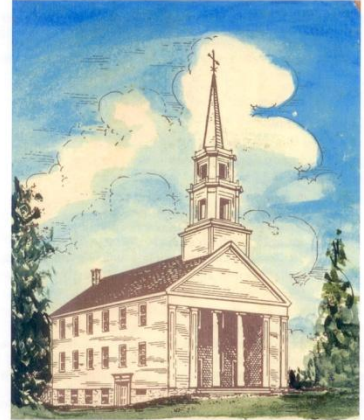


Congregational Church of Phillipston, U.C.C.
60 The Common
Phillipston, MA 01331

**The Congregational Church
of
Phillipston, Massachusetts**



United Church of Christ
Embodied November 1785

Phillipston
Community
Newsletter

March 2022



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

Worship is at 10:00 a.m. with a Children's story every Sunday
Dear Friends,

Lent is always in March, and this year Ash Wednesday is March 2 and Easter is Sunday, April 17. We hope to have a great breakfast on Saturday, April 16 at Red Apple Farm for Easter's Great Gathering with good weather, and no pandemic.

Lent is the forty days not counting Sundays from Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday. It is a time of preparation for the most important Christian Festival of the Christian calendar. The English word "lent" is derived from the word lengthens because in the Northern Hemisphere, Lent occurs at the time of the year when the days are lengthening after the short, dark days of winter. The color for Lent is purple, to represent a time of repentance. Many people give up something during Lent while others take on a spiritual practice. The discipline may include, charitable giving, worshipping, or fasting or praying. Whatever, you do for Lent, do it for a closer relationship with God.

We cannot do faith alone, we don't have everything together, and we need each other. So, we turn to our family of faith, to help us, encourage us, and motivate us. I think we are our best selves in the company of the faithful.

And we need God, perhaps now in our nation's history more than ever. If you can't do it alone, and you need God, and you don't have a church family, come visit us at 10:00 a.m. in the Phillipston sanctuary. We aren't perfect, but on a journey coming to know God.

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 March. We will 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

April 2022 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS March 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. April 5, 2022 at 6pm

* masks required inside the library

We're OPEN!

The Library Board of Trustees voted to re-open the library to the public. All visitors are required to wear a mask.

New Materials

New books include: The Overnight Guest by Heather Gundenkauf, All That She Carried by Tixa Miles, Designer Bag in the Garbage Dump by Jackie Macgriven, The Paris Apartment by Lucy Foley, Shadows Reel by C.J. Box (3/15/2022) The Summer Getaway by Susan Mallery, It Ends With Us by Colleen Hoover, Flying Angels by Danielle Steel, The Hotel by Pamela Kelley, Game On by Janet Evanovich and Hour of the Witch by Chris Bohjalian

Passes to borrow

We are happy to offer passes to our patrons to the following :

Tower Hill Botanic Gardens – (reduced admission)- a reservation must be made prior to visiting. (thank you, Phillipston Cultural Council)

DCR Parks Pass- free admission to State Parks

Please call the library (978) 249-1734 to reserve a pass. .

Agriculture Commission

The Phillipston Agriculture Commission will be meeting on March 16th at 6pm at the Red Apple farm with the western pumpkin growers. This is a pumpkin growers meeting. All are welcome to come.

Glenn Whitney – chair of the comission

The Phillipston Youth Supports (PYS)

Quarterly Meeting:

Thursday, March 17, 2022, at 6:30 pm

in Rm #2 at the Phillipston Memorial School.

The purpose of this nonprofit organization is to raise and distribute money for programs, scholarships, and educational opportunities that will directly support the youth of Phillipston.

If you are interested in supporting the children of Phillipston in this way, please consider joining us and bring a friend.

Dear fellow Phillipston residents:

I am one of your community representatives on the (Narragansett) Regional Agreement Amendment Committee, which is a sub-committee of the Narragansett Regional School Committee. For those who don't know me, my family and I have lived in town for almost 17 years and we have sent our 5 children to Phillipston Memorial and NMS, and three have graduated from NRHS. I have been an active parent in Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, Music and Drama at NMS and NRHS, in the Phillipston PTG and the Phillipston Church for many years.

This committee has been meeting for over a year and we have discussed and updated the language to meet current state laws and address concerns both of our member towns have. One of the major points of discussion now is Phillipston Memorial School and whether and how it might be used officially again. Because of the requested budget failure in 2018, the district as a whole could not support our building any longer and all Phillipston elementary children now attend Templeton Center School. We were told at the time that it would have taken at least \$700,000 more to keep our building open and the voters, by a very small margin, did not support the higher number. (It would likely be over \$1,000,000 by now with all the continuing increases to transportation, special Education and contractual benefit obligations.) As of now, the building is being used for town meetings, some homeschoolers, scouts and rec sports teams.

There are small group discussions going on in town with several ideas for using the building, but as your representative, I would like to hear from many more people who will be the ones actually voting on this agreement and budgets at town meetings going forward. Along that line, I will say here that it is crucial for all who care about these issues and possible outcomes to stay informed and actually show up to vote at the ballot, at town meetings and any potential District-wide (joint town) meetings which may follow.

Please take a moment to email your thoughts and concerns. I will use the input I receive to determine my votes and contributions to the agreement, and will create an email list to keep you all updated.

Here are the points I think are most important for us to know, please answer as best as you can what you support. Please also let me know whether you have current PK-12 student(s) and which grade.

- 1) Would you pay more in taxes to cover operating our building again?
- 2) If yes, would you prefer to keep PMS in the Narragansett District, run by one central administration as before, or separate it and run it as a charter or union school, perhaps with another small town?
- 3) If separate, would you support keeping the Middle and High School with Narragansett? (If no, which other district would you want to join for those upper grades?)

Just FYI, my personal preference would be to stay in the District but separate the budget into two parts where each town would cover its own elementary school operating costs. My concern is that the students need a continuity of curriculum for merging into the middle school, and also that the athletic, club/organizations and social opportunities would remain the same. I believe we have to seriously consider what happens to the kids after elementary school as well. I do not think it would be fair to leave it up to each family to school choice to another district, especially as there's no guarantee of acceptance, and friends and even family members may not be able to stay together.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Christine Bennett, bennett.christine.P05@gmail.com (that's P-zero-5)

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

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.

Sponsored by the Lions and Friends of Lions in Phillipston

Drive Thru or Dine Out

March – November 2022

Saturday, March 19th Breakfast

Specials: Skillet Banquet or Corn Beef Hash

Also offering at Breakfast

2 Pan size Pancakes

2 French Toast (choice of Bread)

Make your own Omelet (ham, cheese, onion, tomato & peppers)

Hungry Man Platter (includes 1 pancake, 1 french toast & eggs)

*All come with Homefries Sausage

NEW this year – Kids Meal

Pancakes (blueberry, chocolate chips or personal letters)

Popeye (choice of bread – fried egg in the middle of bread)

French Toast Sticks (choice of bread)

*all kids meals served with sausage & fresh fruit

Weather permitting: Tables & chairs will be setup outside



THE 57TH RUNNING OF THE
ATHOL TO ORANGE RIVER RAT RACE
SPONSORED BY THE ATHOL LIONS CLUB
SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2022, 1 PM
SIGN UP STARTS MARCH 1ST TO APRIL 7TH
@ <https://www.riverratrace.com/>

IN PERSON: AT RACE HEADQUARTERS:
MARCH 1ST TO APRIL 8TH
ELSE WHERE 1485 MAIN STREET, ATHOL, MA
MONDAY TO SATURDAY

PARADE INFO: NORTH QUABBIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Mellissa Eaton P: 978-249-3849 info@northquabbinchamber.com

5K ROAD RACE INFO: ATHOL AREA YMCA
Kelly Knower P: 978-224-1426 kknower@ymcaathol.org

VENDORS: ATHOL
MUST MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE BOARD OF HEALTH
Deborah Vondal P: 978-721-8450

VENDORS: ORANGE
MUST MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE BOARD OF HEALTH
Matthew Fortier P: 978-544-1107
AND WITH THE ORANGE LIONS CLUB
Lion Sue Whalen P: 978-404-1751 gramssue2@yahoo.com

Spring is Popping
A Seminar for children ages 5 – 10
Must sign up by visiting Library or call Marilyn 978-503-2269
Program about 1 ½ hours long
April 19, 2022 (Tuesday) at the Phillipston Library.
Please wear a mask.