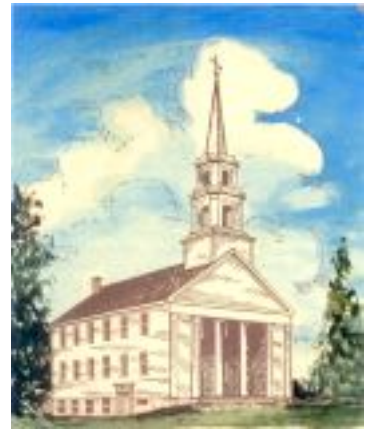


Congregational Church of Phillipston, U.C.C.
60 The Common
Phillipston, MA 01331



Phillipston
Community
Newsletter

February 2022



The Phillipston Congregational Church, U.C.C.
Our Community Church

Dear Friends,

I recently had two funerals close together, David Flint and Reed Boynton, and then I learned that Al Watts of Templeton Road, Phillipston had died. It seems like this is what happens, that there are three deaths close together. I met Al Watts the summer of 2020, when he mowed the lawn in front of the Phillips library. Then he and his wife Donna, trimmed the island by the library and completely unearthed a tree that was smothered in vines. No one asked them to do it, nobody paid them to do it, they just noticed that it needed to be done and they did it. There was some kind of electrical box underneath all the vines. In Al's obituary it said, "Al helped in his community always quietly and in the background. Al sincerely enjoyed the simple things in life."

Enjoying the simple things is the key to mental health during this pandemic. I continue to write in my blessing book every day. What are the simple things you enjoy? A sunset, a child's smile, seeing a fox run across the road? Or the wonderful scent of a well cooked meal, the touch of a loved one, or the beauty of a branch covered in snow? Perhaps you love the smell of vanilla, or apples cooking or the scent you smell when you peel an orange? Thank God for the sense of smell, and I feel sorry for anyone who has lost that sense.

Concentrating on the simple things in life can make us happier, calmer and less stressed. There is so much that is not in our control, that if we focus on the simple things as Al Watts did than we can be filled with blessings even in the most difficult circumstances. "Well done good and faithful servant, you have been faithful over a little." Matthew 25: 23

Your sister in Christ, Rev. Stephanie C. Flynn

SENIOR LUNCH NEWS

Tuesday May 10th Phillipston Cultural Council in conjunction with the
Phillipston COA will present

"HIP HOP DANCE CHAIR EXERCISE FOR SENIORS!"

The 1 hour program will start at 11am followed by lunch at noon.

For more information please call Paula at 978-652-5797

NO meals-to-go served in February or March. I hope to resume in April.
See you in the Spring.

Would you like to do community service?

NOTES FROM THE TOWN CLERKS OFFICE

NOMINATION PAPERS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2022 ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION

The Annual Town Election is scheduled for Monday, May 16th polls open at Town Hall from 12 PM to 8 PM

LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE WILL BE April 26th.

The following seats will be on the ballot for 2022:

BOARD OF SELECTMEN 3 YR TERM

BOARD OF ASSESSORS 3 YR TERM

(There might be an open Assessor's seat for a 1 year term too.)

BOARD OF HEALTH 3 YR TERM

CEMETERY COMMISSION 3 YR TERM

CEMETERY COMMISSION 2 YR TERM – fill resigned term

CONSTABLE 3 YR TERM

LIBRARY TRUSTEE 3 YR TERM

LIBRARY TRUSTEE 2 YR TERM – fill resigned term

PLANNING BOARD 5 YR TERM

SCHOOL COMMITTEE 3 YR TERM (Phillipston)

SCHOOL COMMITTEE 3 YR TERM (Templeton)

SCHOOL COMMITTEE 2 YR TERM (Templeton fill resigned term)

SCHOOL COMMITTEE 1 YR TERM (Templeton fill resigned term)

Please come into the Town Clerks Office if you would like to take out nomination papers for any of the above seats. March 24, 2022 is the last day you can obtain nomination papers. Nomination Papers need to be returned to the Registrars/Town Clerk's Office by March 30, 2022.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

May 4, 2022

Wednesday

7:00pm at the Phillipston Memorial School Gym

Last day to register to vote April 24th to participate

THE NEWSLETTER IS ON www.phillipston.com

March 2022 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS Febuary 23rd

For more info go to : www.phillipston.com/priceinfo.pdf

Phillips Free Public Library

Library Hours

Tuesday 9-2pm

Wednesday 5-7pm

Saturday 9-1 pm

Board of Trustees Meeting:

Tues. February 15, 2022 at 6pm

* masks required inside the library

New Materials

New books include: The Maid Nita Prose, Invisible by Danielle Steel, The Good Sister by Sally Hepworth, The Horsewoman by James Patterson, The Last House on the Street by Diane Chamberlain, One Step Too Far by Lisa Gardner.

New Dvds include: The Beatles: Get Back – season 1, and Encanto

Curbside Service Only

The Library Board of Trustees voted to revert to curbside service only. This decision will be revisited at the next board meeting. The library will be staffed during our regular hours and patrons may call (978) 249-1734 to request materials. Arrangements can be made for pick-up.

Town of Phillipston

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION

Polls open at 12:00pm to 8:00pm

Town Hall, 50 on the Common, Phillipston

May 16, 2022

Monday

LAST DAY TO OBTAIN NOMINATION PAPERS – March 24th

LAST DAY TO SUBMIT PAPERS TO BOARDS OF REGISTRARS
FOR CERTIFICATION OF SIGNATURES – March 30th

(At Town Clerk's Office)

LAST DAY FOR REGISTRARS TO FILE WITH THE
TOWN CLERK – April 7th

LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW NOMINATION PAPERS – April 15th

LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE – April 26th

Warrant for election will be posted by the 9th of May

CONTACT THE TOWN CLERK IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS

MONDAYS – THURSDAY 8:00am – 4:00 pm

OR LEAVE A MESSAGE AT 978-249-1733

IMPORTANT

All Town Offices are Closed to the public

During the COVID-19 Variance increases

(Town employees are completing work in their offices to keep the town running)

2022 Census

The Annual Town Census has been mailed out to each household at the first of the year. Please list everyone living at your address even if it is a temporary situation. It is very important to collect this information every year. The information is used for school registration, to plan on how many kindergarten students will be starting their education. Census figures help the town to apply for grants with accurate population figures and showing a breakdown of age groups. If you are new to town answering the census does not register you to vote, you can go to the Secretary of State's Website and register. Not responding to the census will place you on the inactive voters listing. So please send your completed Census form and mail it **back right away** and make compiling this info easier.

2nd notices for the census were mailed out in February.

During this time of emergency, it's important for our emergency responders to know where you and your household member are located.

If you don't have a census form you can use a piece of paper, write down the full name and date of birth of each person living at your address then sign and date the paper. **Drop it into the Town Hall mail slot on the door or mail it to:**

Town Clerk, 50 The Common, Phillipston, MA 01331 (978-249-1733)
townclerk@phillipston-ma.gov

Please return all correspond by mail or use the drop slot on Front Door of Town Hall.

All **tax bills** and **dog licenses** must be paid by check, money order or

On- line using the website www.phillipston-ma.gov

Tax Collector contact info 978-249-1731 – taxcollector@phillipston-ma.gov

***** **Tax Bills Due February 1, 2022** *****

Cable TV Survey Results

Thanks to those who completed the survey. The results received to date are summarized below. There will also be a public hearing next year with Comcast. Town residents are also welcome to contact the Cable Advisory Committee. All feedback will be presented to Comcast at the public hearing and discussed with Comcast again during the license renewal negotiations. There are about 885 residences in Phillipston. Thirty (30) survey responses (3.4%) have been received. Although a response rate of 2% is typical for mailed surveys, more feedback would help.

CABLE ACCESS – QUESTION #1

Ten (10) people responded that they do not subscribe to Comcast TV cable service. The reasons for not subscribing were: Cost – seven (7) responses, No cable Access – one (1) response, Other (reasons not specified) – two (2) responses

If you do not have access to cable service at the street, please contact the Cable Advisory Committee. Although it may take considerable time, the Town may be able to help with getting cable access at the street.

QUALITY & SERVICE – QUESTIONS #2, #3 & #4

There were 28 responses to these questions. Less than half the responses (13) rate Comcast service quality as average, while 23% (6) rated it above average and 30% (8) below average. Of the 28 responses, 22 indicated they needed a service technician. When people contacted Comcast, 58% (15 responses) approved and 12% (3 responses) strongly approved. In contrast, 19% (5 responses) disapproved and 12% (3 responses) strongly disapproved. Overall, the results indicate a service quality of slightly below average and a similar leaning toward disapproving the quality of the problem resolution. The large portion of respondents requiring a technician is disconcerting.

TOWN CABLE TV STATION (Channel 99) - #5, #6, & #7

Of the 29 responses, 14 people have watched Channel 99. Of those 12 people found the information being broadcast useful. When asked if people would be interested in having other programs broadcast, 25 of the 28 people who responded were interested.

Besides responding to the questions, some people included comments on their surveys. The comments include:

PRICING – (This is not covered by the license renewal contract; however, the feedback will be passed on)

They (Comcast) charge too much for service. Comcast's rates are too high and their customer service is terrible. The cost of Comcast is very expensive. There should be a senior discount.

TOWN TV STATION – Sound and picture quality need improvement. Events broadcast are not current enough. It would be helpful to know when events, meetings, etc. are to be televised ahead of time.

You may contact the Cable Advisory Committee via email at cable@phillipston-ma.gov, or by phone at (978) 249-6828

ATTENTION PHILLIPSTON NEWSLETTER READERS

The Phillipston Community Newsletter is put together and mailed by volunteers and members of The Congregational Church of Phillipston, U.C.C. This is mailed to every mail box in Phillipston. The newsletter is available to all nonprofit organizations in town to post news items or notices of upcoming events. Businesses in town may place ads at \$20 for a full page \$10 for a Half page and \$5 for quarter page. A full page for the newsletter is 7" x 8.5" with a .5" margin. Please support your Community Newsletter by submitting your ad or news items by the 23rd of the month to allow time us to get it out on the 1st. Items received after that will be put in the next month. Ads or news items may be sent by email to:

newsletter@phillipston.com, which is preferred.

Items can also be sent by mail to:

The Congregational Church of Phillipston, U.C.C.

60 The Common

Phillipston, MA 01331

Attention: Newsletter

Payments for ads and any other donations should be sent to the church at the same address. The Congregational Church of Phillipston, U.C.C will decide what can be put in the newsletter and also may limit the number of pages in an issue.

All questions or comments can be sent to the address above or e-mailed to newsletter@phillipston.com.

DEADLINE is the 23rd of each month.

Phillipston Lion's will be doing the drive thru food this year.

It will start March 19th with a Breakfast.

The month of April with Lunch.

The month of May a Dinner.

Weather permitting table and chairs will be set up outside.

Next month menu will be in the Newsletter.

Come Join Us, or Come find out what "Lions" do.

Meeting second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 at the Library.

Please wear your mask!

