

The Bell

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

December 2018

Please join us during this Season of Advent & Christmas at Groveland Congregational Church



Candlelight Taizé Meditation

December 2nd at 7 pm

Give yourself the gift of peace and reflection. Take a few minutes from the busyness of life to share this time with each other. This is an ecumenical service, so feel free to invite your neighbors and friends.

Community Christmas Caroling December 9th at 1 pm

Join us as we set out from the church to spread the joy of the season to our friends and neighbors with spirited Christmas song! Everyone is welcome to join!

Advent Experience and Live Nativity December 16th at 3 pm

There will be a live nativity in the front of the church (3-4) followed by crafts and refreshments in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to join us for a festive afternoon!

Community Blue Christmas Service December 21st at 7 pm

Blue Christmas is a time to recognize that even though Christmas is a season filled with joy and hope...sadness, grief and loneliness are ever present. This service is open to anyone who wishes to come.

Christmas Eve Services

Family Service at 5 pm

Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols at 11 pm



Snowflake Fair

A year ago, there was talk of discontinuing the Snowflake Fair. Too few people were doing the work and we were discouraged. We wondered if it was worth continuing. The Fair Committee decided to bring it to the congregation at Annual Meeting and let them decide.

Sandy Keene suggested turning our plea for help into an auction, giving people paddles so they could bid on the fair jobs they were willing to help with. It was a great idea and a great success, lots of people bid and almost all positions were filled. We now had new enthusiasm for the fair and had a head start on planning.

Fast forward to now. Our Snowflake Fair just grossed over \$13,000! After expenses we are hoping to clear \$12,000 and we are excited! What a difference a year makes.

We were able to accomplish this through hard work, cooperation, compromise, innovative thinking, planning and maybe a little arguing. Thank you to all the Fair Coordinators, Table Chairs, volunteers and those who shopped. Thanks especially to Jen Peterson and Ron Mertens for their amazing work with the Prize Drawings, to Bob Lay and Jen Peterson for working so hard on publicity (it was a success!) and Sandy Keene for her great ideas and bringing entertainment to the Fair. The biggest thank you goes to Amy Szarek and Barb Harrold for all their hard work but most especially keeping the Fair going all these years through good times and bad, without them there would probably not be a Fair today.

I personally find a lot of joy in the Fair but it's not all rainbows and unicorns. Sometimes we get cranky or frustrated with each other (just ask my sister who was helping me with the chicken pot pie lunch on Saturday!) but we work it out and get through it.

I think our Snowflake Fair experience can serve as a blueprint for our future at GCC and what we can be as a church. Look where the Fair Committee was a year ago. All the things that made our Fair great-hard work, cooperation, compromise, innovative thinking, planning and a little arguing can help us figure out our next steps together as a church. If you have not been to a Visioning Meeting led by Lew Harrold I encourage you to attend one. Barb Harrold will be hosting one soon as will I. If you are interested in attending contact one of us. Don't worry, just as with the Fair together we can do this, but we all must participate.

with joy and gratitude,

Kim Mosley

Wow! What a fair! The financial results were fantastic, but more importantly, the joy and fellowship we shared was priceless! Look for more fair pics throughout the Bell!





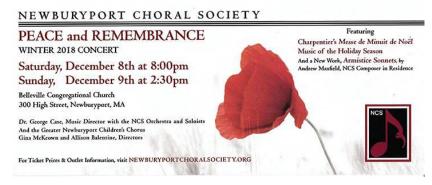
We will begin the beautiful celebration of Advent with our Ecumenical Taizé meditation service which will be held on Sunday evening, December 2nd, at 7:00 PM.

We read in the Book of Isaiah: *The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light.* As the candles illuminate the sanctuary, we pray that the light of Christ will drive away the darkness in our lives and in our world. The service, which lasts about a half hour, includes Scripture, prayers, petitions, short sung refrains, and an extended period of silent meditation. Come and give yourself a chance to experience the real meaning of the season!



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

We have lots of different areas that need help...contact BEAM or Caroline Cranos for more information.



Four members of our senior choir will be singing in the NCS winter concert on Saturday, December 8 at 8:00 PM and Sunday, December 9 at 2:30 PM. The program features Charpentier's Messe de Minuit (Midnight Mass), many beautiful seasonal carols, and the New England premiere of a work by Andrew Maxfield commemorating the 100th anniversary of the armistice that ended World War I entitled *Armistice*. See Linda Paulet, Kathleen Tucker Gustafson, John Statom or Carroll Gustafson for tickets, or go to <u>newburyportchoralsociety.org</u>.

Christmas Music

The choir has just begun rehearsing music for Advent and Christmas, so you still have time to participate! Experience the joy of singing at this beautiful season. Just come down to rehearsal on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9:00 PM. Any questions, speak to Kathleen or Linda.





1st Annual GCC Pajama Day

Our youth have asked for a pajama day, because they believe the future of the church is comfortable, leads with a "Come as you are!" attitude and because we believe that our youth are ready to lead us into God's future it's <u>on the calendar</u>.

So if you are 1 or 100 Keep Calm and put your Jammies on December 30th



It began with Mr. Mouse and continued through Daniel, Snickers, Laura, Jose, Tom, to last year when we meet grumpy old Marion. In this year's Christmas sermon series, come meet Dominiqua; young at heart, full of hope, ready to take on a world who doesn't see past appearances or God's call on all of us to be our best version of our self. Members of the Choir recently visiting with Coleman Lee



It was wonderful to have Bud Watts join us in worship this fall.

Happy December Birthday wishes to the following folks:

Michael Kastrinelis 12/1 Kathleen Tucker Gustafson 12/3 Beckyann Kelly 12/4 Austin Spencer 12/5 Bonnie Glazier 12/7 Ed Petersen 12/8 Susan Tilden 12/14



James Lussier 12/16 Erin O'Hara 12/17 Lindsay Fabri 12/17 Sandy Daniels 12/19 Linda Lay 12/21 Mark Szarek Julie Fabri 12/24 Carolyn Kohlhofer 12/27 Michael McDermott 12/31



Please hold in prayer...

Julie DiScipio (friend of Kathleen) Ellen Maxwell (reg 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) Scott Coppen Kastrinelis Family Rod Warner



Faith Circle News

On September 28 Faith Circle recognized Jane Holden for her 30 plus years as our treasurer. She received a lovely bouquet of flowers and a Visa gift card and our thanks and appreciation for a job well done.

Minister of Hospitality Notes

GCC Shirts

It was great to see many people wearing their GCC Shirts on Shirt Sunday and again at the Snowflake Fair. What a fashionable way to show who we are and let others know we are proud of our church. We are still taking orders for shirts if you would like to have one (or more). In fact, we have added to what is available. In addition to the short sleeve polo and T-shirts, we now have long sleeve T-shirts and Sweat Shirts. If you would like to purchase one or more of these shirts, please fill out the order form return it to the church office with the appropriate payment.

Ron Mertens Minister of Hospitality



Groveland Congregational Church

Address:

Name:

Telephone:

Email:

an;<u>...</u>

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|----------------------------|------|--------------|--------------------------|------|-----------|
| Collared Polo shirt | | \$20 each | T shirt | | \$15 each |
| Size | Qty. | Total | Size | Qty. | Total |
| Small | | \$ | Small | | \$ |
| Medium | | \$ | Medium | \$ | |
| Large | | \$ \$ | Large | | \$ \$ |
| X Large | | | X Large | | |
| 2 XL | | \$ | 2XL | | \$ |
| other | | \$ | other | | \$ |
| Total: | \$ | | Total: | \$ | |
| Long sleeved t shirt | | \$20 each | Crew neck sweat shirt | | \$25each |
| Size | Qty. | Total | Size | Qty. | Total |
| Small | | \$ | Small | | \$ |
| Medium | | \$ | Medium | | \$ |
| Large | | \$ | Large | | \$ |
| X Large | | \$ | X Large | | \$ |
| 2 XL | | \$ | 2XL | | \$ |
| other | | \$ | other | | \$ |
| Total: | | \$ | Total: | | \$ |

Please make checks payable to Groveland Congregational Church.

Total amount enclosed: \$_____



"Bear one another's burdens..." Galatians 6:2

Called to Care

Are you called to ministry of visitation are care for those in need? Several folks have indicated in interest in participating in this important ministry. On January 28 will begin a 7 session training program.

Even if you don't have time for visiting you can come to the training.

Session I Monday January 28th 7pm in Memorial Hall Session II Monday February 25th 7pm in Memorial Hall Sessions III-VII time and location are TBA

While there is no cost for the training, reservations are needed. Please Email Ron Mertens, Minister of Hospitality if you plan to attend.

The aim of Called to Care is to enhance the skills of those called to a ministry of caregiving by laypersons. Called to Care offers ways to gain ideas for organizing and caregiving efforts in a local church, familiarize individuals with particular areas for caregiving, and sharpen their caregiving skills.

HOW DO PEOPLE START ATTENDING CHURCH?

A Friend Invited Me - 86%

Organized Visitation - 6%

Invited by the Pastor - 6%

Advertising - 2%

churchgrowth.org

Don't just say our church needs to grow, come learn what you can do today to make it grow now!

Sign up to attend today! Grab your phone and send "Go-GCC" to 81010 (if you don't text, just tell Pastor Chris you want to come)

> Dinner and Presentation January 22 from 6pm to 8:30 pm



December 21st 7:00 pm Groveland Congregational Church

Blue Christmas is a time to recognize that even though Christmas is a season filled with joy and hope...sadness, grief and loneliness are ever present.

Do you have trouble hearing the service?



We are now transmitting on FM. If you bring a small personal radio you can have the service as loud as you need it.

Need a radio? Just ask Jen or Pastor Chris and we can get you one!



BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Are you tired of receiving mail that is nothing but bills, requests for donations, advanced approvals for credit cards you don't want and magazines you never read? Would you like to receive something that is more pleasant and enjoyable? We can help!

If we have the month and day of your Birthday, we can promise you will receive a BIRTHDAY CARD in the mail. We will even pay for the handling and postage! What can be more enjoyable and better than that??

But wait, there is even more!

If we have the month and day of your Wedding Anniversary, we will send you an Anniversary Card as well. WOW! A potential two cards for the same low price of zero.

Many studies have indicated that most people like to be recognized and see their name in print. We hope to begin listing birthdays and anniversaries in the monthly BELL. This will give others the opportunity to wish you a Happy Birthday and a Happy Anniversary as well.

In order to accomplish all this, we obviously need your help. 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.

NAME

BIRTHDAY MO DAY ANNIVERSARY MO DAY

When to Contact your Pastor...

I genuinely care about the people of this congregation, and I want to be the best pastor I can be but I need your help. I hope you find this list helpful.

When to contact your pastor...

If you or a loved one is...

- going into the hospital (even day surgeries)
 - Hospitals no longer notify pastor or churches when members are admitted
 - feeling lost, confused, spiritually empty
- feeling in need of spiritual guidance
- worried about the church
- feeling great and everything is fine
- feeling hurt or
- going to be away from church for a long time
- feeling like you would like prayer
- facing a life changing event
- wanting to get to know the minister better
- has a compliment or a complaint

What I pledge...

- I know that not everyone wants their pastor to visit them and that is ok.
- If I know you want me to visit, I will.
- You will not be added to the prayer list unless you ask.
- When I visit, I will not publicize it.
 - I do keep a confidential list that is shared with the office manager and Minister of Hospitality.

Call, text or email If I don't answer, leave a message Pastor Chris 781-318-6006 PC@PastorChris.Faith

Reminder: In order to bring you a quality newsletter full of pertinent GCC information and updates, we are going 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 received 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.





We stood with Emanu-El in Haverhill after the shooting

More than 225 people gathered in the sanctuary at Temple Emanu-El in Haverhill on Friday night, November 2, 2018, to celebrate Shabbat, grieve for those lost in the terrible attack at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, and pray for peace.

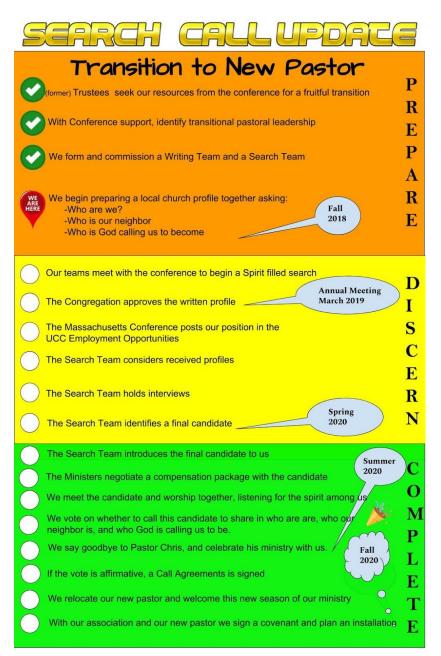
Temple Emanu-El's annual Peace Shabbat service, led by students in the religious school, is always scheduled for the Shabbat closest to Veterans Day, and this year fell on the first Friday night after the terrible loss of life in Pittsburgh, providing an opportunity for members of the congregation, as well as the interfaith community of greater Haverhill, to gather in solidarity and support of one another. In an evening filled with songs, readings, and prayers of peace, the service opened with the third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade students singing from Psalm 133: "How good it is that brothers and sisters dwell together." Cantor Vera Broekhuysen, spiritual leader of Temple Emanu-El, spoke from the heart about anti-Semitism to those who may have never experienced it directly: If there is a lesson for us all to learn from the tragedies that anti-Semitism has created, in Pittsburgh and throughout its long dark history, it is this: that simply tolerating each other's differences is not enough when those differences are attacked by words and acts of hate. We need to stand with each other, as you are standing here tonight with us. And we need to reach out to each other. We need to make connections that turn the pain of someone else, with those whom we might not have that much in common, into a pain that we feel. We need their joy to feel like our joy, too.

Haverhill Mayor James Fiorentini also addressed the crowd. Referring to a number of hate crimes occurring in recent days, Mayor Fiorentini concluded, "Out of the horrible events in Pittsburgh, out of the hatred and racist shootings in Louisville, out of the bombs and attempted murders of Democratic leaders, come important lessons. We as a nation will not tolerate this. Compassion, love and care will win out over hatred. And we will always stand with together, in good hours and in these dark hours. We shall overcome."

Cantor Broekhuysen was joined by thirteen clergy members from Haverhill and nearby communities: Rev. Lee Bluemel, North Parish Unitarian Universalist Church, North Andover; Pastor Alex Burgess, Ward Hill Church of Christ the King, Congregational, Haverhill; Ana Cardenas, Faith Formation Director at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish; Rev. Frank Clarkson, Unitarian Universalist Church of Haverhill; Pastor Will Green, Ballard Vale United Methodist Church, Andover; Pastor Chris Hart, Groveland Congregational Church, Groveland; Dris Jermoune, past president of the Islamic Cultural Society of Boston; Lahcen Khiyaty, Islamic Society of Greater Haverhill; Janet Morrow King, Director of Music, Trinity Episcopal Church in Haverhill; Rev. Dr. Julie A. Mavity Maddalena, Interim Pastor, Georgetown Congregational Church; Rev. Alice Mann, Haverhill; Imam Safa, Selimiye Mosque, Methuen; and Reverend Father Carlos Urbina, O.S.A., St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Lawrence. Victoria Kennedy, Bradford Christian Academy Head of School, joined the clergy on the bimah (platform) in Prayer.

In addition to Mayor Fiorentini, local civic leaders also in attendance included Congresswoman Niki Tsongas; State Representatives Diana DiZoglio, Linda Campbell, and Andy Vargas; Haverhill City Councillors Joesph Bevilacqua, Thomas Sullivan, and Melinda Barrett; and candidates currently seeking the opportunity to represent Haverhill and other communities in the Merrimack Valley.





As you can see by the Search Call Update graphic, your Profile Writing Team is <u>HARD</u> at work. They are right on target and meeting weekly to prepare our church profile.

Carol, Joan, Lew, Nancy, and Phyllis



Thanks to EVERYONE who helped make the Snowflake Fair so fun this year!! While it's not all about the money, it's nice to see that all that hard work pays off!

Here are the numbers by table:

Vendors \$2,180 Cookie Walk \$2,283 Country Store \$1,535 Jewelry \$665 Crafts \$793 Garden Table \$239 Good Finds Thrift Shop \$799 Grampa's Workshop \$232 Prize Drawings \$2,088 Meals \$1,763

I would like to thank everyone who baked, volunteered and bought cookies at the 2018 Snowflake Fair cookie table. We had an outstanding year, selling out by 1:45 pm on Saturday. The table made a total of \$2,282.50. What a weekend!!!! Without all your help we could not be this successful and I am totally grateful for everyone who participated at my table.

Thanks again!

Nancy Fitzgerald





A Theology of Popcorn

I was never any good at stringing popcorn to decorate the Christmas tree, because I loved to eat it. <u>I am huge fan of popcorn</u>. Popcorn conjures memories of drive in movies in the back of the family station wagon, and stories that inspire the imagination. Did you know that eating popcorn decrease your chances of colon cancer? There is however a downside to popcorn-it's messy and mostly carbohydrates.

So when the youth of church told me they wanted to buy a commercial popcorn machine I was hesitant, but before I threw water on their excitement I asked why, and what I began to hear from them was a Theology of Popcorn.

- 1. The smell of fresh popcorn in the air welcomes people and reminds us of simple times of joy.
- 2. Popcorn is messy, and when you hand someone a bag of popcorn you know they are going to drop some, and thus it becomes and instant invitation to be yourself, imperfections and all.
- 3. Popcorn feeds you and fills you, recognizing we all come seeking
- 4. Popcorn presents an image of God that is fun, casual, welcoming, non-pushy, and satisfying.
- 5. Popcorn served at movies dwells in the intersection of culture, big questions, and our human quest for meaning and purpose in our lives just like God's continuous call to us.

If you have any popcorn in the coming months take a second to notice the context, what is being said in that moment.



GCC Youth Group

Thanks to everyone who donated to the Thanksgiving Basket collection. With your generosity we were able to put together over 16 boxes of Thanksgiving food for the Council on Aging.

We hope you will all join us for the Advent Experience in December. Please reach out to BEAM or Caroline if you can help. We'll be meeting to start plans soon.

Thank you to all the young volunteers at the fair. It was wonderful to see so many color and craft with visitors and friends. Every young member of our church participated in the fair in some way!

Did you get to try the popcorn? The machine was generously donated by the Georgetown Kiwanis Club. Many batches of popcorn were shared with all. The aroma was as delicious as the taste. Maybe it's time we invest in a machine of our own?

We are growing in numbers and thinking of what the future will look like for Sunday School at GCC. We are always interested in hearing feedback!

Regards,

Nancy Cordaro



December 2018



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|---|--|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat 1 |
| 2 8:15 CHIME CHOIR | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | THRIFT SHOP |
| L STISCHINE CHOIR 10:00 WORSHIP AED TRAINING HOSPITALITY TRAINING | 12:00 WDGS BIBLE STUDY 6:00 YOGA | 5:30 CUB SCOUTS | 8:00 THRIFT SHOP 6:30 YOUTH CHOIR | 6:00 BOY SCOUTS 7:00 PROFILE TEAM | | 8:00 THRIFT SHOP 11:30-1:00 MONTHLY LUNCHEON 1:00 CUB SCOUT |
| 7:00 TAIZĖ MEDITATION | 7:30 TROOP 87 MEETING | | 7:30 SENIOR CHOIR | | | EVENT |
| 9 8:15 CHIME CHOIR 10:00 WORSHIP | 10 12:00 WDGS BIBLE STUDY | 11 | 12 8:00 THRIFT SHOP | 13 | 14 | 15 8:00 THRIFT SHOP |
| 1:00 CHRISTMAS CAROLING | 6:00 YOGA | 5:30 CUB SCOUTS | 6:30 YOUTH CHOIR 7:30 SENIOR CHOIR | 6:00 BOY SCOUTS 7:00 PROFILE TEAM | | 9:00 MEN'S BREAKFAST |
| 16 8:15 CHIME CHOIR 10:00 WORSHIP | 12:00 WDGS BIBLE STUDY | 18 EMMAUS MEAL DELIVERY | 19 8:00 THRIFT SHOP | 20 | 21 | 22 8:00 THRIFT SHOP |
| 3:00 ADVENT EXPERIENCE AND LIVE NATIVITY | 6:00 YOGA 7:00 CUB SCOUT LEADERS MEETING | 5:30 CUB SCOUTS 7:00 FAITH CIRCLE CHRISTMAS PARTY | 6:30 YOUTH CHOIR 7:30 SENIOR CHOIR | 6:00 BOY SCOUTS 7:00 PROFILE TEAM | 7:00 BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE | |
| 23 8:15 CHIME CHOIR 10:00 WORSHIP | 24 CHRISTMAS EVE 5:00 FAMILY SERVICE | 25 merry christmas | 26 8:00 THRIFT SHOP | 27 | 28 | 29 8:00 THRIFT SHOP |
| | 11:00 CANDLELIGHT SERVICE | | 6:30 YOUTH CHOIR 7:30 SENIOR CHOIR | 7:00 PROFILE TEAM | | |
| 30 8:15 CHIME CHOIR 10:00 WORSHIP PAJAMA DAY | 31 12:00 WDGS BIBLE STUDY | | | | | |

October 24, 2018 Barbara McGovern inducted to the Hall of Fame and recognized for her Lifetime Achievement as an Educator



"A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove. But the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child." Forest Witcraft, excerpt from Within My Power

We are so proud of BEAM!!

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



Be sure to join us at our next Community Lunch!

December 8 from 11:30-1:00

We'll be serving ham, macaroni and cheese, roasted squash, fruit compote and, of course, dessert!

Bring a friend!