

SHARING THE LIGHT

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



Volume 4, Number 6

JULY 2022 EDITION

Dear members and friends of our Congregational Church of Grafton:

'Tis July. 'Tis the season that the British novelist, Henry James, described with these words:

Summer afternoon. Summer afternoon.

To me, those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language.

During a recent Time of Fellowship after our Sunday worship, one church visitor commented aloud, "Hmmm. Looks like we are into the 'Dog Days of Summer.'"

Unclear on what a "Dog Day of Summer" may look like, I visited some dog-owning colleagues.

Here are observations and lessons gleaned from my "canine instructors":

Lying on a couch most of the day is a legitimate job.

You are never late for anything. So, live for the moment.

Always jump at the opportunity to go for a ride.

On warm days, lie in the grass and behold the beauty of creation.

When you are scolded, don't look guilty or pout too long. Rather, run back and be friends.

Take a nap.

When you wake up, praise God and stretch with glee.

If you are having a less-than-ideal day, a saliva-soaked tennis ball brings comfort.

When you are joyful, dance around and wag your entire body.

God made you so that you may know joy.

Run, romp and play daily.

God wants you to energize your body and renew your spirit.

Take another nap.

Plead with someone to take you on a long walk.

* * *

From a half dozen furry, four-legged "professors," I visualized and then internalized what the "Dog Days of Summer" may look, sound and feel like.

And you? How may you experience the "Dog Days of Summer"?

May you take a walk. Often.

May you lounge leisurely. Often.

May you celebrate the joys of life and the wonders of creation. Often.

Sometimes we are so consumed with plans, schedules and agendas that we wholly miss living.

All of us will die. But not all of us will live.

A Prayer for Summer? "O God: Bless my spirit with serendipity and spontaneity. Amen."

* * *



Shove from the Dove

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

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With Gratitude for Acts of Kindness and Selfless Beauty in Springtime

Dear actors of kindness: *No act of kindness, however small, is ever wasted.* (Aesop)

Our month of July—with its simmering summer temperatures—may overheat our memories, causing an evaporation of memorable events. However, our recent Spring—that stretched from March 19 through June 21—testified to many acts of kindness and selfless beauty in our faith community. In this time, we honor those who generously shared acts of kindness and selfless beauty in Spring:

Resounding gratitude to our **Irish Spring Concert pianist:** *Junya Awata.*

Robust gratitude to our **Church Clean-Up Workers:** *Junya Awata; Julie Capuzziello; Barbara Gow; Joanne Hable; Connie Hopkins; Bob Howell; Sue Howell; April Lane; Rob Lane; Bob McLean; Craig Peacock; Lorraine Swanson; and Elizabeth Torres.*

Deep gratitude to our **Lamp Post Renovators:** *Joanne Hable and the Lane family (April, Rob, Matthew and Steven).*

Abiding gratitude to our **Keeper of Keys/Church Administrative Assistant:** *Kris Graham.*

Hearty gratitude to our **Sharing-the-Fellowship Refreshment Providers:** *Luke Desautels; Jon Filippone and Susan Hall; Joanne Hable; Connie Hopkins; Betty Mack; Neston Melville-Jones; Kim Stewart; and Lynne Flanagan-Tsombakos.*

Loving gratitude to our **Cabinet members:** *Donna Blanchard; Justin Cotter; Joanne Hable; Connie Hopkins; Sue Howell; Tracy LeMaire; Rob Lane; Bob McLean; Gabrielle McLean; Neston Melville-Jones; Craig Peacock; Lorraine Swanson; Elizabeth Torres; and Kathy Vandenengel.*

Ardent gratitude to our **Communications and Tech Team:** *Larry Drew; Andrew Tsombakos; Mark Tsombakos; and Kathy Vandenengel.*

A bouquet of gratitude to our **Tender of the Floral Pots:** *Betty Mack.*

Sacred gratitude to our **Worship Team and Deacons:** *Ron Sainio; Andrew Tsombakos; Amy Coldwell; Joanne Hable; Sue Howell, Craig Peacock; Kim Stewart; Lorraine Swanson and Holly Weitgrefe.*

Sincere gratitude to our **Christian Education Committee and Gardening Team:** *Kayson Jones; the Cotter-Foucher family (Justin Cotter, Meghan Foucher, Izzy and Winston); and Joanne Hable.*

Rousing gratitude to our **Thrift Shop volunteers:** *Diane Chaisson, Joanne Hable, Diane Lalone, April Lane, Katherine McDonald, Melanie Peppard, Kim Stewart, and Lynne Flanagan-Tsombakos.*

Eloquent gratitude to our **“The People Speak” presenters:** *Kayson Jones and Craig Peacock.*

Beside you with a grateful heart,
Rev. Barbara

Holy Happenings in July!

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

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

July 3 = “T-Shirt Sunday” and Feast for All

Sermon: *Grow Up to Be a Child!*

During this first Sunday of the month,
all are invited to wear a t-shirt printed with a meaningful message
as we consider the importance in being childlike
to experience the power and wonder of God.
As well, we share the Feast for All (aka Holy Communion).



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July 10 = “Good Neighbor Sunday”

Sermon: *A Good Neighbor? Be One!*

During this “Good Neighbor Sunday,”
we are joined by our good neighbors from the Baptist Church of Grafton
as together we consider “Who is my neighbor?”
in the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

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July 17 = “The People Speak” Sunday

Speaker: Mr. Kayson Jones

Sermon: *Free, Freedom and Free Will*

During this “The People Speak” Sunday,
Mr. Kayson Jones, Minister of Faith-Building,
considers the power and responsibilities
of freedom and free will in the life of a Christ-follower.



* * *

July 24 = Christmas in July

Sermon: *Yes, Virginia, There Is a Reason for This Season*

On this 4th annual “Christmas in July,”
we consider a sacred adaptation
of the classic “Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus”
while we sing Christmas carols and hear the biblical Story of Christmas.

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July 31 = Wisdom Sunday and Proverbial Sermon #6

Sacred Story: *Keeper of Wisdom*

During this sixth Proverbial Sunday,
we consider the wisdom of a traveling Gypsy Woman
as we study our sixth “Better...Than Proverb”:

How much better to get wisdom than gold.

(Proverbs 16:16)



A Joy Jar Is Now in Our Midst!

*I have spoken these things to you so that my joy may be in you,
and that your joy may be complete. (John 15:11)*



Did you know...

- ...that, in following the teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, we may find joy?
- ...that joy may be discovered in what we give, rather than in what we get?
- ...that a **Joy Jar** now “lives” in our church to teach and reinforce “Lessons of Joy”?

In recent years, faith communities around the globe have become “home” to a **Joy Jar**.

WHAT is a Joy Jar? WHY have a Joy Jar?

Traditionally, a **Joy Jar** is a re-purposed glass jar containing thoughtful messages that may touch, move and change the recipients of the message:

Self-affirmations
Encouraging words

Faith testimonies
Inspiring motivations

WHEN does the Joy Jar appear? WHERE is the Joy Jar?

Starting this month, July 2022, and continuing for one year until June 2023, a **Joy Jar** will rest upon the upright piano in our Fellowship Hall.

WHO may access the Joy Jar? HOW may more access the Joy Jar?

Anyone who attends, visits and/or meets in our church is welcome to reach into the **Joy Jar** and to draw out a message of joy.

As well, in the time of SHARING SACRED PEACE during Sunday services, the **Joy Jar** will be passed among in-person congregants in order to share messages of joy with worshipers on Sundays.

*Reach into our new Joy Jar at church,
and be blessed by a message of joy!*

* * * * *

Sharing-the-Light Is Sharing Hope!

Hope is one gift that sustains us in the darkest of moments.

Shining light in times of darkness casts out despair and ignites the flame of hope. Our faith community supports the hope-filled mission of our local Grafton Food Bank by collecting these items:

Canned fruit

Solid white tuna in water

Coffee

Cereal (Rice Krispies and Cheerios)

Peanut Butter

Toothpaste (4 oz. and larger)

Toothbrushes (two-pack)

Church friends and members may donate these requested items for our Sharing-the-Light Food Collection each first Sunday of the month. Moreover, a basket—identified with a “Grafton Food Bank Donations” sign—is located in our Church Kitchen and receives food items throughout the month.

Food and non-perishable goods are regularly transported to the Grafton Food Bank.

Bless you for helping to bring hope in a season of darkness for those who suffer food insecurity!

Poverty is not being without money, but being without hope.

Sharing the Fellowship: The Sacred Practice of Hospitality

*Show hospitality to one another graciously.
Share with one another whatever gift each of you has received. (1 Peter 4:9-10)*

By definition, hospitality is the spiritual practice of welcoming, sheltering and feeding—without thought of personal gain—those who “come to your door” or those who are near.

Sharing the Fellowship invites church members to engage in the sacred practice of hospitality and to provide refreshments for the Time of Fellowship following Sunday morning worship.

How may you engage 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. Place food items that require refrigeration into the 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 our ***Sharing the Fellowship*** Sign-Up Sheets in Fellowship Hall!

May you practice sacred hospitality by Sharing the Fellowship!

GRAFTON THRIFT SHOP VOLUNTEERS FOR JULY 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.

July	7	Joanne Hable 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
		Katherine McDonald 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
	14	Melanie Peppard
	21	Joanne Hable 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
		Lynne Flanagan-Tsombakos 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
	28	Melanie Peppard

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

July	2	Diane Chaisson
	9	Kim Stewart
	16	Diane Lalone
	23	April Lane
	30	Susan Hall

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 am - 3pm. If you have any questions about the shop or donating, please contact April Lane at april5850@yahoo.com.



July Birthdays

Connie Hopkins	7/1	Barbara Bryant	7/3	Ray Guilmette	7/3
Ken Swanson	7/22	Craig Peacock	7/23	Larry Drew	7/25
		Nick Coldwell	7/30		



CARE AND CONCERN CIRCLE *July 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
Matt

Donald
Dotty
Vidia
Raman

Brittainy
Louise and George
Greg
William



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Monthly Newsletter of the Congregational Church of Grafton

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July 

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WORSHIP SERVICES: SUNDAYS, 10 a.m.