

SHARING THE LIGHT

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



Volume 3, Number 6

JUNE 2021 EDITION

Dear members and friends of our Congregational Church of Grafton:

Jesus taught the people many things in stories and parables. (Matthew 13:34)

For our month of June, may we consider the following story—told in rhyme and in 23 verses.

* * *

Her hair was up in a pony tail.
Her dress was tied with a bow.
Today was “Daddy’s Day” at school,
and she couldn’t wait to go.

But her mother tried to tell her,
“You probably should stay home.
The kids won’t understand
if you come to school alone.”

The little girl just said, “Let’s go!”
She knew just what to say
and how to tell her classmates
why he wasn’t there today.

So, the little girl went on to school
ready to tell them all
about a dad she doesn’t see,
a dad who doesn’t call.

In the classroom, daddies stood in back
while the teacher called, one by one,
each student to introduce their dad
and tell what he had done.

At last, the teacher called her name
and all turned ‘round to stare.
Each of them was looking
for a man who wasn’t there.

“Where’s her daddy at?”
one student then called out.
“I bet she doesn’t have one,”
another dared to shout.

From somewhere near the back,
she heard a daddy say,
“Looks like another deadbeat dad
Was too busy to come today.”

The words did not upset her,
and she smiled at her mom.
She looked back at her teacher,
who told her, “Please go on.”

“My daddy couldn’t be here.
He lives so far away.
I know he’d want to be here
on this very special day.

“And, though you cannot meet him,
I want you all to know
some things about my daddy
and how he loved me so.

“He loved to tell me stories;
taught me to read and write.
He surprised me with pink roses;
taught me how to fly a kite.

“We used to share fudge sundaes
and ice cream on a cone.
And, though you cannot see him,
I know I’m not alone.

“My daddy’s always with me,
although we are apart.
I know because he told me,
‘I’m forever in your heart.’”

[Please see Page 2 for continuation of story.]

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
Web Site: www.uccgrifton.org

With that, her little hand reached up
and lay across her chest.
Her fingers felt her heartbeat
beneath her favorite dress.

"I love my daddy very much.
He is my shining star.
If he could, he'd be here now,
but heaven's just too far.



"He was a U.S. soldier.
He died just this past year.
A bomb blew up his Army jeep."
And then she shed one tear.

"But, sometimes, when I close my eyes,
it's like he's not away."
Then she did close both her eyes...
and she saw him there that day.

And to her mom's amazement,
she witnessed with surprise
a room of daddies and their children
begin to close their eyes.

Who knows exactly what they saw
or what they felt inside.
Perhaps, for just a moment,
they saw him at her side.

"I know you're with me, Daddy!"
in the silence she called out.
What happened next filled with belief
those who had felt doubt.

No one in that room could explain,
for all eyes had been closed,
but there on the desk beside her
lay one long-stemmed pink rose.



In that moment, a child was blessed
by the love of her "Shining Star,"
for she received the promise:
Heaven never is too far.

* * *

In our month of June, we honor those who serve and who have served as fathers and as father-figures. May we share in their stories of life. May we tell their stories of faith.



A Shove from the Dove

Beside you in the journey of faith,

Rev. Dr. Barbara Therese

Holy Happenings in June!
Faith-building events in our community of faith
during our Online and In-Person Services on Sundays at 10 a.m.

Connect with us at: facebook.com/UCCGrafton/

* * *

June 6 = “Chess Sunday” and Feast for All

Sermon: *Don't Be a Pawn!*

We all have heard “Don't make a promise you don't want to keep!”

And we all have made regrettable promises...anyway.

On “Chess Sunday,” we observe how King Herod becomes a pawn
and how he makes a regrettable promise.

As well, together we share in the Feast for All.

Please assemble bread and juice for the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

* * *

June 13 = Graduation Sunday

Sermon: *Honor Your Teachers and Honor Your Students*

It's graduation time

across our town, across our state and across our nation!

On “Graduation Sunday,” we acknowledge and celebrate graduates
within our faith community.

Moreover, we acknowledge and thank teachers,
who fostered and nurtured an abundance of learning experiences.

* * *

June 20 = “Nouvelle Voix”: YOUTH*SPEAK Sunday

Sermon: *A Message of Advocacy*

by Maggie McLean

In our faith community's third YOUTH*SPEAK Sunday,
a youthful voice speaks clearly and boldly for change.

**NOTE: In-Person attendance in our sanctuary
is allowed for this event,
based on prevailing COVID-based mandates.**

* * *

June 27 = Third Annual “T-Shirt Sunday”

Sacred Story: *The Giving Tree*

Wear a T-shirt printed with an inspiring or spiritual message!

Come to our church's Memorial Prayer Garden!

Your T-shirt's message will be woven into the “Message of the Morning.”
Church members and friends are invited to this outdoor, in-person service
that will also be transmitted online.



Congratulations to our graduates!

Samuel Chaisson Gerteis graduated from the University of Vermont.

Charles Chaisson Gerteis graduated from Central High School in St. Paul, MN
and will be attending the University of Wisconsin in the fall.

Both are grandsons of Bill and Diane Chaisson.

Sophia Coldwell is graduating from Grafton High School and will be attending Bay Path University in Longmeadow, MA
in the fall, pursuing a bachelor's degree in Interior Design and Marketing.

Jayce Keeler is graduating from Grafton High School and will be attending the University of Rhode Island in the fall.

Elsa Poler is graduating from 8th grade at Charles River School in Dover, MA.

She is the granddaughter of Gail Poler.

Dr. Kaylah Turpin DNP APRN PMHNP-BC received her Doctorate in Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing Practice
from the University of Florida.

She is the granddaughter of Pam Hill.

Olivia (Swanson) Mathieu graduated from Framingham State University with a Bachelors in Nursing.

Ava McLean is graduating from Grafton High School and will be attending the University of New Hampshire in the fall.

James Brawn graduated from UMass Lowell with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

He is the grandson of Lois Scott.

All graduates will be acknowledged by name during our online worship service on Graduation Sunday, June 13.

Come say good-bye to and old friend (and help us clean it out!)

The Parsonage has been sold! After deciding to put the parsonage on the market at the March Congregational meeting, the property was listed in early April, and we received an offer above asking price within two weeks. Closing on the sale is scheduled for June 7.

The last tenant will be leaving the parsonage on May 29. This will give us nine days to clean up for the new owner. The Trustees will be hosting a work day on Saturday, June 5, at 10 a.m. We will provide the cleaning supplies.

Come join us and say good-bye to the house that has been a part of our church's history for 163 years!



F.A.C.E. Group: Youthful Creativity Makes a Difference

Create with the heart; build with the mind.

--Criss Jami

Art is a dimension that inspires one to breathe with a different kind of joy.

During the month of May, members of our church's **F.A.C.E. Group** (**Faith And Caring Encounter Group**) performed in a variety of creative venues—all the while making a profound difference in the lives of their audiences and in their own lives.

In Grafton High School Theatre's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, **Sophie Coldwell** shined in her pivotal role as Quince. Sophie's poise and effervescence sparkled throughout the production that was based on a play originally written by William Shakespeare.

In the same Shakespearean production, **Abby Hise** performed convincingly and entertainingly in her relatable role of The Dreamer. Abby's sense of wonder and her sense of self-confidence were visible—even from behind her on-stage mask.

In The Dance Place Studio's dance recital, titled "The Show Goes On," **Maggie McLean** performed in seven dance numbers with impressive agility and athleticism. Maggie's wide range of dance skills includes: tap, hip-hop, modern, lyrical, ballet and point.

For participants in both the theatrical and dance productions, these events were the first indoor, in-person performances that the actors and dancers presented to a seated audience since the dawn of COVID-19 in March 2020. For the artists and the audience alike, the performances were poignant testimonies to the resilience and creativity of youth—in all seasons.

In his pursuit of Eagle Scout honors, **Nick Coldwell**, Senior Patrol Leader for BSA Troop 107, continues to document and organize his plan to restore our church's Fire Escape—his creative and vital restoration of a part of our church's historical structure.

During the month of June, all members and friends of our faith community are invited to share in **Graduation Sunday**, June 13, when graduates—including high school graduates—are acknowledged and celebrated in our online service.

Then, on June 20, **YOUTH*SPEAK Sunday** will feature **Maggie McLean** presenting a "Message of Advocacy" during our in-person worship within our sanctuary. RSVP Sign-Up instructions will be communicated closer to the date.

* * *

*You can't use up creativity.
The more you use, the more you have.*
--Maya Angelou



Mission Outreach Update

The Mission Outreach Committee (MOC), in collaboration with the Congregational Church of Grafton community of faith, donated \$760.00, along with a brand new vacuum cleaner to the LGBT Asylum Task Force - Furnish a Room Campaign. The LGBT Asylum Task Force is a mission of the Hadwen Park Congregational Church, UCC.

The MOC also donated 32 backpacks filled with school supplies to children in the Grafton and Worcester area.

Due to the reopening of the Grafton Food Bank, the MOC has decided to discontinue the Loaves and Fishes food cupboard. Please donate food items directly to the Grafton Food Bank.

Update from the Onward and Forward Team

News is breaking fast on the COVID front! Quick new bytes tell us that the CDC says vaccinated people no longer need masks and that the State of Massachusetts is lifting mandates on May 29. What does this mean for the Congregational Church of Grafton and for each of us individually? These are the questions being studied by the Onward and Forward Team.

The O & F Team considers information and guidance from several different sources: the CDC, the Commonwealth of MA and the Southern New England Conference of the UCC, to name a few. We then consider the impact of these data sources on who we are as a church and what we want to do. We then present our findings to Cabinet and the congregation. Look for our next report in early June.

One important point to always remember: The CDC makes best-practice recommendations for the whole country. The State makes recommendations for the State of Massachusetts. The O & F Team can make recommendations for the Congregational Church of Grafton. It is up to each of us, individually, to make informed and wise decisions for ourselves and those who are close to us.

May the Spirit of Love and Respect guide our choices.

The Onward and Forward Team

Joanne Hable, Sure Howell, Justin Cotter, Larry Drew

GRAFTON THRIFT SHOP VOLUNTEERS FOR JUNE 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.

June	3	11-1 Diane Chaisson, 1-3 Lynne Tsombakos
	10	Diane Chaisson
	17	Diane Lalone
	24	Diane Lalone

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

June	5	Diane Chaisson
	12	Diane Chaisson
	19	11-1 Lynne Tsombakos 1-3 Kim Stewart
	26	Kim Stewart

The Thrift Shop is looking for more volunteers as they are currently down to 4 people. If you would like to volunteer, contact Daine Chaisson at diane@meadowlarks-farm.net.



June Birthdays

George MacCallum

6/7

Ann Cranshaw

6/10

Ann Holm

6/16



CARE AND CONCERN CIRCLE

June 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 Mary Jones

Joan-Beth
Amanda
Sara
Jeff

Louise and George
Charlie
Family of Avani
Kristina



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

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

<https://twitter.com/GraftonUCC>

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

SHARING THE LIGHT

Monthly Newsletter of the Congregational Church of Grafton

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

PLACE
POSTAGE
HERE

Address Service Requested



CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF GRAFTON
30 Grafton Common, P.O. Box 421, Grafton, MA; Telephone 508-839-4513
WORSHIP SERVICES: SUNDAYS, 10 a.m.