

# SHARING THE LIGHT

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



Volume 3, Number 2

## **FEBRUARY 2021 EDITION**

Dear members and friends of our Congregational Church of Grafton:

God's strengthening love and my prayer-filled care to each of you in our second month of 2021.

Did you know that every day in February celebrates a special holiday or an officially named theme? Here is a sampling of ten celebratory days throughout February:

- February 2 is Groundhog Day.
- February 3 is National Golden Retriever Day.
- February 7 is Super Bowl Sunday.
- February 14 is Valentine's Day.
- February 15 is Presidents' Day.
- February 16 is Mardi Gras.
- February 17 is Ash Wednesday and Random Acts of Kindness Day.
- February 24 is National Peanut Butter Day.
- February 27 is National Pokemon Day.

Apart from a "National Calendar Keeper" who offers us reasons to celebrate each day of the month and to celebrate each day for a different reason, let us consider these words from Psalm 16:11:

*O Lord, you show us the path of life. In your presence, we have fullness of joy.*

In light of these words from the Psalmist, may it be possible that we celebrate each day of the year—regardless of date—because of God's unfailing love for us? May this be our daily verse and prayer:

***Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love;  
for I have put my trust in you.  
Show me the way I should go,  
for in you I entrust my life.***  
--Psalm 143:8

***Let the morning*** sunlight  
slanting through the blinds,  
this wide white dawn, ***bring me word***  
***of your unfailing love***—a note  
tucked under my coffee mug  
or taped to the bathroom mirror  
or slid beneath the wipers on my car--

***for I have put my trust***  
***in you***, the two of us walking  
shoulder to shoulder. ***Show me***  
***the way I should go***, your broad hand  
resting lightly on the small of my back,  
guiding me through  
the doorway of another day.



*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:**

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***Announcement:  
Annual Congregational Meeting  
on February 7, 2021 to be conducted virtually!***

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**WARRANT**

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

The members are hereby notified that  
on Sunday,  
February 7, 2021, at 11:30 a.m.,  
the Annual Meeting of the Congregation will include:

Vote to accept the 2020 Church Annual Report  
Election of Church Officers  
Vote to approve sale of the Church Parsonage  
Vote to accept the 2021 Church Budget  
Adjournment

Quorum of 25 members is required.

***NOTE: Link to the Annual Congregational Meeting,  
powered by Zoom,  
will be provided in an all-congregation “E-Blast”  
on Friday, February 5,  
in advance of the meeting.***

Please consult your email  
in the days leading up to the Annual Congregational Meeting.

Warrant issued by:

The Cabinet of the Church  
Bob McLean, Church Moderator  
Elizabeth Torres, Church Treasurer

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

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

\* \* \*

**February 7 = Feast for All and Annual Congregational Meeting**

**Sermon: *Who Am I?***

Our human tongue may be a  
a powerful tool or a powerful weapon.

We choose which it may be.

For our monthly “**Feast for All**” (aka Holy Communion),  
please assemble elements of bread and juice in your home.

\* \* \*

**February 14 = “YOUTH\*SPEAK Sunday”**

**Sermon: *Mental Health Is Not a Demon,  
But Rather an Opportunity to Be Embraced***

Sophie Coldwell, member of our F.A.C.E. Group  
(Faith And Caring Encounter Youth Group)

offers a compelling Message of Advocacy  
on mental health research and care for youth and children.

**NOTE: Limited in-person attendance in our sanctuary  
may be allowed for this event,  
pending prevailing COVID-based mandates.**

\* \* \*

**February 21 = “Name Sunday”**

**Sermon: *Listen for Your Name!***

Our God knows each of us and calls each of us  
by name.

Are we listening?

\* \* \*

**February 28 = “Reformation Sunday”**

**Sermon: *Form, Inform and Reform!***

The historical Protestant Reformation  
occurred 500+ years ago in 1517.

And the Reformation is still happening today!



## ***F.A.C.E. Group: Youth as Advocates***

*No one needs to suffer in silence--no matter what one's age may be.*

“Advocate for what you believe in. If you don't ask for help, people presume there is no need.”

This month of February is marked by days that promote sharing love with others (Valentine's Day on February 14) and practicing acts of kindness (Random Acts of Kindness Day on February 17).

During this month, young members of our **F.A.C.E. Group** (**F**aith **A**nd **C**aring **E**ncounter Group) are advocating for what they believe in through verbal and nonverbal advocacy.

In mid-February, **F.A.C.E. Group** member **Sophie Coldwell** will deliver a “Message of Advocacy” on YOUTH\*SPEAK Sunday in our sanctuary. Title of her Message:

*Mental Health Is Not a Demon,  
But Rather an Opportunity to Be Embraced*

On YOUTH\*SPEAK Sunday, February 14, at 10 a.m., you are urged and encouraged to join our faith community in our sanctuary or to view our Sunday service online. Be informed and persuaded about the significant need for adolescent mental health research and health care facilities throughout our nation.

Whether engaged in their academics by remote learning, home-schooling or a hybrid schedule combining online and in-person, the youth of our **F.A.C.E. Group** are learning how to advocate for themselves through these strategies:

***Be yourself.***

***Accept yourself.***

***Value yourself.***

***Forgive yourself.***

***Bless yourself.***

***Express yourself.***

***Love yourself.***

***Trust yourself.***

***Empower yourself.***

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## Mission Outreach Update

Barbara Gow continues to provide food for simple pick-up lunches every Thursday in Worcester. At an upcoming event, our church may help on February 21. We will assemble 50 lunches that will be taken to Worcester Fellowship Service on that day. Details on how church friends and members may help will be communicated this month.

## A Poem for February

### My Name

I wrote my name on the sidewalk,  
But rain washed it away.  
I wrote my name on my hand,  
But soap washed it away.  
I wrote my name on the sand by the shore,  
But waves washed it away.  
I stomped my name in a patch of snow,  
But the sun melted it away.  
I wrote my name on a Valentine  
That I made for Grandma today.  
Because Grandma keeps all that I make,  
My name is there to stay!



## GRAFTON THRIFT SHOP

### VOLUNTEERS FOR FEBRUARY 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.

Feb. 4	Diane Lalone
11	Sandy Cooper
18	Diane Lalone
25	Lynne Tsombakos

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

Feb. 6	Kim Stewart
13	Sandy Cooper
20	Kim Stewart
27	Diane Chaisson

The Thrift Shop is looking forward to the new season. Snowmen are still in season. So is Valentine's Day! Come and see our changes! Come and shop for hearts and other special love symbols. Many thanks to Kim Stewart and Sandy Cooper for making the changes happen during January. Also, a special "thank you" to Ava McLean who organized and cleaned our shop and store room. She volunteered eight hours as part of an Honor Society Project.

The Thrift Shop donated seven large bags of usable clothing to the Fundraising Drive of Girl Scout Troop 2019, led by Mrs. Andrea Gorman. Because the Thrift Shop may no longer use the St. Pauly Shed, we seek other outlets for our soft goods. If you have another project of this nature please contact the Thrift Shop.



## February Birthdays

Mark Tsombakos	2/8	Lois Scott	2/9	Emma Hise	2/10
Andrew Tsombakos		2/12	Bob 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 text Rev. Barbara on her cell phone: 860-705-7907. As well, 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

Joan-Beth  
Walt  
Louise and George

Sara  
Amanda



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

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# SHARING THE LIGHT

*Monthly Newsletter of the Congregational Church of Grafton*

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**WORSHIP SERVICES: SUNDAYS, 10 a.m.**