

THE TIE that binds

May/June 2026

1241 Poquonnock Road, Groton, Connecticut 06340
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Lord of life and light,
as May unfolds her gentle days,
we see Your handiwork in every blossom,
every green shoot breaking the soil,
every bird's song carried on the warming air.
You are the God who makes all things new.
Renew our hearts as You renew the earth;
wash away the weariness of winter,
and plant in us seeds of faith, hope, and love.
Let the fragrance of lilacs remind us of Your sweetness,
the steady rain of Your mercy,
the sunlight of Your steadfast presence.
Teach us to grow toward You,
rooted deep in Your Word,
stretching upward in trust.
Bless this month with peace in our homes,
kindness in our words,
and joy in our work.
May we walk each day in step with Your Spirit,
until the harvest of Your kingdom is full.
Amen.

Pastor's Page

"Seen"

*You had not imagined that something so empty
could fill you to overflowing,
and now you carry the knowledge like an awful treasure
or like a child that curls itself within your heart:
how the emptiness will bear forth a new world
you cannot fathom but on whose edge you stand.
So why do you linger?
You have seen, and so you are already blessed.
You have seen, and so you are the blessing.
There is no other word you need.
There is simply to go and tell.
There is simply to begin.*

(Jan Richardson, Circle of Grace)

It is the miracle of Easter morning, that something so empty (the tomb)
can so fill our hearts...with joy, praise, hope.
And it is the miracle of the Easter season, that something calls us not to
remain in this fullness, but to release it in the world.
Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!
We have seen, not with our eyes, but with our faith.
We have seen, not with proof, but with belief.
Because we have seen we are already blessed;
because we have seen, we are now the blessing.
As we share the fullness of God in the emptiness of the world, as we re-
model, restore, and rebuild our church,
as we revisit, refresh, and renew our community,
may we hold this knowledge and carry this treasure,
the beginning of new life wherever we go.



CAMP WIGHTMAN'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Join us as we celebrate 70 years of Camp Wightman—a weekend filled with fun, fellowship, remembering, and rekindling friendships and faith.

Register on our website: <https://www.campwightman.org/>

Whether Camp was part of your childhood or your family's story, this milestone celebration is the perfect time to come home to Camp.

Saturday, May 30

- 10:00 a.m. Arrival with morning activities, luncheon celebration and afternoon activities
- 4:00 p.m. Square dance
- 5:30 p.m. Cookout
- 6:45 p.m. Campfire

Sunday, May 31

- 8:30 a.m. Breakfast
- 9:30 a.m. Worship in the Chapel
- 11:30 a.m. Departure

Saturday night lodging plus two meals

\$90 per person (retreat housing)

\$65 per person (cabin housing)

Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult

✝ Come reminisce, reconnect, and celebrate all that God has done through Camp Wightman over the past 70 years—and look ahead to what's still to come.

If you have reflections or stories to share, please send them along to office@campwightman.org.

***Earth Day 2026 was April 22.
The below are good ideas MAEC shared with
us on how to honor it every day.***

Share the slogan with others
Our Power, Our Planet!

At EarthDay.org, there are six main areas of concern:

Climate and Environmental literacy

Act on climate change

End plastics

Learn about the canopy project

Learn about fashion for the earth

Why not plan your own celebration?

Every year, month or day you can ...

Help clean a beach,

Pick up litter in cities and neighborhoods, or

Help restore natural habitats by planting trees,
bushes, pulling weeds, or mulching.

Conserve Energy & Recycle

Buy and use less plastic – better to use a paper bag!

Turn off lights and electronics when not in use,

Use a programmable thermostat,

Change your air filter regularly,

Upcoming Events

May 17—Betty Land begins her 2026 Sabbath Season! Rachael Marseglia is scheduled to return to the organ for the summer months giving Betty a well deserved opportunity to be a worshipper in the pew. Welcome back, Rachael!

June 7 — Communion

June 14 —Children/Youth Sunday

June 21 —Father's Day

June 28 —Graduation Sunday—if you have someone in your family who will be graduating from school (college, senior/junior high or elementary school) please let Dianne A. know.

CHURCH MICE CRAFTERS AT LEDYARD FARMERS MARKET THIS SUMMER

The Market opens at 4 p.m. and runs until 7 p.m. every Wednesday from June 3 through September 9, 2026.

In June the Church Mice Crafters are scheduled to be there June 3 and June 17. Stop by and say “Hi!” as you shop and nibble. There will be additional dates announced for July through September in future bulletins and TIEs. If you are interested in helping set up/staff a table, please reach out to Sandy Vocolina.

2026 QUILT RAFFLE TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE

While prices for groceries and gas have dramatically increased, it’s good to know at PBBC quilt raffle ticket prices remain the same—just \$2 for a chance to win a beautiful, handcrafted quilt.

Tickets are sold in envelopes of 10 tickets for \$20. Please contact a member of the Church Mice for tickets. This year’s quilt is titled “Connected by Heart” and measures 60” x 72”.

The drawing to win will take place at the Holiday Bazaar on December 5, 2026. Winner need not be present to win. Please see Carol Gatlin to purchase a ticket.



HOLIDAY BAZAAR 2026 December 5, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

We met in March to brainstorm new ideas for December. The biggest change is we will no longer have a Silent Auction. Instead we will incorporate items we would have considered for Silent Auction into Grandma’s Attic. Stay tuned for additional details.



MAY MINISTERS

Greeters For The Month: Carol Gatlin & Gail Neff

Lay Leaders:

- 03 - Dave Rowley
- 10 - Wynonna Tuang
- 17 - Carol Gatlin
- 24 - Li Ling Liu
- 31 - Kathy Piscitello

Communion:

Preparers: Carol and Dave Rowley
Servers: Becky Freeman and Bill Wilbur
Assist the Pastor: Richard Tourjee, Sr.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 12 - Eleanor Cebriwsky
- 15 - Andrew Dellarco
- 21 - Mei Ling Liu
- 22 - Susan Schmidtknecht
- 23 - Jeff Land
- 28 - Cherri Ashbey
- 29 - Derek Bianchi



JUNE MINISTERS

Greeters For The Month: John & Marilyn Rodarmel

Lay Leaders:

- 07 - Cathy Greenfield
- 14 - Barbara Brant
- 21 - Mei Ling Liu
- 28 - Joe Greene

Communion:

Preparers: John & Marilyn Rodarmel
Servers: Cathy Greenfield and Dale Rehberg
Assist the Pastor: Steve Hughes

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 08 - Edie Hughes
- 12 - Len Lun Niang
- 13 - Charley Freeman
- 16 - Jon Hiller
- 17 - Sue Shontell
- 18 - Mike Freeman
- 19 - Gail Neff
- 21 - Rachael Wong
- 22 - Hailey Bassett
- 23 - Dennis Piscitello
- 23 - David Effman
- 26 - Ed Boyle
- 29 - Brian Berry
- 29 - Carol Gatlin

Saturday, May 9

SPRING POP-UP SALE

Our SPRING sale under tents is just a few days away, on
Saturday, May 9, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

We will have new crafts, baked goods, houseplants and garden plant starts, and spring-related used items. The appeal is still active for your contributions of a variety of crafts, cakes, cookies, breads, brownies, pies, etc.. and houseplant and garden plants.

Volunteers for tent and table set up at 7:00 a.m. Saturday morning (note change of plan as to date/time) and parking/traffic control on Saturday during event, and display and check out tables.
Speak to Carol Gatlin, Cathy Greenfield or Sandy Vocolina to see how you can help.

Saturday, June 13

***Come see the Church Mice Crafters at
Groton Thrive 55+ Classic Car Event***

Church Mice Crafters will have a sale display table outdoors, under sun shade at the Thrive 55+ (senior center) classic car event on **Saturday, June 13 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 102 Newtown Road.**



Sunday, May 3

*The Stonington Madrigal Singers present “The Animal Kingdom” songs of the Renaissance at 4:00 p.m. at The LaGrua Center, 32 Water Street, Stonington. Suggested donation is \$20 with a reception following the concert. **Our own Becky Johnstone is part of the Madrigal Singers.***

Wednesday, May 6

*The Stonington Madrigal Singers present “The Animal Kingdom” songs of the Renaissance at 6:30 p.m. at the Westerly Library Auditorium, 44 Broad Street, Westerly. Free admission. **Here’s your second opportunity to see Becky sing.***



Prayer Shawl Blessing Sunday, May 10

Bring your in-progress and completed shawls to be blessed.

Blessing Sunday is always an emotional
and visually beautiful event with all

of the “to be blessed” shawls on display on the pulpit.

Once blessed, shawls will be available in the Prayer Shawl
closet. Please see Belle Jordan for more info.

***Second Sunday Food Collection—
May 10 and June 14...
Don't forget...***

Every day basics like canned soups & pastas, spaghetti sauce, pasta, cereals, etc. are staple items.



adobe
stroke

Small bags of cat and dog food are also requested for beloved four legged family members.

Recent talks with Groton Human Services as well as calls received for our Care & Share requests confirm there is a very specific need for help in our community. Those who are unhoused or living in their cars are not able to use most of the items donated to the Food Locker as many donations require the ability to cook, have a refrigerated items like milk to complete or use can openers. We'd like to help those folks!

Please consider purchasing food items with “pop tops” which can be easily opened as well as protein items like canned meats (spam, tuna, chicken). Microwavable mac and cheese that just requires water is also helpful as convenience stores will often let people use their microwaves. Packages of bottled water are also needed.

Church Directory Update

FRASER, Connie
69 Twin Lakes Drive
Waterford, CT 06385
23 Blackberry Lane
Bremen, ME 04551

October-May

May-October

(207) 522-3180

Connie officially joined our church family April 26.

May/June Mission & Outreach Corner

Heifer International

On April 19 & 26 the children learned fun facts about the Heifer animals and had a few chuckles trying to solve riddles about those same animals as they made offering envelopes and thank you notes. As they worked, we learned a fun fact from Korban's mom, Mei Ling. Water buffalo, one of the Heifer animals, are very important in Burma/Myanmar where she was born. They are especially suitable for tilling rice fields, are used for transportation and their milk is richer in fat and protein than that of dairy cattle.

Following worship on the 26th, the children hosted a very successful Heifer Marketplace in the Sanctuary offering keychains in exchange for a donation to the program. Thank you to Belle Jordan for making the keychains, Dante Dellarco for making this year's poster, and Zayden & Hailey Vocolina, Josh & Julia Boyle, Korban Tuang, Sawyer Wilbur and Dante for making the offering envelopes and thank you notes! In just one morning we raised over \$500 to help children and their families around the world. Stay tuned for the final offering amount as well as the animals the children selected to give.

May—CWS Blankets

Known to most of us as Blankets of Love or Blanket the World, the blankets offering will be announced May 6. The offering will be received throughout May. Blankets come in two different weights to allow for warmer/colder climates and cost \$10 each. The blanket donations are made in honor or memory of special women in our lives with a place on the offering envelope where that can be noted. All donations will be listed in a future bulletin/TIE.

June—One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)

One Great Hour of Sharing will be announced on June 7 with the offering received throughout the month of June. OGHS is also collected throughout the year when disaster strikes around the world (earthquakes, hurricanes, fires, etc.) and serves individuals and communities in need. This offering provides people with safety, sustenance, and hope.

Council Update

On behalf of the church council, I would like to share some words about our work.

The monthly council meetings are just one aspect of our work. We communicate throughout the month with each other sometimes daily. Some of the topics range from, getting a Tie out and when, to bulletins every week and some weeks more than one. In addition to being a council member as our administrator, she answers questions, assists the Pastor, replies or reads and forwards many emails to appropriate council members, gets information needed by council members and seeks to help those in need. This is a lot of work for a 3 day 9 to 12 schedule. We appreciate the extra time and work that your church administrator volunteers and performs to help council do our work on behalf of the congregation. Thank you Dianne A.

Over the next few Tie publications I would like to take this space to focus on what each council position is responsible for. For today it is important for all of us to recognize the above and beyond efforts made to keep us going. I am hopeful that knowing the amount of volunteer time given by each council member that when we ask for help from the congregation, we really need each and everyone.

There are many ways to help from baking for our bake sales to supporting them. But just to set this up, someone on council steps up to do one more thing. To get our bake sale in May off the ground, first we need bakers, then there is getting tents and tables to set up, setting them up, security, parking, manning the tables and cashiering. All of this requires volunteers, which usually are your council members. Thank you Carol G.

We invite you to be a part of this living church, which is so much more than 0930 to 1030 on Sunday morning. We are working hard to restore our sacred spaces. Please help us help you, see Carol Gatlin to volunteer or for ideas to help us fundraise for your church see Dianne A..

I hope to hear from you either in person or through our email and work with you.

Sue Shontell,
Council Clerk, Buildings and Grounds Committee, PRC, Property Manager, Volunteer for ad hoc projects.

I type this out to share with you a few of the roles we are each performing and the need for your help. I have faith in you.