

# SHARING THE LIGHT

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



Volume 5, Number 11

**NOVEMBER 2023 EDITION**

Dear friends and members of our Congregational Church of Grafton:

*November comes and November goes,  
with the last red berries and the first white snows.  
With night coming early and dawn coming late,  
with ice in the bucket and frost by the gate,  
the fires burn and the kettles sing.  
The earth sinks to rest until next spring.*

The month of November—especially in nature-shaped New England—is often perceived and experienced as 30 days of endings:

Leaves end their lives on tree branches;  
Canada geese end their stay in native nesting grounds;  
Human snowbirds end their summer visits in northern locales.



Even so, within our faith community, November is a vibrant month of new beginnings:  
New plans and new visions for church life in a New Year;  
New journeys of faith for those seeking new discoveries;  
New celebrations of joy for the prophesied birth of the Christ Child.

The prophetic words of Isaiah sound out with clarity and surety:

*See, I will create new heavens and a new earth.  
The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. (Isaiah 65:17)*

In the month of November, our family of faith marks a multitude of new beginnings, including:

**November 12, Commitment Sunday**

when we bless our vows to support our church in the New Year of 2024;

**November 19, Thanksgiving Sunday**

when we give thanks for God's transformational grace  
in a Message about spiritual newness from new member, Mrs. Elaine Allen;




**November 26, New Start-Ups Sunday**

when we offer orientation to a new **F.A.C.E. (Faith And Caring Encounter) Group**, and  
when we gather to rehearse for a new pageant that celebrates the birth of Christ.

*If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation.  
The old has passed away. Behold, all things are new! (2 Corinthians 5:17)*

These words of the Apostle Paul apply to all months of the year...even in November.

May you join your hearts, minds and spirits to our many new beginnings in November?

 *Shove from the Dove*

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

**Staff Information:**

Rev. Dr. Barbara Therese, Minister  
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## ***Holy Happenings in November!***

*Faith-strengthening events within our church  
for in-person and online services on Sundays at 10 a.m.*

**Connect online at: [facebook.com/UCCGrafton/](https://facebook.com/UCCGrafton/)**

### **November 5 = Third Sunday of Commitment Season and Lord's Prayer – Sermon #5**

**Message: *Give Us This Day Our Daily Strength***

Join us on the Third Sunday of our Commitment Season  
when we reflect on different meanings for “daily bread”  
in our *Lord's Prayer* Sermon/Bible Study Series.

A message from long-time church members, Curt and Lee Paine,  
reveals “To Be Faithful, Share a Life-Full!”

Our monthly Sharing-the-Light Food Collection  
invites food donations for the Grafton Food Bank.

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

\* \* \*

### **November 12 = Commitment Sunday and Lord's Prayer – Sermon #6**

**Message: *How Much Do You Owe?***

Join us on Commitment Sunday

when we reflect on “How much do we owe God?”

in our Bible Study/Sermon Series on the *Lord's Prayer*.

As well, we dedicate our Pledges/Commitments to share in 2024.

\* \* \*

### **November 19 = “Listen, Learn and Live” Sunday**

**Message: *Gratitude for Transforming Grace***

Join us on “Listen, Learn and Live” Sunday

when new church member Mrs. Elaine Allen

shares her powerful testimonial story of transformative grace.

As well, interested youth and families are invited  
to the first F.A.C.E. Group Orientation Session.

\* \* \*

### **November 26 = “Good or Evil Sunday” and Lord's Prayer – Sermon #7**

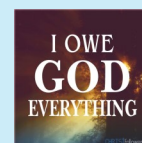
**Message: *Good vs. Evil? You Choose!***

Join us on Good-or-Evil Sunday

when we reflect on how humans may choose goodness or evil  
in their lives and life styles.

As well, youth and their parents

may attend the second F.A.C.E Group Orientation Session.





### ***Wanted: Ringers & Singers***

*As the holidays are fast approaching, the Music Committee has begun planning for holiday music! We are hoping to have a Christmas Concert on Sunday, **December 10th**, and would love to have both bells and a choir performing. We may also plan a "chorale" for Christmas Eve, **Sunday, December 24th**. Details will follow.*

*Many of you have played/sung in prior years and we are hoping that you will join us again! Bells will practice after church starting the first Sunday in November. Choir will practice before church for a few weeks prior to the concert Sunday.*

*If you are interested or would like more information, please contact any member of the Music Committee: Ron, Luke, Betty, Junya, Alison, Donna (member "emeritae"!!)*

*Thank you for making music!*

## ***Sharing the Light: Be a Light to Those Who Are Needful***

*There is always Light, if only we are brave enough to see it, if only we are brave enough to be it.*  
(Amanda Gorman)

The Congregational Church of Grafton supports the local Grafton Food Bank by collecting non-perishable food donations for Thanksgiving baskets. These baskets will be shared with needful individuals and families within our local community.

In this Thanksgiving holiday season, the Grafton Food Bank welcomes:

**Canned vegetables**  
**Canned fruit**  
**Canned gravy**  
**Canned broth**

**Canned beans**  
**Canned tuna (in water)**  
**Boxed or bagged stuffing**  
**Peanut Butter**

On the first Sunday of each month, church members and friends may contribute these items during the Sharing -the-Light Food Collection in the Sunday service. On weekdays, a "Sharing-the-Light" Food Basket in the Fellowship Hall accepts these contributions. Throughout the month, all donations are conveyed to the Grafton Food Bank.

***Thank you for sharing the Light so others may know of God's Light!***

\* \* \* \* \*



## **Yummy snacks needed for our fellowship time after the service!**

There will be a signup sheet available at Coffee Hour.

A Deacon will make the coffee.

Please bring the following: A yummy snack (think muffins, pastry, breads, fruit, cookies) to share with everyone, a small carton of **half & half** and a small container of **juice** or some individual **juice boxes**.

Please arrive 10-15 minutes prior to the worship service to help set up the snack table, then go downstairs about 5 minutes before the service ends to unwrap snacks, put out any refrigerated items and serve cups of coffee.

A Deacon is happy to help you.

**THANK YOU SO MUCH!**

Questions? Contact Lorraine Swanson (swanmom924@gmail.com)



### *Pies, Wreaths, Chili and Cheer*

Mark your calendars for Sunday, **November 19**, when we will host our 3rd Annual Christmas Sale! This year's theme is **Pies, Wreaths, Chili and Cheer**. We will have plenty of all four to share. Boy Scout Troop 107 will greet people outside as they kick off their annual Wreath Sale. The Grafton Thrift Shop will fill the Fellowship Hall with Christmas decorations for sale. And the Fair Committee will be in the kitchen with apple pies, frozen chili and fresh chowder for sale. To top it off, we will have a Bake Sale (and you know that means Scottish Shortbread!)

There are several ways you can help make this event the perfect kickoff to the holiday season.

- Attend the Mini-Pie Workshop – Monday afternoon, November 13, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We need a few more pies to round out the number left from the Harvest Fair.
- Bring baked goods to the church for a bake sale on the day of the Christmas Fair, November 19.
- Volunteer to help with the sale during the afternoon of the event. Help sell the pies, chili, fresh chowder and baked goods.

All this cheer! Best of all, we will be inside – dry and warm!

Any questions? Contact Lorraine Swanson ([swanmom924@gmail.com](mailto:swanmom924@gmail.com), April Lane [aprild5850@yahoo.com](mailto:aprild5850@yahoo.com), or Joanne Hable ([jnhable49@live.com](mailto:jnhable49@live.com)).





**GRAFTON THRIFT SHOP  
VOLUNTEERS FOR NOVEMBER 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.

Nov. 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 CLOSED - Happy Thanksgiving!  
30 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.

Nov. 4 Susan Filippone  
11 Diane Lalone  
18 April Lane  
25 Joanne Hable

Sunday - 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Nov. 19 Lynne Flanagan-Tombakos

November is a month to give thanks, and the Grafton Thrift Shop gives thanks to its customers for all their support during 2023! Stop in this month to pick up some Thanksgiving decor for your home! We have lovely platters for your turkey and some white china place settings and a variety of serving pieces for your dinner table. Be sure to stop by on Sunday November 19, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. to get a head start on your Christmas decorating! That day, the Grafton Thrift Shop will be participating in the Pies, Wreaths, Chili and Cheer event at the Congregational Church of Grafton. Christmas decor will be for sale in the Fellowship Hall and the Shop will also be open that afternoon (in addition to our usual Saturday hours). See you soon!

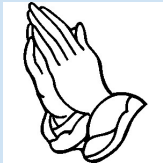
Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity to help with our church's mission and the community? The Thrift Shop is seeking new volunteers who want to help out on Tuesday mornings to sort through donations or to work in the shop for 2 or 4 hours on Thursdays or Saturdays, once or twice a month. Please contact April Lane at [april5850@yahoo.com](mailto:april5850@yahoo.com) or at 508-839-5850 (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 [april5850@yahoo.com](mailto:april5850@yahoo.com) or at 508-839-5850 (home) or 508-596-8582 (cell).



## November Birthdays

David Hardwick	11/2	Oliver Drew	11/11	Bernice Benoit	11/19
Neston Melville-Jones	11/20	Rebecca Hise	11/23		
		Elizabeth Torres	11/25		



## CARE AND CONCERN CIRCLE *November 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:**

Esther P.  
Donald and Vidia  
Louise and George  
Gary  
Mary S.

Mike  
Bruce  
Paul V.  
Uncle Peter  
June

Steve  
Tony P.  
Jen K.  
Tim M.  
Kelli M.



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*Monthly Newsletter of the Congregational Church of Grafton*

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