



GROVELAND
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

The Bell

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

Back by popular demand!!

FAITH CIRCLE IS PROUD TO
SPONSOR

DAVE STEPHENSON'S
*FAMOUS ROAST BEEF
DINNER*

Saturday April 18 at 6 PM

BEGINNING IN MARCH TICKETS WILL
BE ON SALE AFTER WORSHIP OR FROM
ANY FAITH CIRCLE MEMBER

\$15 KIDS 5-12 \$6
THERE WILL BE HOTDOGS AVAILABLE FOR KIDS

Join us as we gather to celebrate the two new
stoves that Faith Circle purchased and donated to
the church.



Easter Flowers

Tulips, Daffodils and Hyacinth will be on sale on March 22 and March 29th in
Fellowship Hall following church.

The flowers will be used to decorate the church on Easter Sunday and then you may bring
them home to decorate your gardens. Prices and order forms to follow.



Sunday March 1st - Sunday April 5th
Noon-ish -Soup & Bread Praying for our Enemies

Praying for your Enemies is a unique combination of practice and bible study focusing on turning hate into force for good. The program was created by Pastor Chris. Join us at noon for a simple meal of soup and bread followed by diving deep into developing the art of praying for your enemies.

To sign up contact the office today!



The 1st Week in May!

**May 3, 2020 after
worship**

Thanks to everyone who donated gifts for the DCF Wonder Fund this year. We had a fabulous wrapping crew who wrapped 33 gifts in record setting time. Thanks to everyone who loaded up the sleigh and to Sandy Daniels who delivered all the gifts to the DCF office in Bradford. All of you made Christmas a little brighter for some very vulnerable children. Extra gifts appeared this year as well and were split between DCF and Pettengill House.



OPERATION BACK PACK

The Mission Possible project for this year is going to be "Operation Backpack" for The Pettengill House in Salisbury.

This program through Pettengill House serves hundreds of children in need each year. They supply backpacks with school supplies for kids in Kindergarten through High School. Beginning March 15th there will be a bin in Fellowship Hall to collect your much appreciated donations. The program will run until June 14th.

These are the things that they are especially in need of:

Three ring-binders and dividers any size, pocket folders, composition notebooks, colored pencils, sharpies, expo markers, pencil sharpeners and pencil cases.

Backpacks can consist of sturdy backpacks to cute elementary school backpacks. No need to put everything in the backpack. Once everything is dropped off the children get to choose the backpack and supplies they need at Pettengill House.

Any donations would be greatly appreciated!!

Ruth Hesse is coordinating this effort and can be reached with any question at 978-375-5874 or email at hesse1305@aol.com



Groveland Congregational & Phoenix Rising United Church of Christ

Phoenix Rising has been meeting on Sunday nights for worship and a shared meal since late November. The partnership works well! Pastor Donna and Pastor Chris meet on a regular basis for conversation and already our churches have seized opportunities for partnership and collaboration.

Phoenix Rising is using the bulletin board just outside Fellowship Hall. If you have not already done so, take a minute to read our shared covenant posted there. The congregation will be asked to approve it at our Annual Meeting. If there are items that need clarification we would like to do that prior to the meeting.

GCC Food Pantry Mission

We are now collecting food on the first Sunday of every month during worship. The food will be collected by the children during the service and we will deliver to the pantries.

MARCH- OPEN HAND PANTRY located in the basement of the Unitarian Church in Haverhill, open on Tuesday 4:00pm – 7:00pm, operated by St. James and St. John Parishes.

Requested donations are:

Hot cocoa	Instant Oatmeal	Ketchup	Mustard	Jelly/Jam
Pasta salad	Peanut Butter	Mayo	Coffee	Cereal
Tuna/Devil Ham	Spaghetti Sauce	Canned Beef Stew/Chicken		
Tea Bags	Body Wash	Shampoo/Toothpaste/deodorant		
Soap	Ice tea/Lemonade/Kool Aid Mix			

APRIL-WEST NEWBURY COA provides programs to meet the problems of the aging. They are here to evaluate and advocate the needs of the elderly. The council maintains information, knowledge and interest in the local, state and federal affairs which relate to the welfare of the aging. Requested donations are:

Paper products (towels, tissues, plates) Pasta Sauce Jelly/Jam Snacks (cookies, chips, granola bars, crackers) Pull ups (2T, 3T, 4T) Bladder Control Pads

MAY-PETTENGILL serves Amesbury, Byfield, Groveland, Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport, Rowley, Salisbury and West Newbury. They provide staple food and personal items to people in need. Located in Salisbury open Tuesdays 9:00am-2:00pm & 4:00pm-6:00pm. Requested donations are: Nonperishable food items, toiletries and paper products.

JUNE-GROVELAND COA advocates for Groveland's older adults and identifies their needs to develop and implement services, to meet their health, economic, social and cultural needs to improve their quality of life. Pantry is open Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00am-2:00pm. Requested donations are: Nonperishable food items, toiletries and paper products.

Our church has been sharing in this ministry for many years. Those who are receiving bless you all and are extremely grateful. Our church helps lift the hunger burdens from our struggling neighbors. Please remember to check your donations' expiration dates as the pantries cannot use out of date items. Also assisting in this important mission is: Kim Mosley, Sandy Daniels, Deb Stephenson, Carol Mansell, Carol Patnaude, Tony DeSimone, Ruth Hesse, and Nancy Fitzgerald.



Christmas at Groveland Congregational was absolutely wonderful. I so love the atmosphere as the church fills with people seeking the birth of light and hope. It is simply miraculous to me...

In between the two services I was walking between Fellowship Hall and the sanctuary when I was suddenly overcome by sadness and grief. I had to pause while tears filled my eyes. I realized it was the last Christmas I would celebrate with Groveland Congregational. In the blink of an eye, we will be landing on June 21st. While that day won't be my last day here, it will be the day we celebrate the partnership and ministry we have shared over the last four years.

At our annual Leaders' retreat we talked about how Groveland has said goodbye to previous pastors, and as you might guess, the answer is that "it's complicated". Frankly speaking we are not good at it and have had limited opportunities to practice it. Our goodbyes to previous pastors have ranged from hurtful, stressful, and jagged to nonexistent. Goodbyes have been characterized as times of division and anger within our congregation. I don't want any of these for our last days!

We have known from the start that our journey together was temporary and I know that God is calling me onward and I am sad to leave. Saying goodbye is hard work, especially seeing as there is still work to be done **BUT** saying goodbye is also important! A quality goodbye can give us a sense of closure, lets us set our memories on a foundation of Jubilee. Goodbye can empower us to move into the future while recognizing that our past experience and behavior do not prescribe our future. Saying goodbye helps us sort out the best of who the other is and carry that piece as a gift into the future.

My vow to you is that even though I am sad I will not shy away or pull away from you before it is time to depart. I pledge to see these coming months as an invitation to trust the love and joy we have shared without overlooking the struggles and conflicts. I promise to look towards resurrection, transformation, and new life promised to us in following the way of Jesus.

Pastor Chris

Outreach Ministry News

The second Saturday free community luncheon celebrated its 5th anniversary on January 11th with its largest crowd ever! Those of us who are involved in this ministry love breaking bread with the community each month. We'd also love to have more people join us in preparing, serving and socializing. If you'd like to join in please take to Lisa Quinnan or Deb Stephenson.

Each week people drop off donations at our Thrift Shop. Our dedicated volunteers sort them, display them and sell them. But then what happens? All the money raised goes back into the community to support our neighbors. In this issue of The Bell we are spotlighting 2 of the recipients of Thrift Shop funds.

- **Pettingill House** has locations in both Amesbury and Salisbury and was founded in 1994. In 2019 Pettingill House provided case management, advocacy and support services to 2,007 adults and 1,006 children. Support services include substance abuse/mental health, meals, backpacks, winter coats and family services. All programs support self-determination and quality of life issues and have built in client mandates which foster independence, self-sufficiency, and education to improve quality of individual and family life.
- **Emmaus House** opened its first shelter in Haverhill in 1987 and GCC has been supporting their ministry almost since Day 1. They are resolving homelessness one family and one person at a time. Emmaus helps their clients find and settle into affordable housing, obtain employment, access health care and behavioral services and take advantage of career counseling and educational opportunities. Over the past year Emmaus assisted 2,291 homeless people including 1,016 children, 204 victims of domestic violence, 42 senior citizens and 30 veterans. Emmaus owns and operates 98 apartments which provide stable housing for formerly homeless families and disabled adults. Support from GCC helps Emmaus defeat homelessness by building opportunities.

Newburyport Choral Society Spring 2020 Concert – Elijah



Saturday, May 2, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, May 3, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

**Belleville Congregational Church
300 High Street, Newburyport**

Our Spring 2020 concert represents the culmination of the 85th Anniversary of NCS. Fittingly, we will perform one of the world's greatest works from the 19th century, Felix Mendelssohn's oratorio *Elijah*.

Combining biblical stories of the prophet from various books of the Old Testament, the piece features highly dramatic and theatrical passages narrated by accomplished baritone soloist Nicholas Davis, with additional arias by soprano, alto and tenor soloists, and of course, resplendent choral passages performed by NCS.

For this special performance, the NCS orchestra will include a professional orchestra of approximately 30 musicians including strings, brass, woodwinds and percussion.

We hope you will join us for these spectacular performances to celebrate the 85th Anniversary of NCS.

Tickets will be available online at www.newburyportchoralsociety.org and at local ticket outlets in early March. Stay tuned for details.

Altar Flowers Available Dates

June 14, July 26, November 29

Sue Campbell suggested if anyone would like to pick flowers from her garden for the summer dates they were more they're welcome to do that. If interested in any of the dates please contact Nancy Fitzgerald at 978-373-0242 or njtravel2@comcast.net



Looking for a picture/s of the Hotdog cart / trailer that GCC use to run at Topsfield Fair....



In January our Cub Scouts held their annual Pinewood Derby! An event so big they have to have it at Bagnall School. Well over 200 scouts, Parents, Grandparents, Aunts and Uncles were present for an amazing event. Cub Master Jim Quinnan did an AMAZING JOB! -*Pastor Chris*



I want to thank you all for an amazing day celebrating my Ordination Anniversary. Your gifts, thoughts and prayers were overwhelming. The service was an emotional roller coaster of happiness and joy... The gift of sharing that day with me is will I will treasure forever. Thank you! -*Pastor Chris*

Holy Week



Elements of a traditional Lenten service



Easter Sunrise Service
Easter Breakfast
Easter Celebration

5:15 am @ Veasey Park
7:00 am @ GCC
10:00 am @ GCC



Sing for Easter

This year Easter Sunday falls on April 12th. We are all looking forward to lovely spring weather and daffodils blooming! How would you like to experience the joy of singing with the choir for Easter? This would be a short commitment sure to bring you joy. The choir will begin working on the Easter music in March. Feel free to come down to rehearsal on Wednesday evenings at 7:30. You do not need to know how to read music; there is plenty of help available, and the choir is very friendly and welcoming! For more information, you can speak to Kathleen Tucker Gustafson or Linda Paulet.

Lenten Candlelight Taizé Meditation Service

Our next Taizé meditation service will be held on Palm Sunday, April 5th at 7:30 PM in the sanctuary. We will prayerfully remember Jesus as he heads toward Jerusalem and his suffering and death on the cross. If you have never had the chance to attend one of these services, you will find it to be a very peaceful, meditative experience. The sanctuary is dimly lit by candlelight; there are readings from Scripture, prayers, petitions, short repeated sung refrains, and an extended period of silent meditation as we sit together in the candlelight. This service, which lasts about a half hour, is a wonderful way to enter into Holy Week.

In our prayers...

Julie DiScipio (friend of Kathleen)
Ellen Maxwell (req by Kathleen)
Larry Dodge (Nancy's brother)
Rev. Elizabeth King
Chip Sheehan (Gustafsons)
Marlin Welcome (local child)
Kastrinelis Family
Leanne Hanson
Kathy Blakesley (Deb Stephenson's niece)
Debbie Hammell
Gerry Cummings
Christine Parenteau
Barbara E. A. McGovern (BEAM)
Kelly Tullis-Martinez (Bonnie's stepdaughter)
Abigail Smith (Caryl Haley's great niece)
Joe Janvier (friend of Tilden family)
Steve Cali (friend of the Tilden family)
JohnTorrissi
Eddy Montero (friend of Steve Spaulding's)
Ruth Gilford
Patricia Driscoll



Bonnie had a lovely visit with Bud recently

Scholarship Season

There are several Scholarship Opportunities at Groveland Congregational Church. The Scholarship Team is accepting applications for the *Maddock Scholarship*. Contact the church office or go onto our website at www.grovelanducc.org for an application form. Applications must be postmarked by Friday May 1st.

Faith Circle is accepting application letters for two scholarships that will be presented on Baccalaureate Sunday. Following are details on each of the scholarships and application requirements:

The *Faith Circle Scholarship* is presented to the graduating high school senior who is pursuing a post-secondary education in an accredited 2 or 4-year school/college. Application is made in the form of a written letter by the candidate and should include details on the candidate's church involvement at Groveland Congregational, school involvement, community involvement and the field of study and school they are planning to attend and when. The letter should be sent to Faith Circle Scholarship Committee, Groveland Congregational Church, 4 King Street, Groveland, MA 01834 and be postmarked by Friday, May 1st.

The *Judy Henry Scholarship* is presented to a female church member who is returning to school for either certification of completion of requirements in a specific field of study or pursuing a 2-4 year undergraduate or post-graduate degree program. The letter of application must include information about your church involvement at GCC, information about the field of study you will be pursuing and how this education will benefit you. Letters should be sent to the Faith Circle Scholarship Committee, Groveland Congregational Church, 4 King Street, Groveland, MA



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

Update list with corrections!

March 8	The Ministry of Faith Circle
March 15	The Ministry of Community Lunch
March 22	The Ministry of Emmaus Meal & Panera Bread
March 29	The Ministry of The Thrift Shop
April 19	The Ministry of the Men's Breakfast
April 26	The Ministry of Choral Choir
May 17	The Ministry of Yoga
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

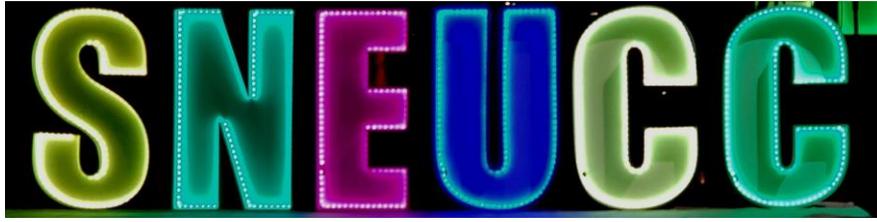
The word "jubilee" comes from the Hebrew word jobel, which means "ram's horn". It was the ram's horn that was used to trumpet in the beginning of the jubilee year. Jubilee was a year of forgiving debts, returning land, a year returning and recentering life around God. A Year of Jubilee is a year of feasts and celebrations that fill us with joy despite our hardships and allow gratitude and hope to fill us anew. Jubilee is not just celebration, it's also a year of confession and forgiveness; otherwise our joy is shallow. Jubilee means being real about who and where we are 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 -Pastor Chris



There is a very believable scam happening around the country. They're asking worshipers for gift card contributions for a worthy cause (often a well-known local cause). Appeals are often made by email, but we've heard people are also getting texts and phone calls, too.

The scam often includes the name of the local pastor and a legitimate looking email address. The imposter asks you to buy a popular gift card — frequently, iTunes, Google Play, or Amazon — and then asks for the gift card number and PIN on the back of the card. Those numbers let the scammer immediately get the money you loaded onto the card. And once that's done, the scammer and your money are gone, usually without a trace.

Pastor Chris or Groveland Congregational Church will NOT ask you to buy gift cards. If you get a suspicious email please and call the church office.



The Southern New England Conference officially came into being with the New Year, and the change is becoming more and more visible.

At the end of December, the Conference's Articles of Incorporation were filed with the Massachusetts Secretary of State's office, establishing it as a nonprofit. On Jan. 1, employees of the three historic conferences became employed by the Southern New England Conference.

Perhaps more visibly, the Conference launched a new [Facebook page](#) and new website - sneucc.org - and all staff now have email addresses that end in sneucc.org (last name first initial @ sneucc.org, such as vailt@sneucc.org).

Conference staff had their first all-staff meeting together over two days in December. They will now be organized under the new, transitional structure, with new lines of supervision and new team configurations. (Related: [Transitional Realignment of Staff Planned, July 28, 2019](#))

Staff (with the exception of those from the historic Rhode Island Conference - [see related article here](#)) continue to work out of the same offices in Framingham, MA, and Hartford, CT, where they have been working. Contact information can be found on the new [website staff directory](#).

All of these steps mark a starting point, rather than the arrival at a destination.

"If we are to be faithful, there is something unique about our new Conference," said Bridge Conference Minister Rev. Don Remick. "What lies ahead is neither the proverbial sprint nor the marathon. God is always calling us to the place in between, where we surrender the future to the will of God. Our scripture keeps reminding us that God is found there: in the wilderness, on the road, in the tomb, in the liminal spaces where it is God on whom we must rely. This is not a new year, nor an epiphany, that reveals something new. It is one more moment in God's continuous evolution. Come join your journey."

Just as the Conference is in its beginning stages of existence, so is the Conference's new website.

The new site is now home to all news articles, event listings, blog posts, devotionals, newsletters, classifieds and similar content for the new Conference, including news and blog archives from the historic conferences. Anyone following links for those types of items either on the historic sites or on older newsletters or social media posts will be automatically redirected to the new website. But many of the resources that existed on the three historic sites have not yet been transitioned to the new site. They can still be found on the historic sites, with links leading to them from the new site.

"While we would have liked to have had the new website immediately take the place of the three historic sites, that just wasn't practical" said Tiffany Vail, Associate Conference Minister of Communications. "It will take time for the newly combined staff to map out what their ministries will look like going forward, and to review, update and consolidate the resources on the historic sites. The content will be transitioned to the new site, and the old sites phased out, over the coming months."

The new site is designed around the four main points of the new Conference's Vision statement: *Make Disciples of Jesus, Make God's Love and Justice Real, Bring New Life as Agents of Change, Form Covenant Partnerships.*

Summer Camp for You!



Silver Lake

Progressive Christian Values

Community • Inclusion • Justice • Love

Connecting with something bigger than ourselves

Silver Lake staff, counselors, and deans are ready to introduce you to camp! Take a tour on foot or hop on the hayride. See cabins and winterized buildings, find out where the Freds (bathrooms) are, and check out the ropes courses and the waterfront.

A visit to Silver Lake before camp is the best way for a first-time camper to know what to expect — you might even run into a new friend who will be in the same conference this summer! We'll provide the cookies, you bring your questions. See you there!

**WANT MORE
INFORMATION?
ASK PC!**



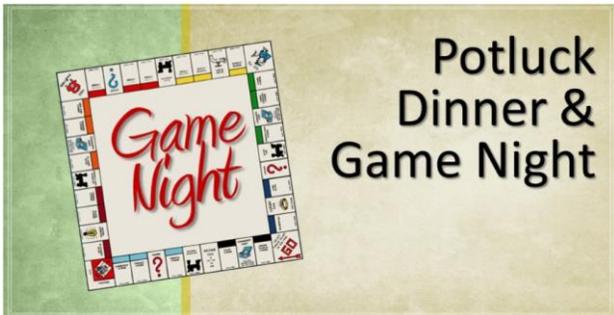
Explore all Silver Lake has to offer you online at

www.silverlakect.org

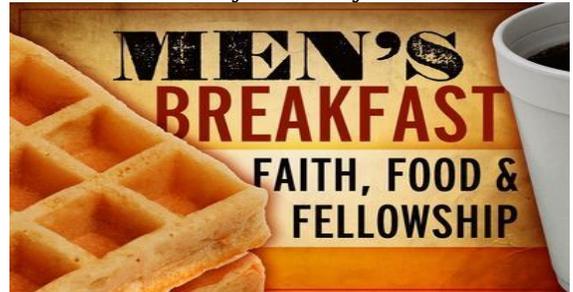
The Outdoor Ministry Program of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ

Groveland Congregational Church
4 King Street
Groveland, MA 01834
Return Service Requested

FOURTH FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH AT 6:30 PM



The third Saturday of every month at 9 AM



Free Community Lunch

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



COMMUNITY

\$5 CLASS

Yoga

MONDAYS AT 6:30 PM

