

# SHARING THE LIGHT

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



Volume 3, Number 5

## MAY 2021 EDITION

Dear members and friends of our Congregational Church of Grafton:

*I'm only wishing to go a-fishing;  
For this the month of May was made.*

Our new month of May seems to be “made” for many traditional holidays and for a generous assortment of non-traditional events. Traditionally, May is the month when we honor:

**Cinco de Mayo** – May 5

**Mother's Day** – May 9

**Armed Forces Day** – May 15

**Memorial Day** – May 31

More whimsically, May is also the month when we acknowledge:

**World Laughter Day** – May 2 [We celebrate “Holy Humor Sunday” on that day!]

**International No Diet Day** – May 6 [Do we hear cheers?]

**National No Dirty Dishes Day** – May 18 [Do we hear even more cheers?]

**Learn about Composting Day** – May 29 [Do we hear the Earth cheer?]

Nestled in between these days that call attention to lofty and lively themes is this more subdued day:

**National Memo Day** – May 21

And the memo of the day is a mere two-word message: Words matter.

Words—particularly written words—may be wielded as a tool or a weapon. Written words, because of their indelible permanency, serve as a conduit of kindness and as a language of creativity. As well, written words may serve as an agent of cruelty and as a perpetrator of violence.

In our e-culture that is saturated with emails and social media, may we be especially mindful of the “blessings and curses” that emanate from the words we write. To implement the philosophy that “Words matter,” may we print out the following acronym--**THINK**--for our personal reference and application:

**T**...Is it **TRUE**? Or is it a fabrication or a distortion, like a fun house mirror, with no fun intended?

**H**...Is it **HELPFUL**? Will it clear the air? Or will it pollute the air?

**I**...Is it **INSPIRING**? Will it make Angels sing? Or will the Devil dance? And will Logic weep?

**N**...Is it **NECESSARY** that this story be told? Will the world be a better place? Or a worse place?

**K**...Is it **KIND**? This one element alone may determine the decision to write or the choice to delete.

Our faith community is a “Safe Church”--made safe by the enforcement of written policies and, more especially, by the enforcement of “safe” words.

Words matter. Use them with care. Everywhere.



*A Shove from the Dove*

Beside you in the journey of faith,

*Rev. Dr. Barbara Therese*

### Staff Information:

Rev. Dr. Barbara Therese, Minister

Kristen Graham, Administrative Assistant, Editor

Ron Sainio, Church Music Director

Kayson Jones, Minister of Faith-Building

### How to contact us:

Office Phone: 508-839-4513

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

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

## ***Motherhood Sunday: May 9, 2021***

*Motherhood is the greatest thing and the hardest thing.*



Neighborhood.  
Childhood.  
Adulthood.  
Parenthood.

These four “-hoods” constitute significant times and places that shape our personhood.

Our life stories are scripted by events in and memories from  
our neighborhoods,  
our childhood,  
our adulthood, and  
our parenthood.

On Sunday, May 9, while our country celebrates Mother's Day, our faith community will honor:

***Motherhood Sunday***  
**at 10 a.m.**  
**in the sanctuary**  
**of our Congregational Church of Grafton**

\* \* \*

Service will be livestreamed via Facebook Live.

**The Sacred Message of the morning will be a “woven quilt of motherhood moments” provided by members, friends and viewers within our faith community.**

\* \* \*

***Calling all Mothers!***

***You are invited to share how motherhood has shaped you.***

**Respond to the following:**  
***How has motherhood—i.e., being a mother--  
shaped my spirit?***

**By noon on Wednesday, May 5, 2021,  
please email your response to:  
[graftonuccnews@gmail.com](mailto:graftonuccnews@gmail.com)**

\* \* \*

*Sometimes the strength of motherhood is greater than natural laws.*

***Holy Happenings in May!***  
***Faith-deepening events in our faith community***  
***during our Online Services on Sundays at 10 a.m.***

**Join us at: [facebook.com/UCCGrafton/](https://facebook.com/UCCGrafton/)**

\* \* \*

**May 2 = “Holy Humor Sunday” and Feast for All**  
**Sermon: *God Laughs...Last***

We first consider Psalm 2, which declares,  
“The One who sits in the heavens laughs!”  
Then we hear hilarious riddles, one-liners and anecdotes,  
submitted by church members, friends and viewers,  
that fall under the sacred umbrella of “Holy Humor.”  
As well, all are invited assemble bread and juice to share  
in the Feast for All (aka The Lord's Supper).

\* \* \*

**May 9 = “Nouvelle Voix” Sunday: Motherhood Sunday**  
**Sermon: *Motherhood Moments***

On this Mother's Day,  
the Sermon will be a “woven quilt of motherhood moments,”  
provided by members, friends and viewers of our faith community  
who respond to this question:  
“How has motherhood—i.e., being a mother—shaped my spirit?”

\* \* \*

**May 16 = “Pure Heart” and Beatitude Sermon #6**  
**Sermon: *Blessed Are the Pure of Heart?***

We resume our scriptural journey on “The Bounty of the Beatitudes”  
and  
we consider those whose purity of heart is often labeled as “naivete.”

\* \* \*

**May 23 = “Peacemaker Sunday” and Beatitude Sermon #7**  
**Sermon: *Blessed Are the Peacemakers?***

We continue our sermon series on “The Bounty of the Beatitudes”  
and  
we compare/contrast the roles of “peacemaker” and “peacekeeper.”

\* \* \*

**May 30 = “Memorial Sunday” and Beatitude Sermon #8**  
**Sermon: *Blessed Are Those Who Are Persecuted?***

We conclude our sermon series on “The Bounty of the Beatitudes”  
and  
we confront the backlash suffered by those who “do the right thing”  
when “doing the right thing” is unpopular.



## ***F.A.C.E. Group: Service, Selflessness and Youth***

*The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.*

--Gandhi

“As we mature, we discover we have two hands: one for helping ourselves, the other for helping others.”

During the month of April, youthful members of our faith community's **F.A.C.E. Group** (**F**aith **A**nd **C**aring **E**ncounter Group) used their hands creatively and selflessly to serve our faith community and our greater community.

On his own initiative, **Nick Coldwell**, Senior Patrol Leader for BSA Troop 107, used his hands to pick up and dispose of multiple loads of tree branches, limbs and sticks—in the aftermath of a windstorm—on our church grounds.

Fulfilling Community Service hours, **Abby Hise** and **Ava McLean** used their hands to give a “painting make-over” to doors and borders throughout our church's Fellowship Hall and hallways.

Rehearsing for Grafton High School's Spring Musical, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, **Sophie Coldwell** and **Abby Hise** used their hands, their hearts and their voices in their significant roles in the musical production.

Preparing for an upcoming dance recital with her dance troop, **Maggie McLean** used her hands and her entire physical being to practice complex routines and choreographed dances.

Fine-tuning her musical skills, **Anne Koskinen** used her hands to continue playing her flute in pandemic-safe music lessons.

Helping to secure potable water for his family as they await hook-up to the town's water and septic system, **Gabe Koskinen** used his hands to carry one-gallon and five-gallon water containers, from safe water sources, into his family's “under-construction” home.

***Life's most persistent and urgent question is this:***

***What are you doing for others?***

--Martin Luther King, Jr.



## ***Mission Outreach Update***

The Mission/Outreach Committee (MOC) would like to send a hearty thank you to all who donated items for the backpacks and to all those who had the opportunity to make contributions/donations towards the LGBTQ Asylum Task Force “Furnish a Room Campaign.”

The MOC wants you to know that, by giving to these projects, you have touched lives from near and far. Again, we say thank you. May God continue to bless you all, so you may continue to be a blessing for others.

***Memorial Service for Malcolm R. Clifton  
and  
Graveside Committal of Malcolm Clifton and Eleanor (“Ellie”) Clifton  
on  
Saturday, May 15, at 11 a.m.  
in Brookfield Cemetery  
Brookfield, MA***

The family of Malcolm and Ellie Clifton invite members and friends of our faith community to join them for a graveside memorial service for Malcolm Clifton on Saturday morning, 11 a.m., in the Brookfield Cemetery of Brookfield, MA. The service will include the graveside committal of both Malcolm and Ellie in the family plot.

Malcolm (August 8, 1931 – November 18, 2020) and Ellie (April 18, 1929 – May 24, 2020) were long-time members of the Congregational Church Grafton before moving to Mashpee, MA in 2003 where they attended Mashpee Congregational Church.

Ellie, who predeceased Malcolm by six months, was honored in a Time of Remembrance and Thanksgiving in our sanctuary on Thursday, September 17, 2020.

For more information and to sign the Guest Book, please consult the online obituary for Malcolm Clifton, published in the *Worcester Telegram*, at: <https://www.legacy.com>.

Our faith community continues to surround the family of Malcolm and Ellie Clifton with prayer and care. Our pastor, Rev. Dr. Barbara Therese, will conduct the graveside service at the Brookfield Cemetery in mid-May.

**GRAFTON THRIFT SHOP  
VOLUNTEERS FOR MAY 2021**

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.

May	6	Sandy Cooper
	13	Diane Lalone
	20	Diane Chaisson
	27	Diane Lalone

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

May	1	Diane Chaisson
	8	Kim Stewart
	15	Sandy Cooper
	22	Kim Stewart
	29	Diane Chaisson

May is a wonderful time to pick up a special gift for Mother's Day. Recent donations of china, glassware and one-of-a-kind items are available. Graduation gifts are also available for that special senior.



## May Birthdays

Matthew Lane	5/2	Justin Cotter	5/3	Kayson Jones	5/10
Barbara Gow	5/23	Jessa Doherty	5/26	Amy Coldwell	5/29



## CARE AND CONCERN CIRCLE MAY 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:**

Jennifer  
Fiona  
Madelon  
Liz  
Family of Pete Blanchard

Joan-Beth  
Dottie  
Sara  
Kristina

Louise and George  
Amanda  
Avani and Javid  
Mary



<https://www.facebook.com/UCCGrafton/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCD6O7WxcixWlnx1Ho1GVnng/videos>

<https://twitter.com/GraftonUCC>

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Congregational Church of Grafton  
30 Grafton Common  
P.O. Box 421  
Grafton, MA 01519

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CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GRAFTON  
30 Grafton Common, P.O. Box 421, Grafton, MA; Telephone 508-839-4513  
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