



GROVELAND
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

The Bell

4 King Street

Groveland, MA 01834

www.grovelanducc.org 978-372-3463



I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived. I did not wish to live what was not life, living is so dear; nor did I wish to practice resignation, unless it was quite necessary. I wanted to live deep and suck out all the marrow of life, to live so sturdily and Spartan-like as to put to rout all that was not life, to cut a broad swath and shave close, to drive life into a corner, and reduce it to its lowest terms... Henry David Thoreau

Well here we are, beginning our last year together. Before you know it, the time to say goodbye will be upon us. I think the greatest gift we could give to one another is the gift a great goodbye. I know that GCC has had rocky relationships with pastors in the past, and that saying goodbye has been problematic and even muted at times. We have known from the start that my time with you was limited, that I would only walk with you a short way. Saying goodbye means that when our instincts say to pull away we draw close; saying goodbye means that when our instincts say not to say something, or just to wait, we take action. Saying goodbye means we celebrate our time and our ministry together. I have picked Sunday, June 21, 2020 as a day of celebration, a day when will come together to celebrate the journey we have taken together, when we will offer forgiveness for the mistakes we have made and for the undone work. A day when we will bless one another for the road ahead. That June day is coming, that day is inevitable. As we walk towards that day, I want to take the words of Thoreau to heart, to suck the marrow from life, to savor and delight in the time we have celebrating the amazing ministry of this church, about marveling at the Saints we have walking in our midst, and trusting that God is not done with our Church.

The word "jubilee" comes from the Hebrew word **jobel**, which means "ram's horn". It was the ram's horn that was used to trumpet in the beginning of the jubilee year. Jubilee was a year of forgiving debts, returning land, a year returning and re-centering life around God. A year of jubilee is a year feasts and celebrations that fill us with joy despite our hardships and allow gratitude and hope to fill us anew.

This is why I am suggesting that between September and June we celebrate the year of Jubilee, picking a Sunday for the numerous ministries of our church and recognizing them and celebrating. In December I will celebrate 10 years of ordained ministry, and the ministers and shepherds have assured me that there will be a party that day for sure. The thing about Jubilee though is it not just celebration and joy, it's also a year of confession and forgiveness, otherwise it's shallow and meaningless. It means being real about who and where we are as individuals and as a church. Let us fill this last year together with Jubilee both confessing our brokenness and celebrating God's ongoing work in our lives.

With Peace and Love

With Shalom

Pastor Chris



We have so much to celebrate and be thankful for! Join us for these Special Sundays celebrating the Ministries of GCC.

- September 8 Homecoming
- September 15 Blessing The Ministry of *Called to Care*
- September 22 The Ministry of the United Church of Christ
- October 6 Blessing of our Pets
(Special Service Starts at Noon)
- October 27 The Ministry of GCC Employees
- November 3 The Ministry of the Snowflake Fair
- November 17 The Ministry of the Men's Breakfast
- December 1 The Ministry of the Chime Choir
- December 8 Pastor Chris' 10 years of Ordination
- January 5 The Ministry of Emmaus Meal & Panera Bread
- January 19 The Ministry of Community Lunch
- Jan 26 The Ministry of the Youth Choir
- February 2 The Ministry of Yoga
- February 9 The Ministry of Scouting
- March 8 The Ministry of Faith Circle
- March 29 The Ministry of the Thrift Shop
- April 26 The Ministry of Senior Choir
- May 24 The Ministry of Perry Park Preschool
- May 31 Pentecost & Confirmation
- June 7 The Ministry of Open and Affirming
- June 14 The Ministry with Youth
- June 21 The Ministry of Pastor Chris with GCC

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' (Matthew 25:35-36)

Getting bored with the bulletin boards in Fellowship Hall? It's time to make some changes! The Kindness Campaign bulletin board will be changing to a Snowflake Fair board. As we get closer to fair time (November 8-9) keep an eye out for sign-up sheets, donation sheets and other ways you can be part of the Snowflake Fair.

The bulletin board with Team information will become a prayer wall. Sounds intriguing doesn't it? Stop by Fellowship Hall to see what it's all about. Team information will be moved to the bulletin board in the middle office.



We are BUSY

Don't forget to schedule your building usage need with the Jen as soon as possible! Building Usage Request forms can be found in the middle office or online www.members.grovelanducc.org or just give the office a call.

COMMUNITY

Yoga

\$5 CLASS

MONDAYS AT 6:30 PM



Do you order from Amazon? Did you know a portion of your purchase could be going to GCC? It's super easy! Just go to Amazon Smile and note Groveland Congregational Church as your favorite charity! Put your money to good use and help GCC.



Free Community Lunch

Second Saturday
of the month
11:30 am - 1 pm



Coming in September...

Pancake
Breakfast



September 7th from 7:30-10:00

Menu includes three kinds of pancakes, fruit salad, bacon, sausage and beverages

Adults \$6/ Children 12 and under \$3

Takeout meals will be available as well.

Also September 7th.... **Thrift Shop Yard Sale.**

There will be a limited number of tables available to purchase for anyone that wants to sell craft items or their own yard sale treasures. Tables are \$20 each and can be reserved either by contacting Jen in the church office or Sandy Daniels.

We need lots of help early Saturday morning to set up, clean up and sell so if you can help out, let Sandy Daniels know.



The first Faith Circle meeting of the year will be a Potluck Supper on September 17th at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall.

Everyone is welcome to this event.

All Church Potluck...September 22nd (AKA FREE FOOD!)

Let us gather for a conversation.
A real conversation that is truthful and honest.
What is our relationship with the United Church of Christ?
What kind of relationship do we want with the United Church of Christ going forward?



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



The Reverend Don Remick will be preaching and stay for our potluck. Members of the Northeast Association will also be present.



September 8th

Worship at 10 am followed by a time to catch up and enjoy some delicious treats!
See you then!



GROVELAND DAY CAKE WALK

Fundraising event for GCC on September 7

Need decorated cakes or cupcakes to operate a CAKE WALK! ~ HOME MADE OR STORE BOUGHT ~ PRIZES for BEST DECORATED CAKES : Adult and child under 12

PLEASE SIGN UP in FELLOWSHIP HALL OR CALL LAUREL @ 978-373-1858 if you will donate a cake or are willing to help at the Cake Walk.

The more cakes we receive, the more money GCC will earn! Help support this fun activity at this community event by baking, purchasing and/or helping out with the cake walk activity at Groveland Day.

This is an all-church activity that should be fun!
Put your creativity to work!

Please place your cake in a see-through disposable container (cake box, disposable pan with plastic wrap, etc. to keep insects from the cake) and bring to Groveland Days by 10:00 a.m. on September 7, or contact Laurel @ 978-373-1858 for pick-up /delivery on Friday, 9/6.

So many opportunities at Groveland Congregational Church...

Time to Sing!

The senior choir begins rehearsals for this semester on Wednesday, August 28th at 7:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. You are invited to “come and see” what it is like to sing with a friendly and welcoming group of people. Perhaps you have been thinking about this for a while and have never given it a try. You do not need to read music in order to be in the choir. Why not come down on the 28th...or any Wednesday...and give it a try...no obligation! We are always welcoming new members in all voice parts, and if you don’t know what part you sing, we can help you with that too!

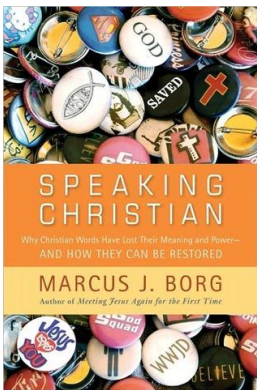
If you have any question, talk to Kathleen or Linda.



Our new nominating team is hard at work but don't wait for them to reach out to you!

**Reach out now!
Volunteer now!**

Marcus J Borg suggests that being Christian includes “speaking Christian.” Knowing and understanding the language of our Scriptures, the tradition, its meanings and its ethos. He also recognizes that there are a variety of Christianities (this might have been true from the beginning) that define belief, the content of our faith, the purpose of our worship, the interpretation of the Bible, what it means to be Christian. These contrasting and often competing views are contributing to an identity crisis as to what it means to be Christian in the 21st Century. JOIN US!



Sunday	October 13th	11:30 to 12:30	in Pastor Chris' Office
Sunday	October 27th	11:30 to 12:30	in Pastor Chris' Office
Sunday	November 3rd	11:30 to 12:30	in Pastor Chris' Office
Sunday	November 17th	11:30 to 12:30	in Pastor Chris' Office
Sunday	November 24th	11:30 to 12:30	in Pastor Chris' Office

Are you between the ages of 8 and 17? Have you always wanted to sing in a choir?



GCC Youth Choir is always looking for more members! We are looking for any singers willing to join this amazing group of young singers. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings 6:30 - 7:15 starting September 4th. We sing once a month during Sunday service, including the Family Service on Christmas Eve.

Please contact Bonnie Surowiec, Youth Choir Director at:
kira_bonbon@hotmail.com or you can call or text (978)504-9429.

Thank you!

How can I ever thank you, beloved community, for the love and support you have given me at the time of my surgery and as I go through recovery! I really felt your prayers and healing energy as I approached the time of surgery, and afterwards during the slow process of healing. Your cards, meals, calls, visits, and your healing thoughts and prayers mean so much. And thank you for your kindness and support of Gus.

Kathleen Tucker Gustafson



Have you always wanted to play piano or learn to sing?

Bonnie Surowiec will now be available for voice and piano lessons here at Groveland Congregational Church (Thursdays to start). Prices: 30 minute lesson is \$120/month, 60 minute lesson is \$240/month and individual 30 minute lesson is \$35. There will be opportunities to perform throughout the year. Bring this ad for \$30 off your first month of lessons!

Contact Bonnie with call or text (978) 504-9429 or email bonniesurowiec@gmail.com

In our prayers...

Julie DiScipio (friend of Kathleen)
Ellen Maxwell (req by Kathleen)
Larry Dodge (Nancy's brother)
Rev. Elizabeth King
Don Powell (Barb Harrold's brother)
Chip Sheehan (Gustafsons)
Marlin Welcome (local child)
Kastrinelis Family
Leanne Hanson
Kathy Blakesley (Deb Stephenson's niece)
Debbie Hammell
Russ Styer
Sophia Hurtardo (the daughter of friend of Jen's)
Gerry Cummings
Ken and Jane Holden
Christine Parenteau
Mark Clohecy (friend of the Tildens and Fairbanks)
Family of Drew Donahue (St. Anne's organist)
Barbara E. A. McGovern (BEAM)
Kathleen Tucker Gustafson
Nancy Fairbanks and family

If you would like to add the name of a loved one to the church's prayer list, please complete a prayer slip which can be found in the pew rack. We will collect the prayer slips during worship. You can also email the church office anytime and request that someone be added to the list.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Did you receive a Birthday card from GCC in the past year? If the answer is NO, it means we don't know the day of your Birthday!

If we have the month and day of your Birthday, we can promise you will receive a BIRTHDAY CARD in the mail. If we have the month and day of your Wedding Anniversary, we will send you an Anniversary Card as well.

Many studies have indicated that most people like to be recognized and see their name in print. You may have noticed that we list birthdays and anniversaries in the BELL and in the weekly bulletin. This will give others the opportunity to wish you a Happy Birthday and a Happy Anniversary as well.

We don't have everyone's birthday or anniversary in our records. You can help by filling out the information below and giving it to me, placing it in the Sunday morning offering plate, or dropping it off in the Church office. You can also call Jen in the Church office if that is more convenient.

Ron Mertens

NAME	BIRTHDAY (month and date)	ANNIVERSARY (month and date)
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Youth Events at GCC...



Youth Group

9/15	Sunday	Fun Faith Formation	2-4
9/27	Friday	Game Night	6:30-9
10/31	Thursday	Trunk or Treat	
11/17	Sunday	Fun Faith Formation	2-4
11/22	Friday	Game Night	6:30-9
12/8	Sunday	Celebrating Pastor Chris	10-11:30
12/15	Sunday	Live Nativity	1-3
1/19	Sunday	Fun Faith Formation	2-4
2/9	Sunday	Movie Night	5:30-8
2/28	Friday	Game Night	6:30-9
3/15	Sunday	Fun Faith Formation	2-4
4/19	Sunday	Fun Faith Formation	2-4
5/17	Sunday	Bike Rodeo	1-3
6/14	Sunday	Youth Sunday	9:30-11:30
6/21	Sunday	Saying Goodbye to PC	9:30-11:30

There are LOTS of other Church Events going on that would be meaningful and fun to join in, this is just the smaller list of things geared for Youth!



Happy Birthday to...

Alan Wiswell 9/3	Lucille Condon 9/23	James Pelletier 11/7
Susan D'angelo 9/4	Shannon Fitzgerald 10/2	Bill Forsyth 11/9
Lynda Pelletier 9/5	Julia Faulkner 10/3	Lois Young 11/11
Bob Lay 9/6	Dorris O'Leary 10/5	David Balford 11/13
Kara Keene 9/9	Dean Everson 10/8	David Niles 11/14
Linda Niles 9/13	Mikayla Tilden 10/9	Barb Harrold 11/17
Linda Prescott 9/16	Kelly McDermott 10/10	Deb Stephenson 11/20
Ed Harnden 9/17	Shannon O'Hara 10/11	Ron Mertens 11/27
Lucas Hart 9/17	Bonnie Surowiec 10/16	
Ruth Gilford 9/18	Carol Mansell 10/24	
Lisa Spencer 9/22	Bill Fabri 10/28	
Lauren Sullivan 9/23	Jacob Bates 10/31	



Confirmation Events

(All dates are for Confirmands & Mentors)

9/22	Sunday	UCC History & Partnership	10-1
10/22	Sunday	Confirmation Class	11:30- 1
11/10	Sunday	Confirmation Class	11:30-1
11/20	Thursday	Transgender Day of Remembrance	6-6:30
12/1	Sunday	Confirmation Taizé	6:30-9
12/15	Sunday	Live Nativity	1-3
12/8	Sunday	Celebrating Pastor Chris	10-11:30
1/11	Saturday	Serve @ Community Lunch	11-1
3/6-8	Friday, Saturday, Sunday		
CONFIRMATION RETREAT			
3/29	Sunday	Confirmation Class Movie	6-8
4/12	Sunday	Easter Sunrise & Breakfast	5 am-7
5/3	Sunday	Confirmation Class	11-2
5/31	Sunday	The Act of Confirmation	9:30-11:30
6/14	Sunday	Youth Sunday	9:30-11:30
6/21	Sunday	Saying Goodbye to PC	9:30-11:30

And Happy Anniversary to...

Ed and Sue Harnden 9/7
Kevin and Lauren Sullivan 9/11
Mike And Sue Tilden 9/12
Carl and Sandy Keene 9/21
Dave and Linda Niles 9/28
John and Suzanne Torrisi 10/10
Chris and Jennifer Hart 10/12
Carroll and Kathleen Gustafson 10/26



Newburyport Choral Society Welcomes New Singers!

Find out what it's like to sing with NCS at our **Fall 2019 Registration**.



The Newburyport Choral Society, now celebrating our 85th Anniversary year, enthusiastically welcomes new singers to our musical family each season! Singers range from high school age to adults and the only requirements for membership are a love of singing, commitment to learning the music, and a willingness to support the success of the chorus in any way that you can. Singer registration details are below:

When: **Tuesdays**, September 10th and 17th at 6:30 p.m. (rehearsals follow registration at 7:15)

Where: Belleville Congregational Church, 300 High Street, Newburyport

To register online or for more information, visit www.newburyportchoralsociety.org.



- 9/22 UCC History and Partnership
- 9/15 *Special Congregational Meeting for Church Profile*
- 10/6 Blessing of the Pets
- 10/31 Trunk or Treat
- 11/8 & 9 Snowflake Fair
- 11/20 Transgender Day of Remembrance
- 12/1 **Hanging of the Greens**
(Special All Church Event after Church)
- 12/8 Pastor Chris 10 years of Ordination Celebration
- 12/15 Live Nativity
- 12/22 Community Blue Christmas
- 1/12 Movie night
- 2/9 Movie Night
- 4/12 Resurrection and New Life!
- 5/3 *Annual Meeting*
- 6/5 Community Baccalaureate
- 6/7 Open and Affirming Pride event
- 6/21 Saying Goodbye to PC

GCC SHIRTS

We are hoping to place an order for GCC shirts by the end of September. If you have not yet ordered one of these shirts, now is the time. Order forms are available in the rack outside the door of Fellowship Hall. We have added to what was originally available. In addition to the short sleeve polo and T-shirts, we now have long sleeve T-shirts and Sweat Shirts. Many people wore their shirt at last year's Snowflake Fair, and hopefully we will see many of them again this year. They also make great Christmas gifts for friends and members of your family. It's never too early to start your shopping. If you would like to purchase one or more of these shirts, please fill out an order form and return it to the church office with the appropriate payment.

Ron Mertens

All men of the church are invited to the monthly Men's Breakfast on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 9 am



Groveland Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
4 King Street Groveland MA 01834

Non Profit Organization
US Postage Paid, Permit #561
Haverhill MA 01830

Return Service Requested

Snowflake Fair News

*This year's fair will be held on
November 8 & 9*

*We're looking forward to a fun filled fall
with fellowship and fantastic fair
planning!! Watch your email for news
about upcoming meetings and requests
for donations.*

*If you are interested in donating a Gift
Basket for the Prize Drawings, please
let Jen Petersen or Ron Mertens know
ASAP.*

Do you RV?



There are churches and faith based organizations across the country where you can park your RV for a night or two. The fees are shared between the church and Faithful Parking. (60% to the Church 40% to Faithful Parking). If you are an RVer sign up on their website and don't be surprised if you see our parking lot helping us offer hospitality to travelers.

Friday, September 27th at 6 PM

