

THE TIE that binds July/August 2026

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Seasons of Blessing

*In this season of sun and light,
Your love surrounds me, pure and bright,
Rolling hills and ocean foam,
All remind me I am home.*

*Thank You, Lord, for summer days,
For laughter, peace, and wondrous ways,
To walk with You through green and gold,
Your mercy new, Your wonders told.*

Pastor's Page

"for a peaceful day or night"

*Oh peace, you are the mountain we glimpse from afar,
the height and depth of our needs.*

*We chart our way to you by starlight through paths overgrown
with wrongs we ourselves have seeded, then left to grow unchecked.*

*It's a long way we travel, but a good one,
making things right as ever we can.*

Light the way, God. Bring us to that place of rest.

Rest from the world outside, and the one inside.

Rest from our prickling fears and obsessive thoughts:

What if this never changes? What if this goes on forever?

What if I try and fail? What if I don't and never know?

Bring us peace, God, enough for this moment.

Enough to quiet the questions with no answers.

*And, while you're at it,
pencil us in for tomorrow, too.*

(Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie, "The Lives We Actually Have:
100 Blessings for Imperfect Days")

What an intriguing idea, asking God to pencil us in. As human beings we are often the ones who prefer to remain flexible and keep options open, afraid to commit, worried about missing out, more comfortable with erasing a plan than making it permanent.

But what if God also remains open to the changes we make?

What if God stays flexible during the day and through the night?

What if God waits for us to ask a question or recognize a need?

It could mean that no matter what paths we travel, good or bad, right or wrong, God is already bringing us peace, offering us rest, and lighting our way...long before we put it on our calendars.

JULY MINISTERS

Greeters for the Month: Barbara Brant & Richard Tourjee, Sr.

Lay Leaders:

- 05 - Dianne Augeri
- 12 - Alex Lew
- 19 - Marilyn Rodearmel
- 26 - Becky Freeman

Ushers: Portia Freeman, Cathy Greenfield, Jeff Land, Pete Wong

Communion:

Preparers: Joe Greene and Belle Jordan
Servers: Marilyn Baird and Catherine Hiller
Assist the Pastor: Dianne Augeri

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 01 – Kaitlyn Pasqualini
- 01 – Bob McLaughlin
- 03 – Janice Maranda
- 04 – Will Filosi
- 05 – Diane Cunningham
- 05 – Sonny Lew
- 08 – Robert Lane
- 11 – Wynonna Tuang
- 14 – Austin Center
- 19 – Barbara Brant
- 19 – Valerie Rehberg
- 23 – Michelle Friedman
- 25 – Mikayla Tourjee
- 25 – Marilyn Benson
- 26 – Lori Foye Dougherty
- 27 – Lennie Anderson
- 27 – Kathy Piscitello
- 29 – Marie Cheney
- 31 – Marion Lamb
- 31 – Jane Imdahl

AUGUST MINISTERS

Greeters for the Month: Phyllis and Bill Gregory

Lay Leaders:

02 - Alex Lew
09 - Holly Boyle
16 - Dianne Augeri
23 - Carol Gatlin
30 - Steve Hughes

Ushers: Yvette Ackley, Cathy Greenfield, Jeff Land, Pete Wong

Communion:

Preparers: Dave and Dianne Augeri
Servers: Portia Freeman, Sue Shontell
Assist the Pastor: Carol Rowley

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AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

01 – Kathy Savona
02 – Dianne Augeri
02 – Megan Wilbur
04 – Marc Friedman
06 – Cooper Keeton
10 – Beth Rumery
12 – Jennifer Akesson
16 – Marilyn Rodearmel
17 – Dante Dellarco
20 – Sharon Anderson
20 – Amanda Tourjee
21 – Drew Wesche
22 – Larry Spalluto
23 – Cathy Greenfield
30 – Bill Gregory

PBBC Graduates 2026

Riley Ahearn, graduating from 6th grade from North Stonington Elementary School.

Dante Dellarco, grandson of Dianne & Dave Augeri, graduating from Juliet W Long Elementary School in June and advancing to Ledyard Middle School in the fall.

Maddy Eccleston, granddaughter of Ann Mauer, received her GED at a graduation ceremony in New London.

Parker Friedman, granddaughter of Bob & Carolyn Land, graduated from Tabor Academy and will attend Hobart & William Smith College in the fall..

Harper Gardner, great granddaughter of Marilyn Benson, graduated from Little Feathers Pre-K in Fort Fairfield, Maine on June 10.

Josh Gardner, great grandson of Marilyn Benson, graduated from Fort Fairfield High School in Fort Fairfield, Maine on June 7..

Kevin Harring, grandson of Carol & David Rowley graduated from Bob Jones High School in Madison, Alabama on May 18 and will be attending Auburn University in the Fall.

Patrick Hughes, grandson of Steve & Edie Hughes, is currently an Army Engineer Officer and will be graduating from the Joint Dive Officer course at the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center in Panama City, FL.

PBBC Graduates 2026 (Cont.)

Cassie Johnson, granddaughter of Richard Tourjee, Sr., passed her finals in her medical work at Middlesex Hospital end May, is currently working at the same hospital as a Radiology Technician, will take the state exam in June and is continuing online work toward her Bachelors degree.

Aaron Jordan, great grandson of Belle Jordan, graduated from Fitch High School and will attend Three Rivers Community College.

James Lew, grandson of Cecilia & Sonny Lew, graduating from Oswegatchie Elementary School in June and advancing to Clark Lane Middle School in the fall.

Sarah Martin, daughter of Julie Martin, graduating from Marine Science Magnet High School; attending UCONN Storrs in fall to study physiology and neurobiology. Her goal is to practice sports medicine or become a physical therapist She will be on Camp Wightman summer staff.

Victor Mulvihill, brother of Holly Mulvihill, graduating in May with his bachelor's degree from UMass Boston School of Physics.

Daniel Myers IV, grandson of Lou Sherman, graduated from Lincoln High School in Peoria, Arizona in May and will be attending Northern Arizona University in the fall.

PBBC Graduates 2026 (Cont.)

Hunter Ross, grandson of Clyde and Cathy Myers, graduated from Lugoff-Elgin High School.

Ryder Shea, great grandson of Cathy Myers, graduating from Gallup Hill Elementary School and advancing to Ledyard Middle School.

Bennett Spotts, grandson of Dave Effmann, is graduating from Bishop Guertin High School on May 31st. He is in the National Honor Society and is a Scholar Athlete. Bennett will be majoring in Finance at Elon College in North Carolina.

Meredith Spotts, granddaughter of Dave Effmann, graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor's Degree in Marine Transportation Operations from Maine Maritime Academy. She received the Women in Transportation Services Award, training Cadet 2nd Master on State of Maine ship training upcoming sophomores..

Izabelle Szollosi, granddaughter of Drew & Londa Wesche, graduating 5th grade from Gallup Hill School and advancing to Ledyard Middle School.

Nathanial Tata, great nephew of Marilyn Benson, graduated from Plainville High School in Plainville, CT on June 12.

PBBC Graduates 2026 (Cont.)

Korban Tuang, son of Mei Ling Liu, graduating from pre-school and starting kindergarten at Oswegatchie Elementary School.

Wynonna Tuang, daughter of Mei Ling Liu, graduating in June from Waterford High School and going to Endicott College this fall, majoring in Psychology.

Zayden Vocalina, grandson of Jim & Carol Vocalina, graduating from kindergarten and starting first grade at Quaker Hill School.

The logo for The Food Pantry, featuring the words "THE FOOD PANTRY" in a bold, sans-serif font. "THE" is in a smaller size above "FOOD", which is above "PANTRY". The text is red.

Second Sunday Donations

July 12 & August 9

We had a fabulous response to our request for items to assist the unhoused in our community. Your contributions of cat and dog food was also great appreciated. Pets are family for many!

Helpful items are:

For the unhoused - any canned foods with pop tops (soups, proteins such as tuna, chicken, spam), cups of macaroni and cheese or instant soups that can be microwaved, crackers, boxes of cereal, small bottles of laundry detergent, bottled water.

For cats and dogs – small bags of dry food, canned food, cat litter.

July 7th-11th: Pastor Claudine will be on vacation

If you have pastoral needs during this time,
please contact Moderator, Marilyn Rodearmel
at 860-599-4343 or
Dianne Augeri at 860-326-9962.

Important Dates to Remember in July

Friday, July 3rd - Graveside Service for Joan Watkins,
10 a.m. at the Gales Ferry Cemetery

Saturday, July 4th - Town of Groton Parade, 10 a.m.

Sunday, July 5th Morning Worship and Communion

Monday, July 13th - Baptist Service at Atria Senior
Living in Waterford, 11 a.m.

**Bread, Broth and... at Groton Townhouse
for July and August**

Bread, Broth and Breakfast at 9 a.m.

Wednesday, July 1
Wednesday, August 5

Bread, Broth and Supper at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 15
Wednesday, August 19

There are still openings at Camp Wightman. Please see below for openings and how to sign up.

👉 Register here: **[Camp Wightman Registration](#)**

Page

Traditional Camp (Ages 6–16) - 💵 \$650 per week

- 📅 June 21–27
- 📅 July 19–25
- 📅 July 26–August 1
- 📅 August 2–8 (also STEM Week)
- 📅 August 9–15

Leaders-in-Training Program (Ages 15–17) - 💵 \$250

- 📅 June 21–27

Special Needs Camp (Ages 18+) - 💵 \$700 per session

- 📅 June 21–27
- 📅 June 28–July 4
- 📅 August 2–8
- 📅 August 9–15

Family & Friends Camp - 💵 \$250 per person

- 📅 July 19–25
- 📅 July 26–August 1

An Update From Your Church Council...

Our rebuild committee has been very busy this season, transitioning from the clean up and dry out phase of our first and second floor rooms to seeking builders. We have met with Groton building officials, contractors, electricians, asbestos abatement specialists as well as all of the phone calls and communications with adjusters and insurance personnel.

We are finally ready to start rebuilding. We have safely moved our stained glass window to a safe and peaceful place during reconstruction. The contractor the rebuild committee recommended and council voted to accept is ICOR. They are local, right here in Groton, supportive, and responsive. Our electrician is Noank Electric who has supported us in the past, follows our Facebook page and the entire staff has been a pleasure to work with. They will kick off the work in mid-June and will be followed by the contractor.



Between now and then your rebuilding committee (Marilyn R., Carol G., Sue S., Dave A., Jonathan L., Sandy V.) will be working to determine budgets and flooring type for each area. We are excited to share that the second floor community room floor (most folks know this as the Fellowship Lounge) will be restored to its original hardwood condition. A number of decisions, i.e. type, color, price, size, drywall depth, new ideas and considerations remain.

In addition, we cannot forget there is still the rest of the church that is functioning and needs our attention.

An Update from Your Church Council (Cont.)

Here is where you can help. We no longer have our painting tools or paint. We would like to have, **a third Sunday in July paint brush and rollers collection, much like our Second Sunday food collection.** We could fix the steps, paint the stairwells and ramps after the rebuild, and do touch-ups both inside and out. Join in...bring a new brush - all sizes needed, a roller tray kit, rollers, blue tape, a box of gloves or for those who prefer to let others do the shopping Home Depot gift cards for paint and spray paint and tarps are also needed.

Do you work at or know of a company or neighboring church that would donate funds or a philanthropic arm that we can apply for funds? Please let us know.

We encourage you to engage with the committee with questions, ideas, and ways to help. We are working for you and our church community. Follow us on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/PBBCGroton/>) and our web site (<https://www.pbbcgroton.org/>) for Sunday services, updates and more ways to help.

With Thanks and God's Grace,
Sue Shontell

Do you have a change in address, email or phone number?

If so, please share it with Dianne Augeri so it can be included in the next Directory update. Your update can be provided in person or via email to pbbc@pbbcgroton.org

Thank you!

CWS Blankets - 2026

Blanket the World With Love

*In honor of Sallie Land
Given by Jeff Land*

*In memory of Alice Boyce, Esther Carl, Betty Masthay,
Marjorie McGraw, Sarah Osgood, and Laura Whittaker
Given by Marilyn Benson*

*In memory of Ann Banning and Ada Brant
Given by Barbara Brant*

*In memory of Chris Dickson and Millie Dickson
Given by Pat Tootell*

*In memory of Theresa Scroggins
Given by Sandy Vocolina*

*In honor of our pastor, Claudine Crooks,
And in memory of our mothers, Becky Chambers and
Lois Rowley
Given by Carol & Dave Rowley*

*In memory of beloved mother, Millie King, Kathy's
Aunt Rose and Aunt Jenna,
Gary's mom, Gladys Savona and in honor of Kathy's
sister, Debby Hamilton
Given by Kathy Savona*

*In memory of Jennie Augeri
In honor of Belle Jordan and Rachael Wong
Given by Dianne & Dave Augeri*

CWS Blankets - 2026

Blanket the World With Love (Cont.)

*In honor of sister, Peg Straub
Given by Gail Neff*

*In honor of The Brave
Given by the Rodearmels*

*In memory of Irene Gilchrist
Given by Belle Jordan*

*In honor/memory of our mothers,
Dorothy Haley & Joyce Hughes
Given by Steve & Edith Hughes*

*In memory of Yvonne Ackley
Given by Yvette and Peg Ackley*

*In memory of Warren & Dian Molton
Given by Catherine Hiller*