

# SHARING THE LIGHT

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



Volume 4, Number 10

**OCTOBER 2022 EDITION**

Dear members and friends of our Congregational Church of Grafton:

*It is in giving that we receive.*

We have heard these seven words,  
spoken these seven words,  
even prayed these seven words.

However, do we believe or trust these seven words?

\* \* \*



A country bus was bumping along a little-traveled country road in West Virginia. In one seat a wisp of a frail, gray-haired man sat. In his deeply wrinkled hands he held a humble bouquet of freshly picked garden flowers.

Across the aisle a pig-tailed, denim-clad teenage girl sat. Though her eyes tried to focus on the countryside beyond the bus windows, her glance returned again and again to the bunch of flowers tenderly balanced in the man's hands.

The bus slowed and then came to a halt. The elderly man rose to disembark.

Impulsively, though gently, he placed the flowers into the teenager's lap.

He murmured softly, "I can see you love the flowers."

He paused. Then he spoke again, "I think my wife would like for you to have them. I'll tell her that I gave them to you."

The teenager's hands clasped the gifted flowers. Her face brightened like a full moon. Then she watched the man shuffle off the bus and walk through the gate of a small cemetery.

\* \* \*



The act of giving,  
the gift of giving, and  
the power of giving  
all may testify to a truth: *It is in giving that we receive.*

Throughout the month of October, our faith community may meaningfully explore, experience and engage in the gesture of giving:

On October 2, "The People Speak Sunday," we hear the opportunities to foster and adopt children and how every child is one **giving**, caring adult away from being a success story.

On October 9 and October 16, both Baptism Sundays, we **give** and celebrate the blessing of Baptism to two young children.

On October 23, the first Sunday of our Season of Commitment, we encounter the pivotal role of **giving** in the context of this year's Commitment theme: *In Community, We Are Faith-Strong!*

On October 30, when we consider the first of six "Whatever!" sermons, we reflect on the **gifts** bestowed by virtues:

*Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, what is pleasing, whatever is commendable...think on these things.* (Philippians 4:8)

This month and beyond, may we be giving generously and living abundantly.

\* \* \*



*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

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# The 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Harvest Fair and Apple Pie Social Was a Huge Success!

Great weather, delicious apple pies, shortbread, chowder, chili, hamburgers and hot dogs, a huge yard sale, fun games for the kids, lively music, awesome raffles, and a setting in which to visit with friends and neighbors – all are the ingredients that made the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Harvest Fair and Apple Pie Social a huge success!

The members of the Fair Steering Committee want to thank everyone who:

- Came to a pie workshop (shout-out to Carrie and Craig Peacock for coordinating 3 workshops!)
- Helped in the kitchen – before, during and after the Fair – thank you, Barbara Gow!
- Made apple pies at home
- Contributed to the yard sale
- Donated a Raffle Basket
- Sorted and priced goods for the yard sale
- Worked on set-up or clean-up the day of the Fair (shout-out to Craig Peacock for coordinating!)
- Volunteered to work at a table during the Fair
- Our amazing musicians: Kelly Clark's Jazz Band (Kelly Clark, Jerry Wilfong, Mitch Seidman, Mark Holovina), and Alizone (Alison Balfour, Scott Marshall)
- Many people worked together to make it all happen. We couldn't have had a Fair without you!
- Members and friends of the Church
- BSA Troop 107
- BSA Troop 2019
- Girl Scout Troop 30222
- Rev. Barbara for all her help with recruiting volunteers and publicity of the event
- The Grafton Fire Department (who provided ice and a fire truck for the kids)

The Fair Steering Committee: Sue Howell, Joanne Hable, Julie Capuzziello, Barbara Gow, Connie Hopkins,  
Lorraine Swanson, Kathy Vandenengel

**Save the Date: The 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Harvest Fair and Apple Pie Social will be  
on September 24, 2023!**





## ***In Gratitude for “Bringing Back Kindness” throughout Summer***

Dear bearers of kindness: *The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention.* (Oscar Wilde)

Our month of October—with its colorful autumn hues—may diminish our memory of our drought-plagued and, thus, color-subdued Summer. Even so, Summer 2022—that spanned from June 21 through September 22—brimmed with acts intent on “bringing back kindness” in our faith community and beyond. In this sacred space, we acknowledge those who answered the “Christmas in July” invitation to “Bring Back Kindness!” throughout our Summer:

Profound gratitude to our **Operation Backpack supporters**: *Julie Capuzziello; Meghan Foucher; Barbara Gow; Joanne Hable; Connie Hopkins; Sue Howell; Kayson Jones; Neston Melville-Jones; April Lane; Gail Poler; Lorraine Swanson; Elizabeth Torres; and Lynne Flanagan-Tsombakos.*

Abiding gratitude to our **Keeper of the Calendar/Administrative Assistant**: *Kris Graham.*

Hearty gratitude to our **Sharing-the-Fellowship Refreshment Providers and Homecoming Sunday Sundae Donaters**: *Donna Blanchard; Lori Horton and China Boyd; Penny Cahill; Amy Coldwell; Luke Desautels; Barbara Gow; Connie Hopkins; Amy and Anne Koskinen; Norma LaMarche; Betty Mack; the McLean Family; Kayson Jones; Neston Melville-Jones; Carrie Peacock; Kim Stewart; Lorraine Swanson; and Lynne Flanagan-Tsombakos.*

Enduring 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.*

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

A garden of gratitude to our **Floral Care-Giver**: *Betty Mack.*

Fervent 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.*

Rousing gratitude to our **Thrift Shop volunteers**: *Susan Filippone; Joanne Hable; Amy Koskinen; Diane Lalone; Norma LaMarche; April Lane; Melanie Peppard; Kim Stewart; and Lynne Flanagan-Tsombakos.*

Seismic gratitude to our **“The People Speak” presenters**: *Kayson Jones and the Thrift Shop Team.*

Sincere gratitude to our **YOUTH\*SPEAK presenter**: *Gianna.*

Beside you with a thankful heart,

**Rev. Barbara**

## ***Holy Happenings in October!***

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

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

### **October 2 = World Communion Sunday and “The People Speak”**

**Speaker: Ms. Katherine Keefe**

**Message: *Make Room at Your Table!***

On World Communion Sunday,  
join us as Ms. Katherine Keefe, a Social Worker and Family Resource Recruiter,  
urges and encourages us to be heroes:

“Make room at your table of life” through fostering or adopting children.  
Likewise, we share Holy Communion with Christians around the world.

\* \* \*

### **October 9 = Baptism Sunday and “I Am” Sermon #6**

**Sermon: *Faith Moves Mountains and More***

**Scripture focus: I Am the Resurrection (John 11:25)**

On the first of two Baptism Sundays this month,  
join us as we experience the power of another “I Am” statement of Jesus.  
Likewise, we celebrate the sacrament of Baptism of a young toddler.

\* \* \*

### **October 16 = Baptism Sunday and “I Am” Sermon #7**

**Sermon: *No Wrong Turns, Just Unexpected Paths***

**Scripture focus: I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14:6)**

On the second of two Baptism Sundays this month,  
join us as we wrestle with the implications of a final “I Am” statement of Jesus.  
Likewise, we celebrate the sacrament of Baptism of another young toddler.

\* \* \*

### **October 23 = First Sunday of Commitment Season**

**Co-Worship Leaders: Mr. Kayson Jones and Mr. Neston Melville-Jones**

**Message: *Unity in Community***

On the first Sunday of our four-week Commitment Season,  
join us as Mr. Kayson Jones and Mr. Neston Melville-Jones  
engage in lively debate and draw on captivating life experiences  
to launch our new Season of Commitment on the theme of “community.”

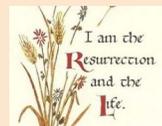
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### **October 30 = Second Sunday of Commitment Season and “Whatever!” Sermon #1**

**Sermon: *Whatever Is True?***

On the second Sunday of our annual Commitment Season,  
join us as we engage in a new Scriptural Study on the first of six “Whatever’s,”  
recorded in Philippians 4:8, 9.

Likewise, we reflect further on our role in the theme of our new Commitment Season:  
***In Community, We Are Faith-Strong!***



## ***Sharing-the-Light Brings Back Kindness!***

*You cannot do kindness too soon.  
You never know how soon it will be too late.* (Ralph Waldo Emerson)

As a faith community who is called to “Bring Back Kindness!” we seek to bring kindness to our greater community. Our monthly Sharing-the-Light Food Collection is a mission of kindness for our local food bank and for those who suffer food insecurity. Our local Grafton Food Bank seeks these donations:

**Canned fruit**

**Coffee**

**Peanut Butter**

**Solid white tuna in water**

**Cereal (Rice Krispies and Cheerios)**

**Toothpaste (4 oz. and larger)**

**Toothbrushes (two-pack)**

Members and friends of our congregation may bring these items on the first Sunday of each month for our Sharing-the-Light Food Collection during worship. As well, a large Sharing-the-Light basket, located in our Church Kitchen, accepts non-perishable food items during the weekdays. All donations are regularly transported to the Grafton Food Bank.

God's blessings to you for “bringing back kindness” within our community!

*Be kind to people--  
not because of what they are or what they do in return,  
but because of who you are.*

\* \* \* \* \*



## ***Sharing the Fellowship: A Gesture to Bring Back Kindness***

*Kindness is the most valuable gift you may give to someone!*

***Sharing the Fellowship*** is a simple gesture to “bring back kindness” to those who attend the Time of Fellowship following our Sunday worship services.

How may you participate in ***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 our ***Sharing the Fellowship*** Sign-Up Sheets in Fellowship Hall!

*May you “bring back kindness” within our faith community by ***Sharing the Fellowship!****



## ***New Leaves on the Tree of Our Church's Life: Introducing Our Newest Church Members!***

On Homecoming Sunday, September 11, two new members joined the fellowship of our Congregational Church of Grafton:

***Lori Horton      China Boyd***

Describing our faith community as “very friendly and welcoming,” Lori Horton experienced our in-person and online worship services as “peaceful”—especially during the drama and trauma of the COVID pandemic. She names her skills and hobbies as: arts and crafts, cooking and crocheting. Within the mission and ministry of our church, Lori looks forward to participating in our Fellowship events (e.g., Harvest Fair and Apple Pie Social) and special holiday programs (e.g., Hanging of the Greens, Frosty Stop and Christmas Pageant). For a new project, she suggests that our congregation plant and maintain a church/community garden with a variety of vegetables and fruits.

China Boyd brings a depth of faith and an abundance of compassion to our community of faith. She is a twin, and she shares the indomitable connection with her twin sister that only twins may comprehend. As well, China is uniquely skilled in maintenance and repair projects.

With tremendous joy, we welcome Lori and China, the newest members of our faith community, who join our church by Re-Affirmation of Faith!

*There are different kinds of spiritual gifts,  
but the same Spirit is the source of them all. (1 Corinthians 12:4)*



It's time to fill shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child! Each box needs to be filled with toys, school supplies and personal care items and marked whether for a girl or a boy. The deadline for dropping off filled and labeled boxes at the church is November 20, 2022. For ideas on what to pack in your box, go to <https://www.samaritanaspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/pack-a-shoe-box/>.

If you have any questions, contact Barbara Gow at [barbaragow@gmail.com](mailto:barbaragow@gmail.com).



**GRAFTON THRIFT SHOP  
VOLUNTEERS FOR OCTOBER 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.

Oct. 6	April Lane 11:00 - 1:00
	Melanie Peppard 1:00 - 3:00
13	Joanne Hable 11:00 - 1:00
	Melanie Peppard 1:00 - 3:00
20	Lynne Flanagan-Tsombakos 11:00 - 1:00
	Melanie Peppard 1:00 - 3:00
27	Joanne Hable 11:00 - 1:00
	Melanie Peppard 1:00 - 3:00

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

Oct. 1	Susan Filippone
8	Susan Filippone
15	Joanne Hable
22	Diane Lalone
29	Lynne Flanagan-Tsombakos 11:00 - 1:00
	April Lane 1:00 - 3:00

Stop in to find some “new to you” Fall clothing, accessories and décor! With colder weather on the way, make some soup with your new Instant Pot and serve your freshly made soup in some soup bowl crocks!

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. Specifically, we would love someone who could work at the shop from 1:00 - 3:00 on Thursdays, once or twice a month. Please contact April Lane at [aprild5850@yahoo.com](mailto:aprild5850@yahoo.com).

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



## October Birthdays

Rick Anderson 10/9

Rosemarie MacCallum 10/17

Mark Capuzziello 10/31



## CARE AND CONCERN CIRCLE

*October 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:**

Warren and Ellen  
Dotty  
Matt

Donald and Vidia  
Louise and George  
Carolyn  
Helena

Amanda  
Ariana  
Linda



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*Monthly Newsletter of the Congregational Church of Grafton*

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