson	18 Nancy Friday	
12 Heather MacNeil	19 Ruby Hider	
12 Kristen Montemagno	22 Dick Lyons	

Thanks for the Memories

Simply said – time flies when you’re having fun.

Eleven years and one month doesn’t feel like a long time to me. Fuzzy math: three ministers – Vern, Bruce and Jen; one associate pastor, Barb; four US presidents; three council chairs; staff members, bookkeepers and treasurers. About 550 bulletins and 120 Parish News. And one pandemic.

I was initially hired as Publication Editor. Mostly Sunday and special bulletins. Eventually I took on the Parish News, annual reports and banners. The “Church Lady” gig morphed to Church Administrator along those paths. I had found my happy place combining marketing, editorial, graphic and composition skills, three days a week.

Along came COVID. CCoL went into a closed-door operation. Essential personnel only. Rarely did we have more than three people in the building. Neighborhood Suppers went into hibernation and The Food is Love crew reemerged and we upped attendance to five as volunteers prepped 30-50 meals for drive-by pickup. We met and greeted folks in the driveway or the narthex to distribute frozen take-home meals. CCoL launched a “good enough” broadcast worship service in the Parish Hall. Tech knowledge and equipment consisted of a laptop, a projector on a rolling cart, and we worshipped from home via YouTube, Facebook.

To the Clergy, personnel and staffers who have stood (withstood? understood?) me, I am grateful for the support and the opportunity to serve my church. I will forever cherish the many friendships that have formed. Thick and thin, richer, poorer, sickness and in health, joys and sorrow (hey - it’s a marriage of sorts) - you are church family.

To Poliana – you’re gonna’ love this place.
Welcome to the family.

Jane



Dear Friends,

The Personnel Committee is pleased to announce that Poliana Yee began working for our church in mid-March, as our new part-time Office Assistant, supporting Rev. Jen and the congregation. She will be filling the office role as Jane Jackson transitions from her position of more than 11 years.

Poliana lives in Carlisle with her husband Remo and 2 cats (Sushi and Miso). She has two adult stepchildren (Filippo and Camilla). She is a dual American and Canadian citizen (and is working on Italian). She has been actively involved with area communities, including local government participation, volunteering at a food bank and is an active member of The Concord Orchestra where she plays the violin. Other hobbies include knitting, crocheting, macrame, baking, yoga, walking, reading and eating. She is a wonderful addition to our staff.

Poliana shares the front office with our Financial Administrator Sandy Clyde. Please welcome Poliana to her new role at CCoL, introduce yourself, and say hello when you can!

In Faith,

CCoL Personnel Committee

Good Enough: 40'ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection

LENTEN STUDY and DISCUSSION GROUP

We will be utilizing the devotional book, *Good Enough: 40'ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection*, as the basis for our worship this Lent. Each week we will be focusing on a concept from the book. This book is also the basis for our Lenten study and discussion group. Rev. Jen has ordered copies of the book. The book and specific page numbers for the devotionals to read each week will be given to those who sign up for the group.

We will meet on Wednesday evenings at 7pm during Lent

Apr. 2 "We often believe we are the problem." **Apr. 9** "We are fragile."

Apr. 16 "You are a group project."

Bring A Friend to Church — Sunday - April 6

The Welcoming Committee is pleased to announce that April 6 is "Bring a friend to Church Sunday"! It's time to spread the good news about our church community; about our church family, our missions, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and all the other great things that are happening here.

Research shows that 86% of new congregants first came to church because someone they knew asked them to attend church with them. We will have a special coffee hour hosted by the Welcoming Committee to meet and greet everyone. Please mark your calendar!

Care-Givers Support Group — April 9, 7-8:30 pm.

CCoL offers a monthly support group for Care-Givers on the second Wednesday of every month. The next meeting will take place on **April 9, 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 near-by towns and is NOT limited to CCoL members. Please invite friends, family and anyone who may benefit from this program. Refreshments will be offered.



Welcome!



New Members at 2025 Annual Meeting (Left to Right): Wayne Bainter, Kevin O'Connor, Richelle Dupont

New CCoL Members

Wayne Bainter

Wayne is a nature enthusiast, an avid runner, and recently started doing ultramarathons! Wayne is the proud father of Atlas and, between hobbies, Wayne is a scientist working on cell therapies for rare diseases.

Kevin O'Connor & Richelle Dupont

Kevin and his wife, Richelle, have been singing in the CCoL choir for a year. Kevin is a systems analyst employed by a solar energy company. Richelle teaches public Montessori in Holliston, MA. They have an adult daughter and son. Kevin and Richelle both enjoy reading, tromping in the woods and building LEGO projects.

Great Rummage Sale!

The **Rummage Sale** was a huge success because of all the wonderful volunteers that came to help. This event couldn't have happened without you all. We raised \$950 for our general budget and we have another event in May which is the yard sale. Every little bit helps the budget. If anyone has any ideas for fundraising, please let us know.

Marilyn, Deb & Carol



**Coming
May 17**

**FLEA
Market!**

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The **ChiliMac Fest** was a success! The youth raised \$544 for programming and Loaves and Fishes.



Thank you to everyone who made food as well as purchased Chili & Mac & Cheese.



Youth Lock In & Bake Off

The Youth had a meaningful time at the **Lock In**. They started by baking treats for the **Bake Off**. There was a lot of laughter, singing and helping each other bake. We had a wonderful candlelight service led by Rev Jen. We ended the evening with a fellowship time of watching *Bruce Almighty* while doing spa face masks, painting nails and eating snacks. In the morning, the youth prepared their desserts for coffee hour. During coffee hour the congregation tasted the treats and voted on their favorite. Molly Hamilton defended her winning title from last year and took home the Golden Spatula with her delicious key lime cupcakes.



SAVE THE DATES!

May 17—Flea Market

Clean the attic, clean the basement, clean the garage... The Fellowship Team is sponsoring a Flea Market on Saturday, May 17. NO TV, computers, microwaves please... We will take small appliances - like coffee makers, toasters, crock pots. Need a pickup? Call Steve: 508-517-3034.

It's a lot of work to do that stuff—set up, sales people, and cleanup to get the church spiffy for worship service the next day.

**Reach out to Marilyn: 978-399-8318,
Deb: 978-501-4314 or Carol: 978-855-2078.**

Tell them how you'll be helpful.

Scholarship applications due May 16

Applications for the Russell and Doris Warren Scholarship are open to church members currently enrolled in or planning to attend college, certificate and/or course studies, or a church related conference. Applicants are required to submit a brief essay about their college choice, intended degree path, and participation in church groups and activities.

A college student will only be awarded once during the college years. Applications and essays are due May 16.

Contact any member of the Scholarship Committee: Marilyn Converse, Deb Austermann or Brad Austin for more information.

July 20 — WooSox

The UCC Central Association has again reserved a section of Polar Park in Worcester. All are welcome.



Watch for RSVP Sign-up Sheet.

Kindness is Simple

CCoL is starting 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? Reach out to Leo Loughman 978-760-1586 or LeoL5477@yahoo.com;

Karen Terella, kterella@hotmail.com or Sarah Nastasia, 978-413-9433 or sarah.nastasia@gmail.com.

Saturday, April 19 ~ 8 am

MEN'S BREAKFAST

All are Welcome!

(The men cook ... women and children relax, eat and enjoy)



**EVERY
TUESDAY**

Neighborhood Supper 5:30-6:30

The Congregational Church has been the host site for Neighborhood Suppers for more than 30 years. Cooks and the tasks rotate each week among five Littleton churches.

All churches have a crew and select the menu. There is no charge for this although free-will donations are gratefully appreciated.

**EVERY
FRIDAY**

AL-ANON 10 AM

Al-Anon is a mutual support group to recover from the effects of the disease of alcoholism.

Al-Anon meetings are walk-in and meets in the Conant Room on Friday.

**EVERY
WEDNESDAY**

SEWING GROUP—10 AM

Sewing people meet every Wednesday from 10-Noon. They are currently creating items for those in need. Don't sew? Share your craft, feel free to bring knitting, crochet or handcraft projects of your interest. If you plan to sew, bring your machine.

**MONTHLY
MEETINGS**

Church Council

Second Thursday, 7:30

Welcoming Committee

First Thursday, 7 pm

Property

First Thursday, 7:30

Christian Education

First Tuesday, (Zoom)

Caregivers Support Group

Second Wednesday,

Mission Outreach—

First Sunday, 11 am

Deacons

First Monday, 7 pm

Digital Media Committee

Third Thursday

Council Update March, 2025

After Rev. Jen offered an opening prayer, Ed Cornish updated the Council on Property business. The Mitsubishi system still needs attention, so the committee are looking at a contractor who deals with industrial and commercial systems. He reported that the toilet leaking in one of the restrooms has been replaced and the floor dried out. Their focus now is on the toilet in the other restroom. Decisions still need to be made about the church's steeple. The cost of removing the spire or repairing it is being considered. The weathervane has been sanded and strengthened by Ed. There is a decision to be made about whether to paint it or apply gold leaf.

Speaking for the Finance Committee Kathy Keenan reviewed the budget particulars. The budget for 2025 will be reviewed and voted on at the Annual Meeting. Some progress has been made with the state of Massachusetts for the okay to spend down funds that were created for very specific purposes. One example is the Houghton Bible Fund. There are only so many Bibles that are needed!

Mark Hickox announced that Poliana Yee will be the church's new Office Assistant following Jane Jackson's transition to the next chapter of her life. Poliana (or Pol) began working with Jane on March 10. April 3 is Jane's last day and recognition of her talents and of the years she has been serving CCoL will take place on April 6.

Rev. Jen reminded the Council that the Annual Meeting and recognition of three new members was on March 16. She also told the Council that the Littleton Cultural Council asked us to paint wooden flowers to be placed around town for Littleton in Bloom on April 10. Rev. Jen will take part in the Sunrise Service at 5:45 am on Easter Sunday, April 20th.

Ticket sales for the PEI Celtic concert in May. Tickets will be sold beginning on March 30th.

Sarah Nastasia reminded everyone that the KIS (Kindness is Simple) group is taking names at this time only for those who have a talent to share with someone who might need help with a simple task. Sarah has refreshed the church website (ccol.org) with some new pictures and she is trying to keep the event page and the calendar up to date.

Brad Hamilton closed the meeting with prayer.

"Ceilidh" (Kitchen Party) Concert Thursday, May 22

SAVE THE DATE for a toe-tappin', finger snappin' concert of song and sparkling tunes brought to you directly from Prince Edward Island, Canada. **Gordon Belsher** and **Cynthia MacLeod** will present their **P.E.I. Concert** or "**Ceilidh**" (Ceilidh is pronounced KAY-lee, in case you're not up on your Gaelic and it is also known as a "Kitchen Party".) They have performed around Canada, the USA and beyond both as a duo and as individuals for the past several years. CCoL has arranged for them to visit with us again in Littleton this May.



Expect the sanctuary to ring to the rafters with Celtic and folk music, beginning at 7:30 pm (doors open 7pm).

Tickets now on sale!

Tickets are **\$20** each in advance (\$25 at the door, if any) and we expect to sell out. For convenience and to save online ticketing fees, we plan to sell most tickets in-house after some of the worship services (cash/check/credit card to CCoL).

Cynthia's website is: www.cynthiamacleod.com

Gordon's website is: www.guernseycove.ca



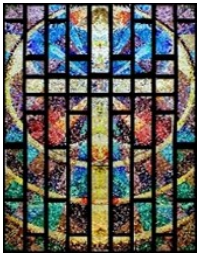
Puzzle corner at coffee hour

GIVE NOW



On-line pledging

Did you know you can pledge or make any donations on-line by using the QR code or clicking on the "Give Now" button at the top of the church website.



The Congregational Church of Littleton
United Church of Christ
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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***