

SHARING THE LIGHT

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



Volume 5, Number 6

JUNE 2023 EDITION

Dear members and friends of our Congregational Church of Grafton:

June is bustin' out all over! The opening lyrics of the song from the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, *Carousel*, aptly describe our current month in contrast with our three precious months:

*March went out like a lion--
A whippin' up the water in the bay.
Then April cried and stepped aside;
And along come pretty little May!
May was full of promises,
But she didn't keep 'em quickly enough for some.
And a crowd of doubtin' Thomases
Was predictin' that the summer'd never come.*



A mere four weeks ago, our seasonal landscape featured still-bare tree branches, punctuated with tentative buds. Likewise, night-time temperatures dipped frequently to sub-freezing numbers.

Now, in June, which boasts two seasons in its 30-day stretch (Spring from June 1 to June 21, the Summer Solstice), our New England landscape is bursting with vivid foliage on trees of every genus. Moreover, our “RealFeel” lows will likely not drop to the 30s until late September.

Ah! The vibrant and tangible distinctions in our seasons of nature!

And, like the seasons of the year, our human lives change frequently and drastically. We may enjoy these seasons or endure these seasons, as they come and go, as they ebb and flow.

In the Old Testament, Wisdom Literature names sixteen distinct seasons of the human spirit:

*For everything there is a season, and
a time for every purpose under heaven. (Ecclesiastes 3:1)*



As we began in late April and as we will continue through early September, our family of faith studies and reflects on the “seasons of the soul” recorded in the Book of Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3:1-8.

On Sunday mornings in June, we will engage in the simplicity and complexity of these seasons:

June 4 – Mourning Dance Sunday: *A time to mourn; and a time to dance*

June 11 – Give-a-Hug Sunday: *A time to embrace; and a time to refrain from embracing*

June 25 – Graduation Sunday: *A time to seek; and a time to lose*

From now until September 3, join our faith community on Sunday mornings for a studious and contemplative journey through “seasons of the soul” and times of human life. Our reflective journey through selective verses of *Ephesians 3* may inspire spiritual change, growth and transformation.

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Shove from the Dove

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

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Holy Happenings in June!

*Faith-building events in our faith community
during in-person and online services on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m.*

Gather with us at: facebook.com/UCCGrafton/

June 4 = Mourning Dance Sunday and Sermon #6 of Ecclesiastes 3

Message: *Time to Mourn, Time to Dance*

Gather with us for the sixth sermon in our *Ecclesiastes 3* series when we hear personal reflections on mourning and on dancing.

Non-perishable food items are welcomed

for our monthly Sharing-the-Light Food Collection.

Likewise, we share the Feast for All (aka Holy Communion).

* * *

June 11 = Give-a-Hug Sunday and Sermon #7 of Ecclesiastes 3

Message: *Time to Embrace, Time to Refrain from Embracing*

Gather with us for the seventh sermon in our *Ecclesiastes 3* series when we reflect on when a hug may help and when a hug may harm. Linger longer after church for a “Celebrate Summer!” Potluck Lunch.

* * *

June 18 = Father's Day and “Listen, Learn and Live” Sunday

Message: *When the Son Becomes Parent to the Father*

Preacher/Speaker: Mr. David Drumbeat Curry

Gather with us for our fourth “Listen, Learn and Live” Sunday of 2023 when Mr. Dave Curry—artist, musician and care-giver to his father--reflects on the reckonings, realities, responsibilities and rewards of caring for one's parents in their advancing years.

* * *

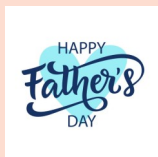
June 25 = Graduation Sunday and Sermon #8 of Ecclesiastes 3

Message: *Time to Seek, Time to Lose*

Gather with us for the eighth sermon in our *Ecclesiastes 3* series when we reflect on what we want to keep and what we are willing to lose in times of crises, emergencies and evacuation.

Likewise, we name, honor and celebrate graduates within our family of faith and extended faith community.

*A time to weep and
a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and
a time to Dance...
-Ecc. 3:4*





The **Membership Committee** will be hosting a Potluck Lunch right after church on June 11. During the lunch, our WOW Factor Team will share results from the Focus Group discussions held on April 30.

Please keep an eye out for the sign-up Genius and join us for some great food, fellowship and discussion!

The Membership Committee:

Lorraine Swanson
Bob Howell
Carrie Peacock
Amy Coldwell
Susan Filippone



Congratulations to our Graduates

Sylvia Cahill will be graduating on June 1 from Grafton High School. She will be attending Dean College, where she will pursue a Bachelor of Arts in Dance with a concentration in Choreography and Performance. Sylvia is the granddaughter of Penny Cahill.

Nick Coldwell will be graduating on June 1 from Grafton High School. He will be attending Plymouth State University in the fall to study Environmental Science and Environmental Law.

Brady Keeler will be graduating on June 1 from Grafton High School. He will be attending the University of Rhode Island in the fall.

Cara Tsombakos-Mansfield graduated from Framingham State University with a Master Degree in Counseling Psychology. She is working as an outpatient therapist at RFK Alliance and also doing equine-assisted therapy with students at the school.

Kevin Velasquez is graduating from Rutland High School in Rutland, Vermont in June. He is the son of Sergio Velasquez of Granville, New York, and Lisa Kerns of Mendon, Vermont. He is also the grandson of Susan Stager of Wells, Vermont. Kevin will continue working locally after his graduation.

Sharing the Light = Sharing Hope

Wealth is not to feed human egos but to empower the powerless to acquire the means to feed themselves. (Andrew Carnegie)

Our faith community's new Mission Statement includes this specific goal: "Share hope."

Our Congregational Church of Grafton seeks to "share hope" by donating non-perishable food items to our local Grafton Food Bank. We "share hope" by collecting these requested 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)

Every first Sunday of the month, during the "Message for All Ages," church members and friends are invited to bring forward these non-perishable food items. Every week, our "Sharing-the-Light" Food Basket, located in Fellowship Hall, receives these same donations. Every month, Rev. Barbara ensures the timely delivery of all donations to the Grafton Food Bank.

Thank you for sharing Light! Thank you for sharing hope!



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Sharing Fellowship = Sharing Spiritual Growth

We need worship for our spirits, fellowship for our souls, and service for our bodies. (Larry Norman)

Our church's new Mission Statement names this faith-centered act: "Share spiritual growth."

After our time of faith-sharing on Sunday mornings, ***Sharing the Fellowship*** is a timely opportunity to "share spiritual growth."

How may you "share spiritual growth" by ***Sharing the Fellowship?***

1. On a Sunday morning, arrive at church by 9:50 a.m.
2. Bring: 2-3 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 the Church Refrigerator.
4. Write your name on the ***Sharing the Fellowship*** Sign-Up Sheets in Fellowship Hall!

*Bless you for sharing spiritual growth with others
by ***Sharing the Fellowship!****



**GRAFTON THRIFT SHOP
VOLUNTEERS FOR JUNE 2023**

Shop Hours: Thursdays, 11 am to 3 pm; Saturdays, 11 am to 3 pm

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

June	1	Melanie Peppard
	8	Joanne Hable 11 am - 1 pm Lorraine Swanson 1 pm - 3 pm
	15	Melanie Peppard
	22	Joanne Hable 11 am - 1 pm Lorraine Swanson 1 pm - 3 pm
	29	April Lane 11 am - 1 pm Lynne Flanagan-Tsombakos 1 pm - 3 pm

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

June	3	Susan Filippone
	10	Melanie Peppard
	17	April Lane 9 am - 11 am Lynne Flanagan-Tsombakos 10 am - 1 pm April Lane 1 pm - 3 pm
	24	Diane Lalone

Summer is almost here and the Grafton Thrift Shop has a large selection of summer clothing and shoes for women, men and kids all at nifty thrifty prices! After visiting the Antiques and Arts Show on Grafton Common on Saturday, June 17, stop in to check out our selection of antique and vintage items. Special hours on June 17 are 9 am - 3 pm.

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 may help 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. The Farmers Market is returning to the Grafton Common this summer on Wednesdays and we'd love to open from 2 pm - 6 pm, but we need more volunteers! Please contact April Lane at 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 or at 508-839-5850.



June Birthdays

Ann Cranshaw 6/10

Norma LaMarche 6/20



CARE AND CONCERN CIRCLE *June 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:

Ron and Marie

Louise and George

Dawn

Family of Rose MacCallum

Donald and Vidia

Cara

Gary

Bruce

Kitty

Uncle Peter



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