

# SHARING THE LIGHT

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



Volume 7, Number 4

**APRIL 2025 EDITION**

April is a month when there is either a lot to do or there seems to be nothing. If you have nothing, you think things up.

It's time to do "Spring Cleaning." That can mean around the house or around the church. In the second place, April becomes time to prepare for a new Pastor to be entering the picture while I will be tidying up loose ends.

But the big thing for April this year is to have Palm Sunday on April 13th, then Holy Week, with Maundy Thursday on April 17th, Good Friday on April 18th and Easter on April 20th.

We will have a Maundy Thursday service and then will have a Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m. on the common Easter morning. If the weather is bad we will have the Sunrise Service in the Fellowship Hall. We will also be joined by the people from the Baptist Church.

This year April should be an active month.

## Easter

Easter is the time of year  
That stores and restaurants so  
Look forward to selling lots  
And don't think of the meaning  
or the view.

The crosses standing on the hill  
To represent the crimes  
Not of those on the crosses  
But of those who made the times  
as sad and Holy.

But the cross that held Jesus  
Is bare.  
The tomb in which they laid Him  
Is empty.

That story came to us  
As to what people wanted,  
But how do we see it,  
real or haunted?

*Reverend John C. Shaw*

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### Staff Information:

Rev. John Shaw, Minister

Kristen Graham, Administrative Assistant, Editor

Ron Sainio, Church Music Director

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Email: [graftonucc@gmail.com](mailto:graftonucc@gmail.com)

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



***All are welcome to join us for a simple “Bread & Soup Supper” at 6:00 pm before the 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service.***



***Easter Morning Muffin Exchange...  
Bring a dozen muffins and take home a dozen muffins! This will take place right after the 10:00 am Easter Service.***

### ***Come Join in a Bible Study!***

**Who:** Anyone who is interested in exploring how God’s Word is speaking to us today.

**What:** We will be looking at the Gospel of Mark.

**When:** We will start during the last week of April. A meeting time and day will depend on the needs and preferences of the group

**How:** To register your preference for day and time for discussions, please contact Joanne Hable.

Email: [jnhable49@live.com](mailto:jnhable49@live.com)

Cell: 508-614-5309

Or see me at church!

I’m looking forward to a time of sharing, learning and growing in faith with all!



### ***Our Capital Campaign Continues***

***We still need your help!***

We’re approaching halfway to our new goal from the congregation!

We had a good meeting with CPC on Thursday. The committee fully supports the project and voted to recommend their article. We will require the support of parishioners at town meeting. Watch for details.

To pledge a donation, you may return the pledge card that you received in the mail or email the church collector at [aprild5850@yahoo.com](mailto:aprild5850@yahoo.com) and make payments on your pledge. You can make payments on your pledge any time during 2025.

Thank you for your support! Let’s all work together to keep our Church building beautiful.

*Cherish our Past, Renew in the Present, Trust our Future*



### **Sticky Note meeting a Great Success!**

The March 16<sup>th</sup> “Sticky Note” event generated many good ideas! The members of the Nominating Committee sorted through all the notes and drew a few conclusions from the multicolored offerings.

- Most of the suggestions validate the actions taken from the first “sticky note” meeting almost 2 years ago. We, as a church, are on the right path and we want to continue and expand on it!
- Overwhelmingly, people want opportunities to come together in fellowship. We care about each other and our community.
  - Suggestions for fun fellowship events include: movie night, bowling, family game night, trivia night, hymn sing, drum circle.
  - Suggestions for community outreach include reaching out to the homeless and the LGBTQ community, and helping at a soup kitchen.
  - Several notes suggested expanded outreach to church members who are elderly or shut-ins.
- People want opportunities to grow.
  - Bible study groups (Faith Building Team is planning this already)
  - Book groups
  - Arts and craft groups
- Some notes had ideas that are easily achievable and have been forwarded to the appropriate group for action.
  - Suggestion to post hymn numbers on the board has been sent to the Deacons.
  - Several groups have requested a Church Spring Cleanup Day. The Building and Grounds Team is working on this.
- Several notes suggested expanded coverage of outreach opportunities in the community, with the hope that members can join together and participate.
  - Styrofoam recycling, Earth Day cleanup, Household goods drive, donation Yoga, Habitat
  - A centralized calendar of events would be helpful

What next?

- Think about these ideas. What inspires you?
- Talk to others, find out who shares your enthusiasm. Grow with it.
- Use your directory to contact others. Especially take note of the Team members listed who share your interest

**Worcester Fellowship WooSox Fundraiser**  
**Saturday April 26 at 4:00!**

**A fun event for all!**

You are invited to join our church family at the WooSox game on Saturday 4/26 at 4:00pm. This is a fundraiser for Worcester Fellowship. Tickets are \$24.51 and include \$5 donation to Worcester Fellowship and \$5 "loaded value" on your ticket to be redeemed at concession stands. After the game we can stay for "Sunset Catch" on the field.

To order tickets, go to the website below or contact Sue Howell ([suehow6oak@aol.com](mailto:suehow6oak@aol.com) or 508-596-7366).

<https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/Worcesterfellowship4>

We'd like to keep track of how many of our church family will be attending, so after ordering your tickets, please email or call Sue Howell ([suehow6oak@aol.com](mailto:suehow6oak@aol.com) or 508-596-7366) with the number of people going! We can also arrange for people to meet at the church to carpool. Worcester Fellowship has reserved a section at Polar Park, so we can sit together.

This will be a great start to the spring season, and a fun way to give to others by supporting our friends at Worcester Fellowship!

See you there!

Fellowship and Service Team  
(Mission Outreach Group and Membership Group)



**CHURCH CARE GROUP**

The Membership Committee has organized a Church Care Group to keep us all connected with our church family. Please contact Lorraine Swanson if you know someone in need of a card.

Whether it's wishes for a speedy recovery, a thank you, words of encouragement, miss you, or congratulations, who doesn't like receiving a caring card in the mail?

[swanmom924@gmail.com](mailto:swanmom924@gmail.com) 508-887-6214

Together we are the church. Let's take care of one another!



## **Special Collection of Food and Toiletries for Local Veterans**

From **April 1st to April 30th**, the Grafton Veterans Advisory Committee will be hosting a **non-perishable food and toiletry drive** to benefit local veterans and their families facing challenging times.

Our church can help make a significant difference in the lives of those who have served our country. We, along with other Grafton churches, are a designated drop-off location for donations. Any items that we normally collect for the Grafton Food Bank will go toward this Special Drive during April.

### **Examples of needed items include:**

#### **Non-perishable food (Examples):**

- Canned fruits and vegetables
- Pasta, rice and beans
- Cereal and oatmeal
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Canned soups and stews
- Shelf-stable milk and juice boxes

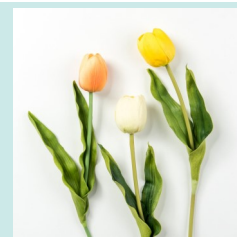
#### **Toiletries (Men's & Women's Examples):**

- Shampoo and conditioner
- Soap and body wash
- Toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss
- Deodorant
- Razors and shaving cream
- Lotion
- Sanitary products

Please look for the Donation Baskets located in the Fellowship Hall, the church entryway, and by the Thrift Shop.

Thank you and blessings to all,

The Mission Outreach Group



# *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 Thursday, April 3

**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 - \$15.00  
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: \_\_\_\_\_



## GRAFTON THRIFT SHOP

### VOLUNTEERS FOR APRIL 2025

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.

Apr. 3	April Lane 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Joanne Hable 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
10	Joanne Hable 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lorraine Swanson 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
17	Joanne Hable 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lorraine Swanson 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
24	Melanie Peppard

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

Apr. 5	Lynne Flanagan-Tsombakos 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. April Lane 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
12	Diane Lalone
19	Lynne Flanagan-Tsombakos 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Susan Filippone 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
26	Amy Coldwell 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Susan Filippone 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Spring has officially sprung at the Grafton Thrift Shop! Say goodbye to the old and hello to “new to you” Spring clothing this month! Plus, be sure to snag some charming Easter décor to brighten up your home!

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 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 [aprild5850@yahoo.com](mailto:aprild5850@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 [aprild5850@yahoo.com](mailto:aprild5850@yahoo.com) or at 508-839-5850 (home) or at 508-596-8582 (cell).



### April Birthdays

Betty Mack	4/1	Parker Staples	4/8	Curt Paine	4/9
Elliot Capuzziello	4/14	Joanne Hable	4/14	April Lane	4/15
Erik Coldwell	4/18	Lily Drew	4/18	Ron Sainio	4/21
Steven Lane	4/24			Winston Cotter	4/28



### CARE AND CONCERN CIRCLE

*April 2025*

Join the Care and Concern Circle by keeping these people in your prayers now and throughout the month.

**We pray for recovery, well-being and comfort for:**

Joe M.	Scott and Lynn	Charlotte
Donald and Vidia	Nicole	Benjamin
Bruce	Adam	Kelli
Steven	Gary	Yvonne
A friend and an elderly mother facing health issues		



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

[griftonucc@gmail.com](mailto:griftonucc@gmail.com)



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