



GROVELAND  
CONGREGATIONAL  
CHURCH

# The Bell

4 King Street  
Groveland, MA 01834  
[www.grovelanducc.org](http://www.grovelanducc.org) 978-372-3463

Spring 2021

## From the Pastor:

*"Then Jesus said to his disciples, "All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me. All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me will find them. Why would people gain the whole world but lose their lives? What will people give in exchange for their lives?" – Matthew 16: 24-26*

## Dear Beloved:

I wonder, have any of you seen the movie, Selma? It tells the story of how Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King led the march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama to protest the inability of blacks to vote. It was a powerful movie and a painful reminder of a dark time in our nation's history. I remember watching the news footage on television as young child and asking my parents why Dr. King and the people he led didn't fight back. My parents explained that Dr. King was a man who believed in non-violent protest. He believed that is how Jesus would have him respond. I now understand after having read many of Dr. King's letters and speeches. He felt that by not responding to violence with violence he was following Jesus' example and command to take up his cross and follow him. Dr. King took up his cross in the cause of racial equality. He knew it was risky, but his faith compelled him to do it anyway. Others joined him in support of his march, including a white man, a Unitarian minister from Boston, named James Reeb. Rev. Reeb was beaten to death by white segregationists for his support and participation in the march. He too, took up his cross to follow Dr. King, and who, as we now know, paid with his life as well.

Sometimes we mistakenly believe that the struggles we have in this life are our crosses to bear. Whether it be illness, financial struggles, loss of a job, marital or family struggle, etc. But that isn't what Jesus meant when he told us to pick up our cross and follow him. Our cross is something we choose to take on because we see that it will result in lessening or eliminating the suffering of another.

In terms of the path we walk as followers of Jesus, picking up the cross is a free choice. We are asked by Jesus to do so in order to alleviate the suffering of someone else. This choice may very well cause us pain and hardship. But it is our choice. It is not forced on us, it is an invitation to which we hopefully will freely respond.

Jim Wallis, author of Rediscovering Values writes: "Every Lent we are asked to make voluntary sacrifices in remembrance of the One, who sacrificed all for us. Our fast reminds us that it is God alone on whom we should depend, not on earthly things...in times of great change, we have a greater need for deepening existing community bonds and reaching out in new ways."

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From previous page...

In what ways do we as Christians appropriately respond to all that is occurring in country and our world today? Especially when we are overwhelmed with concern, by fear and uncertainty?

Most of us will likely never be asked to carry a cross that will require us to put our lives at great risk and probable death like Rev. Dr. King and Rev. Reeb. But God does call each of us to answer the call to carry some cross in our lives of faith.

All of us are asked to carry a cross to relieve some suffering or injustice in this world. What is, or has God, been calling you to respond to? Perhaps during this Lenten season as we reflect on Jesus' journey to the cross we could pray for the discernment and courage to pick up our crosses in order to faithfully follow Jesus. This issue of the Bell has some suggestions for you.

We have the ability to help change the world, to make God's kin-dom a reality. Let's pray for the courage and grace to do just that.

*"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."*

*— Martin Luther King Jr.*

God loves you and so do I.

Pastor Robin

### **Lenten Practices**

As we enter the season of Lent, some of us look for ways to draw closer to God as we reflect on Jesus' journey to the cross. Below are suggestions for six weekly practices to engage on your own Lenten journey.

#### **Week One**

**Courage** – Jesus asks us to pick up our crosses and follow him. This takes courage. Pray for the courage to pick up the cross you have been called to carry.

#### **Week Two**

**Prayer** – Jesus tells us to pray not just for ourselves and our loved ones, but for our enemies as well. Think of someone you consider to be an enemy – someone personally known to you or a public figure. Pray for them. Not your will for their lives, but God's will. Do this every day for a week.

#### **Week Three**

**Silence** – Spend 5 – 10 minutes very day in silence. Do not speak to God, but rather, create the space for God to speak to you.

#### **Week Four**

**Gratitude** – Gratitude is more than an expression. It is a way of life. When we live in gratitude, we are better able to see and experience the blessings in our live. Keep a gratitude journal. Each day write down at least three things you are grateful for.

#### **Week Five**

**Give** – We give of ourselves by using the gifts God has given us to serve others. Challenge yourself to explore your gifts and talents and creatively use them to serve others.

#### **Week Six**

**Reflect** – Living a full life requires change. During this week, reflect on each of the previous weeks and what you have learned. How will you recommit yourself to those actions even after this journey is over?



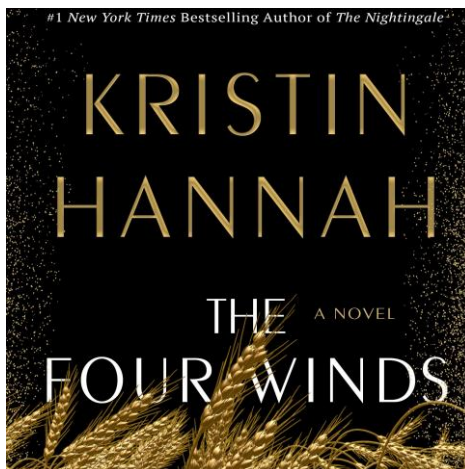
## Palm Sunday Taizé Meditation Service

All are welcome to enter into Holy Week with our Palm Sunday Candlelight Taizé Meditation Service which will be live streamed on the church's Facebook page on Sunday evening, March 28th, at 7:00 PM. The program for the service will be on the Facebook page as well as the church's Friday email.

This is a wonderful way to enter into the spirit of Holy Week as we remember Jesus' suffering and death. Give yourself the gift of these few moments of reflection, peace and gratitude.

## GCC Book Club Selection for March →

Our next meeting is March 11 at 7 pm on ZOOM. Everyone is welcome to join!



## Virtual Coffee Hour

Grab your coffee and computer and join us for Zoom Coffee Hour! All are welcome; that means non-members too! Join us on ZOOM to catch up with your church family. Feel free to join in for 5 minutes or for however long you want - come and go freely. It will be just like "old times" but in the safety and comfort of your home. Login will be in the Friday email.



The Thrift Shop is planning to re-open on Wednesday March 10<sup>th</sup>. Please hold off on dropping off your donations until March 5<sup>th</sup>. See you soon!!

## Worship Team

Hello Everybody!

The Worship Team has been busy meeting every week to find ways to get you back in church safely and to find ways to bring hope for the next chapter in this new world we are navigating together.

WE MISS YOU!

While we were sad not to be together for Advent and Christmas, we are happy that everyone could join together virtually to share together in worship. Thank you to the Media Team for all your hard work!

We are working on a plan to gather together again for worship. We're watching the COVID numbers closely and over the next couple of weeks we will announce plans. We will continue to follow the guidelines as before and ask that you do your part to help keep our church home safe.

Sunday February 21, at 11:00 was our first after church ZOOM COFFEE HOUR hosted by Susan Tilden, Worship Team Shepherd. We will continue to host Coffee Hour on ZOOM at 11:00 am each week. Please come and enjoy fellowship with us as we begin new traditions and say hello to all your friends. This is a perfect time to catch up. If you need assistance using ZOOM anyone in the church office or on the team will be happy to help get you on the meeting. Grandchildren are good for that too!

The Thrift Shop is making plans to reopen soon as well...stay tuned and keep cleaning out those closets!

The Worship team is in the process of creating a group of young adults comprised of scholarship awardees, High School graduates, college students home due to COVID or for any other young men and women who could or would like to help by giving of their time and intellect to the church. This group will learn about the mechanics of running a church, assist in the service, participate in the teams, and familiarize themselves with all the intricacies of running a successful church. Our hope is that they will find a comfortable spot in their church family as we honor support and appreciate their entrance into adulthood. They are our future; we need them to share and help implement their ideas. If you are interested in participating, reach out to a member of the Worship Team for more information. Members of the team will contact you for future events and opportunities as we move through the organization of this team model.

Pray together as we move forward in a hopeful and happier time for all!

Susan A. D'Angelo

Minister of Worship

If you have any questions, please contact me: Susan D'Angelo- [susandan41@hotmail.com](mailto:susandan41@hotmail.com)

## Easter Flowers

We will be decorating our worship space, whether it's outside or in, with Tulips, Daffodils and Hyacinths this year.

Prices and order forms will be included in an upcoming Friday email. The deadline for ordering this year will be Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup>.



**Traditionally, it is common to fast and make sacrifices during Lent. If you are looking for a Lenten practice this year, perhaps fasting from one to a few of these things may be something for you.**

### **40 Things to Give Up For Lent**

- |                               |                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Fear of failure            | 21. Bitterness            |
| 2. Your comfort zone          | 22. Distraction           |
| 3. Feelings of unworthiness   | 23. Giving up             |
| 4. Impatience                 | 24. Mediocrity            |
| 5. Retirement                 | 25. Destructive speech    |
| 6. People pleasing            | 26. Busyness              |
| 7. Comparison                 | 27. Loneliness            |
| 8. Blame                      | 28. Disunity              |
| 9. Guilt                      | 29. The quick fix         |
| 10. Over commitment           | 30. Worry                 |
| 11. Lack of counsel           | 31. Idolizing             |
| 12. Impurity                  | 32. Resistance to change  |
| 13. Entitlement               | 33. Pride                 |
| 14. Apathy                    | 34. A small view of God   |
| 15. Hatred                    | 35. Envy                  |
| 16. Negativity                | 36. Ungratefulness        |
| 17. The spirit of poverty     | 37. Selfish ambition      |
| 18. Going through the motions | 38. Self-sufficiency      |
| 19. Complaining               | 39. Sorrow                |
| 20. Unforgiveness             | 40. Unwillingness to grow |



### **Altar Flowers Available Dates**

The following dates are available for Altar Flowers: July 28, August 11, September 26, October 31, November 21 and November 28. If interested in any of the dates please contact Nancy Fitzgerald at 978-373-0242 or [njtravel2@comcast.net](mailto:njtravel2@comcast.net)

**The annual Faith Circle Palm Sunday Bake Sale is not going to be held this March due to COVID.**

**In lieu of the Bake Sale, the Faith Circle Scholarship Team would appreciate donations to the Scholarship Fund to help continue to provide this special event for the graduating students. You can send a check into the office marked FC Scholarship or you can donate online. Thank you!!!**



## Scholarship Season

**There are two Scholarship Opportunities at Groveland Congregational Church.**

The Maddock Scholarship Team is accepting applications for the *Maddock Scholarship*. Contact the church office or go onto our website at [www.grovelanducc.org](http://www.grovelanducc.org) for an application form. Applications must be postmarked by Monday May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

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 Monday May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## Happy Birthday!!!

03/03	JOHN PUCHALSKI	04/07	HENRY CLOUTIER
03/05	BRENDAN SPENCER	04/07	NANCY WILE
03/05	CASSANDRA SPENCER	04/08	CAROLINE CRANOS
03/05	KHANKEO SPAULDING	04/09	LAUREL PUCHALSKI
03/10	ELLEN JORDAN	04/10	KEVIN SULLIVAN
03/10	ROBERT PAULET	04/15	CARROLL GUSTAFSON
03/11	ERIN QUINNAN	04/15	JEN PETERSEN
03/15	BARBARA HANSON	04/17	LISA QUINNAN
03/15	STEPHANIE FABRI	04/20	MATT BATES
03/17	BEN PETERSEN	04/29	CARL KEENE
03/19	ARIAH QUINNAN	05/01	JUDY LYNN
03/25	MEGAN JORDAN	05/09	PETER SZAREK
03/28	NANCY WEBSTER	05/12	HANNAH JORDAN
03/28	SAWYER PELLETIER	05/24	PRISCILLA STYER
04/05	KATIE FORMOSI	05/31	JANE HOLDEN



## Happy Anniversary Wishes

3/20 Jim and Lisa Quinnan  
3/28 Bill Formosi and Caroline Cranos  
14/9 Rick and Nancy Fitzgerald  
5/29 Bob and Sandy Daniels

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.



**Thank you to everyone who has continued to support GCC during this extraordinary time!**

We are able to accept your pledges and donation several ways. You can ***always*** mail or drop off a check at the church. You can also go to our secure online offering website by first going to [ww.grovelanducc.org](http://ww.grovelanducc.org) and then clicking on the button that says "make a donation". This takes you to our online donation platform where you can set up a one time or recurring pledge.

Another way is to hold your smart phone up to this QR code to be connected to the church's PayPal account. Please reach out to the church office if you have any questions.



### *Remember one another in prayer...*

Ellen Maxwell (req by Kathleen)  
Don Powell (Barb Harrold's brother)  
Chip Sheehan (Gustafsons)  
Marlin Welcome (local child)  
Kastrinelis Family  
Leanne Hanson  
Colleen Wolfenbarger (Prescott's niece)  
Kirsten Helgeland (friend of Linda and Kathleen)  
Ava Handley (Bette Neumyer's grandniece)  
Patrick Bixby (friend of Carol and John)  
Carl Mosley  
Valerie Meyers (friend of Nancy Fitzgerald)  
Ethan Ward (Bonnie's nephew)  
Roberta Stanford (Bob and Linda Paulet's daughter)  
Pamela Adie (Judy Lynn's daughter)  
Carol Grazio (friend of Carol Hurn)  
Beth Trumper (friend of Carol Hurn)  
Ruth DeAngelis (friend of Carol Hurn)  
Cliff Bohanan (friend of Joan Parah)

*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.*

Bring your returnables to GCC and help raise funds for Team Access!!

There will be a collection of returnable bottles and cans to raise money for Team Access on Saturday March 20th from 9:00-1:00 at GCC. The bottles and cans will be kindly sorted and returned by Boy Scout Troop 87 with the proceeds being donated to Team Access.

Any questions, reach out to Nancy Wile at 978-476-9141.



Groveland Congregational Church  
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*Return Service Requested*

## **Wednesdays with Pastor Robin**

Join Pastor Robin each  
Wednesday afternoon at 3 pm  
on the church Facebook page  
for a weekly message.



## **Team Media Recruiting NOW**

We're looking for folks who would like to be part of our Media Team. High Schools students in need of Community Service Hours? Folks with some tech savvy skills?

Contact the church office if you are interested in this important ministry!

