

# SHARING THE LIGHT

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



Volume 4, Number 3

## MARCH 2022 EDITION

Dear members and friends of our Congregational Church of Grafton:

*This is the day the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it. (Psalm 118:24)*

Who doesn't delight in a special day?!

And the month of March brims with special days...

...beginning with March 1, which this year is *Mardi Gras* (aka Fat Tuesday), the day before Ash Wednesday—the beginning of the holy season of Lent.

March 1 is also Peanut Butter Lovers' Day, a day to celebrate—unless one suffers nut allergies.

In the middle of the month is March 15—the Ides of March 15—which William Shakespeare branded with ominous connotations in his tragedy, *Julius Caesar*, and the soothsayer's warning: "Beware the Ides of March."

March 15 is also Buzzards Day, a problematic day to celebrate—unless one is a buzzard.

At the end of the month is March 31, which is National Crayon Day, a day of sheer glee for preschoolers and kindergarteners.

March 31 is also National Clam on the Half-Shell Day, a delicious day to celebrate—unless one is a clam.

In the mid-section of the month are two days:

March 17, St. Patrick's Day, the day when the patron saint of Ireland is honored,  
and

March 20, the first day of Spring, or Vernal Equinox.

This month our faith community celebrates both the Irish and Spring with an...

***Irish Spring Concert***  
***on***  
***Sunday, March 20, at 10 a.m.,***  
***in***  
***the sanctuary of our Congregational Church of Grafton***

### Featured artists:

**Mr. Junya Awata** – church member and accomplished Chopin pianist

**Ms. Karen Burciaga and Ms. Shelley Otis** – fiddler and harpist duo, named *Ulster Landing*

Junya will perform classic Chopin pieces, while Karen and Shelley will offer Irish favorites.



Come to our sanctuary on Sunday morning, March 20. Let your mind, heart and soul be blessed by the majesty of music and by the spirit of Spring!



*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](mailto:griftonucc@gmail.com)

Web Site: [www.uccgrifton.org](http://www.uccgrifton.org)

## ***News: Our New Name Chart Holds YOUR New Name Tag!***

*Says the Lord: "Fear not. I have redeemed you. I have called you by name." (Isaiah 43:1)*

Did you know...

...that there is power in knowing someone's name?

...that calling someone's name creates an instant connection?

...that our faith community has a new Name Tag Chart with **YOUR name** on it?

### **Check out our new Name Tag Chart in Fellowship Hall!**

Our church's new Name Chart, made of natural pine wood, is located on the south wall of our Fellowship Hall. In early February, Miss Ellie McDonald, a member of BSA Troop 2019, completed the Name Tag Chart as part of a service project in her Wood-Working Class at Blackstone Valley Technical High School in Upton, MA. With guidance from Mrs. Joanne Hable, Chair of our Board of Trustees, and from Rev. Barbara, Ellie:

drew a diagram of the proposed chart;

obtained wood for the project;

sawed the wood to the desired dimensions;

secured the wood to create "mini shelves" in order to hold the name tags;

finished the wood with a coat of varnish; and

attached the chart to the wall in our Fellowship Hall.

### **Our congregation thanks Ellie McDonald!**

Every time you attend a church service or participate in a church event, visit our Name Tag Chart, find your Name Tag, and wear it with a smile.

After the service or event, please return your Name Tag to its new home.

*Words have meaning, and **names have power!***

\* \* \* \* \*



## ***Holy Happenings in March!***

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

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

### **March 6 = Lenten Passover Feast**

#### **Sermon: *Broken Parts* → *Unbroken Heart***

On this first Sunday of Lent and Communion Sunday,  
we reenact the Last Supper to discover that,  
as “broken characters” at that fateful meal,  
our brokenness may be made whole by the heart of God.

\* \* \*

### **March 13 = “The People Speak” Sunday**

#### **Message: *Treating Addiction as Disease: A Journey toward Healing***

On this second Sunday of Lent,  
we hear words of reality and recovery  
from Ms. Marcia Amarsingh, Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor,  
as she addresses addiction as a disease,  
not as a “character flaw.”  
A time of “Q&A” follows her presentation.

\* \* \*

### **March 20 = “Irish Spring” Concert**

On this third Sunday of Lent and the first day of Spring,  
we invite piano music of Chopin  
and Irish melodies from a fiddle and a harp  
to touch, move and change our souls  
while we honor the spirit of Ireland and the beginning of Spring.

#### **Musical artists:**

**Junya Awata - Pianist**

**Karen Burciago – Fiddler**

**Shelley Otis - Harpist**

\* \* \*

### **March 27 = “Proverbial Sunday” #2**

#### **Sermon: *Is Solitude Sweet?***

On this fourth Sunday of Lent,  
we continue our Six-Sermon Bible Study Series  
on the “Better...than Proverbs”  
as we consider Proverbs 17:1:  
**Better** *a dry morsel in solitude*  
**than** *a sumptuous banquet with strife.*





## *New Member/Inquirer Classes in March and April*

### **Question Time**

1. Do you want to know more about our Congregational Church of Grafton?
2. Do you want to explore the similarities and differences of the United Church of Christ with other faith denominations?
3. Do you want to become a member of our faith community?

### **Answer Time**

If you answered “Yes” to any of the three questions, then you are enthusiastically invited to:

*New Member/Inquirer Classes  
on  
March 13,  
March 27, and  
April 10  
at 11:30 a.m. (after church)  
in the Fireplace Room of our church*

\* \* \*

### **The three sessions will:**

1. Invite attendees to share stories from their own journey of faith;
2. Explore the background and history of the United Church of Christ (UCC);
3. Present the history and the highlights of the Congregational Church of Grafton, including a tour of the church.

Those who attend these sessions  
will be invited to join the membership of our church  
on:

*Welcoming Sunday, April 24,  
at 10 a.m.  
in the sanctuary of our church!*

*Jesus said: “Love one another. If you have love for one another,  
others will know that you are my followers.” (John 13:34)*

\* \* \* \* \*



# GRAFTON FOOD BANK

FRIENDS OF GRAFTON, INC.

## ***Souper Bowl Canned Soup Drive and Sharing-the-Light Food Collection***

\* \* \*

**From January 2 to February 13, you were invited to donate canned soup.**

**And you gave 137 cans of soup! Thank you and bless you!**

In the weeks leading up to Super Bowl LV, our faith community sponsored its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual **Souper Bowl Canned Soup Drive** to benefit our local Grafton Food Pantry. We are tremendously grateful to all who supported this special food drive.

Now and throughout the remainder of calendar year 2022, our church supports 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)**

Each first Sunday of the month, our congregation may bring non-perishable food items for our **Sharing-the-Light Food Collection** during the “Message for All Ages.”

Moreover, a large basket—marked “Grafton Food Bank Donations”—is positioned in our Church Kitchen and welcomes donated non-perishable food items during weekdays.

Each month, Rev. Barbara delivers all contributions to the Grafton Food Bank, located in the Grafton Municipal Building.

Whatever the season, may we—as a faith community—support members of our needful community by donating needed food items.

**Community promotes strength.  
Generosity promotes health.**



*New Leaves on the Tree  
of Our Church's Life*



On New Member Sunday, February 27, we welcomed three family members into the faith community of our Congregational Church of Grafton:

*Lynne Flanagan-Tsombakos      Mark Tsombakos      Andrew Tsombakos*

For more than ten years, many have been blessed by the spirit and presence of Lynne, Mark and Andrew in and around our church's life. Alas, a close review of church records revealed that their names were missing from the official Membership rolls. Thus, our congregation “repaired” that omission and conducted a New Member Ceremony in the context of Sunday morning worship.

Lynne lists her hobbies as: baking, cooking, hiking and yoga. Currently she volunteers in the Grafton Thrift Shop, participates in the Hand Bell Choir and serves on the Music Committee.

Mark's interests include: soccer, running and building/flying remote-controlled planes. Mark serves on the new Communications and Tech Committee.

Andrew has served as our church's Tech Magician for 18 months. As special passions, he names: playing video games, computer programming and A/V production, and flying remote-controlled planes. As well, he serves on the newly formed Communications and Tech Committee.

*With joy, we celebrated the faithfulness of a long-time church family!*

**GRAFTON THRIFT SHOP  
VOLUNTEERS FOR MARCH 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.

Mar.	3	Joanne Hable
	10	Melanie Peppard
	17	April Lane 11:00-1:30
		Katherine McDonald 1:30-3:00
	24	Diane Lalone
	31	Melanie Peppard

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

Mar.	5	Diane Chaisson
	12	Kim Stewart
	19	Diane Chaisson
	26	Lynne Flanagan-Tsombakos

Stop in to shop our St. Patrick's Day décor!

The Thrift Shop is seeking more volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, contact April Lane at [aprild5850@yahoo.com](mailto:aprild5850@yahoo.com).



### March Birthdays

Kevin Roche	3/10	Abigail Hise	3/11	Bill Keeler	3/11
Sophie Coldwell	3/12	Sue Howell	3/16	Maggie McLean	3/17
Dorothy McCarthy	3/21	Sarah Drew	3/23		



### CARE AND CONCERN CIRCLE

*March 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:**

Family of Bill Wade  
Amanda

Liz  
Lois

Donald  
Louise and George



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

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCD6O7WxcixWlnx1Ho1GVnngg/videos>

<https://twitter.com/GraftonUCC>

<https://www.instagram.com/graftonucc/>



# SHARING THE LIGHT

*Monthly Newsletter of the Congregational Church of Grafton*

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

PLACE  
POSTAGE  
HERE

Address Service Requested



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GRAFTON  
30 Grafton Common, P.O. Box 421, Grafton, MA; Telephone 508-839-4513  
WORSHIP SERVICES: SUNDAYS, 10 a.m.