

SHARING THE LIGHT

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



Volume 5, Number 5

MAY 2023 EDITION

Dear members and friends of our Congregational Church of Grafton:

What is your favorite season?

From a scientific view, the astronomical seasons are based on the position of the Earth relative to the sun. The meteorological seasons are based on annual temperature cycles.

From an aesthetic view, the seasons of nature—Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter—are visibly discernible in the foliage of trees that proliferate throughout our New England landscape.

Spring brings on buds and leaf sprouts.

Summer enlarges leaf sizes and deepens leaf hues.

Autumn alters leaf colors and frees leaves to dance at the wind's whim.

Winter bares tree branches of leaves in sync with the mystical rhythm of tree sap.

From a spiritual view, the seasons of life—birth and death; grief and mirth; war and peace—are consistently accompanied by seismic changes that transform the human mind, body and soul.

Poets have put words to the seasons of humankind:

Spring passes, and one remembers one's innocence.

Summer passes, and one remembers one's exuberance.

Autumn passes, and one remembers one's reverence.

Winter passes, and one remembers one's perseverance. (Yoko Ono)



Wisdom literature in Holy Scripture has recorded sixteen contrasting seasons of the soul, beginning with the words:

*For everything there is a season, and
a time for every purpose under heaven.* (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Beginning in late April and continuing through early September, our faith community engages in a soulful journey through distinct, yet universal, seasons of the human spirit, as noted in the Book of Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3:1-8.

On Sunday mornings in May, we will consider the nature and nuances of these seasons:

May 7 – Healing Sunday: *A time to kill; and a time to heal*

May 14 – Motherhood Sunday: *A time to break down; and a time to build up*

May 21 – Holy Humor Sunday: *A time to weep; and a time to laugh*

On Sunday mornings, from now until September, you are tenderly invited to join in a reflective, scriptural and prayerful journey through seasons of the spirit and the times of life. Our journey through the sacred verses of *Ephesians 3* may surely evoke personal change, transformation and spiritual growth.



Shove from the Dove

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

Staff Information:

Rev. Dr. Barbara Therese, Minister

Kristen Graham, Administrative Assistant, Editor

Ron Sainio, Church Music Director

Kayson Jones, Minister of Faith-Building

How to contact us:

Office Phone: 508-839-4513

Email: griftonucc@gmail.com

Web Site: www.uccgrifton.org

Holy Happenings in May!

*Faith-strengthening events within our faith community
During our In-Person and Online Services every Sunday morning at 10 a.m.*

Join us at: [facebook.com/UCCGrafton/](https://www.facebook.com/UCCGrafton/)

May 7 = Healing Sunday and Sermon #3 of Ecclesiastes 3

Message: *Time to Kill, Time to Heal*

Connect with us for the third sermon in our Wisdom Literature series:
the Book of Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3.

We invite non-perishable food donations
for our Sharing-the-Light Food Collection.

As well, we celebrate the Feast for All (aka the Lord's Supper).

Wear a band aid to church!

* * *

May 14 = Mother's Day and Sermon #4 of Ecclesiastes 3

Message: *Time to Break Down, Time to Build up*

Connect with us for the fourth sermon in our Wisdom Literature series:
the Book of Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3.

Sermon will include prose and poetry
from church friends and members on the theme:

*Being Mothered and Being a Mother:
Breaking Down and Building Up.*

Wear something your mother gave you to church!

* * *

May 21 = Holy Humor Sunday and Sermon #5 of Ecclesiastes 3

Message: *Time to Weep, Time to Laugh*

Connect with us for the fifth sermon in our Wisdom Literature series:
the Book of Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3.

Sermon will include humorous quips and quotations
from the congregation on faith-related themes.

Wear comical socks to church!

* * *

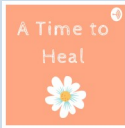
May 28 = Pentecost and "Listen, Learn and Live" Sunday

Message: *The Power of Pentecost: Then and Now*

Preacher/Speaker: Mr. Kayson Jones

Connect with us on our second "Listen, Learn and Live" Sunday of 2023
when Mr, Kayson Jones, Minister of Faith-Building,
expounds on the pivotal event of Pentecost in the 1st century church
and power of Pentecost in the 21st century church.

Wear red clothing (for Pentecost) to church!



Calling All Poets, Pundits and Punsters!
OR
Attention: All Writers, Sages and Humorists!

During the month of May,
three of our Sunday morning Messages will focus on *Ephesians 3*:

*For everything there is a season,
and a time for every purpose under heaven.*

* * *

For two Sundays--
May 14, *Motherhood Sunday*,
and
May 21, *Holy Humor Sunday*,
church members and friends are invited to submit
quips or quotes, reflections or illustrations
to be included in the Sunday sermons.

* * *

For your topical contribution to be included
in the sermon on *Motherhood Sunday*, May 14,
submit your prose or poetry on this theme:

*Being Mothered and Being a Mother:
Breaking Down and Building Up.*

**Using “Motherhood Sunday” in your header,
email your literary contribution to Mrs. Kris Graham
at graftonucc@gmail.com
by Monday, May 8, at 9 a.m.**

* * *

For your comical contribution to be included
in the sermon on *Holy Humor Sunday*, May 21,
submit your humorous adage or anecdote on this theme:

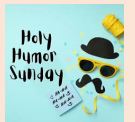
A time to laugh.

**Using “Holy Humor Sunday” in your header,
email your literary contribution to Mrs. Kris Graham
at graftonucc@gmail.com
by Monday, May 15, at 9 a.m.**

* * *

Based on your relevant input,
Rev. Barbara will weave your contribution
into the content of the Sunday sermons,
and you will be officially credited!

Be a part of our sacred Messages in May!



***Sharing the Light =
Caring about Others + Daring for Others + Sharing with Others***

There is no joy in possession without sharing.

The new Mission Statement of our congregation includes “connect with the community.”

Our family of faith intentionally “connects with community” by supporting our local Grafton Food Bank. Throughout the year, we “share” by donating these wish-list items:

**Canned fruit
Canned beans
Peanut Butter
Coffee**

**Solid white tuna in water
Cereal (Rice Krispies and Cheerios)
Toothpaste (4 oz. and larger)
Toothbrushes (2-pack)**

On the first Sunday of each month, these non-perishable items are offered during the “Message for All Ages.” On weekdays, these contributions may be placed in the “Sharing-the-Light” Food Basket that is prominently displayed in our Fellowship Hall. Throughout the month, Rev. Barbara delivers all contributions to the Grafton Food Bank.

Thank you for sharing! Sharing is caring!



Sharing the Fellowship = Connecting to One Another

Our most meaningful actions in life are the connections we make with others.

Our church's new Mission Statement includes “connect to one another.”

Following our worship service each Sunday morning, ***Sharing the Fellowship*** is a meaningful time to “connect to one another.”

How may you “connect to others” by ***Sharing the Fellowship?***

1. On a Sunday morning, arrive at church by 9:50 a.m.
2. Bring: 2 dozen edible treats (example: cookies, muffins, sweet rolls and fruit)
 Half gallon of fruit juice (Apple or mixed berry is most popular.)
 Quart of Half & Half (for coffee and tea)
3. Place food items requiring refrigeration into the Church Refrigerator.
4. Add your name on the ***Sharing the Fellowship*** Sign-Up Sheets in Fellowship Hall!

To know: For the Time of Fellowship, Deacons are responsible for the set-up and clean-up, as well as the preparation of coffee or other beverages.

*Thank you for making connections with others possible
by ***Sharing the Fellowship!****



**GRAFTON THRIFT SHOP
VOLUNTEERS FOR MAY 2023**

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.

May 4	Lorraine Swanson
11	Lorraine Swanson 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lynne Flanagan-Tsombakos 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
18	Melanie Peppard
25	April Lane 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lynne Flanagan-Tsombakos 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

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

May 6	April Lane 9 a.m. - 11 p.m. (Community Yard Sale Day special hours) Joanne Hable 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
13	Susan Filippone
20	Diane Lalone
27	Joanne Hable

Mother's Day is right around the corner! Stop in to pick up a "nearly new" gift for Mom, or bring her to the shop for a thrifting adventure! The Grafton Thrift Shop has a large selection of Spring clothing and shoes for women, men and kids all at nifty thrifty prices!

Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity to help with the 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 and Saturdays, once or twice a month. Also, with the Farmer's Market returning to the Grafton Common this summer on Wednesdays, we'd love to open from 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., but we need more volunteers! Please contact April Lane at april5850@yahoo.com or at 508-839-5850.

Donations are accepted 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 april5850@yahoo.com or at 508-839-5850.

Attention all families with graduating seniors!



Do you have a family member graduating this Spring? If so, please send their information (name, school they're graduating from and future plans) to graftonucc@gmail.com and we will list the names in next month's newsletter.



May Birthdays

Matthew Lane 5/2

Justin Cotter 5/3

Kayson Jones 5/10

Susan Filippone 5/21

Barbara Gow 5/23

Jessa Doherty 5/26

Amy Coldwell 5/29



CARE AND CONCERN CIRCLE

May 2023

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:

Lucille
Louise and George
Dawn

Donald and Vidia
Cara
Family of Nancy Collins
Gary

Bruce
Kitty
Uncle Peter



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<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCD6O7WxciXwlnx1Ho1GVngg/videos>

<https://twitter.com/GraftonUCC>

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Monthly Newsletter of the Congregational Church of Grafton

Congregational Church of Grafton
30 Grafton Common
P.O. Box 421
Grafton, MA 01519

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CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GRAFTON
30 Grafton Common, P.O. Box 421, Grafton, MA; Telephone 508-839-4513
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