SHARING THE LIGHT

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

Volume 6, Number 8

OCTOBER 2024 EDITION

Dear friends and members of our Congregational Church of Grafton:

Assignment: The Ten Commandments. Recite the Commandments correctly and in the same order as they are recorded in Exodus 20:1-17 or in Deuteronomy 5:1-21.

What a daunting task! Who among us may accurately enumerate the list of "Thou shalts" from the Old Testament?

October is the tenth month of our year. How fitting and symbolic that our congregation may begin a 10-sermon series on the Decalogue. A condensed form of the Ten Commandments reads like this:

1. ***You shall have no other gods but the Lord, your God.***
2. ***You shall not make idols.***
3. ***You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain.***
4. ***You shall keep the Sabbath holy.***
5. ***You shall honor your father and your mother.***
6. ***You shall not murder.***
7. ***You shall not commit adultery.***
8. ***You shall not steal.***
9. ***You shall not bear false witness against others.***
10. ***You shall not covet the good and property of others.***

Biblical scholars date the composition of the Ten Commandments between 1600 B.C. to 750 BC.

QUESTION: Why are we, in the 21st century, studying prophetic teachings that were written down more than 3500 years ago?

ANSWER: The Ten Commandments are recognized as a moral foundation by Judaism, Christianity and Islam. As such, the Ten Commandments present moral codes of behavior to be taught, implemented and enforced within social communities so that those communities may survive and thrive. Moral conduct mattered 35 centuries ago. Human character still matters today in 2024.

To underscore the relevance of the Ten Commandments in a modern era, the American author Kent M. Keith wrote the following "Paradoxical Commandments":

1. *People are illogical, unreasonable and self-centered. Love them anyway.*
2. *If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Do good anyway.*
3. *If you are successful, you will win false friends and true enemies. Succeed anyway.*
4. *The good you do today, it will be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.*
5. *Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable. Be honest and frank anyway.*
6. *The biggest women and men with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the smallest women and men with the smallest minds. Think big anyway.*
7. *People favor underdogs but only follow top dogs. Fight for a few underdogs anyway.*
8. *What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight. Build anyway.*
9. *People really need help but may attack you if you do help them. Help people anyway.*
10. *Give the world the best you have and you'll get kicked in the teeth. Give the world the best you have anyway.*

[Source: *The Silent Revolution: Dynamic Leadership in the Student Council*]

This season of autumn, from Sunday, October 6, to Sunday, December 22, may you join our faith community in studying the Ten Commandments...because character matters.

Shove from the Dove

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

How to contact us:
Office Phone: 508-839-4513
Email: graftonucc@gmail.com
Web Site: www.uccgrafton.org

The 45th Annual Harvest Fair and Apple Pie Social was so much fun and a rousing success in so many ways! The parking lot and the Common were filled with the excited, happy faces of our community.

Thank you to each and every one of you who helped us by volunteering your time, donating items or raffle baskets, or attending the Fair. We couldn't do it without your generosity, and we are so blessed!

We certainly fulfilled out mission of creating and connecting to the community. We are looking forward to next year's Fair, scheduled for Sunday, September 28, 2025!

Harvest Fair Committee

Holy Happenings in October!

Challenge and deepen your faith on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m.
in our historic sanctuary!
Attend in-person or view online!

Connect at: Facebook.com/UCCGrafton/

October 6 = "God First Sunday" and
***Ten Commandments* – Sermon #1**
Message: *Honor God First? How?*
Because character matters,
join us as we study and reflect on the first Commandment:
I am the Lord, your God.
Honor no other gods before me.
The monthly Sharing-the-Light Food Collection welcomes
donations of non-perishable food for the Grafton Food Bank.
As well, we share the Feast for All (i.e., Holy Communion).

* * *

October 13 = "One God Sunday" and
***Ten Commandments* – Sermon #2**

Message: *Honor One God? How?*
Because character matters,
join us as we study and reflect on the second Commandment:
Honor no idols.

* * *

***October 20 = "God's Name Sunday"* and**
***Ten Commandments* – Sermon #3**
Message: *Honor God's Name? How?*
Because character matters,
join us as we study and reflect on the third Commandment:
Honor the name of the Lord, your God.

* * *

***October 27 = "Sabbath Sunday"* and**
***Ten Commandments* – Sermon #4**

Message: *Honor the Sabbath? How?*
Because character matters,
join us as we study and reflect on the fourth Commandment:
Honor the Sabbath and keep it holy.

Sharing the Light Is Doing Good

The good you do today, it will be forgotten tomorrow.
Do good anyway.
(Source: "Paradoxical Commandments")

The family of faith at the Congregational Church of Grafton seeks to "do good"--whether or not that goodness may be remembered.

Our faith community endeavors to "do good" in order to benefit the Grafton Food Bank, who, in turn, endeavors to "do good" for those experiencing food insecurity. In their community-minded effort to "do good," the Grafton Food Bank welcomes these donations:

Canned fruit & vegetables
Canned beans
Canned tuna (in water)
Pasta & pasta sauce
Cereal (Rice Krispies, Cheerios, Oatmeal)
Ground coffee & tea bags
Peanut Butter & jelly
Pancake mix & syrup

On the first Sunday of each month, non-perishable food items for the Grafton Food Bank are received at the time of the Message for All Ages. On week days, contributions are accepted in the "Sharing-the-Light" Food Basket located in the Church Kitchen. Monthly, Rev. Barbara transports all donations to the Grafton Food Bank.

Bless you for sharing the Light
and for "doing good"!

* * * * *

CHURCH CARE GROUP

The Membership Committee has organized a Church Care Group to keep us all connected with our church family. Please contact Lorraine Swanson if you know someone in need of a card.

Whether it's wishes for a speedy recovery, a thank you, words of encouragement, miss you, or congratulations, who doesn't like receiving a caring card in the mail?

swanmom924@gmail.com 508-887-6214

Together we are the church. Let's take care of one another!

Thursday Café Bagged Lunches

Worcester Fellowship resumed their Thursday Café last month. Every Thursday, from September to May, they reach out to homeless and at-risk adults to nurture community and provide pastoral care by providing a free hot meal, a place to relax and socialize, and a bagged lunch to take with them.

Our church has signed up to prepare and donate the bagged lunches on the third Thursday of each month. The date we will be making sandwiches this month is October 17. Volunteers are needed to donate food items, help make the sandwiches, and pack the items in the bags. Watch for a Sign-Up coming soon!

Collection for Migrants in Worcester Area Shelters

The WAMS Collection for Migrants in Worcester area Shelters is ongoing. Thank you to all who have been donating the items listed below:

A special request has been made for donations of Body Lotion, in addition to the diapers, baby wipes, feminine hygiene products (pads only), baby formula, toothpaste, and deodorant that we have been collecting. These items will be delivered to the WAMS Collection Center each week.

There is a collection bin in the church kitchen marked for WAMS.

Thank you and blessings!

GRAFTON THRIFT SHOP

VOLUNTEERS FOR OCTOBER 2024

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.	3	Joanne Hable 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Susan Filippone 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
	10	Joanne Hable 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lorraine Swanson 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
	17	Joanne Hable 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lorraine Swanson 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
	24	Melanie Peppard
	31	April Lane

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

Oct.	5	Susan Filippone
	12	Diane Lalone
	19	Lynne Flanagan-Tsombakos 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. April Lane 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.
	26	April Lane

Sunday 10/20—11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (Grafton Rec Fall Festival)

Oct.	20	Lynne Flanagan-Tsombakos 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. April Lane 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

October is here and it's time to get ready for Halloween! We have costumes for kids and adults and festive home décor! The shop will be open during the Grafton Rec Fall Festival on the Common on Sunday, October 20th from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Be sure to stop by!

Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity to help with our church's mission and the community? The Thrift Shop seeks 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. Please contact April Lane at aprild5850@yahoo.com or at 508-839-5850 (home) or 508-596-8582 (cell).

Donations are accepted only 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 or at 508-839-5850 (home) or at 508-596-8582 (cell).

October Birthdays

Lori Horton	10/5	Rick Anderson	10/9	Donna Caracino	10/19
Rian Fisk	10/26	Matthew Koskinen	10/26	Mark Capuzziello	10/31

CARE AND CONCERN CIRCLE

October 2024

Join the Care and Concern Circle by keeping these people in your prayers now and throughout the month.

We pray for recovery, well-being and comfort for:

Frank P.	Nicole	Denise
Mike	Adam	Sally B.
Bruce	Darlene S.	Christian
Benjamin	Tim M.	John G.
Donald and Vidia	Amanda	Tori
Scott D,	Lynn D.	Jeff F.
Ashley S.	Dick F.	Lacey and Cara
Steven	Zachary	Ron F.
Barbara and Ed	John S.	
Couple struggling with infertility		

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

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCD6O7WxciXwlnx1Ho1GVngg/videos

https://twitter.com/GraftonUCC

https://www.instagram.com/graftonucc/

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.