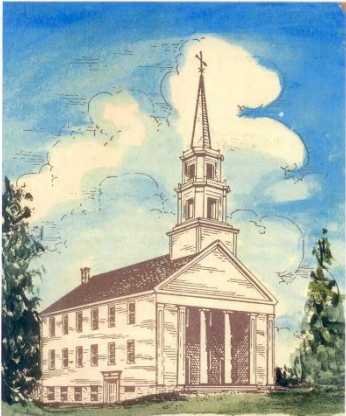


Congregational Church of Phillipston, U.C.C.
60 The Common
Phillipston, MA 01331

**The Congregational Church
of
Phillipston, Massachusetts**



United Church of Christ
Embodied November 1785

Phillipston
Community
Newsletter
Vol. 38 No.2

February 2024



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

Sunday Service at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday School begins at 10:00 a.m.

Dear Friends,

This year is the first year I ever remember in my ministry that Valentine's Day and the beginning of Lent are the same day. Lent is the forty days leading up to Easter not including Sundays. Many people give up something during this time, & others take on a new spiritual practice such as charity or keeping a gratitude journal. One year my family said the St. Francis Prayer every night. "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: Where there is hatred, let me sow love, where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy."

There are many different legends about the first Valentine. I've read in the Whole People of God, Logos Productions, "In about 300 A.D. when Christianity was new, it was extremely dangerous to be a member of this strange faith that said God was more important than the emperor. Indeed, Jesus was widely thought to be a god himself. A Christian named Valentine was put in jail for being a follower of Jesus, and refusing to worship the emperor. Valentine was very lonely - suspecting, that he was going to be executed. The jailer's daughter saw him, however, and began to visit him everyday. Sometimes she brought him food. Life was much better because of her cheerful visits. When Valentine learned his death was about to happen, he wrote a beautiful note to his young friend and left it in his cell for her. He thanked her for her friendship and assured her of his love even after his death, and signed it "Your Valentine." Legend has it that he even cut "Curious devices" into the note, which would account for our habit of paper lace on valentines. His note was the first Valentine."

Your sister in Christ, Rev. Stephanie C. Flynn

THE NEWSLETTER IS ON www.phillipston.com
March 2024 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS February 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:

to be announced.

* “like” our Facebook page

Phillips Free Public Library

Book Club

The Book Club will meet on Tuesday, February 6 at 5:30 to discuss *The Paper Palace* by Miranda Cowley Heller. Copies of the book are available at the library. New members always welcome!

Raffle

Take part in our new raffle for a chance to win a Market Basket gift card. Fill out a ticket every time you visit the library. Drawing on Feb. 28th

Saturday Story Hour

We will hold a Children’s Story Hour on the 3rd Saturday of each month, at 10:30 am, beginning Saturday, March 16 . Please join Ms. Donna for stories and a craft project.

New Materials

Northwoods by Amy Pease, The Night Island by Jayne Ann Krentz, Argylle: a Novel by Elly Conway, The Heiress: a Novel by Rachel Hawkins, Before we were Innocent by Ella Berman, First Lie Wins by Ashley Elston, The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride, The Only One Left: a Novel by Riley Sager and Upside Down by Danielle Steel.

New DVDs include: ‘Barbie’, ‘What Happens Later’, ‘Mission Impossible: Dead Reckoning part 1’ and ‘Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny’

Passes Available

Discovery Museum in Acton -When borrowed, this pass will admit 3 people at half the cost of general admission. Children under 1 year old are admitted free of charge. Pass is valid until March 31, 2024

Call the library (978) 249-1734 to reserve the passes

Library Display

Stop by to see the creativity displayed of the newsletter cover pages.

We hope the display will interest you in creating a newsletter cover page.

If so, email newsletter.com and let us know.

Phillipston Lions Club

Com Join Us on Tuesday, February 13, at 7 PM at the Phillipston Library.

If you have any questions, please call Marilyn 978-503-2269. If it snows, will be held Tuesday February 27. We're always looking for new people to serve our community.

Senior Meal Delivery

February 29 - If it snows, it will be delivered the next day.

Breakfast at the church

March 16, 2024 8:00 am to 11:00 am

CornBeef Hash Special.

The Town of Phillipston's Senior Tax Abatement program for FY25 will be starting again in January. Applications will be accepted beginning in January for placement into the program which will run until October 13, 2024. Placement in the program is on a first come, first served basis. Please contact the Board of Selectmen's office at 978-249-6828 or selectman@phillipston-ma.gov to receive more information and an application. Please note that participation in this program will generate a W2.

Journey In Yoga Studio is Hubbardston, only approximately 15 minutes away, offers many classes for everybody. I've tried many classes and you can be any level or even never tried yoga and there is a class for you.

If you just want to go and RELAX, there are classes that offer that also.

Look up journeyinyoga.com to view what's offered and if you

have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to Danielle at 617-803-9452.

It's worth a try. Sylvia

You can make a difference!

NOTES FROM THE TOWN CLERKS OFFICE

NOMINATION PAPERS ARE NOW AVAILABLE FOR 2024 ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION

The Annual Town Election is scheduled for **Monday, May 20th** polls open at Town Hall from 12 PM to 8 PM

LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE WILL BE May 10th.

The following seats will be on the ballot for 2024:

BOARD OF SELECTMEN	3 YR TERM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN	1 YR TERM (Unexpired term do to resignation)
BOARD OF ASSESSORS	3 YR TERM
BOARD OF HEALTH	3 YR TERM
CEMETERY COMMISSION	3 YR TERM 2 YR TERM (Unexpired term do to resignation)
CONSTABLE	3 YR TERM
LIBRARY TRUSTEE	3 YR TERM
MODERATOR	3 YR TERM
PLANNING BOARD	5 YR TERM
SCHOOL COMMITTEE	3 YR TERM (Phillipston)

Please come into the Town Clerks Office if you would like to take out nomination papers for any of the above seats. **March 28, 2024**, is the last day you can obtain nomination papers.

Nomination Papers need to be returned to the Registrars/Town Clerk's Office by April 4, 2024.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING May 8, 2024

7:00pm Phillipston Memorial School Gym

LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE WILL BE April 29th

To participate at the Town Meeting, you must be registered to vote



VOTE EARLY

Return your post card sent to you via the Secretary of States Office and we will mail you a ballot. Application is also on the Town Website:
www.phillipston-ma.gov

IN-PESON EARLY VOTING BEING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL

Saturday, February 24, 2024 – 9am to 1 pm
Monday, February 26, 2024 – 9am to 3pm
Tuesday February 27, 2024 – 9am to 3pm
Wednesday February 28, 2024 – 12pm to 7pm
Thursday February 29th – 9am to 3pm

Presidential Primary

March 5, 2024

Location:

Town Hall

located at 50 The Common, Phillipston, MA 01331

Polls open at 7:00 am and Close at 8:00 pm



Check your voter status before you arrive at the polls

Google – My Voter Registration Status, or
www.sec.state.ma.us/voterregistrationsearch

Questions: Please call us at **978-249-1733**; we're here to help!
e-mail: townclerk@phillipston-ma.gov

Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) Special Permit Cost for Kennel Licenses

The Board of Selectmen voted to reduce the ZBA application fee from \$300 to \$75 for dog owners of more than four dogs who need to obtain a special permit through a hearing with the ZBA for a kennel license if the application is submitted to the Town Clerk by March 31, 2024. Thereafter, the \$300 fee will be reinstated. “Kennel” is defined by the Town’s Zoning Bylaws under Section 2, item number 28: *One pack or collection of dogs on a single premises whether maintained for breeding, boarding, sale, training, hunting or other purposes and including any shop where dogs are on sale, and also including every pack or collection of more than four dogs six months old or over owned or kept by a person on a single premises irrespective of the purpose for which they are maintained.* Table 7 of Section 5 of the Zoning Bylaws outlines the regulations for kennels. The Zoning Bylaws can be found on the town’s website at www.phillipston-ma.gov under the Planning Board’s page. If you require any further information, please contact Melanie Jackson at 978-249-6828 or mail to selectman@philliston-ma.gov.

SENIOR LUNCH MENU FEBRUARY

FEB 6 Stuffed Shells, tomato sauce, mixed veggies, vanilla pudding

FEB 20 Potato Crunch Pollock, Italian roasted potatoes, broccoli & cauliflower, fig bar

Lunch is served at noon at the Phillipston Congregational church. To order a meal please call Paula at 978-652-5797. A \$3.00 donation is appreciated. I can also order meals to go, but we would be happy if you joined us for fellowship.

On Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 7 pm at the Millers River Environmental Center, the North Quabbin Garden Club is hosting the Greening Greenfield team to discuss their plan for creating a friendly environment, including individual gardens, for pollinators. Admission is free. All are welcome.

Pauline Alldred
co-president

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.