

THE TIE that binds

September/October 2026

1241 Poquonnock Road, Groton, Connecticut 06340
860-445-6126
www.pbbcgroton.org



“In This Place”

by Darrell Tootell

In this place we gather together to share our love for the Lord
It's faith that brings us together His love for us all keeps us strong
Being here in this place in his holy embrace helps us carry on

As the bell rings we all sit in quiet reflection of what brings us here to this place
And when the children light up the candles we see smiles that light up their face
We worship through praise together we feel we are all the same
We sing and we pray together to celebrate his holy name
We feel love and joy and sorrow sharing our lives in this world
We laugh and we cry as we listen and open our hearts to his word
We are blessed to be together

In this place we gather together to share our love for the Lord
It's faith that brings us together His love for us all keeps us strong
Being here in this place in his holy embrace helps us to carry on

Our Pastor Claudine stands before us beaming with life full of grace
And delivers a meaningful sermon as Gods love flows all through this place
She tells us that Jesus lives through us all and with us he always will be
The strength we need to live as one, our guide when we are in need
And being here with you now I feel humble, I feel proud
To deliver this message of hope and of faith in this holy wonderful place

So in this place we'll gather together to share in our love for the Lord
Yes faith will bring us together and together through us he lives on

Pastor's Page

*"You are in this time of the interim
where everything seems withheld.
The path you took to get here has washed out;
the way forward is still concealed from you.
The old is not old enough to have died away;
the new is still too young to be born.
You cannot lay claim to anything...
and you can see nowhere to put your trust;
you know you have to make your own way through.
As far as you can, hold your confidence...
the more faithfully you can endure here,
the more refined your heart will become
for your arrival in the new dawn."*

(John O'Donohue, "To Bless the Space Between Us")

We are in our interim time, washed out of our building by frozen pipes and water damages, still waiting to complete renovations. Since the last week in January everything seems withheld from us: office space, meeting space, storage space, fellowship space; routines, norms, daily events, regular activities and ministries.

The finished product has yet to be revealed to us, so it has been hard to take hold, lay claim, determine cost and make our way.

But as we wonder, struggle and journey together, the hope is that we *can* see a place to put our trust...in God and in each other.

I thank each of you for your prayers. I thank church officers and council members for purposeful work and projected plans.

I thank the places that have welcomed us and provided for us.

And I thank the Spirit that has held our confidence in the midst of doubts, refined our hearts as we've adjusted to new realities, enabled us to endure in love and faith. May God bless the space between, around, among, and within us...the dawn will come.

SEPTEMBER MINISTERS

Greeters for the Month: Carol & Dave Rowley

Lay Leaders:

06 - Joe Greene
13 - Marilyn Rodearmel
20 - Carol Gatlin
27 - Pete Wong

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

Communion:

Preparers: Carol Gatlin and Pete Wong
Servers: Carol & Jim Vocolina
Assist the Pastor: Kathy Piscatello

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

01 – Bob Startz
07 – Charles Freeman
08 – Dawn Bassett
08 – Diane Collins
13 – Shirley Lamb
15 – Julia Boyle
17 – Parker Friedman
19 – Cheryl Mundell
20 – Betty Land
21 – Richard Tourjee, Jr.
21 – June Nunes
30 – Zayden Vocolina

OCTOBER MINISTERS

Greeters for the Month: Andrea Buell and Carol Gatlin

Lay Leaders:

04 - Becky Freeman
11 - Dave Rowley
18 - Dianne Augeri
25 - Li Ling Liu

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

Communion:

Preparers: Li Ling Liu, Mei Ling Liu
Servers: Pebbles Quibble, Sandy Vocolina
Assist the Pastor: Alex Lew

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

02 – Nathan White
07 – Marvin Wong
11 – James Lew
17 – Sallie Land
20 – Sophia Liu Keeton
21 – Joe Greene
23 – Carol Rowley
23 – Pat Tootell
23 – Li Ling Liu
24 – Dale Rehberg
24 – Nick Bassett
25 – Rey Amuan
25 – Kristen Negaard O’Brien
28 – Jeff Wilbur
28 – Alex Lewis
30 – Maddison Harasyn

Church Mice Crafters Contribute Anchor Booth at Ledyard Farmers' Market

The Church Mice have displayed their crafted wares 6 Wednesdays so far at the blue ribbon-winning (voted best in CT!) Ledyard Farmers Market this summer. It has been a good season - seeing 'old' friends and making new ones, and sales have been quite good. In addition to our awesome, varied inventory, there is such a variety of vendors: farm-fresh vegetables, honey, coffee, grass-fed meats, gifts and decor, clothing, and other small business creations, not to mention 10-12 food trucks and live music! Come explore and enjoy. There is only 1 more opportunity to shop with us—we will be there September 9 from 4 to 7 p.m. Hope to see you there!



******Annual Apple Fest******

Faith and optimism continue to propel us toward the restoration of our community spaces - plus the contractors are hard at work to meet the “deadline” of our Annual Apple Fest. They remembered that we had asked at the beginning of the rebuild if our beloved event could possibly be real this fall after such devastation and disruption. So...we spoke for Apple Fest to be in the Miner Room on Saturday, October 24. Much work takes place for weeks before, even in the best of situations, so that brings us to Sept. 23 to start peeling and slicing apples and making crusts. In addition to your own faith and optimism, consider if you might be able to help on one or more Wednesday mornings, 9 am to noonish, and/or contribute supplies including, butter, fresh eggs, brown sugar, granulated sugar, local apples or monies to buy these supplies. We know that the current condition of the spaces is daunting, but progress is being made every day. Join us in “working the plan”! Watch for specifics and updates in future weekly announcements. Speak with Pat Tootell, Carol Gatlin or Kathy Piscitello with questions and to volunteer or contribute.

**Fall Work Day
Saturday, September 19
9 a.m. to noon**

Put your yard talents to work cleaning up and beautifying the parsonage, church and rental property grounds. Please feel free to bring your favorite tools to get the job done. We will provide the donuts, coffee and water.

**Thursday, September 24 – Monday, October 5:
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.

**SUNL Gathering at Winthrop Baptist Church
Saturday, October 24
10 a.m. to noon**

On Saturday, October 24th there will be a gathering of SUNL Association churches held at Winthrop Baptist Church to share some of the stories that represent pivotal moments in each congregation's history. The event will be from 10am to noon and will be followed by lunch. Here at PBBC we have our own resident historians putting their minds and musings together to consider which stories we might bring to share. All are welcome to attend! See Joe Greene to learn more and watch for details in the coming weeks. Until then, savor your own favorite church memories!

Second Sunday Donations September 13 & October 11

THE
FOOD
PANTRY

Groton Human Services is so thankful for your very generous donations. You are all helping to meet specific needs that cannot be satisfied elsewhere. You're helping that individual who cannot cook meals as he/she doesn't have a home or the transportation to get to a soup kitchen. You're helping that person feed his or her cat or dog...and that cat or dog may be their only family. Thank you!

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.

Bread, Broth and... at Groton Townhouse for September and October

Bread, Broth and Breakfast at 9 a.m.
Wednesday, September 2
Wednesday, October TBD

Bread, Broth and Supper at 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, September 16
Wednesday, October TBD

Dates to Remember...

Monday, September 14 - Worship and Communion at Atria Crossroads Senior Living

Wednesday, September 16 - Holiday Bazaar planning meeting in the sanctuary at 9 a.m.

Wednesday, September 16 - Bread and Broth Dinner at Groton Townhouse, 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, September 24 - Monday, October 5 - Pastor's Vacation

Sunday, September 27 - Guest Preacher, The Rev. David Reed-Brown

Sunday, October 4 = Guest Preacher, The Rev. Jill Harvey

Saturday, October 24 - Apple Festival. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Saturday, December 5 - Holiday Bazaar from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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 in late September. Your update can be provided in person or via email to pbbc@pbbcgroton.org

Thank you!