

SHARING THE LIGHT

Monthly Newsletter of the
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GRAFTON, UCC
Worship at 10 a.m.



Volume 7, Number 10

OCTOBER 2025 EDITION

A note from our church moderator, Rob Lane:

I want to thank everyone on Cabinet for a great day yesterday {Sunday at the Harvest Fair.} It was a lot of work, but it was also a lot of fun. We made connections with the community, we earned some funds for the church and (most importantly) brought our church family together to accomplish a great event. That last piece is very important for all of us. Working together creates a bond that you can't replicate in other ways. I continue to be impressed by how all of us come together to accomplish great things!

I'm thankful for the great weather, the event running basically without a hitch and (again, most importantly) the great group of people we have in our church. Thank you.

Best,
Rob

The Fair was awesome!!

We had a **great day** at the 46th annual Harvest Fair and Apple Pie Social! The weather was sunny and warm, and old and new friends and neighbors dropped by for a slice of pie, a bounce in the bounce house, a hot dog or chili, all while listening to the fabulous live music playing all day.

Much gratitude to all our **volunteers** who helped with the preparation on the day before, and/or all the tasks on Sunday. Special thanks to Scout troops 107 and 2019, plus our NHS students. All of these young people were so respectful and willing to help out - much appreciated!

We will have frozen, baked pies **for sale** after church this Sunday (prices TBA) as well as shortbread, frozen chili and chowder in pints and quarts, plus a few meatballs, 3 or 6 frozen in sauce.

Mark your calendars now for next year's Fair, to be held on **Sunday, September 27, 2026 from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Be sure to check out the **photo gallery** on our website for pics from the day!

Fair Committee: Sue Howell, Joanne Hable, Connie Hopkins, Barbara Gow, Lorraine Swanson, Amy Coldwell, Kathy Vandenengel

Staff Information:

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Faith Building Fall 2025

You are all invited to join our upcoming discussion groups and bring a friend if you would like!
You don't need to prepare readings ahead of time, just come!

1. Sessions for Joanne's **Bible study of the Book of Mark** have resumed, and the remaining sessions will be held after church in the fireplace room on October 5 and October 19.

2. Donna will lead discussions on four consecutive Thursday evening sessions inspired by **Psalm 46:10 verse "Be still and know that I AM GOD."**

"Together I hope we can discuss ways to remind ourselves that God is always within us. I will include readings from '*Wisdom from Gift from the Sea*' by Anne Morrow Lindbergh and '*Stillness Speaks*' by Eckhart Tolle. Handouts with points to consider and copies of '*Wisdom from Gift from the Sea*' will be given to all who attend."

These sessions will be held on four consecutive Thursday evenings 6:00 - 7:30 pm, beginning October 2 in the Fireplace room where we will offer light refreshments. Please contact Donna via email at 011donna@gmail.com to RSVP.



Lacey's Lunchbox

Community Pet Pantry

Located outside the office door

Please take what you need and leave
what you can.



Women's Retreat - **Payment Due**

Friday, October 31 - Sunday, November 2, 2025

NEW LOCATION!

(Framingham site not available this year)

[Silver Lake Camp and Retreat Center](#)

Sharon, CT

Cost per person will be \$225 which includes 4 meals (3 on Saturday and Sunday brunch), and lodging.

Full payment of \$225 is now due. Checks may be written to the church, with "women's retreat" on the memo line. Please contact one of us if you need any financial assistance.

Connie, Betty and Kathy



CHURCH CARE GROUP

The Membership Committee has organized a Church Care Group to keep us all connected with our church family. Please contact Lorraine Swanson if you know someone in need of a card.

Whether it's wishes for a speedy recovery, a thank you, words of encouragement, miss you, or congratulations, who doesn't like receiving a caring card in the mail?

swanmom924@gmail.com 508-887-6214

Together we are the church. Let's take care of one another!



MISSION OUTREACH NEWS UPDATES

- WAMS is urgently asking churches to donate coats for our immigrant new neighbors in Worcester, for distribution on October 22nd. Children grow and they will be in need for the winter months. Especially needed are children's and women's coats.
- They continue to need donations of diapers, baby wipes, and feminine hygiene pads. There is a donation bin in the church kitchen marked for WAMS.
- The next monthly Thursday Café is October 16th - please watch for a sign-up to donate supplies or to come at 10:30 that morning to help assemble the bagged lunches.
- First Church in Sterling is planning a February Medical Mission Trip to La Romana, Dominican Republic. They welcome donations of medical supplies, toiletry kits, and more. Right now, three other UCC churches are partnering with them, and we can join in. People from Central Mass (YOU!) are also invited to come on the weeklong trip - which happens to take place this year during February school vacation week. Please watch for more info about this Mission Trip and how we can help (we will be getting a wish list soon of needed supplies)!

There are two new opportunities for individuals who wish to volunteer:

Volunteer Foster Care Case Reviewers are needed for a few hours a month (one year commitment). As a volunteer from the community, you participate on a small 3-member panel (with DCF social worker, family or foster parent) to review the case of a child in a foster home or group home to help plan a brighter future for each child in care. DCF is required by law to review each foster child's case every six months. Looking for volunteers:

- * Age 18 or older; agree to submit a background check
- * With fairness and objectivity; good communication skills
- * With awareness of culturally sensitive issues
- * With ability to encourage active, honest discussion among review participants
- * Will participate in pre-service training online (approx. 8 hours)
- * Available to review at least one case per month, or up to 12 cases per month - (90 minute review is conducted online)

For more information or to apply, go to: <https://www.mass.gov/dcf-foster-care-review-volunteer>

MISSION OUTREACH CONTINUED...

The Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter (BVES) will reopen this November. Volunteers are urgently needed to monitor one of two 5-hour overnight shifts.

The volunteer shifts are simple and meaningful - no experience needed, and all training is provided in person. You will not be alone, you will be with a team scheduled to ensure safety and support throughout the night. Just one shift can mean the difference to someone who would otherwise be sleeping outside rather than having a warm, safe place to stay.

As the Blackstone Valley's only winter emergency shelter, they provide life-saving overnight accommodations to individuals experiencing homelessness during the coldest months of the year. They are hoping to recruit 100 volunteers to commit to just one shift by October 31st.

To learn more, visit www.bvemergencyshester.org.

Or sign up for a shift at: <https://www.siggupgenius.com/go/30E0F49ABAE2CA5F58-53717259-volunteer>

Many thanks and blessings to you!

The Mission Outreach Group, Fellowship & Service Team
Sue Howell, Barbara Gow, Donna Caracino





GRAFTON THRIFT SHOP

VOLUNTEERS FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

Shop Hours: Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Thursday - 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Oct.	2	Joanne Hable 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
		Lorraine Swanson 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
	9	April Lane
	16	Joanne Hable 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
		Lorraine Swanson 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
	23	April Lane
	30	Melanie Peppard

Saturday - 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Oct.	4	Amy Coldwell
	11	Diane Lalone
	18	Susan Filippone
	25	Lynne Flanagan-Tsombakos 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
		April Lane 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

October is here and the Grafton Thrift Shop is offering some spooky good prices on Halloween décor!
October is the perfect time to update your Fall wardrobe with some fresh and cozy “new to you” styles!

Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity to help with our church’s mission and the community?
The Thrift Shop is seeking new volunteers who would like to help out on Tuesday mornings to sort through donations or to work in the shop for 2 or 4 hours on Thursdays or Saturdays, once or twice a month.
Please contact April Lane at aprild5850@yahoo.com or at 508-839-5850 (home) or 508-596-8582 (cell).

Donations are accepted only during Shop hours on Thursdays and Saturdays, from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
If you have any questions about the Shop or donating, please contact April Lane at aprild5850@yahoo.com or at 508-839-5850 (home) or at 508-596-8582 (cell).



October Birthdays

Rick Anderson 10/9

Matthew Koskinen

Donna Caracino

10/26

10/19

Mark Capuzziello 10/31

Rian Fisk 10/26



CARE AND CONCERN CIRCLE *October 2025*

Join the Care and Concern Circle by keeping these people in your prayers now and throughout the month.

We pray for recovery, well-being and comfort for:

Steven

Donald and Vidia

A friend in need

A young adult struggling with a serious health issue

A son struggling with his mental health

A family member in need of extra prayers for hospital procedure

Bill, going through medical testing

Louise, undergoing heart surgery

Gary

Nicole

Greg

Adam

Yvonne



<https://www.facebook.com/UCCGrafton/>

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