

# SHARING THE LIGHT

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



Volume 3, Number 11

**NOVEMBER 2021 EDITION**

Dear members and friends of our Congregational Church of Grafton:

More blessings of our New England autumn to you and those whom you hold dear.

Last month, Clergy Appreciation Month, we pondered a mandate given to ministers at the time of their ordination: “An ordained Minister of God is called to faithful in the eyes of God, not successful in the eyes of the world.” We reflected further on how some church members may assert that a minister's job is to please them and make them happy.

The expectation of a minister or of an individual to please all people all the time is both unhealthy and unrealistic. The energy of a minister or an individual will be rapidly depleted. Likewise, those who consistently expect to be pleased by a minister or by another individual will be ultimately disappointed. However, pleasing God is essential if one is a God-seeker and a Christ-follower. In the epistle of John, I John 3:22, we are guided by these words: “We receive from God whatever we ask because we obey God's commandments and do what pleases God.”

Richard Baxter was a Puritan church leader and theologian in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Written in 1682, Baxter's essay on “Pleasing God” is still honored today:

1. *If you seek first to please God, you have but One to please, instead of a multitude of masters.*
2. *That One is pure and is not pleased with deceit or dishonesty.*
3. *That One is acquainted with your heart and knows the motives of your actions.*
4. *That One is just and does not put upon you contradictions or impossibilities.*
5. *That One is constant and is not pleased with one matter today and another issue tomorrow.*
6. *That One is gentle and does not require you to hurt yourself to honor a virtue.*
7. *That One is not subject to human passions that blind human minds and incite human injustice.*
8. *That One is Truth and is not moved by gossipers or maligners or false accusers.*

Richard Baxter makes the case that, if we please God in our day-to-day lives, then we will know heaven while still living on earth.

Our social culture and often our families of origin coach us to please people. Thus, people-pleasing becomes a full-time occupation for children, women and men. Even so, within the universal family of God, we who are faith-seekers are principally called to please One greater than ourselves.

So, who are you? A people-pleaser? Or a God-pleaser?



*A Shove from the Dove*

Beside you in the journey of faith,

*Rev. Dr. Barbara Therese*

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## ***Holy Happenings in November!***

*Faith-deepening events within our faith community  
during our In-Person and Online Services on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m.*

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

### **November 7 = Third Sunday of Commitment Season and Feast for All**

#### **Sacred Story: *Lessons from Sheila***

We have heard these words of Jesus of Nazareth spoken in the 1<sup>st</sup> century:

“Whatever you do for the least of my sisters and brothers, you do for me.”

What meaning may these words have for us in the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

In your homes, assemble some bread to share in our Feast for All.

\* \* \*

### **November 14 = Commitment Sunday and Parables Sermon #7**

#### **Sermon: *You Are the “Someone Else”***

The Parable of the Talents is the story of a landowner who, before he leaves on a journey, entrusts the care of his property to three employees.

What happens when these three employees,  
who are each delegated different responsibilities,  
are asked to account for their actions upon the landowner's return?  
As well, we dedicate our pledged commitments to our faith community  
for the coming year.

\* \* \*

### **November 21 = Nouvelle Voix and Thanksgiving Sunday**

#### **Presenter: Mrs. Julie Capuzziello**

In thanksgiving for her journey of healing,  
church member Julie Capuzziello recounts the story of her personal health crisis  
and the spiritual interventions that were woven into the fabric of her recovery.

\* \* \*

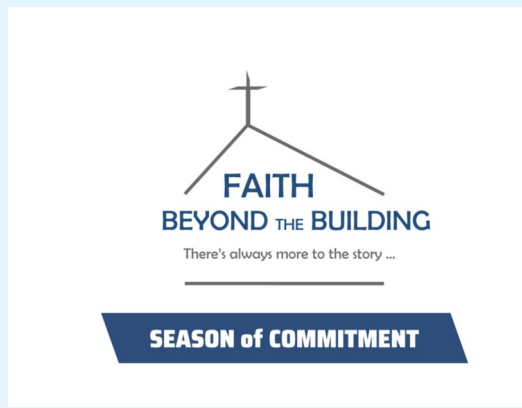
### **November 28= First Sunday of Advent and Hanging of the Greens**

Prophetic readings of scripture and familiar carols of Advent  
sound out in our sanctuary  
while all members of our faith community are invited  
to “dress up” our church for Christmas.

\* \* \*

**NOTE: These four Sunday services will be conducted indoors.**

**A Time of Fellowship will be conducted in Fellowship Hall.**



## ***Our Season of Commitment Is upon Us!***

*When we give cheerfully and when we accept gratefully,  
everyone is blessed!*

Did you know...

you may give without loving?

But you may not love without giving?

Every year, our faith community honors a season when

we stop, we look and we listen

at

how we are living,

how we are loving, and

how we are giving

as a faithful and faith-seeking community.

We call this holy time our “Season of Commitment.”

Our four-week Season of Commitment began on Sunday, October 24, and will conclude on Commitment Sunday, November 14, when we will dedicate our pledged commitments for calendar year 2022

Question: What is the theme for our 2022 Season of Commitment?

Answer: ***See the Need; Be the Blessing!***

As November dawns, members and friends of our faith community have received a pastoral letter and a congregational invitation to--

***See the need and be the blessing.***

Everyone may experience the joy and blessing of generosity because everyone has something they may give.

Everyone: Kindly read, review and reflect upon your church's invitation to...

See the need and be the blessing!

Everyone: **By November 10, please respond to your church's opportunity to...**

**See the need and be the blessing!**

Looking at the past, we speak words of gratitude.

Looking at the present, we speak words of hope.

Looking at the future, we speak words of faith.

*Giving is an expression of gratitude for our blessings!*



## PIES, WREATHS, AND GIFTS GALORE!

**Sunday, November 21 from 1 - 4 pm**

*Homemade Apple Pies & Crisps, Christmas items from the Thrift Shop, Christmas wreaths from Boy Scout Troop 107, and donations to the Grafton Food Bank - All in one place!*

**Pre-order your homemade apple pies (\$15), Dutch apple pies (\$15), and apple crisps (\$20)** (all frozen and unbaked), plus **shortbread cookies (\$6)** for pick up on November 21. **Order here: <https://uccgrifton.org/pies-wreaths-and-gifts-galore/>. All orders must be placed no later than Sunday, November 14. Sorry; no walk-in orders.** Orders can be picked up inside, by the kitchen.

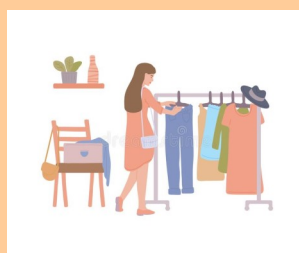
**Our Grafton Thrift Shop** will be selling their items inside the shop, as well as in the Fellowship Hall. There are many Christmas items for sale, including décor for the home and entertaining, Christmas serving ware, Christmas stockings, Christmas trees, Santas, snowmen, and some Hallmark collectibles - We've got it all!

**Boy Scout Troop 107 will also be selling their Christmas wreaths** in our parking lot at this event and will have plenty in stock to choose from. You may also preorder here for delivery: **<https://bit.ly/Troop107wreathsale>**. Prices for the 24" diameter wreaths are \$24 fully decorated; \$20 with handmade bow, and \$15 with factory bow. Funds raised help pay for Scouts' summer camps, high adventure, equipment, and merit badge books.

We are also asking you to bring **non-perishable Thanksgiving items for the Grafton Food Bank**, to help our community's families in need.

Come one, come all!

**Order Online: (deadline Nov 14, or until we are sold out)**  
**<https://uccgrifton.org/pies-wreaths-and-gifts-galore/>**





# GRAFTON FOOD BANK

FRIENDS OF GRAFTON, INC.

## ***Sharing-the-Light Food Collection: Thanksgiving Food Baskets***

*'Tis the month of November,  
and all through our land,  
folks are baking and cooking.  
May the food be not bland!*

However, for some folks and families, who endure food insecurity, this November rhyme is “Not Applicable.”

Thus, to help ensure that needful individuals may be more food secure in this season, our faith community continues to partner with our local Grafton Food Bank to collect holiday-specific non-perishable food items.

Throughout the year, the Grafton Food Bank requests 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, in the months of November and December, the Grafton Food Bank especially encourages donations of these non-perishable items:

**Canned broth  
Canned cranberry sauce**

**Canned gravy  
Mashed potatoes (boxed)  
Stuffing (bagged or boxed)**

Every first Sunday of the month, our faith community is invited to bring non-perishable food donations for our Sharing-the-Light Food Collection during the “Message for All Ages.”

Likewise, a large basket—identified as “Grafton Food Bank Donations”—rests on the counter of our Church Kitchen for contributions throughout the month.

Each month, Rev. Barbara transports all contributions to the Grafton Food Bank, located in the Grafton Municipal Building.

Bless you for giving and sharing in this season when we celebrate gratitude!

*Thanksgiving is coming!  
May we give with thanks!*





The Mission Outreach Committee (MOC) is hosting a ***Thanksgiving Food Drive*** and is kindly asking members to donate non-perishable Thanksgiving food items. Donated food items will go to the Grafton Food Bank for families who are in need of food for Thanksgiving. We ask that all donated food items be at the church by November 20.

***Thursday Café*** is back in full swing. Please contact Barbara Gow at 301-580-0628 for more information.

We are still collecting boxes for ***Operation Christmas Child***. We kindly ask that items for this project be at the church by November 20.

PSA: Are you passionate about serving your community and surrounding communities? Please come with your talents, time and energy! The Mission Outreach Committee would love for you to come serve with us! If you love to serve and would like to know more about MOC and its missions, please contact Neston Melville-Jones, MOC chair, at [nestonmelville@gmail.com](mailto:nestonmelville@gmail.com).

Let us continue to be the blessing to those who are in need.

***“See the need...Be the blessing”***

## **GRAFTON THRIFT SHOP VOLUNTEERS FOR NOVEMBER 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.

Nov.	4	Melanie Peppard
	11	Diane Lalone
	18	Melanie Peppard
	25	CLOSED - HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

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

Nov.	6	Kim Stewart
	13	Diane Chaisson
	20	April Lane 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Lynne Tsombakos 1 p.m.-3 p.m.
	27	Diane Chaisson

### Sunday (11/21 only) 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

April Lane  
Kim Stewart  
Lynne Tsombakos

In addition to Thursdays and Saturdays in November, the Thrift Shop will also be open on Sunday, November 21, from 1-4 p.m. as part of Pies, Wreaths and Gifts Galore! The Thrift Shop will be selling their items inside the shop, as well as in the Fellowship Hall where there will be lots of Christmas items for sale, including décor for the home and entertaining, Christmas serving ware, Christmas stockings, Christmas trees, Santas, snowmen, and Christmas collectibles.

The Thrift Shop is seeking more volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, contact April Lane at [aprild5850@yahoo.com](mailto:aprild5850@yahoo.com).





## November Birthdays

David Hardwick	11/2	Oliver Drew	11/11	Joanne Wietgreffe	11/13
Bernice Benoit	11/19	Rebecca Hise	11/23	Elizabeth Torres	11/25
		Neston Melville-Jones	11/20		



## CARE AND CONCERN CIRCLE *November 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:**

Joan-Beth  
Amanda  
Liz

Louise and George  
Jeff  
George Ann

Family of Vicky Brown  
Donald  
Bud and Rose



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

<https://twitter.com/GraftonUCC>

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*Monthly Newsletter of the Congregational Church of Grafton*

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