

SHARING THE LIGHT

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



Volume 4, Number 2

FEBRUARY 2022 EDITION

Dear members and friends of our Congregational Church of Grafton:

Have you ever considered the place, the presence and the power of choice?
Life is about choices.

Some we applaud.

Some we attribute to naivete.

Some we allow to haunt us forever.

A viable lesson? We are what we choose to be.

The month of February presents us with a quirky holiday about choices: Groundhog Day.

On February 2, when Groundhog Day is observed in the United States and Canada, a groundhog—emerging from hibernation—faces two choices. According to tradition, if a groundhog sees its shadow due to clear weather, then the rodent will retreat to its burrow. Winter will persist for six more weeks. If, however, the groundhog sees no shadow due to cloudy weather, then the rodent will linger outside its den. Spring will arrive early.

Studies have found no consistent correlation between a groundhog seeing its shadow and the subsequent arrival of spring-like weather. Moreover, in the northern hemisphere, the spring (or vernal) equinox occurs around March 21, when the sun moves north across the celestial equator. The number of days between February 2, 2022 and March 20, 2022 (March 20 marks the first day of Spring this year) measures six weeks and three days—regardless of the groundhog's shadow sighting.

Even so, Groundhog Day gives us humans a choice: to feel glum-like winter or glee-like spring.

May we consider these words first penned by columnist/humorist Dorothy Wilhelm:

*Here's the thing: In every life crisis, there's that moment
when you must choose whether to trade down to despair, or up to joy.
I will choose joy.
From now on, with whatever I've got left, I'll look for occasions of laughter.
I'll blow soap bubbles.
I'll make snow angels.
I'll run barefoot on the beach.
Maybe I'll even dye my hair red!
When I speak, I will smile.
I will see that there is laughter in my voice. Everyday.
As long as I have, as long as it matters,
I will choose joy.*



* * *

Jesus of Nazareth is recorded as saying: “I came that your joy may be complete.” (John 15:11)

For as long as you have, how will you choose to be?



Shove from the Dove

Beside you in the journey of faith,

Rev. Dr. Barbara Therese

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***Important Announcement:
Annual Congregational Meeting***

* * *

WARRANT

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE
CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GRAFTON, MASSACHUSETTS:

The members are hereby notified that

on Sunday,

February 6, 2022, at 11:30 a.m.,

the Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held to vote on the following articles:

1. Accept the 2021 Church Annual Report
2. Election of Church Officers and New Committee Members
3. Approve change of Pastor's Contract to allow for Sabbatical after five years of service
4. Approve Cabinet-approved changes to structure and accounting procedures of the Thrift Shop
5. Approve other bylaw changes that Cabinet has reviewed and approved
6. Accept the 2022 Church Budget
7. Adjournment

A quorum of 25 members is required.

The Cabinet of the Church

Bob McLean, Church Moderator
Elizabeth Torres, Church Treasurer

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held REMOTELY via Zoom. Participants may attend using the Zoom app on a computer or mobile device, or via telephone for those without computer or mobile access.

Holy Happenings in February!

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

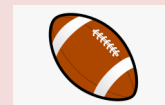
Join with us at: facebook.com/UCCGrafton/

February 6 = Feast for All

Sermon: *Are You a Tight End? Or a Wide Receiver?*

On this Sunday, one week before Super Bowl Sunday,
we use the lens of football positions to examine
how welcoming we are...or aren't...to visitors or strangers.
Finally, we share the Feast for All (aka Holy Communion).

* * *



February 13 = Scout Sunday and Recital of Reverence

On this Second Sunday of the month,
when we offer "Simple Words, Simply Music,"
we are joined by members of local Scouting groups
who participate in key segments of worship
and

who share their instrumental musical talents
in an open recital of sacred music.

Instruments include: Flute, guitar, piano and clarinet.

* *



*



February 20 = "The People Speak" Sunday

Message: *To My Mother and From My Mother*

On this third week in February, when Valentine's Day is celebrated,
Mrs. Betty Mack shares a personal letter
written to honor her deceased mother
and

shares a personal poem written by her mother
before her mother's death.

* * *



February 27 = "Proverbial Sunday" #1

Sermon: *Is Love More Delicious than Hate?*

On this final Sunday of "Love Month,"
we begin a new Six-Sermon Bible Study Series
on the "Better...than Proverbs"
as we consider Proverbs 15:17:

**Better a dinner of vegetables where love is
than a feast of a fatted calf where hate is.**





GRAFTON FOOD BANK

FRIENDS OF GRAFTON, INC.

Sharing the Light: "Souper Bowl" Canned Soup Drive Extended to Super Bowl Sunday: February 13, 2022

Those who share food with others are sharing their hearts.

Our faith community's monthly Sharing-the-Light Food Collection supports the local Grafton Food Bank by donating these non-perishable items throughout the year:

Canned fruit

Coffee

Peanut Butter

Solid white tuna in water

Cereal (Rice Krispies and Cheerios)

Toothpaste (4 oz. and larger)

Toothbrushes (two-pack)

Throughout January and early February, our congregation and service organizations who gather in our church (i.e., Scouts and Twelve Step groups) team up to support a seasonal community outreach event:

"Souper Bowl" Canned Soup Drive

To Know:

1. **What may we do?** Now through February 13, please bring **canned soup donations** to our church on Sundays or weekdays.
2. **Where may we see results?** At the front of our sanctuary, a large table displays our ongoing **Canned Soup Drive** donations.
3. **How may we give?** A large basket (marked **"Souper Bowl" Canned Soup Drive**) is located in our Church Kitchen and welcomes **canned soup donations** throughout our canned soup drive.
4. **Who will benefit?** All **canned soup donations** will be delivered to our local Grafton Food Bank.

*The power of community to promote health is far greater
than any physician, clinic or hospital.*

**Together, let's team up to promote health
within our community!**



Mission and Outreach

The Mission Outreach Committee has received correspondence from Pernet Family Health Services expressing gratitude for the Christmas gifts that you provided. Below reads a quote from the correspondence received:

“Thank you for your recent generous gift of presents for four families. Your willingness to make the holiday brighter makes all the difference for children and their families. Thanks to you, we have provided 310 families and 1,085 children with a gift to open during the holidays. Families that needed food assistance were also able to visit our food pantry and received a food basket.”

Again, the Mission Outreach Committee says a hearty “Thank you!” to all the members who contributed to this project. The MOC couldn’t have done it without you. BLESS YOU!

GRAFTON THRIFT SHOP VOLUNTEERS FOR FEBRUARY 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.

Feb.	3	Melanie Peppard
	10	Diane Lalone
	17	Lynne Flanagan-Tsombakos
	24	Melanie Peppard

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

Feb.	5	Diane Chaisson
	12	Joanne Hable
	19	Kim Stewart
	26	Lynne Flanagan-Tsombakos 11-1 April Lane 1-3

Stop in to shop our Valentine’s Day décor! Pick up some puzzles to keep busy on these cold winter nights!

The Thrift Shop is seeking more volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, contact April Lane at april5850@yahoo.com.



February Birthdays

Mark Tsombakos	2/8	Lois Scott	2/9	Emma Hise	2/10
Andrew Tsombakos	2/12	Robert Howell	2/27		



CARE AND CONCERN CIRCLE *February 2021*

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:

Family of Philippe Pages
Amanda
Louise and George

Ken B.
Lois
Donald

Liz
George Ann



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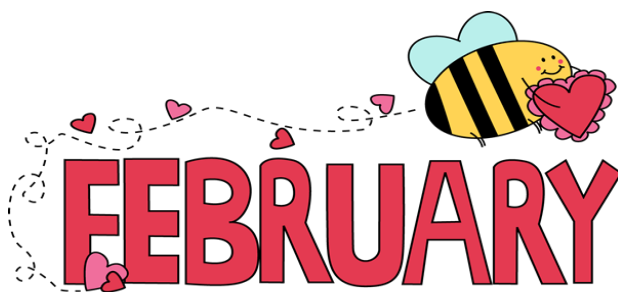
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