

# SHARING THE LIGHT

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



Volume 4, Number 5

## MAY 2022 EDITION

Dear members and friends of our Congregational Church of Grafton:

A spirit of Sabbath to you in this season! “A spirit of Sabbath?” you may ask.

You surely have heard words about seasons from the Old Testament book, Ecclesiastes, Chapter 3:  
*For everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven...*

You surely have heard about the season of Advent, the four Sundays and 4+ weeks of candlelight, reflection and expectation that lead up to Christmas, the celebration of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth.

You surely have heard about the season of Lent, the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday, when followers of Jesus recall events that lead up to and include his death.

But have you heard about the season of Eastertide, the 50 days that follow Easter and that lead up to Pentecost?

The sacred seasons of Advent and Lent typically call faithful followers to do something: to wait, to prepare, to give, or to give up. The season of Eastertide typically calls faithful followers to celebrate: to revel in new life, new hope, and new beginnings.

However, we now reside in atypical times—when the world's wounds are so apparent and the work of healing is so visible. To be celebratory in a global season of war, illness and poverty seems “tone deaf” and even sacrilegious.

But what if...we looked to Eastertide as a season of Sabbath?

What if...we considered Eastertide as a time to slow down long enough to pay attention to that which is yearning to be (re)born within us?

What if...we allowed the mystery of the resurrection to wash over our souls—not for just a day, but for an entire season?

In our 50-day season of Sabbath (aka Eastertide), what if we gathered as a faith community on Sunday mornings to experience...

...the healing power of laughter on Holy Humor Sunday, May 1?

...the life-changing power of a mother's love on Mother's Day, May 8?

...the compelling power of an eagle on “The People Speak” Sunday, May 15?

...the stirring power of animals to teach humans on Proverbial Sunday, May 22?

...the convicting power of fear vs. faith on Memorial Sunday, May 29?

Might such a season renew our spirits and energize us for the work of love?



*Shove from the Dove*

Beside you in the journey of faith,  
*Rev. Dr. Barbara Therese*

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## ***Holy Happenings in May!***

*Faith-deepening events in our congregation  
during In-Person and Online Services on Sundays at 10 a.m.*

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

### **May 1 = “Holy Humor” Sunday and Feast for All**

**Sermon: *Why Jesus Walked on Water and Other Stories***

On our third annual Holy Humor Sunday,  
we reaffirm the healing power of laughter  
as we consider Biblical humor, cultural wit and real-life comedy  
that occurs in and around sacred settings.  
Likewise, we celebrate the Lord's Supper (the Feast for All).

\* \* \*

### **May 8 = A Celebration of Motherhood with Music and Drama**

**Dramatization: *A Mother's Ultimate Sacrifice***

On this Mother's Day, we invite Mr. Craig McNally,  
stage performer, professional musician, and college professor,  
to share the compelling story of Jochebed—mother of Moses--  
who gives up her infant son Moses so that his life may be spared.

\* \* \*

### **May 15 = “The People Speak” Sunday**

**Presenter: Mr. Kayson Jones**

**Sermon: *Only By God May I Soar!***

On this “The People Speak” Sunday,  
Mr. Kayson Jones, Minister of Faith-Building,  
shares how his soul identifies with the spirit of an eagle--  
but only by God's grace and power.

\* \* \*

### **May 22 = Peacemaker Sunday and Proverbial Sermon #4**

**Sermon: *Are Animals More Humane than Humans?***

On this fourth Proverbial Sunday,  
we consider the lessons that animals may teach humans  
as we study our fourth “Better...Than Proverb”:  
***Better to meet a mother bear robbed of her cubs  
than to confront a fool immersed in their folly.***

\* \* \*

### **May 29 = Memorial Sunday**

**Sacred Story: *Honor Life--Even Broken Life***

On this Sunday preceding Memorial Day,  
we consider the tragedy of war and  
the even more tragic rejection of victims and veterans of war.  
And we ask ourselves: How may we honor all life...always?





***New Leaves on the Tree of Our Church's Life:  
Meet Our Newest Church Members!***

One week after Easter, on Welcoming Sunday, April 24, four new members joined the faith community of our Congregational Church of Grafton:

***Luke Desautels   Jon Filippone   Susan Hall   Norma LaMarche***

Luke was actively seeking “a great faith community whose leadership exhibited a great morale.” He names his interests as: acting, singing, reading, and helping others. The ways he wants to serve within our faith community are: singing, writing and volunteering. Where he wants to serve are in: our Music program, Christian Education program and special church events. Luke looks forward to church-sponsored dinners, and he suggests that our church feature a Summer Bazaar.

Jon was attracted to the church and its spiritual leadership. Our church is close to his residence. And our church is the site for his wedding this September! [Spoiler Alert: Jon Filippone and Susan Hall will be married in our sanctuary on September 9, 2022.] Jon lists his hobbies and interests as: playing drums, singing, family, outdoor activities, helping people, and video gaming. He looks forward to bringing his music gift—Bongo-style drumming—into the life and worship of our faith community.

On first sight, Susan was immediately attracted to the big clock in our church’s steeple! She and Jon toured the church for the first time when they met for a Wedding Conference in preparation for their September wedding in our sanctuary. Susan lists her interests as: crafts, dancing and walking. She names these activities as how she wants to serve in our church: cooking, baking, crafts (all kinds) and volunteering in the Grafton Thrift Shop. In the future, Susan looks forward to a Women’s Bible Study as a faith-building opportunity.

Norma was seeking a church physically closer to her home. She identifies her hobbies and interests as: sewing, traveling, and Bingo. Where she wants to share her time and her talents are in our Music Program and volunteering in the Grafton Thrift Shop. Norma is grateful for a faith community where she may deepen her personal relationship with God and where her spirit feels she is “home”—where she and her journey of faith are known, honored and respected.

May we all welcome our newest members and wear our name tags when we introduce ourselves to them! Luke, Jon, Susan and Norma are eager to meet us—and to learn our names!

*We will not change the world by going to church.  
We will only change the world by being the church.*

\* \* \* \* \*

## ***Sunday Morning Ministry: Sharing the Fellowship!***

Easter means new beginnings! New beginnings mean new opportunities!

In the aftermath of the sacred event of Easter and in the easing of pandemic protocols, our faith community is invited to re-engage in the ministry we call ***Sharing the Fellowship***. The opportunity to provide refreshments during our Time of Fellowship—immediately following worship—is extended to all friends and members of our faith community.

What is ***Sharing the Fellowship***?

In ***Sharing the Fellowship***, a person, couple team or family carries out this simple To-Do List:

1. On a Sunday morning, arrive at Fellowship Hall by 9:45 a.m.
2. Bring:
  - 2 dozen edible treats (example: cookies, Danish, breads, sweet rolls or fruit)
  - Half gallon of fruit juice (Apple or mixed berry is most popular.)
  - Quart of Half & Half (for coffee and tea)
3. Prepare the coffee. (Deacons will assist with coffee-making.)
4. If necessary, slice edible treats into individual servings.
5. To preserve freshness of treats, cover with foil or plastic wrap.
6. On serving counter between kitchen and Fellowship area, set out:

|             |              |                               |
|-------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| Coffee cups | Napkins      | Condiments                    |
| Drink cups  | Paper plates | Pitcher for Half & Half cream |



NOTE: All paper goods and condiments are provided by our church.

7. Set up one fold-out table to hold refreshments and one card table for church friends and members who may prefer to be seated. If desired, table cloths are available in our kitchen.
8. Before singing of final hymn, come downstairs to Fellowship Hall to:
  - Turn off coffee pot.
  - Pour out fruit juice and Half & Half cream.
  - Place treats on table.

In ***Sharing the Fellowship***, our Deacons are ever-present to guide and provide help.

Look for ***Sharing the Fellowship*** Sign-Up Sheets  
on the portable **Fellowship Table** in Fellowship Hall.

Be a blessing by ***Sharing the Fellowship!***





# GRAFTON FOOD BANK

FRIENDS OF GRAFTON, INC.

## *Sharing-the-Light Food Collection: A Year-Round Mission*

Holidays and special events have their defined (and marketable) seasons:

- Summer season: Memorial Day to Labor Day
- Back-to-School season: Mid-August to Mid-September
- Christmas season: Post-Thanksgiving to December 25

Professional sports teams and athletics have their defined (and merchandising) seasons:

- Baseball season: Opening Day (late March/early April) to the World Series (November)
- Football season: First game (second week of September) to the Super Bowl (early February)
- Hockey season: Early October to Stanley Cup playoffs (late April)

However, hunger has no such defined season. Food insecurity knows no season.

In light of the year-round nature of food insecurity in our community, our nation and our world, our congregation is committed to the year-round mission of supporting our local food distribution center.

Our Congregational Church of Grafton conducts its Sharing-the-Light Food Collection on the first Sunday of the month—during the “Message for All Ages” of our church service. Our faith community supports the Grafton Food Bank by collecting these non-perishable items:

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

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

**Toothbrushes (two-pack)**

Moreover, a large basket—with a sign reading “Grafton Food Bank Donations”—is positioned in our Church Kitchen and accepts food items seven days a week.

Once a month, Rev. Barbara delivers the donated food and non-perishable goods to the Grafton Food Bank, located in the Grafton Municipal Building.

Together may we generously provide the food that children, families and adults genuinely need.

*There is enough on this planet for everyone's needs,  
but not for everyone's greed. (Mahatma Gandhi)*



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07-20-2015

FIRST OFF, I'M HAPPY TO SEE THAT SO MANY OF YOU ARE ENJOYING THE NEW STREAMING OF OUR SERVICES ONLINE ...



## Graduations

Do you have a family member graduating this Spring? If you would like their name printed in next month's newsletter, please send their information (name, school they're graduating from and future plans) to [graftonucc@gmail.com](mailto:graftonucc@gmail.com) by May 23.

### GRAFTON THRIFT SHOP VOLUNTEERS FOR MAY 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.

|     |    |                              |
|-----|----|------------------------------|
| May | 5  | Melanie Peppard              |
|     | 12 | Joanne Hable 11-1            |
|     |    | Katherine McDonald 1-3       |
|     | 19 | Joanne Hable 11-1            |
|     |    | Lynne Flanagan-Tsombakos 1-3 |
|     | 26 | Melanie Peppard              |

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

|     |    |                               |
|-----|----|-------------------------------|
| May | 7  | Lynne Flanagan-Tsombakos 11-1 |
|     |    | April Lane 1-3                |
|     | 14 | Kim Stewart                   |
|     | 21 | Diane Lalone                  |
|     | 28 | Diane Chaisson                |

Stop in to the shop in May to update your Spring wardrobe or find something new for your home!

Donations are accepted during shop hours on Thursdays and Saturdays from 11-3. If you have any Questions about the shop or donating, please contact April Lane at [aprild5850@yahoo.com](mailto:aprild5850@yahoo.com).



## 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 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:**

Family of Al Blanchard  
Amanda  
Max

Liz  
Ken  
Vidia

Donald  
Louise and George  
Dottie



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