

# SHARING THE LIGHT

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



Volume 5, Number 3

**MARCH 2023 EDITION**

Dear members and friends of our Congregational Church of Grafton:

Ah! The universal power of music! The power of music to touch, move and change the human spirit has been experienced, documented and recorded:

*Music acts like a magic key  
to which the most tightly closed heart opens.* (Maria Von Trapp)

*Music frees your soul from the dungeon of your mind.* (Wiss Auguste)

*Music can change the world because it can change people.* (Bono)

Even sacred scripture, in both the Old and New Testaments, testifies to the power of music:

*I will turn my ear to a proverb; with the harp, I will expound my riddle.* (Psalm 49:4)

*Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and songs from the Spirit.  
Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord.* (Ephesians 5:19)

Honoring the power of music and continuing a “newer” tradition within our faith community, we will present our third annual Spring Concert on Sunday, March 19, at 10 a.m., in our sanctuary.

Our Service of Music, featuring musicians/members of our congregation, will include:

Mr. Junya Awata, acclaimed Chopin pianist, will play:

*Keyboard Sonata K.13 in G major* by D. Scarlatti  
*Mazurka in D major, Op. 33-2* by F. Chopin  
*Etude Op. 10, No. 1 in C major (“Waterfall”)* by F. Chopin



Mrs. Donna Blanchard, accomplished flutist, and Mrs. Alison Balfour, vocalist and gifted musician of the recorder, will perform flute and recorder duets from the 18<sup>th</sup> century:

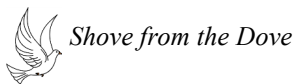
A series of short French dance movements  
from Baroque-era composers: Chedeville, Boismortier, and Naudot.

The scriptural theme of the morning is the Fifth Word of “The Seven Last Words of Christ”:  
*I thirst.* (John 19:28)

\* \* \*

On Sunday, March 19, at 10 a.m., gather—in-person or online—with your family of faith to celebrate the season of Spring and to honor the season of Lent.

\* \* \*



*Shove from the Dove*

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

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#### **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:**

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

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

*Faith-deepening events within our family of faith  
during In-Person and Online Services on Sunday morning at 10 a.m.*

**Connect with us at: [facebook.com/UCCGrafton/](https://www.facebook.com/UCCGrafton/)**

### **March 5 = Second Sunday of Lent and Third Word of The Seven Last Words**

**Message: *Here Is Your Son; Here Is Your Mother***

For the second Sunday in the season of Lent,  
gather with us for the third sermon in our Lenten series:

*The Seven Last Words of Christ.*

As well, we celebrate the Feast for All (aka The Lord's Supper).  
Sharing-the-Light Food Collection (for Grafton Food Bank) resumes.

\* \* \*

### **March 12 = Third Sunday of Lent and Fourth Word of The Seven Last Words**

**Message: *Why Have You Forsaken Me?***

For the third Sunday in the season of Lent,  
gather with us for the fourth sermon in our Lenten series:

*The Seven Last Words of Christ.*

\* \* \*

### **March 19 = Spring Concert and Fifth Word of The Seven Last Words**

**Message: *I Thirst***

For the fourth Sunday in the season of Lent,  
gather with us for our musical celebration

of the season of Spring

and

for the fifth sermon in our Lenten series:

*The Seven Last Words of Christ.*

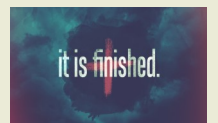
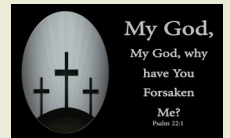
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### **March 26 = Fifth Sunday of Lent and Sixth Word of Seven Last Words**

**Message: *It Is Finished***

For the fifth Sunday in the season of Lent,  
gather with us for the sixth sermon in our Lenten series:

*The Seven Last Words of Christ.*





## ***The Sound of Music...in the Month of March!***

***Let's all sing and ring for Easter Sunday!***

Youth and adults of **all** musical abilities are invited  
to share vocal skills and handbell skills!

### **Six FAQs:**

**1. Q: When and where do I come...if I want to sing?**

A: Beginning Sunday morning, March 5, at 9 a.m., come to our sanctuary when we will practice singing for Easter Sunday, April 9.

**2. Q: What if I have friends...who want to sing?**

A: Invite your friends (church membership not required) to come join us.

**3. Q: How many Sundays must I come...if I want to sing?**

A: Rise and shine on four Sundays in March and two Sundays in April:

March 5  
March 12  
March 19  
March 26  
April 2  
April 9

**4. Q: What if I miss a Sunday rehearsal...and still want to sing?**

A: Miss a rehearsal? Not a problem! Simply come to as many rehearsals as you may. Together, as an Easter Chorus, we may practice, prepare and present inspirational music on Easter Sunday!

**5. Q: What if...I want to ring bells?**

A. Handbell Choir will begin rehearsals after church (at 11:22 a.m.), starting March 5 and concluding April 9. You may sing. You may ring. You may sing and ring!

**6. Q: Whom do I contact...if I want to sing and/or if I want to ring bells?**

A: By Sunday, March 5, email your interest in singing and ringing to Donna Blanchard:  
**011donna@gmail.com**

\* \* \*

**Six Sundays + Six Rehearsals = Significant music and harmony**

**Together, let us bring the sound of music and unity of community into Easter Sunday!**

\* \* \* \* \*

## Sampling of Our New Mission Statement: *Share Spiritual Growth*

On February 12, 2023, "Listen, Learn and Live Sunday," Mrs. Lorraine Swanson shared aloud a vivid and profound poem to magnify the theme for the day, "We've Got Love!"

The original poem, written by Sandy Gingras, is shared again in this sacred space:

\* \* \*

### *I Want to Be Like Sea Glass*

Written by Sandy Gingras

Moved by the tides,  
Pulled by the mystery of the moon.  
Ride the currents of my life all the way in,  
Land on wide open shores,  
Rest on sand, and ah, bask in the sun...  
And know that I am among treasure  
Every single day.

I want to be found by a dreamer, a walker of beaches...  
I want to be held, but gently with open hands  
Because a part of me will always be free  
And a bit lost at sea.  
(And maybe that's just the truth of loving anything).

I want to be cherished  
For how my hard edges have softened with time.  
For how I have weathered my storms.  
I want to be seen... for all that I am...  
Not less, because my colors have changed,  
Or because I have been broken...  
But more.

I want to live like sea glass,  
To treasure every wave that carries me,  
Even when those waves take me places  
I don't want to go,  
Even when I land hard.

I want to shine quietly through all my days  
Catching the light of every moment.  
I want to finally understand,  
Oh please...  
That I am shaped uniquely  
By this, my journey, and that shape is whole  
And very, very beautiful.

\* \* \* \* \*

***Sharing-the-Light in March:  
Super Thanks for “Souper Bowl” Canned Soup Drive!***

*Unexpected kindness is the most powerful, least costly and most under-rated agent  
of human change. (Bob Kerry)*

Armloads of gratitude to you—one and all—for your generous kindness during our recent **“Souper Bowl” Canned Soup Drive!**

Our fifth annual canned soup collection, which benefited the Grafton Food Bank, began on January 8 and concluded on February 19. The outcome of our six-week canned soup drive?

**325 cans of soup**

Moving forward into the month of March, our congregation resumes its ongoing support of the Grafton Food Bank by collecting 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 items may be brought to our worship service when they are welcomed during the “Message for All Ages.” On weekdays or evenings, these donations may be placed in the specially marked “Sharing-the-Light Food Basket” in our Fellowship Hall.

*Gratitude and generosity are inseparably linked. (Judith Martin)*

\* \* \* \* \*



***Sharing the Fellowship: Food + Unity = Community***

*Pull up a chair. Take a taste. Come join us. Life is so endlessly delicious. (Ruth Reichl)*

**Sharing the Fellowship** is a uniquely unifying opportunity to build unity and community after our time of faith-sharing on Sunday mornings.

How may you “build unity and community” by **Sharing the Fellowship**?

1. On a Sunday morning, arrive at church by 9:45 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 our Church Refrigerator.
4. Assist the Deacon-of-the-Day in setting out:

Coffee cups	Napkins	Condiments
Drink cups	Paper plates	Pitcher for Half & Half cream

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

*Thank you for “building unity and community” by **Sharing the Fellowship!***



**GRAFTON THRIFT SHOP  
VOLUNTEERS FOR MARCH 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.

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

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

March	4	Melaine Peppard
	11	Susan Filippone
	18	Diane Lalone
	25	April Lane 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lorraine Swanson 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Green is the color this month at the Grafton Thrift Shop! Find some St. Patrick's Day décor or purchase a houseplant to brighten your home. Either way, you'll be sure to save some "green" with our always 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 or Saturdays, once or twice a month. Please contact April Lane at [april5850@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:april5850@yahoo.com) or at 508-839-5850.



# *Easter Flowers*

*How wondrous our sanctuary looks with Easter flowers to brighten it on Easter Sunday morning! And what a meaningful way to contribute to this beauty by donating a flowering plant in memory of or in honor of loved ones or simply in celebration of Easter!*

\* \* \* \* \*

- When:** Deadline to order flowers is Wednesday, March 22
- How:** Complete Order Form below. Mail or bring it to the Church Office, along with your check issued to: Congregational Church of Grafton. (Memo Line to read: Easter Flowers.)
- Cost:** Lilies - \$14.00  
6" Tulips - \$12.50

\* \* \* \* \*

*Flowers may be taken home after Easter Sunday service.*

\* \* \* \* \*

## *Easter Flower Order Form*

*I want to contribute the following Easter Flowers for the sanctuary on Easter Sunday:*

Number of Lilies \_\_\_\_\_ 6" Tulips \_\_\_\_\_

*I want this (these) flower(s) acknowledged in the Easter bulletin as follows: (Please print clearly.)*

GIVEN BY: \_\_\_\_\_

or

IN LOVING MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

or

IN CELEBRATION OF: \_\_\_\_\_



## March Birthdays

Abby Hise	3/11	Bill Keeler	3/11	Sophia Coldwell	3/12
Sue Howell	3/16	Maggie McLean	3/17	Sarah Drew	3/23
		Henry Doherty	3/25		



## CARE AND CONCERN CIRCLE *March 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:**

Linda  
Louise and George  
Kathleen

Donald and Vidia  
Kerry  
Uncle Peter  
Lucille

Bruce  
Kitty  
Ron



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*Monthly Newsletter of the Congregational Church of Grafton*

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**WORSHIP SERVICES: SUNDAYS, 10 a.m.**