

SHARING THE LIGHT

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



Volume 4, Number 6

JUNE 2022 EDITION

Dear members and friends of our Congregational Church of Grafton:

The month of June has dawned. With its dawning, a veritable river of “June literature” rushes over our senses and gushes through our spirits.

In our war-ravaged world,
in our violence-riddled nation,
in our fear-ransacked communities,
what sense and sensibility
may we derive from the realm of Nature
so we may become
more human,
more humane,
and more holy?

* * *

These excerpts of “June literature” invite our engagement:

Spring being a tough act to follow, God created June. (Al Bernstein)

*In early June, the world of leaf and blade and flower explodes,
and every sunset is different.* (John Steinbeck)

*Far up in the deep blue sky,
Great white clouds are floating by;
All the world is dressed in green;
Many cheerful birds are seen.
Roses bright and sunshine clear
Show that lovely June is here.* (F. J. Sanders)

June suns, you can not store them. (A. E. Housman)

A summer night in June is like the perfection of thought. (Wallace Stevens)

* * *

War, violence and fear cut a broad swath of death, destruction and damage wherever they strike.
What options do we have if war, violence or fear approach us or overtake us?
We have the choice to seek safety and then to find sanctuary in the chapels, temples and cathedrals of Nature.

I believe in God, only I spell it Nature. (Frank Lloyd Wright)

*Let the heavens be glad! Let the earth rejoice! Let the sea roar, and all that fills it.
Let the field exult, and everything in it. Then the trees of the forest will sing for joy.* (Psalm 96:11-12)

* * *

Shove from the Dove

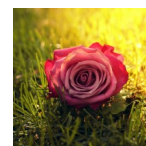
Beside you in the journey of faith,
Rev. Dr. Barbara Therese

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Holy Happenings in June!

*Faith-strengthening events in our congregation
during In-Person and Online Services on Sundays at 10 a.m.*

Join us at: facebook.com/UCCGrafton/

June 5 = “Prayer Sunday” and Feast for All

Sermon: *Dandelion Prayers*

On our first Sunday of the month,
when we traditionally celebrate the Lord's Supper (aka Feast for All),
we consider the significance of prayer, and
we debate whether God may consider any prayer
to be “insignificant.”

* * *



June 12 = “Hymn Sing Sunday”

New-Fashioned Hymn Sing: *A Holy Half Dozen of Favorite Hymns*

On this “Music and Arts Sunday,”
we lift up our voices to sing six favorite hymns--
selected by congregational vote--
and we engage in the story/history of each chosen hymn.

* * *



June 19 = “The People Speak” Sunday and Father's Day

Presenter: Mr. Craig Peacock

Sermon: *Lessons from My Father*

On this “The People Speak” Sunday,
Mr. Craig Peacock,
a long-time church member and “the son of a preacher man,”
shares the blessings and lessons he has acquired from his father,
a UCC pastor, who died in March 2018.

* * *

June 26 = Graduation Sunday and Proverbial Sermon #5

Sermon: *Who Wants to Be Righteous?*

On this fifth Proverbial Sunday,
when we honor graduates within our congregation,
we consider the difference between
righteousness and self-righteousness
as we study our fifth “Better...Than Proverb”:

***Better is a little with righteousness
than a large income with injustice.***

(Proverbs 16:8)





Gardening: Good for the Soil, Better for the Soul

Question: What are the three glories of gardening?

Answer:

1. Hands in the dirt
2. Head in the sun
3. Heart with nature

As part of a Christian Education project, Mr. Justin Cotter, Mrs. Meghan Foucher and their two children (Izzy and Winston) applied these three principles in the Memorial Garden of our church.

Armed with eight red geraniums, hand trowels and enthusiastic green thumbs, the Cotter-Foucher foursome beautified our church grounds on Sunday morning, May 22. Assisting in the placement of the eight flowering plants was Mrs. Joanne Hable, the Chair of our Board of Trustees and herself a home gardener of commendable renown.

In an outside-the-classroom demonstration that gardening is the fine art of “soul to soil,” members of our faith community shared how being creative in soil may bring us closer to our Creator.

A bouquet of gratitude to Justin, Meghan, Izzy and Winston!

* * * * *



Congratulations to our Graduates!

Kristin Brawn graduated from UMass Lowell with a Bachelor’s Degree in Exercise Science. Kristin is the granddaughter of Lois Scott.

Abigail Hise is graduating from Grafton High School and will be attending the University of New Hampshire in the fall. Abby is the daughter of Rebecca Hise and the granddaughter of Joanne Hable.

Sharing the Fellowship = Being the Church

*To “be the church” is to share in the story and history
of a sacred space “as a spiritual dwelling place for God.”
In the name of God, the leaders and members of a faith community
grow in their individual journeys of faith,
and they strengthen one another in the community’s journey of faith.*

* * *

Coffee Hour

After Church

Meet 'n Greet

These three phrases describe what our faith community calls Time of Fellowship. It is that “sacred time,” after our Sunday service, when church folk gather to “be the church” with food and fellowship.

Sharing the Fellowship is the opportunity for church members and friends to “be the church” and to provide simple refreshments for our Time of Fellowship.

How may you participate in ***Sharing the Fellowship***?

1. On a Sunday morning, arrive at Fellowship Hall by 9:45 a.m.
2. Bring: 2 dozen edible treats (example: cookies, muffins, sweet rolls or fruit)
 Half gallon of fruit juice (Apple or mixed berry is most popular.)
 Quart of Half & Half (for coffee and tea)
3. If necessary, slice edible treats into individual servings. Cover them with foil or plastic wrap.
4. Place food items that require refrigeration into the Church Refrigerator.
5. Assist the Deacon-of-the-Day with setting out:
 Coffee cups Napkins Condiments
 Drink cups Paper plates Pitcher for Half & Half cream

NOTE: All paper goods and condiments are provided by our church.

6. Before singing of final hymn, come downstairs to Fellowship Hall to:
 - a. Turn off coffee pot
 - b. Pour out fruit juice and Half & Half cream
 - c. Place treats on table.

In ***Sharing the Fellowship***, our Deacons will graciously assist in all the preparations.

Add your name to our ***Sharing the Fellowship*** Sign-Up Sheets in Fellowship

“Be the Church” by *Sharing the Fellowship*!

* * * * *





GRAFTON FOOD BANK

FRIENDS OF GRAFTON, INC.

One in every four children in the U.S. faces food insecurity daily.

Although the month of June hosts the official start of Summer (June 21), food insecurity takes no summer vacation. Thus, our faith community continues its year-round support of the Grafton Food Bank by collecting these non-perishable items:

Canned fruit

Coffee

Peanut Butter

Solid white tuna in water

Cereal (Rice Krispies and Cheerios)

Toothpaste (4 oz. and larger)

Toothbrushes (two-pack)

Church members and friends may bring contributions for our Sharing-the-Light Food Collection on the first Sunday of each month. As well, a basket—marked “Grafton Food Bank Donations”—rests prominently on the counter of our Church Kitchen and receives food items seven days a week.

Monthly, Rev. Barbara transports the food and non-perishable goods to the Grafton Food Bank, housed in the Grafton Municipal Center.

Thank you for being a part of the solution to our reality of food insecurity!



GRAFTON THRIFT SHOP

VOLUNTEERS FOR JUNE 2022

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.

June	2	Melanie Peppard
	9	Joanne Hable 11-1
		Katherine McDonald 1-3
	16	Melanie Peppard
	23	Joanne Hable 11-1
		Lynne Flanagan-Tsombakos 1-3
	30	April Lane

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

June	4	Kim Stewart
	11	Susan Hall
	18	Diane Lalone
	25	Diane Chaisson

Summer has arrived at the Grafton Thrift Shop! Stop by to pick up something ‘new to you’ for your cookouts, home or garden, or find a pair of shoes or a summer outfit!

Donations are accepted during shop hours on Thursdays and Saturdays from 11-3. If you have any questions about the shop or donating, please contact April Lane at april5850@yahoo.com.



June Birthdays

Ann Cranshaw

6/10

Ann Holm

6/16



CARE AND CONCERN CIRCLE

June 2022

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

If you have a special request for prayer that you want listed in the Care & Concern Circle, please call the church office: 508-839-4513. Your prayer request may be included in the PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE during our online worship service on Sunday mornings.

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

Liz
Amanda
Max

Donald
Ken
Vidia

Dottie
Louise and George



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<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCD6O7WxcixWlnx1Ho1GVnng/videos>

<https://twitter.com/GraftonUCC>

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