



GROVELAND
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH

The Bell

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

Fall 2020

From the Worship Team

The Worship Team has been hard at work fulfilling their commitment to the Groveland Congregational Church.

A commitment was made by us to you, our church family, to move the church forward while navigating the changes brought on by the Coronavirus and the loss of our interim pastor.

We began in early spring by suggesting the service be moved to the church parking lot or other outdoor venue. There would be problems, but Pastor Chris liked the idea and with the help of Pastor Donna and many others, created an extraordinarily successful outdoor program that lasted from early spring through August. God blessed our congregation with barely a blip in the weather for each Sunday.

As the summer moved on it became clear that the time would come when we would either close the church or find a way to be a new church indoors, utilizing the mandated protocols dictated by the virus and the regulations and safety concerns associated with it, we began. This was a time of intense prayer, research and planning, knowing all the time that it could all change in an instant. We never became discouraged.

Whenever something we thought would work and then could not, our strategy was to keep looking in other directions until a solution could be found. With the help of God, the solutions always came.

Here we stand. The doors of the church are open. The organ is playing, and we are safely seated in the sanctuary worshipping together. Pastor Donna, as well as other supply pastors, have eagerly offered to provide their services to our congregation and all required precautions offering a healthy environment are in place. It is not the same, but we can do this. I passionately believe that it is for these reasons that we have become more appreciative of our church than ever before. The first time you come back, the first time you see your friends, when you hear Linda playing the organ, there will be tears. Our souls have been hungry; our church will feed our souls again. Hope is coming for a new and better normalcy. If you are thinking that the old way was good, it was. It just will never be that way again. Again, I say, we can do this. As to date,

- Perry Park Preschool will open.
- Boy Scout meetings have been reinvented and will return in the early fall.
- Chime Choir will begin in September with an increased schedule at services.
- The Thrift Shop has resumed their regular hours and are accepting donations.
- The Snowflake Fair is on. **On-Line that is!**
- Sunday School will still connect with the kids
- Church as always, 10:00, bell ringing, music playing, praising God together. AMEN

Thank you all for your support and faith in our process for reopening. We will continue to serve our church community to find more ways to add to our needs.

Susan A. D'Angelo, Minister of Worship



The Thrift Shop has re-opened!

After almost 5 months of being closed due to COVID, the Groveland Congregational Church Thrift Shop volunteers have re-opened the store.

There are some precautions in place for everyone's safety:

- Masks are required
- No more than 4 customers at a time
- No bathrooms or changing rooms available

Thanks to everyone who has helped in the success!!

Fall Taizé Ecumenical Meditation Service



Watch for news of our Taizé meditation service coming this fall!

Faith Formation is working on some exciting activities and events for the youth of our church. Please keep a look out for updates in the weekly bulletin and website. News will be posted as events occur. Since we are unable to meet in church for Sunday School we will be providing alternatives. If you are interested in helping, donating small prize items, or are just want to know what we are planning - please call Amy Szarek at 978-380-2902 or mszareka@earthlink.net; or Jackie Denoi at 975 857 2287 or JTDenoia@gmail.com.



On July 16th, a group of about 50 church members gathered with Pastor Chris Hart and his family for a social distanced farewell party. Lisa Wright, church member and owner of Lisa's Dogs, brought her hot dog trailer and cooler and served everyone hotdogs and cold drinks. It was a wonderful evening filled with fellowship and lots of laughs as folks got a chance to say goodbye to Pastor Chris and his family. July 22nd was Chris' last worship service with us. He is now at Christ Church United in Dracut.

Special thanks to Carol Hurn, our Minister of Hospitality, for throwing a great farewell party!

In our prayers...

Julie DiScipio (friend of Kathleen)
Ellen Maxwell (req by Kathleen)
Larry Dodge (Nancy's brother)
Don Powell (Barb Harrold's brother)
Chip Sheehan (Gustafsons)
Marlin Welcome (local child)
Leanne Hanson
Kathy Blakesley (Deb Stephenson's niece)
Barbara E. A. McGovern (BEAM)
Colleen Wolfenbarger (Prescott's niece)
Martin Casey (Erin Winningham's father)
Jim Noyes (friend of Kathleen's)
Kirsten Helgeland (friend of Linda and Kathleen)

If you would like to add the name of a loved one to the church's prayer list, email the church office anytime and request that someone be added to the list.

Happy Birthday!!



9/3 Alan Wiswell
9/4 Susan D'angelo
9/5 Lynda Pelletier
9/6 Bob Lay
9/7 Molly Janvrin
9/9 Kara Keene
9/13 Linda Niles
9/13 Lucille Condon
9/16 Linda Prescott
9/17 Ed Harnden
9/17 Karl Szarek
9/17 Lucas Hart
9/22 Lisa Spencer
9/23 Lauren Sullivan
9/24 Bill Formosi
10/2 Shannon Fitzgerald
10/3 Jim O'Leary

10/3 Julia Faulkner
10/3 Kasey Favor
10/5 Dorris O'Leary
10/8 Dean Everson
10/11 Shannon O'Hara
10/17 Bonnie Surowiec
10/24 Carol Mansell
10/28 Bill Fabri
10/31 Jacob Bates
11/7 Jim Pelletier
11/9 Bill Forsyth
11/14 David Niles
11/14 Emma Formosi
11/17 Barb Harrold
11/20 Deb Stephenson
11/27 Ron Mertens

September at GCC

On Sunday September 6th we will resume our Sunday worship services with Reverend Roger Lier leading us in worship. It is also our first Sunday streaming the worship service on the GCC facebook page.

September 13th is Homecoming Sunday and we will have communion and worship service with the Reverend David Van Arsdale. It's not the Homecoming Sunday we're all used to. Unfortunately we still are unable to gather together in Fellowship Hall and share food and laughter together. Hopefully someday soon. But we will welcome all who come that morning, both in person and on facebook.

September 20th and 27th will also be Reverend Roger Lier in the pulpit.

The Search Team is hard at work interviewing candidates for our settled pastor position. If they need additional time beyond the end of September, I will share the names of our supply pastors for October once I have them.

Please keep the Search Team in your prayers as they complete this very important business for the church.

And Happy Anniversary Wishes

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



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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.



Virtual Snowflake Fair plans are underway! Stay tuned for more information.

