

# SHARING THE LIGHT

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



Volume 4, Number 9

**SEPTEMBER 2022 EDITION**

Dear members and friends of our Congregational Church of Grafton:

**Adaptability:** the quality of being able to adjust to new conditions;  
the capacity to be modified for a new use or purpose.

How does Holy Scripture address “adaptability”?

***Be transformed by the renewing of your minds,  
so you may discern new ways to bring forth goodness and grace.*** (Romans 12:2)

The past 2+ years—marked by physical disease, social disruption and economic loss—have levied the equivalent of a 20-year impact on businesses, on relationships, on institutions, and, most especially, on faith communities.

Adaptability within our faith community—as in all faith communities—focuses on changes we want to make and changes we must make.

Adaptability is the struggle between intentionally changing in ways so we may thrive, resentfully moving slowly so we just survive, or obstinately doing nothing so we face certain demise.

A clergy colleague recently shared this personal story:

*On my back deck, I have a small pot where I planted jalapenos. They grew remarkably well. Two of the three plants were the largest I had seen. Then, a windstorm knocked over the pot. All three plants were damaged or snapped in half. Desperately I tried to insert the broken pieces in the soil. In my heart, I wanted them to live, thrive and become the plants I saw on the cover of the seed packet.*

*However, storms happen. They always do.*

***Consider the lilies of the field. They neither toil, nor spin.*** (Luke 12:27)

May we reflect on the life of plants. Plants neither work too hard (toil). Nor do they waste energy in mindless motion (spin). Rather, thriving plants find a middle space to grow with purpose and to produce goodness in the world.

Like plants and jalapenos, may we find balance in what we do. May we grab hold of just enough good soil so we may continue to grow in the light of every new sunrise.

Let us all come together on Homecoming Sunday, September 11. Let us share with one another how we have changed and how we have adapted over the past 2+ years. And let this be our prayer:

*God of good soil and bright sunshine:  
Help us to find balance in our world.  
Be with us as we weather the storms of life.  
May we adapt and grow.  
In the power of your love, we pray. Amen.*



*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  
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## ***Holy Happenings in September!***

*Faith-deepening 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/)**

### **September 4 = Feast for All and “I Am” Sermon #4**

**Sermon: *Be a Light Worth Following!***

**Scripture focus: I Am the Light of the World (John 8:12)**

Join us, on this first Sunday of the month,  
when we continue our Scripture-study sermon series  
on the seven “I Am” statements of Jesus  
and delve into the powerful symbol of Light.  
As well, we share in the Feast for All (aka The Lord's Supper).

\* \* \*

### **September 11 = Homecoming Sunday and “I Am” Sermon #5**

**Sermon: *We Are Family!***

**Scripture focus: I Am the Vine; You Are the Branches (John 15:5)**

Join us, on Homecoming Sunday,  
when we regather as a family of faith in our sanctuary  
and when we renew our sacred connections with one another,  
like branches on God's infinite tree of love.  
As well, we welcome new members into our faith community,  
and we celebrate afterward with “Sunday Sundaes.”

\* \* \*

### **September 18 = YOUTH\*SPEAK Sunday**

**Speaker: Gianna N. Lennon**

**Sermon: *R-E-S-P-E-C-T***

Join us, on this YOUTH\*SPEAK Sunday,  
when we are informed, challenged and inspired  
by a high school student's Message of Advocacy  
on the gender-skewed “rape culture” in America--  
a culture that shifts blame to female victims  
for sexual assaults committed against them.

\* \* \*

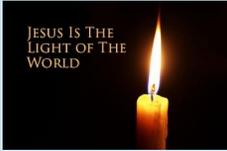
### **September 25 = Harvest Fair Sunday and Pre-Fair Prayer**

**Message: *Kindle Kindness***

Join us in-person on our church steps at 10 a.m. this Sunday  
for a brief time of prayer and song  
when we ask God's blessing on our Mission of the Day:  
our 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Harvest Fair and Apple Pie Social.

NOTE: No live-streamed service on this Sunday only.  
Come to church! Come share in the Fair!

\* \* \*





## **Harvest Fair and Apple Pie Social 2022**

### **Can you lend a hand?**

Mark your calendars and save the date! The 43rd annual Harvest Fair and Apple Pie Social is scheduled for **Sunday, September 25, 2022**. We want to see everyone on the Common for this special event!

In the past, our goals for the Fair have been to “generate funds for the Church’s local and wider missions by creating a Family Fun Event that promotes Fellowship throughout the Church and Community.” This year is no different! We want to bring our community together over apple pie and fun, so let’s do this together!

On the day of the Fair, we will have food, including chili, chowder, hot dogs, hamburgers, drinks and, of course, homemade apple pies and crisps! The Common will also see live music and a Yard Sale, with games and a bounce house for the kids.

Here are the ways you may help:

- Volunteer to help with preparations leading up to the Fair
- Participate in a Pie-Making Workshop - September 12, September 18, and September 19
- Donate items for the Yard Sale
- Prepare a Raffle Basket - Contact Lorraine Swanson; see article on Page 5.
- Volunteer to help on Fair Day, September 25

**We’d love your help as we plan and want to hear any ideas you may have! Will you attend a Planning Meeting? Will you be able to commit to volunteering on Fair Day? Please let us know in person, by email. We would love to hear from you!**

Let’s do this together!

Joanne Hable (jnhable49@live.com), Sue Howell (suehow6oak@aol.com), Barbara Gow (barbaragow@gmail.com), Connie Hopkins (cmhopkins1@verizon.net), Lorraine Swanson (swanmom924@gmail.com), Kathy Vandenengel (momv17@yahoo.com)



## **APPLE PIE WORKSHOPS**

Come one, come all to any of our Apple Pie Workshops in the kitchen of our church. We have FUN!

**Monday, September 12, 7-9 p.m.**

**Sunday, September 18, 1-3 p.m. for youth, Scouts and anyone else!**

**Monday, September 19, 7-9 p.m.**

If you are attending a workshop, please bring your prepared pie crust (recipe below), a paring knife, a mixing bowl, and a rolling pin, if you can.

Would you prefer to make your own pies at home and freeze them? Please let us know how many you plan to make and bring (fully baked) to the church. Thank you!

### **APPLE PIE RECIPE**

#### **Pie Crust Recipe**

**6 cups flour**

**1 lb. lard (or Crisco)\***

**1 Tbsp. white vinegar**

**1 Tbsp. salt**

**1 egg, plus 1 cup of cold water; mix well\***

**\*Pie-making insider hacks: 1 lb. of Crisco = 2 cups = 1 small Crisco container. This is more water than the "official" Church Recipe. However, the crust is much easier to roll and it remains flaky.**

**Directions: Mix flour and salt. Cut in Crisco with pastry blender. Add vinegar, slightly beaten egg and water. Mix well with fork. (Electric mixers make the dough tough.)**

**Separate into 8 equal sections. NOTE: If this is for a workshop, you do not need to divide the dough! Put in plastic bag. You can refrigerate or freeze until ready to use. Allow time to thaw - one day - before rolling out.**

**Recipe makes enough for 4 double-crust 9" pies.**

**Filling: Mix 4-5 cups apples with 1 cup sugar, 2 tablespoons flour, and 1 teaspoon cinnamon. Fill bottom crust; add top crust; fold over edges and seal. Add slits to allow steam to escape. Place in freezer. DO NOT BAKE**

**Any questions, please contact Carrie Peacock (774-545-6393) or email [cpeacock@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us](mailto:cpeacock@shrewsbury.k12.ma.us).**

**Thank you for all your blessed baking!**



## RAFFLE BASKETS

We need your help in assembling Raffle Baskets for our Harvest Fair.

Please let Lorraine Swanson know if you may donate a filled basket and what the theme is.

[swanmom924@gmail.com](mailto:swanmom924@gmail.com) or 508-887-6214

Theme basket ideas:

“Italian” – Foods, pasta, wine, colander, biscotti, pizzelles

“Relax” – Wine, glasses, snacks, book

“For the Kids” – Toys, books, puzzles

“For the Crafter” – Arts and craft supplies

“Autumn” – Fall decorations

“Furry Friends” – Cat or dog toys, treats, food

“Date Night” – Wine, chocolates, gift card to restaurant

“Self-Care” – Lotions, candle, CD, skin care, soaps, book

“Sports Fan” – Anything sports-related

“Movie Night” – Drinks, popcorn, candy, DVD

“Kitchen” – Gadgets, dish towels, frypan, cookbook

“Laundry” – Basket, detergent, dryer sheets, set of towels

If you are able, please wrap your entire basket in CLEAR cellophane gift wrap and tie with ribbon on top.

(An elastic band with a bow added works, too!)

Thank you so much for supporting our church’s Harvest Fair!

## *Fourth Annual Blessing of the Animals*

On a sunny Sunday morning, August 28, our church lawn and parking lot were transformed into a sacred event for both two-legged and four-legged creatures: Our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Blessing of the Animals.

More than 40 (humans) attended—including two children and one teenager—along with seven live dogs, one live cat and one very lively water turtle. Eight more dogs, five more cats and one puppy-on-the-way were also virtually blessed throughout the day.

In a moment of sheer serendipity, a harness horse, pulling a two-wheeled sulky that carried three passengers, trotted by our church property toward an undisclosed destination. Calls to the sulky driver to guide the horse to our Blessing of the Animals went unheeded. [How un-neigh-borly.]

Each animal was individually blessed, and each pet owner was given a Certificate of Blessing.

The mother-daughter team of Mrs. Patty Brown and Cassie Brown provided guitar music and vocals throughout the hour-long service.

The Message of the morning--"Impostors: Beware of Them!"--was based on an "I Am" statement of Jesus ("I am the good shepherd"; John 10:11) and resonated with many listeners who attended in-person and viewed the service online.

During the Time of Fellowship immediately after the service, refreshments were offered to the pets and their owners.

Our next on-site Blessing of the Animals will be held on Sunday, August 27, 2023, when we will again ask God to "bless the beasts and the children."

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## ***Sharing-the-Light Kindles Kindness!***

*Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible.* (Fourteenth Dalai Lama)

As a family of faith blessed by the fruits of the Spirit, we are to offer kindness wherever possible and whenever possible. Our Sharing-the-Light Food Collection is one way to support our local food bank and to offer kindness to those suffering food insecurity. The Grafton Food Bank requests:

**Canned fruit**  
**Coffee**  
**Peanut Butter**

**Solid white tuna in water**  
**Cereal (Rice Krispies and Cheerios)**  
**Toothpaste (4 oz. and larger)**  
**Toothbrushes (two-pack)**

Friends and members of our faith community may donate these items on the first Sunday of each month during our Sharing-the-Light Food Collection in our time of worship. Likewise, a large basket, visibly accessible in our Church Kitchen, receives non-perishable food items throughout each month. These donations are regularly delivered to the Grafton Food Bank.

Bless you for kindling kindness within our community!

*Kindness is never wasted. Kindness blesses the receiver and the giver.*



\* \* \* \* \*



## ***Sharing the Fellowship: A Way to Kindle Kindness***

*Share your kindness with the world, and see what happens!*



QUESTION: How may we change the world?

ANSWER: One random act of kindness at a time.

***Sharing the Fellowship*** gives friends and church members the opportunity to change the world of those who attend our Time of Fellowship following Sunday worship.

How may you be a part of ***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  
Drink cups

Napkins  
Paper plates

Condiments  
Pitcher for Half & Half cream

Add your name to our ***Sharing the Fellowship*** Sign-Up Sheets in Fellowship Hall!

*May you kindle kindness within our family of faith by ***Sharing the Fellowship!****



**GRAFTON THRIFT SHOP  
VOLUNTEERS FOR SEPTEMBER 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.

Sep. 1 April Lane 11 a.m.—1 p.m.  
Melanie Peppard 1 p.m.—3 p.m.  
8 Joanne Hable 11 a.m.—1 p.m.  
Melanie Peppard 1 p.m.—3 p.m.  
15 Joanne Hable 11 a.m.—1 p.m.  
Melanie Peppard 1 p.m.—3 p.m.  
22 Lynne Flanagan-Tsombakos 11 a.m.—1 p.m.  
Joanne Hable 1 p.m.—3 p.m.  
29 Melanie Peppard

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

Sep. 3 April Lane  
10 Kim Stewart  
17 Diane Lalone  
24 Lynne Flanagan-Tsombakos 11 a.m.—1 p.m.  
April Lane 1 p.m.—3 p.m.

Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

25 Lynne Flanagan-Tsombakos, Susan Hall

Fall clothing and décor will be gracing the Thrift Shop's racks and shelves by mid-September. The shop will be open during the Harvest Fair.

Looking for a volunteer opportunity to help with the church's mission and the community? The Thrift Shop seeks new volunteers who want to help sort donations during the week or to work in the Shop for 2 or 4 hours on Thursdays and Saturdays. Please contact April Lane at: [aprild5850@yahoo.com](mailto:aprild5850@yahoo.com) or at 508-839-5850.

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.



## September Birthdays

Andy Deschenes 9/3

Julie Capuzziello 9/14

Meghan Foucher 9/22

Rob Lane 9/24

Lorraine Swanson 9/24



## CARE AND CONCERN CIRCLE *September 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:**

Liz

Donald

Amanda

Dotty

Louise and George

Ariana

Matt

Vidia

William

Linda



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*Monthly Newsletter of the Congregational Church of Grafton*

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