



Chestnut Street United Methodist Church
161 Chestnut Street
Gardner, Ma. 01440
978-632-1978

November 2025

The Connection

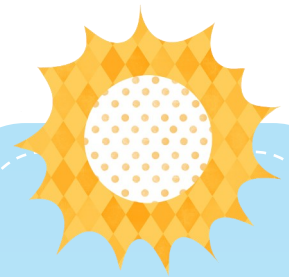
What is new is old? What is old is new?

In Ecclesiastes 1:9, we read, "What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun." This invites us to consider the cyclical nature of ideas and wisdom throughout history. What is new often has roots in what is old, and what seems old can be revitalized and made new again.

As we stop and chat with each other before or after church or while working in the thrift shop, we often find ourselves lamenting about the uncertainty of our times. That "normal" rhythm of life has been disturbed. Ecclesiastes 1:9 reminds us that many of the challenges we face today are not new; they echo the struggles of those who came before us. The wisdom of our ancestors can guide us through modern dilemmas. We must not discard their teachings but rather embrace them, allowing their insights to inform our decisions today. We can find harmony in embracing both the wisdom of our past and the possibilities of our future.

In the parable in Luke 5:36-39 Jesus emphasizes the need for innovation. While we cherish our traditions, we must also be open to new ideas and methods. Just as new wine requires new wineskins, our faith must evolve to meet the needs of a changing world while continuing to stay rooted in the wisdom of the old. This call to embrace the new does not negate the old nor does the old negate the new. When we disregard the old, we risk losing the essence of what has been built over time. Instead, we should seek to allow the new to complement the old, to integrate the new with old, so creating a tapestry of wisdom with fresh expressions of faith that honors.

By recycling ideas, we can create a vibrant faith that honors tradition while welcoming innovation. We may feel compelled to pursue new ideas and innovations, but true renewal often comes from reimagining and revitalizing what already exists. God calls us to take the old truths of His Word and apply them in fresh ways to meet the needs of our current generation. As we reflect on these truths, let us remember that in God's economy, what is new is often rooted in what is old. We are called to honor the wisdom of the past while embracing the newness that God brings into our lives. Let us be diligent in recycling ideas, integrating old truths with new insights, and allowing God's Spirit to guide us in this journey.

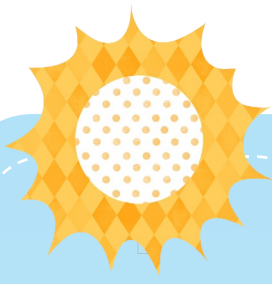


Inside this issue

Opening story	1
News and Events.....	2
Calendar	3
Invite	4

Important Dates

11/23	Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service 2 pm
11/30	First Sunday of Advent
	Children's Service—Alphabet Christmas



Upcoming Events:

Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service

On Sunday November 23rd at 2pm there will be a Thanksgiving Service at the Chestnut Street United Methodist Church. A number of ministers coming together to lead our community in thanksgiving and prayer. It is a chance for the whole community to come together in worship and song for each other, for our community and for our nation. All are welcome and fellowship and refreshments will follow.



Alphabet Christmas

November 30th is the First Sunday of Advent. Sunday service at 10 am will be led by the children to tell the story of Christmas in a fun and unique way using the Alphabet. Lots of Christmas Carols and the story as reflected in the Gospels. Invite a neighbor or friend. Children of all ages welcome!

Rail Road Club

The railroad club will be having an open house November 28 and 29th from 9 am to 4 pm. This event is called "Tour de Chooch" in which clubs and people open their homes to let people come and see their layouts. The stops are mostly in central and northern Massachusetts with some in southern New Hampshire. There are 30 + layouts to see and enjoy. For more information : www.Tourdechooch.org/wp/



Pentecostal International Worship Center (PIWC)

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Prayer is an essential core principle of the Christian faith. Each Friday evening from 7:30 to 9:30 pm a small group meets for prayer in the church. "We meet to seek the face of the Lord Jesus Christ in all we do. We pray for our members of our faith community, our community, our country and the world".

Open invitation to come and seek God's guidance in your own way and language..



Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that a man could stake his life on it a thousand times. Martin Luther

New Alarm System

As anyone who owns a home knows, maintenance and upgrading can be a slow process and it has been for us getting the new alarm system in place. But alas, it is done!

The old system was a heat sensing system and one of the difficulties was that with having cathedral ceilings in the fellowship hall and sanctuary, it wasn't as sensitive to alarm. The new system is a smoke detection system designed with the cathedral ceilings in mind.

In the sanctuary, monitoring for smoke is done with laser detection. It is nearly invisible and capable of monitoring the entire sanctuary. It is also very sensitive. The folks that put it in asked one day asked if our church services used incense as it seems the heavy use of incense at another church did set off the alarm startling all and creating some temporary chaos.

Please take a moment to walk the halls and the rooms to note where the fire boxes are in the building.



Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop is open two days a week on Wednesday from 9-2 pm and Saturday from 9-12 pm. It is a very busy place offering items of all kinds at very low prices. And P.S. the shop takes in donations too at the close of each shopping day.

The thrift shop has become more than just a store. Friends meeting friends, children looking for toys, others here just for the fun of rummaging for that special bargain and still others seeking items to set up a new home.

Christmas and New Year holidays will soon be here to celebrate. Cards, decorations, gift boxes and wrapping paper will soon be out on the shelves. Hot Cocoa mugs and warm sweaters are all there too. Looking for that special recipe book or a book for that avid reader? The shop probably has it waiting for you.

The shop has a mission to help others in need perhaps after a fire or other event. Please let the folks who are there as staff know of the need.

Come and take a walk through the shop, find a new friend perhaps or a bargain. Welcome!



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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

