



The Bell

4 King Street
Groveland, MA 01834
www.grovelanducc.org 978-372-3463

November 2018



Groveland Congregational Church's
Snowflake Fair
November 9
4-8 pm
&
November 10
9 am - 3 pm
4 King Street
Groveland, MA 01834
978-372-3463

Calling all bakers and creators of yummy confections! Our **Country Store** needs lots of goodies to sell at the Snowflake Fair. Pies are a big hit, as well as jams, jellies, breads, pickles, fudge and pretty much any kind of nonperishable dessert. We're asking that you label all donations and drop off at the church the day **before** the start of our fair on Friday, October 9. Of course, if you get it to us during the fair we wouldn't turn you away either! If you have any questions, please contact Susan Tilden at susantilden@comcast.net or 978-241-2995. Thank you so much for your help, this wouldn't happen without your generous donations!

Cookie walk table will be selling a wide assortment of homemade cookies. We have cookies that remind you of your childhood as well as ones that you didn't even think existed. Come and purchase a dozen or two. \$6.00 for one dozen or \$5.00 for two or more.

Don't forget to check the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall for donation requests and to sign up to work your favorite table!

We've got Prize Drawing Baskets for the whole family!!

Grill and Chill Basket
Kitchen Basket
A Night Out
A Night In
Love a Good Mystery Basket
Fun and Games Basket
Origami Money Tree

Buy your tickets after worship on Sunday or stop by the church office Monday through Thursday 9-3!

Schedule of Events

Friday ~ November 9

4 PM doors open

4-8 pm Youth Group Supper
\$7 Lasagna and salad or
\$3 hot dog and chips

6 - 8 pm musical performance by the Sax Pack in sanctuary

Saturday ~ November 10

8-10 AM continental breakfast
muffins, bagels, coffee cake & fruit
coffee, tea, juice

9 AM doors open

12 noon lunch
\$5 Chicken pot pie

Noon-1 pm Open Mic in the sanctuary

2-3 PM Bonnie Surowiec singing in the sanctuary

3 PM Prize Drawings in Fellowship Hall (the Main Hall)

News from Ministry Team Leaders

Ministers of Stewardship

It's been a busy few months here at GCC! In no particular order I submit the following updates:

- There is a parsonage roof leak above addition. Small water leak noted in upper story closet at vent pipe. Repairs to be made very shortly with applying rubber spray sealant around 3 pipe boots and around 2 vent duct caps, with application of same at chimney flashing. Cost of spray materials donated by Dave Niles, labor by Bob Danforth and Dave Niles with "payment" of cord wood being donated to Bob by efforts of Scott Repucci and Dave Niles.
- Ladies' Aide Parlor ceiling water leak issue. Recently noted water leak causing peeling/staining of painted ceiling from roof above. Requesting estimates will be taken from contracting/roofing companies to determine proper route to take for this repair. (Ongoing)
- Perry Park Preschool Playground tree issue. After some near misses with falling branches, Valley Tree Company was brought in to remedy the safety issues created with overhanging tree branches above and around this playground. Total cost by Valley Tree was \$3,250.00. Large tree wood left nearby for cutting/splitting by Scott Repucci and Dave Niles at no charge to GCC. All other limbs and branches were sent through chipper and carried away in Valley Truck.
- Secondary tree issue noted in church parking lot, rear of garage and against stockade fence. One large protruding limb up approximately 15 feet from ground appears unsafe and could cause damage to parked cars beneath and/or creates a safety hazard for folks nearby. Valley Tree Company is coming in the next few days to cut this away.
- Water usage at Parsonage above usual amounts. Meetings have been held at Groveland Water Department to determine cause of overage and to find remedy. New digital monitor placed upon meter reader to determine when leakage occurs and to hopefully show if any leakage is noted. Meeting with Greg Stark to ask questions of and to receive packets of dye to place into both toilet top tanks which has been done and to no avail. Leaking seems to be continuing.
- Steam pipe leaking in crawl space under kitchen noted. Stark & Cronk Plumbing making needed repairs this coming Tuesday morning at Parsonage.
- Rear door handle being tightened by Gus as it seems very loose.
- "Team Brinks" has met recently to insure proper and safe collection standards for all Sunday Service Collections. The members of this team include: Sandy Keene, Linda Paulet, Ron Mertens, Dave Niles. All collections from Sunday Service will be safely held in church safe and counted by Jen Petersen the next business day following Service. Church members who would like to join this team are welcome also. Please speak to either Sandy or Dave.
- There have been ongoing concerns about the Cherry tree at front of church. Interested people can contact Bob Lay, Team Leader.
- Winter weather snow removal help is needed. No one is getting any younger as we know and I would love to give our hardworking Sexton Gus some assistance this year. Please contact either Gus or Sandy Keene or Dave Niles to step forward. Yes we have powered snow blowers and the driveway and parking lot is plowed. Think of it as cheap exercise class!!!
- The church furnaces have been checked out and inspected for winter heating to come. Please make sure after you use the facilities that you return the thermostat to its non-use setting before locking the door. Very appreciated!
- Please be aware that the church driveway and parking lot may become ice covered from time to time during winter storms. Please be extra careful driving in these areas and be careful walking into the building. Sand/salt will be spread as needed.
- As perhaps many of you have been hearing, Faith Circle Ladies have appropriated sufficient funds to replace the two gas ranges (stoves), in the church kitchen with a new stainless steel large range. This new range is mfg. by Garland. It will have 6 gas top burners, two large side by side ovens below and a 24" griddle next to the 6 gas burners on top. We are working with Greg Stark who is paving the way through the Mass. State Regulations for such an item, along with great support from Groveland Building Inspector Sam Joslin and Groveland Gas/Plumbing Inspector Gerald Viens. Concerns regarding safety issues are being addressed. Meetings updating Faith Circle have been ongoing. Loretta Foan and Sandy Daniels along with all members of the Faith Circle are moving forward. Special Thanks to These Ladies of Faith Circle for providing the church with the funds to make this project a huge success!

- This past week the church had its annual dept. of public health food service inspection. Thanks to all who use the kitchen and keep it clean and tidy, we once again have been approved to serve foods to our guests.
- The late spring and summer brought about a clean-up project! First, a full inventory of items around the church was conducted and a complete digital record was created. Each item was considered for its value, history, condition and usefulness. A list of items that could be cleaned out and sold was created. We began posting items for sale to our members via email and the bulletin. Due to low interest in general, the Ministry Team gave the go ahead to begin promoting items via social media. The local antiques dealer, Paul Martin, was consulted to assist us with value and market. Paul purchased a few things, the Thrift Shop took on a few items, and some items were sold via online sites. Other furniture items were refurbished to give new life. A super-sized THANK YOU goes out to Jane and Ken Holden, Tim Quinnan, Kara and Cam Keene, Megan Jordan and Jen who all jumped in and lent a hand with the clean-up. Their spirit of helpfulness and positive energy was greatly appreciated. The end result...fun times and fellowship, a few less things to take care of around the church, and a total income of \$920.

Reminder! SNOWFLAKE FAIR is fast approaching! Your participation and involvement with this annual event is welcome! Please remain as flexible as you can during this very busy time. Your patience and understanding is greatly appreciated! We all want great success for this community event. Please join in on the excitement, come and enjoy!

As Ministers of Stewardship, Sandy Keene and I wish everyone a Joyous and Merry Christmas to all!

Minister of Social Justice

A new opportunity! One of the questions the ONA team was asked most was "If we vote to become an Open and Affirming church, how is our church going to display the rainbow colors that will show we welcome everyone?" That is an excellent question. We voted to become Open and Affirming almost four months ago. I believe it is time to form a team that will help us determine how we will show the community that we are welcome to all. If you are interested in being on this team, contact Lisa Quinnan at lanquin@msn.com, 978-374-8375 or see me after church on Sunday.



This November the Youth Group will once again collect donations for **Thanksgiving Baskets**. We are working with Lynn Stanton at the Council on Aging to help provide folks with Thanksgiving foods. Beginning now you can drop off your donations of cranberry sauce, squash, peas, potatoes, boxed stuffing, turnips, sweet potatoes etc. Look for the donation box in Fellowship Hall.

Anyone interested in helping to pack up the boxes on Sunday November 11th is welcome to join us at 4:30 that afternoon. The boxes will be picked up by the Council on Aging that week.

Super Saturday....On Saturday October 20, a group of 7 GCC members attended the Massachusetts Conference's Super Saturday program in Framingham. It was a full-day of skill building, networking and discussing best practices for church. Everyone in the group attended different workshops from church finance to knowing who our neighbors are. The Keynote Address was given by David Csinos, the Assistant Professor of Practical Theology at Atlantic School of Theology Theology in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. He also serves as founder and president of Faith Forward, an ecumenical organization for innovation in ministry with children and youth. We all hope to be able to share some of what we learned with the congregation in the coming months.

TWO New Opportunities at GCC!

Are you an innovative thinker? Do you consider yourself a generous person? Interested in making a difference? If you answered yes, then there's a new TEAM just for you!! Contact Sandy Keene (978.457.6929 or keenehome@comcast.net) for more info.

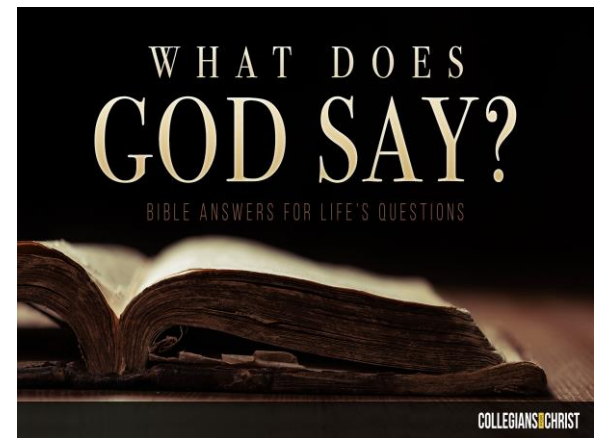
Team Curb Appeal is forming. Contact Priscilla Styer (978-852-1686, designsign@comcast.net) or Sandy Keene (978-457-6929, keenehome@comcast.net) for more information.

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



**Friday November 23
at 6:00**

Bring your favorite game and a friend and come on down!



Join us Mondays at noon as we seek answers to questions that matter the most.

- November 5th, 12th, and 26th
- December 3rd, 10th, and 17th
- January 7th, 14th, 28th

The November Community Meal will be held on Saturday 11/3 from 11:30-1:00.

We will be serving Homemade Soup. Everyone is invited to come share a meal with our community!



By calling ourselves progressive Christians, we mean that we are Christians who...

- 1 Believe that following the path and teachings of Jesus can lead to an awareness and experience of the Sacred and the Oneness and Unity of all life;
- 2 Affirm that the teachings of Jesus provide but one of many ways to experience the Sacredness and Oneness of life, and that we can draw from diverse sources of wisdom in our spiritual journey;
- 3 Seek community that is inclusive of ALL people, including but not limited to:
 - Conventional Christians and questioning skeptics,
 - Believers and agnostics,
 - Women and men,
 - Those of all sexual orientations and gender identities,
 - Those of all classes and abilities;
- 4 Know that the way we behave towards one another is the fullest expression of what we believe;
- 5 Find grace in the search for understanding and believe there is more value in questioning than in absolutes;
- 6 Strive for peace and justice among all people;
- 7 Strive to protect and restore the integrity of our Earth; and
- 8 Commit to a path of life-long learning, compassion, and selfless love.



Spiritual networking and resources for an evolving faith

"The 8 Points" (version 2011)
The Center for Progressive Christianity
ProgressiveChristianity.org

Often times people hear the term "progressive" and think it means liberal, but liberal can mean political!

What do you think? Are we progressive Christians?

Thank You...

Linda and I and the entire Danforth Family want to express our most sincere thanks to all of what the Groveland Congregational Church means to us. This church family has been a vibrant and loving place for the many generations of the family and we appreciate your extended hand of support during these recent months. Please accept our kind thoughts to each of the Members (Present and Past), staff and employees for all that you have provided to us recently at the funerals of our beloved Barbara A, & G. Keith Danforth.

In Love,
Linda and Dave Niles

Please hold in prayer...

Julie DiScipio (friend of Kathleen)
Ellen Maxwell (req by Kathleen)
Gerry Cummings
John and Suzanne Torrisi
Larry Dodge (Nancy's brother)
Rev. Elizabeth King
Barbara E. A. McGovern (BEAM)
Don Powell (Barb Harrold's brother)
Colleen Wolfenbarger
Wayne and Nancy Fairbanks
Nadine Bradley
Chip Sheehan (Gustafsons)
Coleman Lee
Marlin Welcome (local child)
Pamela Adie (Judy Lynn's daughter)
Peg and Tom Nettles (Valerie Warner Nettle's in laws)
Kastrinelis Family
Scott Coppen

Happy November Birthday wishes to the following folks:

Jim Pelletier 11/7	Barb Harrold 11/17
Bill Forsyth 11/9	Deb Stephenson 11/20
Coleman Lee 11/12	Ron Mertens 11/27
Dave Balford 11/13	
David Niles 11/14	And Happy Thanksgiving to everyone!
Emma Formosi 11/14	

If you see Priscilla Styer in your travels, be sure to thank her for her festive fall decorating on the front steps of the church!



In order to bring you a quality newsletter full of pertinent GCC information and updates, we are going to be publishing The Bell on a quarterly basis starting in the new year. The publication months will be March, June, September and December... all very busy and important months in the church calendar. All of the information that the membership currently receives monthly will still be shared on a regular basis via the weekly email that goes out and the weekly announcements page in the bulletin. Any members who do not receive the weekly email or attend worship regularly can request that the announcements be mailed to them.

If there is anyone in the congregation who has an interest in writing or taking photos, we'd love to have you on the Bell Team! Contact Jen in the office.



Sunday November 25th, Groveland Congregational Church will be joining Phoenix Rising for a joint Worship service at their location in Lawrence.... This historic service will start at 10am. They have tons of parking and their building is fully handicap accessible!



354 Merrimack Street 3rd floor
Building 1 Door A (above Salvatore's Restaurant)
Lawrence, MA 01843-1755

Phoenix Rising joined us for worship when their building was unsafe during the Lawrence gas explosions, now it's our turn! Watch for information about carpooling.



My first attempt to write my newsletter article did not yield the results I wanted. I tried to write a report from the point of view of two people employed to watch the church parking lot. I included a ton of details about the church schedule, people coming and going, and what visitors were learning. In the end the article was clunky, large, and did not read well. So this is what you get instead!

I do believe that many would be surprised and astounded if they sat in our parking lot for a week and watched people come and go, if time was taken to interview people leaving the parking lot about why they gathered and what they experienced while here. There is a lot of ministry going at GCC, we are touching a lot of lives. People are gathering here to learn values, build community, organize for action, learn life skills, practice spirituality, learn environmentalism, and this doesn't include the things the church does like worship, choir, Taizé, Thrift Shop and so on.

I hear a lot of people talking about how we need to reach out into the community, and while this is 100% spot on, I hope folks don't think this is something new. Our call is built on the amazing success we are experiencing now. Our church is busy, our church is full of mission, our church is a hub of community gatherings and YES, we have more time and space available for community usage. So don't hesitate to offer our space to community groups that need space.

Pastor Chris

((Also my first attempt at this article is available in my office, if you want to stop by and read it))



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
November 2018						
4 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS 10:00 WORSHIP	5 12:00 WHAT DOES GOD SAY? 6:30 YOGA	6	7 8:00 THRIFT SHOP 6:30 YOUTH CHOIR 7:30 SENIOR CHORIR	8 4:00 YOUTH GROUP IN KITCHEN 6:30 NEW WORSHIP PLANNING MTG	9 SNOWFLAKE FAIR 4-8	10 SNOWFLAKE FAIR 9-3
11 10:00 WORSHIP 4:30 YOUTH GROUP PACKING THANKSGIVING BOXES	12 VETERAN'S DAY HOLIDAY 12:00 WHAT DOES GOD SAY? 6:30 YOGA	13 5:30 CUB SCOUTS	14 8:00 THRIFT SHOP 10:30 CARE TEAM MTG 6:30 YOUTH CHOIR 7:30 SENIOR CHORIR	15 6:30 CUB SCOUTS 7:00 BOY SCOUTS 7:00 PROFILE TEAM	16	17 8:00 THRIFT SHOP 9:00 MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST 1-5 CUB SCOUTS
18 10:00 WORSHIP 11:30 LIVE NATIVITY PLANNING MTG	19 12:00 WHAT DOES GOD SAY? 6:30 YOGA 7:00 CUB SCOUT LEADER MEETING	20 EMMAUS MEAL DELIVERY 12:00 FAITH CIRCLE 5:30 CUB SCOUTS	21 8:00 THRIFT SHOP 6:30 YOUTH CHOIR 7:30 SENIOR CHORIR	22 THANKSGIVING	23 6:00 GAME NIGHT	24 8:00 THRIFT SHOP
25 10:00 WORSHIP AT PHOENIX RISING	26 12:00 WHAT DOES GOD SAY? 6:30 YOGA	27 5:30 CUB SCOUTS	28 8:00 THRIFT SHOP 6:30 YOUTH CHOIR 7:30 SENIOR CHORIR	29 6:30 CUB SCOUTS 7:00 BOY SCOUTS 7:00 PROFILE TEAM	30	

THE BELL is published on the last week of the month.
Deadline for the next issue November 15th

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

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Return Service Requested



The GCC Youth Group invites everyone in
the congregation to participate in the
3rd Annual Live Nativity
December 16th, 2018
5 pm- 7 pm

We have lots of different areas that need help...contact BEAM or
Jen in the office if you're interested!