



GROVELAND
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

The Bell

4 King Street

Groveland, MA 01834

www.grovelanducc.org 978-372-3463

Greetings...

We are in the home stretch now! In just over a year now it will be time to say goodbye. In the last few weeks I have been working with our leadership to map out some of our most important dates for next year, so I have already picked the day I would like to set aside to celebrate our ministry. Talk about a reality check! While we have all know that this day would come, seeing it on the calendar make it feel real and a bit scary. This will be our last Homecoming, our last Christmas, and our last Easter to spend together. I can already feel my tears lurking in the background. Our time together has been rich and meaningful and my heart is filled with gratitude for your willingness to share a bit of the journey together.

We are entering that stage of Interim ministry that is some of the hardest work, working towards the future, and getting ready to let go all with the same breath. Knowing that as we say "Goodbye" to one another we will be saying "Hello" to ministries with new partners and that doing so will ask us to keep our hearts fully open. Even though we know the Goodbye is on the horizon, it's not here yet! There is a lot we can do this next year, lots of opportunity to be the church God calls us to be. We still have lots of work to do between now and then. So let's acknowledge that the goodbye is coming but stay focused on getting all we can out of our next year together.

Tips for 2019 & 2020 (for both Congregation and Pastor)

- Avoid the excuse of "We should wait for the our next Pastor".
- Be willing to share tears just as much as joys.
- Pray for me and my family as we being to discern where God is calling us next (and will do the same for GCC).
- Remember that all things change.
- Invest your passion in the ministry of this Church.
- Set aside fear and keep your heart open.
- Find time to share personal moments of Gratitude, Joy and Fear.
- Ask questions; be curious.

In humble Gratitude,

Pastor Chris

Presentation of God and Me

Each Fall I offer to Scouts in our area the opportunity to earn the *God & Me, God & Family, God & Church, God & Life* awards. These are official awards that can be worn on the American Heritage Girls, Scouts BSA, and Girl Scouts of USA official uniforms. This year 5 students from Pack 50 in Georgetown participated in the program. I had the joy of attending their Pack Meeting in April and presenting their awards. It was very rewarding to be a part of these boys journey of faith.



It is with deep gratitude and a thankful heart that I extend a

THANK YOU!

on behalf of the entire church to the

Faith Circle



This gift is small reflection of your faith, fortitude, and commitment to the Groveland Congregational Church. Scripture tell us "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink"; this gift is one that empowers us all to extend the ministry of Hospitality to all those whom we serve. **Thank you!**

What's in a name?

I have heard folks say that the room we call the "middle office" is a private space, for those who use the office. After several conversations with the Ministry Team and Office Administrator, we realized we don't see it that way.

We would like for the room to be viewed as a congregational resource room, a place where resources like papers, mailboxes, yoga equipment, and what not can be stored and accessed by everyone. We want anyone in the congregation to feel like they can access the room and use the resources there. Jen and I work hard to make sure the room has the resources you might need and that they can be found easily.

What do we need to change in room to accomplish this?

Would changing the name to Resource Room or Congregational Resource Room help?

What are your thoughts?

COMMUNITY

Yoga

\$5 CLASS

MONDAYS AT 6:30 PM



Continuing throughout the summer!

Monday nights at 6:30

WORSHIP MINISTRY



It's back!! Worship on Wednesday!

This summer we will Worship on Wednesday once again. The dates are Wednesday June 26th thru August 14th. We will meet on the church lawn at 6:30 for a visiting time and some light refreshments and then at 7:00 pm when the bell rings we will enter the sanctuary for worship.

There will be no Sunday services until August 18th.



This year we were blessed to have our Youth Choir grow to include several new voices! The choir is open to anyone in the community ages 9 and up. They will begin meeting again in September on Wednesday evenings at 6:15 pm.



On March 15, the day after the shooting in Christchurch New Zealand, I went to Jomoaa in Haverhill. Jomoaa is afternoon prayers at the Islamic Society of Greater Haverhill. I was present with our local Muslim community helping them to know that in the crisis they were not alone. I was with about 10 folks from Temple Emanu-El.

Someone had left flowers and a note by the Society's driveway -- next to where a police officer was stationed. We were welcomed so graciously; several men set up chairs for us against the back of the prayer room, and we were given water bottles. A lovely (and loving) reflection was given during their time of prayer. The members of the society were so grateful that community members were there -- we were thanked multiple times by most of the people there (and hugs from the women in the women's prayer room). As was noted by their imam (or perhaps another worship leader), we are all children of God, here to support and love each other. Thank you, Pastor Chris, for being an active member of the interfaith community in our area -- I'm so glad for these connections!

--- Caroline Cranos

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

Pledge Campaign 2019-2020 - On behalf of the members and friends of GCC, the Stewardship Giving Team would like to thank all those who have contributed via a pledge to this wonderful faith community. Your financial gift is very important – regardless of size. We are facing a deficit of funding and will likely need to pull from endowments in order to balance the budget. Therefore, in addition to our sincere thank you, we also ask that you say a prayer! Pray for support. Pray for guidance...then come and join the conversation. Share your ideas for fundraising. Ask your company if they provide any matching gifts for non-profits. Ask your neighbor if they have ever attended an event here and would they be willing to send in a small donation. Talk with them about our missions and ask if they would like to help. There is much we can do to serve our community and serve God...but we do need funds if we are to continue to exist.

Have you noticed how sparkly clean the front of the church looks? Team Curb Appeal and the Ministry Team voted to hire a professional soft washer to remove the unsightly insects/organic growth/grim and rejuvenate our beautiful white façade. The Team continues to explore other improvements (along with creative funding) out front so we can better care for our historic building AND show the community how much we love GCC!!

Freedom, Fulfillment, Flourishing, Significance, Purpose, Impact

This morning I'd like to talk to you about the Four Principles of Biblical Stewardship. My information comes from Executive Director, Dr. Hugh Whelchel at the Institute for Faith, Work and Economics, located in McLean, Virginia.

First though I'd like to read a short quote from the late British Author, C.S. Lewis. He writes, "Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service, you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already."

In a recent blog on stewardship this question is raised. "What does stewardship look like in our lives today?" Unfortunately many Christians today only associate the idea of stewardship with sermons they have heard about dealing with church budgets and building programs. The idea of Biblical Stewardship is about something much more expansive. It is where the concepts of Faith, Work and Economics intersect. There are four important principles about Biblical Stewardship we must understand.

1. The principle of Ownership.

The psalmist begins the 24th psalm with, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it." In the beginning of Genesis, God creates everything and puts Adam in the Garden to work it and to take care of it. It is clear that man was created to work and that work is the stewardship of all of the creation that God has given him." This is the fundamental principle of Biblical Stewardship. God owns everything, we are simply managers or administrators acting on his behalf. Therefore, stewardship expresses our obedience regarding the administration of everything God has placed under our control, which is all encompassing. Stewardship is the commitment of one's self and possessions to God's service, recognizing that we do not have the right of control over our property or ourselves. Echoing Deuteronomy 8:17, we might say: "My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me." But, Deuteronomy 8:18 counsels us to think otherwise: Remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth.

2. The principle of responsibility.

Although God gives us, "all things richly to enjoy, nothing is ours. Nothing really belongs to us. God owns everything; we're responsible for how we treat it and what we do with it. While we complain about our rights here on earth, the Bible constantly asks, What about your responsibilities? Owners have rights; Stewards have responsibilities." We are called as God's Stewards to manage that which belongs to God. While God has graciously entrusted us with the care, development, and enjoyment of everything he owns as his Stewards, we are responsible to manage his holdings well and according to his desires and purposes.

3. The principle of accountability.

A Steward is one who manages the possessions of another. We are all Stewards of the resources, abilities and opportunities that God has entrusted to our care, and one day each one of us will be called to give an account for how we have managed what the Master has given us. This is the maxim taught by the Parable of the talents. God has entrusted authority over the creation to us and we are not allowed to rule over it as we see fit. We are called to exercise our dominion under the watchful eye of the Creator managing his creation in accord with the principles he has established. Like the servants in the Parable of the talents, we will be called to give an account of how we have administered everything we have been given, including our time, money, abilities, information, wisdom, relationships and authority. We will all give account to the rightful owner as to how well we managed the things he has entrusted to us.

4. The principle of reward.

In Colossians 3:23-24 Paul writes:

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” The Bible shows us in the parables of the Kingdom that faithful stewards who do the Master’s will, with the Master’s resources, can expect to be rewarded incompletely in this life, but fully in the next.

We all should long to hear the Master say what He exclaims in Matthew 25:21: “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your Master’s happiness!” As Christians in the 21st century, we need to embrace this larger biblical view of stewardship, which goes beyond church budgets or building projects, though important; it connects everything we do with what God is doing in the world. We need to be faithful stewards of all God has given us within the opportunities presented through his providence to glorify Him, serve the common good and further His Kingdom.

In the next two Sunday Services you will hear from other members of the 2019 Stewardship Team. You will also be sent written information and schedules that are important to a successful and vibrant Stewardship Campaign. If you have questions/concerns or need more information, please contact Sandy Keene, Minister of Stewardship.

FREEDOM---Freedom to share your Faith

FULFILMENT---Fulfillment of God’s Promise

FLOURISHING---Flourishing by expanding God’s Blessings

SIGNIFICANCE---Significance to ALL people

PURPOSE---Purpose of self-expression

IMPACT---Impact to Self, Community and the greater world

Thank you,

Dave Niles



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.



Special thanks once again to Mark Parenteau, Doug Soper and Ed Reed for their generous hard work on GCC grounds removing a precarious branch next to the church parking lot.



Team Safety First - Help Needed

Do you have a pickup truck? OR a strong young person looking for community service? OR would you be happy to help the church a little bit over the summer? Team Safety First is forming. The basement space needs a cleanout per Groveland Fire and the Building Inspector. We are looking for folks to help carry things out, organize supplies, build a storage cage, move some things around, stuff like that. If you can help, please contact Sandy Keene 978.457.6929 or keenehome@comcast.net.

Outreach Ministry

Thanks to all who have shared their **Kindness Campaign** giving stories. We've heard from over 50 participants so far and the bulletin board is filling up with inspiring stories! Haven't had a chance to read the bulletin board? Here is a giving story from Julie and Bill Fabri to get you started...

"We first took the opportunity to donate to the MSPCA. Ten years ago, our family adopted a horse that had spent 2 years at the MSPCA being rehabilitated after his prior owner starved and neglected him. The MSPCA will always be dear to our hearts for saving Razy and so many other animals!

We then made a donation to Camp TaKumTa in Vermont. This camp is for kids who are battling cancer – it gives them a week or two in the summer to just feel like normal kids. A couple of weeks ago, I happened to be on a ski chair lift making small talk with the man seated next to me. He asked where I was from, and when I told him Groveland, he immediately asked me if I knew the Reardon family. Apparently, this man used to be a camp counselor at Camp TaKumTa for Ryan Reardon, who was a friend of my daughters, and who had sadly passed away from Neuroblastoma in 2012. He knew the Reardon family well and relayed several stories about visiting Ryan in hospital and in Groveland."

It's not too late to add your giving story to the bulletin board or to find inspiration in the stories that have already been posted!



This year we will once again be a rest stop for the bikers participating in the Cycle for Shelter. Riders on the 20 mile route will stop at GCC for snacks and drinks and brief rest before heading back to Northern Essex for the finish. We need volunteers that morning from 10 am until 1 pm. If you can help, let Lisa Quinnan know! lanquin@msn.com



Thank you to everyone who donated items for the diaper bag collection. We had enough donations to fill 13 bags plus extra items that will be given to Emmaus house to be distributed to expectant or new mothers.



Greeting the riders with ice cream sundaes



Everyone left with smiles on their faces

Kindness Flash Mobs

We had a Lent like no other! Rather than exercise our intellectual minds, we got out into the world with our Kindness Flash Mob. Our goal was simple: each week we sought 1 opportunity to share Love and Hope with the world. No publicity sought, no thanks required. And we met our goal. We fed people at the park, we cleaned up yards, we shared "You Are Beautiful Stickers" and we sent care packages to young people making sure that they knew that their church loves them!

It was good!





**THE AIDS MEMORIAL
QUILT**
The NAMES Project Foundation

EXHIBITION
June 2nd-June 30

“Memorializing
The Past
Educating The Future”

June 2nd - 4 pm OPENING CEREMONIES
Phoenixrisingucc.org
Building 1 Door C Third Floor



Exhibition Open: Saturday & Sundays 1 PM- 6 PM
The Exhibition is Free to the public

June 2nd - 4pm Opening Ceremonies

June 15th - Trivia Fundraiser to benefit Phoenix Rising Community Center

June 30th - Closing and NAMES Project Naming Ceremony

Phoenix Rising UCC
354 Merrimack Street
Lawrence MA 01843
Building 1 Door A & C Third Floor
Phone: 978-891-5799
Email: Churchoffice@phoenixrisingucc.org



The quilt will be available by appointment throughout the entire month.



Perry Park Preschool
at the Groveland Congregational Church
978-374-6678

Now Enrolling!



www.perryparkpreschool.com

Help Wanted

Seeking Adult Leadership for musical / theatrical Easter Production for next spring. For more details speak with Pastor Chris.



Free Community Lunch

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




Gift Baskets

Although the weather is just warming up for summer time fun, the Snowflake Fair will be here before you know it!! Plans are already being made and the vendors are already signing up for their favorite spots. New this year...we will have a large heated tent with vendors in the church parking lot!!!

Ron Mertens and Jen Petersen will again be coordinating the Prize Drawing baskets. We'd love it if every church group would consider putting together a basket for the event. Think about what theme you'd like to use for your basket over the summer and let Jen in the office know by September 1st.



Trivia Night

Friday July 26!
Potluck Dinner 6:30
Trivia Night 7:30




1. Teams must register with Lucas Hart and pay the \$20 registration donation by July 17.
2. All Proceeds will be given to the charity designated by the winning team.
3. If you whole team dresses up to match your Team Name you can start the night with 5 extra points.

Coming this July...watch your email and bulletin announcements for more information!

Pentucket Regional High School traveling Art Show

From July 16-22 in Fellowship Hall



Congratulations to our Graduates!!

Shannon Fitzgerald, daughter of Rick and Nancy graduated from Framingham State University on May 26, 2019. She received her Bachelor's degree in Criminology with a minor in Psychology. She was inducted into the National criminal justice honor society, Alpha Phi Sigma. She will continue to volunteer for a rape crisis hotline. During this summer she will be job searching and taking a short break to travel abroad to Ireland.

Samantha Mosley is graduating from the University of Vermont. She is receiving a BS in Environmental Science with a concentration in Ecological Design, and a minor in Microbiology. She is currently doing an internship at UVM as a laboratory research assistant, performing tests for nutrient cycling in agricultural soils. Samantha has a broad range of interests, reflecting her compassion and kindness which complement her science skills. She is an artist; a writer; enjoys the outdoors and Vermont's natural resources, especially Lake Champlain; she loves friends and family, and of course animals; cats, and dogs, of which she plans to own many. So for Samantha, borrowing from Thoreau at Walden, "advance confidently in the direction of your dreams, and endeavor to live the life you have imagined, and you will meet with a success unexpected."

Groveland Congregational Church

United Church of Christ

Special Meeting Warrant

To: The members of the Groveland Congregational Church, a member of the United Church of Christ, in Groveland, Massachusetts.

Greetings: In accordance with Article V, Section A, Paragraph 2 of the bylaws, you are hereby notified that a Special Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 16, 2019 following morning worship to vote on the following articles:

Article 1: To see if the church will vote to accept the proposed budget for fiscal year July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020 current expenses as presented by the Minister of Stewardship, and to transfer General Fund cash balance from General Fund or to take any action there on.

Article 2: To see if the church will vote to adopt the new bylaws as presented by the Bylaws Team. (Requires approval of 2/3 of those present and voting.)

Article 3: To see if the church will vote to accept the nominations from the Ministry Team of Sue D'Angelo, Minister of Worship and Amy Szarek, Minister of Faith Formation.

Article 4: To hear and act on the nominations from the Ministry Team for the Search Team.

Article 5: To see if the church will approve funding for the Perry Park Preschool Security Improvement Project.

Article 6: To act on any additional business that may properly come before the church at this time.

Given under my hand this 26th day of May in the year of our Lord, two thousand and nineteen.

Jane A. Holden, Clerk

Interfaith Music Celebration ~ On Thursday, May 23rd, members of eight different faith communities joined together in song at Groveland Congregational Church. Each group shared a brief yet powerful example of their faith through music or, in the case of the Islamic Society, their Call to Prayer. At the end of the celebration, the groups joined together in the front of the sanctuary and sang "Let There Be Peace on Earth". Pastor Chris gave the benediction to the audience and participants while all held hands encircling the sanctuary.



UCC ramps up food pantries, hot meals in flooded Midwest

May 15, 2019

A widespread disaster with no end in sight has kept a massive area of the U.S. Midwest underwater for more than a month, since the “bomb cyclone” brought heavy snow and/or rain along with high winds to more than a dozen states in mid-March.

At least four people have died, and thousands have been displaced. Stretches of major highways have been damaged, with some still under water, and are closed. Waste water treatment and electrical systems have been compromised. Millions of bushels of stored crops have been lost.



Floods across the Midwest have caused billions of dollars of damage to homes, farms and other businesses. Continued rains in the Midwest and Ohio Valley, as well as floodwaters from the upper Mississippi River, are heading down the Mississippi.

Where water has receded, people are assessing the damage to their homes and deciding whether to rebuild, demolish or leave, said an Iowa pastor whose church is helping survivors with hot meals and a food pantry.

As communities begin to assess needs, UCC Disaster Ministries and Conference Disaster Coordinators are helping activate long-term recovery groups even as they working to support local UCC congregations in their initial response and already has provided \$15,000 to local UCC food pantries and hot meals programs in hard-hit Nebraska and Iowa.

This early financial support to communities is made possible through giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing's Emergency USA Fund.

“Among everything else you lose in flooding are all the groceries you had in your pantry,” said the Rev. Brice Hughes of Burlington, Iowa, coordinating the UCC's disaster response in Iowa, Nebraska and South Dakota. “Even with regular income, it's a challenge to restock your pantry staples.”

To help, UCC Disaster Ministries solidarity grants of \$3,000 each have gone to UCC congregations in Columbus, Omaha, Fremont and Arlington, Neb., and in Glenwood, Iowa. The latter - First Congregational - is partnering with other local churches to feed 100 people three meals a day every day (330 meals a day on average), Hughes reported. “There is no end in sight to the need. People aren't back in their homes yet. They estimate that if they were buying all the food they are preparing, it would cost approximately \$3 a meal (\$990 a day). They have received other donations of cash and in-kind. This response of theirs is massive.”

Along with meals, the Glenwood churches are stepping up spiritual support. The Rev. Susan Reed of First Congregational Church said, “We were (just) told the chances (some) homes could be salvaged was slim, and we would need to be much more prevalent at the site to provide comfort and care to those seeing their homes for the first time.”

Reed added, “(We) continually request prayers for solidarity and cooperation of all involved to meet the many needs of all those suffering.”

Hughes emphasized, “This is not a ‘past-tense disaster.’ It is a ‘present-tense’ disaster. The flood event in some places is going to be record length.” Nebraska and Iowa are bracing for even more water from the spring thaw in states to their west and north. Vast swaths of land, farms, homes and businesses are submerged, with damages estimated to be in the billions of dollars.

UCC Disaster Ministries' strength and focus remains on supporting long- term recovery work, which is the costliest and most underserved phase after a disaster

The UCC's Response

UCC Disaster Ministries has contributed an initial \$15,000 to begin the response to the needs of families and communities in impacted areas. Funds are to support food pantries and meals programs.

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

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