# THE BEACON

Sunday Morning Worship, Sanctuary 10:25 am
Tuesday Afternoon Book Study, Buttaro Room,1:00 pm
Wednesday Morning Prayer, 6:30 am
Thursday Morning Bible Study, Buttaro Room, 10:45 am - 12:00 pm
Friday Evening Book Study, Home of Wendy Bowers, Once a Month

**JANUARY 2019**

A Bell lesson given by Dave Harrold

## EGCC's Vocal & Bell Choir Holiday Concert Performance at The East Granby Library

## Hanging of the Greens Ceremony

**PEACE & JOY**

EAST GRANBY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Dear Friends,

Each year, as we draw nearer to Christmas, and I begin to think about the New Year ahead, the words of pastor, theologian, and educator, Howard Thurman resonate with me:

**The Work of Christmas**

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among brothers,
to make music in the heart.

During Advent, we lifted up and celebrated the themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. The New Year calls us to hold on tightly to those themes, and to embody them in our lives.

I pray that for each and all of you, 2019 is a year of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love – a year when you embrace God's grace, acceptance, forgiveness and love for you, and for others, until they fill your hearts to overflowing, so that you can't help but want to share the Good News of that great love with others.

To that end, I offer this prayer for you in the New Year:

"Dear God, we want to do your will. We want to shout the Good News from the mountaintops about how glad we are that you are in our lives. But what if someone else actually hears us shouting; someone we don't know, someone who wants to know more? Will we feel ready? And what if someone doesn't like what we're saying, and challenges us? Will we be like Stephen, and hold fast to what we believe? Will we be like Paul, and overwhelm their objections with learned arguments? Will we be like Peter, speaking great truths, and only later discover their meanings? Will we be like Barnabas, stumbling over ourselves, and never quite getting things right, yet living a holy life? Be with us, as we seek our way… With you by our side, we can climb any mountain, and share your message with all who happen to hear."

Adapted from *"Prepare the Way,"* by R. Mark Liebenow, pg. 54-55)

For me, the best place to equip myself to share the Good News, and the best place through which I can serve others is the church. The strength and fellowship of a church family help to guide and direct me to learn the Good News of God's love, and the stories of my Christian faith, enough to share them confidently with others. I pray that in 2019, you recognize the value of belonging and participation in the faith family at EGCC anew.

With love for all of you,

*Pastor Denise*

# WARNING OF ANNUAL MEETING
# 282nd MEETING OF THE EAST GRANBY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

The two hundred eighty-second (282nd) Annual meeting of the East Granby Congregational Church will be held on Sunday, January 27, 2019 at 12:00 PM in the Church Sanctuary. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the Annual Reports of the Ministries, approve the new slate of ministry members, the 2019 Budget, and act on other items on the agenda. The Annual Report will be available no less than one week prior to the meeting. All members of the Church are encouraged to review the report and consider all agenda items in advance of the meeting, and to be in attendance, so that they may actively participate in the discussions and actions to be taken.

## Proposed Annual Meeting Agenda
## 282nd Meeting of the East Granby Congregational Church

**Call to Order**

**Opening Prayer**

**Old Business**

Review and Accept:
- Minutes of the 281st Annual Meeting
- Non-financial Team and Ministry reports
- Nursery School Director(s) and Treasurer's reports
- Other reports of the Senior Pastor / Moderator / Vice Moderator
- 2018 Financial reports from Church Treasurer and Physical Resources Ministry

Review and install Ministry members for 2019 and beyond:
- Review Ministry nominees, accept floor nominations
- Vote on Ministry nominees
- Recognition of outgoing Ministry members

Installation of new Ministry members

**Any other Old Business**

**New Business**

Review and accept the budget for 2019 (current operations and missions)
Schedule new Ministry meeting date for February 11, 2019 at 7:00 PM
Removal of names from the Active Church membership list;
Other New Business to come before the meeting
The tentative date for the next Annual Meeting is January 26, 2020

**Closing Prayer**

**Adjournment**

**Pastoral Relations Team (PRT)**

The 2018 members of the Pastoral Relations Team are Tom Short (Moderator), Karen Rhodes (Vice Moderator), Cheryl Duade (HR Ministry Member), Dave Hayden (Member at large Pastor's appointment) and Chip McIsaac (Member at large Council appointment).

T**he Pastoral Relations Team (PRT) is a standing team in our church that seeks to support and maintain an open and healthy relationship between Pastor Denise and the members of our congregation.** The team serves in two primary ways: as an advisory group to the Pastor and as support for the Pastor's leadership.

**As an advisory group, our team shares ideas, dreams, hopes, expectations and concerns of the congregation with the Pastor.** As support for the Pastor, our team interprets roles, functions and needs of the Pastor to the congregation.

Our team meets monthly on the third Tuesday of the month. Our discussions are held in confidence, while their content is direct communication within the team with love, understanding and compassion. **We will pay serious attention to the dynamics of the relationship between Pastor and congregation with our goal being that of allowing our church to carry outs it's ministry and mission effectively.**

We want to hear from you with regard to your joys, concerns, dreams and wishes.

**As members of this church family you are encouraged to take an active part in supporting the PRT, by providing us with your feedback, either positive or negative, regarding our ministry and mission in our community.**

Please take time to provide us with your feedback, even if it is to simply let us know that you are aware that we are here for you. **You can speak to one of our members, or email me directly at cmcisaac@cox.net.** It is important that we have open and effective communication with all of you. I personally hope to hear from as many of you as possible, on how we are doing at EGCC.

PEACE, Chip McIsaac, Chairperson

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MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

Thank you to all those who gave to Church World Services. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

Also, Missions is almost done with its donations for 2018. There will be a listing in the Annual Report of what those donations were.

**COOKIES BY THE POUND**

Dear EGCC,
Thank you so much to all who baked, set up, cleaned up, bought, made boxes, manned the register, or in any way helped with the Cookie Sale. It was another success! We cleared about $1,500. See you next year.
Blessings from the 2 Judys and their elves!

**THE CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE IN THE LOBBY**

Thank you to all who took a tag and bought items for the children in East Granby. I'm sure the children are extremely grateful, and it always fun to buy something to brighten someone else's Christmas.

East Granby's
**Friend to Friend**
Food Pantry

supported by:
EGCC's
Mission and Outreach Ministry

January Food Pantry is looking for donations of canned fruit. Thank you all for your help in December! If you have any questions please feel free to contact Judy Goff, Mission and Outreach Ministry

Friend to Friend is looking for volunteers to help work in the East Granby Thrift Store. Proceeds from the Thrift Store go to help support the Food Pantry. The store is open Tuesday's 10am-2pm, Thursday's 2pm-6pm and Saturday's 10am-2pm

Please contact Sandy Landolina, 860-392-8362, if you are interested in more information about volunteering for a shift.

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Dear East Granby Congregational Church,

Thank you for your very generous donation of $300 on November 27th to our 4th Annual campaign. We are so thankful to the wonderful people who live in East Granby. This is truly a great town!

The Friend to Friend Food Pantry is available to assist East Granby residents who need assistance supplementing their weekly grocery needs. All donations directly benefit the pantry. We currently serve approximately 45 families a week. Friend to Friend is an all volunteer group, and we greatly appreciate your support! Thank you again!

Sheila Hayes, Corresponding Secretary, Friend to Friend

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# The Search for Wisdom…Heeding Wisdom's Call…
# Save these dates – Friday, Jan 18th through Sunday, Jan 20th

Wow! It's 2019!!!!! Happy New Year! Can you believe it? Why not start it off with our church family and friends? Please consider giving this time of reflection and replenishment as a New Year's gift to yourself or to another loved one. We invite everyone to share in this experience – friends, neighbors and family alike! The more the merrier!

Melina Rudman will be facilitating our time together. Melina has led a number of retreats for us in the past, including last January and this past October. We are delighted to have her lead us again. As we look at our world today, the search for wisdom is very timely. As a community (common unity) we will share and grow together.

Following are the proposed plans for our January retreat to be held at EGCC:

Friday Jan, 18th

| | |
|---|---|
| 6 – 7 PM | Church Family Potluck-CE Center – ALL are welcome! |
| 7 - 8:30 PM | Evening Program with babysitting provided |

Saturday Jan 19th

| | |
|---|---|
| 8:30 – 9 AM | Continental Breakfast-Fellowship Hall (provided) |
| 9 – 12 noon | Morning Program |
| 12 – 12:45 PM | Lunch (provided) |
| 12:45 – 4 PM | Afternoon Program |

Sunday Jan 20th

| | |
|---|---|
| 9 – 10 AM | Continental Breakfast (provided) and debrief |
| 10:25 | Morning Worship |

So you know the when and the where. The cost for the weekend events is a minimum donation of $35.00 per person. The who is YOU! Scholarships are available- please contact either Jeanne Daggett or Gayle Wilcox. The sign-up sheet is located just outside the office. If making the 6 PM potluck dinner is difficult, you can join us at 7 PM for the program. If you already have plans for later Friday night and/or Saturday, come join us for the potluck. **Please sign-up for whatever portions you can attend-hopefully ALL! If you will need babysitting services, we need to know by Friday, January 4th at the latest.**

What a wonderful beginning for our new year - a time for renewal and new beginnings. Please prayerfully consider joining your EGCC family. We encourage you to share this experience with family, friends and neighbors.

The weekend will include food, fun, fellowship, music and sharing. There will be opportunities to converse, to pray, to think, to dream and to worship. We look forward to spending this time with YOU, as together we seek to deepen our relationships with God, our world, each other and ourselves. Come and renew your spirit!!!

# JANUARY 2019

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 30 | 31 | 1<br>New Years Day<br>Happy New Year!<br><br>Office Closed | 2<br>6:30 am, Morning Prayer, BR<br>5:30 pm, Food Pantry<br><br>7:30 pm, Choir Reh. | 3<br>7:00 pm, Bell Choir Reh<br>7:00 pm, Yoga, CEC | 4<br>9:30 am, Food Pantry | 5 |
| 6<br>Epiphany Sunday<br>Communion Sunday<br>10:25 am, Worship Svc. | 7<br>7:00 pm,<br>Spiritual/Leadership Dev. Mtg<br>7:30 pm All Ministry Mtgs<br>Various locations | 8<br>1:00 pm, Book Study, BR<br><br>7: 00 pm NS Board Mtg | 9<br>6:30 am, Morning Prayer, BR<br>2:00 pm, Genealogy Grp FH<br>5:30 pm, Food Pantry<br>7:30 pm, Choir Reh. | 10<br>10:45 am, Bible Study, BR<br>7:00 pm, Bell Choir Reh<br>7:00 pm, Genealogy Grp<br>7:00 pm, Yoga, CEC | 11<br>9:30 am, Food Pantry<br>7:00 pm Friday Night Book Group, Wendy Bowers Home | 12 |
| 13<br>10:25 am, Worship Svc<br>6:30—8:30 pm Yes/Vibe<br>5-6 pm Faith Journey Confirmation Class<br>@ South Church Granby | 14<br>7:00 pm,<br>Church Council Meeting | 15<br>1:00 pm, Book Study, BR<br><br>1:00 pm Blood Drive | 16<br>6:30 am, Morning Prayer, BR<br>5:30 pm, Food Pantry<br><br>7:30 pm, Choir Reh. | 17<br>10:45 am, Bible Study, BR<br>7:00 pm, Bell Choir Reh,<br>7:00 pm, Yoga, CEC | 18<br>9:30 am, Food Pantry<br><br>6:00-8:30 pm<br>EGCC Winter Retreat | 19<br>8:30am 4:00pm<br>EGCC Winter Retreat continues |
| 20<br>EGCC Winter Retreat<br>Wrap-up-9-10am, FH<br><br>10:25 am, Worship Svc.<br>6:30-7:30 pm Vibe/Yes | 21 | 22<br>1:00 pm, Book Study, BR | 23<br>6:30 am Morning Prayer, BR<br>5:30 pm Food Pantry<br><br>7:30 pm Choir Reh. | 24<br>10:45 am, Bible Study, BR<br>7:00 pm, Bell Choir Reh<br>7:00 pm, Yoga, CEC | 25<br>9:30 am, Food Pantry | 26<br>Cub Scout Food Drive<br>10 am CEC |
| 27<br>10:25 am, Worship Svc.<br>5 -6 pm Faith Journey Confirmation Class<br>@ South Church Granby | 28 | 29<br>1:00 pm, Book Study, BR | 30<br>6:30 am Morning Prayer, BR<br>5:30 pm Food Pantry<br><br>7:30 pm Choir Reh. | 31<br>10:45 am, Bible Study, BR<br>7:00 pm, Bell Choir Reh<br>7:00 pm, Yoga, CEC | 1 | 2 |

WORSHIP AND CARING MINISTRY

## Poinsettias for the Sanctuary

Worship and Caring **Ministry would like to thank the following people who donated** poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary:

Linda and Paul Ridgeway
Judy and Peter Goff
Pat Lang
Karen and Tom Short
Bea Estby
Deb and Bob Paskiewicz
Wendy and Bill Bowers
Gayle Wilcox
Thelma and Gene Wilmot
Chuck Hoadley
Sandy and Frank Houghton
Karen Rhodes
Tara and Jeff Triblets
Grace Kingsbury
Kevin Bach
Becky and John Rafferty
Betsy Mack and Lew Noble
Jeanne and Dick Daggett
Linda and Dave Harrold
Becky Brown
Edie Doherty
Nancy and Sandy Boardman
Linda and Brad Wolfe

We would also like to thank Kathy Mock for ordering and delivering them.

## News from The EGCC Nursery School for January 2019

Our preschool for 3 and 4 year olds has had a busy fall. There are 17 children enrolled – 6 three year olds and 11 four year olds. There are openings available for the school year which continues to the end of May.

Lee LaRochelle is our new Director/Teacher. She is in her third year at our preschool. Heather Benyak, our former director, resigned in November to accept a full time position as a social worker. She was with our school for almost 2 years. We wished her well. After an extensive search process, we interviewed 5 candidates, requested that 2 teach a lesson, and made our choice. Suzanne Richardson-White is our new Teacher. She has an extensive background working with children in varied settings and enjoys science and music. She and Lee have formed a strong team. The activities are planned to develop learning and social skills through play. There are many art projects to grow creativity. Each week there is a theme woven through the daily circle time and other activities. Usually the children enjoy the last part of the morning outside at the playground. The temperature must be at least 32 degrees to go outside – lately there have been disappointed groans when Ms. Lee announces that it is too cold!

Readers are welcomed. If you would like to participate please contact Lee. You may even bring your own book or let them choose one from their extensive collection.
For information: Lee LaRochelle 860 653-3913 egccns9@gmeail.com

Openings for the 3 year old class: Tuesday & Thursday 9-11:30
4 year old class: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9 -11:30
4 year old M,W,Fri extended day option from 8:15 to 9:00 emphasizes prekindergarten skills
4 year old class 5 day a week option

# MUSIC CORNER

## What is your 2019 New Year's Resolution?

Everyone approaches this question differently. Some people set a very specific goal to begin working toward on January 1. Some people choose a general theme for the year, or a word that captures the spirit of the year.

If you're one who ignores the tradition altogether, forgive me but I'm going to encourage everyone to try something this year. I promise, you'll be glad if you give it a try! Are you ready? Ok, our collective New Year's Resolution for 2019? Hear More Live Music.

From time to time, I've heard someone express a concern that our sanctuary is not always full on Sunday mornings. You know what? This is a problem that is widespread right now. It is not unique to this church, and it is troublingly pervasive in the Arts, too. It's a terribly sad trend, because, as you know (or you wouldn't be concerned about it!), it is a beautiful thing to be a part of something larger than our individual selves, in the company of other humans! In fact, it is really an important part of being a human. Can you tell that I am sad about this trend?? You're right. I am!!

But there's one great thing about this sad trend: we have the power to push back.

Let's start right now. Do you have any live music on your calendar for the month of January? If you do, great!! If not, what would you like to listen to? Is there a concert in the area you could support by attending? Or, how about a restaurant where you could enjoy dinner or brunch, with some live music in the background? Add one of these tempting outings to your calendar!

Perhaps you are in a situation where getting out to hear live music is difficult. Maybe transportation is a challenge, or maybe you or a loved one have a mobility issue that is prohibitive for attending a public event. If this is the case, would you please let me know? I would like to help to get live music to you. Please email me (marylarew@gmail.com), or call the church and leave a message for me – or snail mail me a note at the church. I'll see what I can do to help you with your New Year's Resolution!

Two final thoughts to leave you with for this month:

1 – You can hear fantastic live music right here at East Granby Congregational Church, every Sunday in 2019!!

2 – You can make fantastic live music right here at East Granby Congregational Church – and come to think of it, a second really great New Year's Resolution would be to Make More Music. So, let me remind you:

Adult Choir meets Wednesdays, 7:30-9 pm
Bell Choir meets Thursdays, 7-8:30 pm

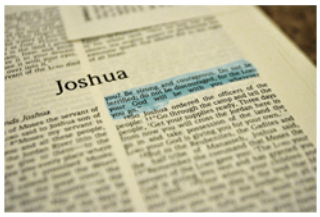
We would love to have more members in both groups. You are most welcome to join us!

Happy New Year!! And keep me posted on the music you are enjoying, at church and beyond. Let's fill 2019 with music, together.

*Mary Larew*

# BOOK REPORT

**The Thursday morning Bible Study Group that meets from: 10:45 am – 12:00 pm,** continues to read **"The Book of Joshua".** Please join us, as we find Joshua demonstrating his faith in God, as he follows God's direction and leads the people, Israel.




## FRIDAY NIGHT BOOK GROUP

Last night at Wendy's home was indeed a warm and wonderful evening. We all enjoyed "**A Redbird Christmas"**, and reminisced about such books as "**Cold Sassy Tree" and "The Mitford Books",** which are also set in the South, all of them featuring characters with distinct, memorable personalities. Many of the characters in these books remind us of people we know. The Christmas cookies were delicious, as was the beverage provided by Wendy.

The book we will be reading for January is written by author Anita Diamant, who wrote **The Red Tent.** The name of the book is "**Good Harbor"**. It is a moving novel of contemporary female friendship. "**Good Harbor"** is the long stretch of Cape Ann Beach, where two women friends walk and talk, sharing their personal stories, and learning life's lessons from each other. One, Kathleen Levine is a longtime resident of Gloucester, MA, a children's librarian, convert to Judaism, and mother to two grown sons. Her serene life is thrown into turmoil by a diagnosis of breast cancer at fifty-nine, and painful past secrets emerge. She desperately needs a friend.

Forty-two year-old **Joyce Tahachnik** is a freelance writer who comes to Gloucester to follow literary aspirations, but realizes that her husband and young daughter are becoming increasingly distant. The two women forge a strong bond, and help each other to confront scars left by old emotional wounds. We will meet to talk about the book, at at Wendy Bowers' home (at 7 Trevor Lane, East Granby) on Friday evening, 7:00, January 11th.

The title of the book for February is "**Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy: Four Women Undercover in the Civil War"** by Karen Abbott. The Auther illuminates one of the most fascinating, yet little-known, aspects of the Civil War: the stories of four courageous women-a socialite, a farm girl, an abolitionist, and a widow-who were spies.

After shooting a Union soldier in her front hall with a pocket pistol, Belle Boyd became a courier and spy for the Confederate army, using her charms to seduce men on both sides. Emma Edmonds cut off her hair and assumed the identity of a man to enlist as a Union Private, witnessing the bloodiest battles of the Civil War. The beautiful widow, Rose O'Neale Greenhow, engaged in affairs with powerful Northern politicians to gather intelligence for the Confederacy, and used her young daughter to send information to Southern generals. Elizabeth Van Lew, a wealthy Richmond abolitionist, hid behind her proper Southern manners, as she orchestrated a far-reaching espionage ring, right under the noses of suspicious rebel detectives.

Real-life stories can be as suspenseful and intriguing as fictional novels. The book is 533 pages, so you might want to get started early!!

We are having a lot of fun, and enjoying the books we've read very much. We'd love to see more of you joining us, and bringing a friend! Check the Beacon, or call me, if you have any questions!

- Jeanne Daggett
860-658-1098

# THE BEACON JANUARY 2019

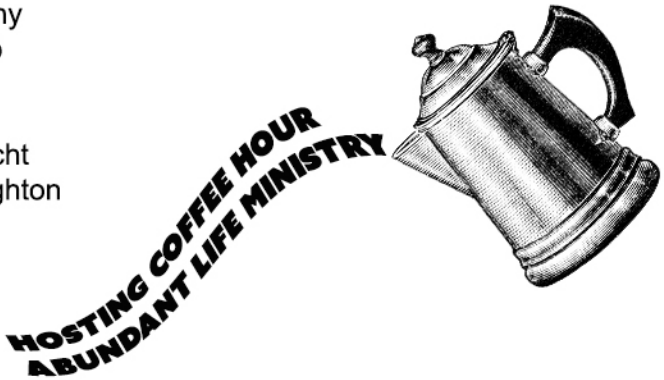
## SERVING EGCC

| | |
|---|---|
| Ministers: | All our members |
| Senior Pastor: | Rev. Denise Terry |
| Moderator: | Tom Short |
| Vice Moderator: | Karen Rhodes |
| Treasurer: | Gene Wilmot |
| Administrative Assistant: | Lauren Ouellette |
| Music Director: | Mary Larew |
| Organist: | Juliana Hall |
| Nursery Attendant: | Virginia Schwager |
| Abundant Life Ministry Leader: | Gayle Wilcox |
| Financial Resources Ministry Leader: | Sybil Pokorny |
| Human Resources Ministry Leader: | Kathy Daleb |
| Mission and Outreach Ministry Leader: | Judy Goff |
| Spiritual Formation Ministry Leader: | Kate Boyer |
| Physical Resources Ministry Leader: | Michael Hecht |
| Worship and Caring Ministry Leader: | Sandy Houghton |

## COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS

Please Sign up on the bulletin board in the lobby to offer to grace the Communion Table with flowers.

*It is always so special to see the beauty the Lord has created for us to share.*




The Beacon is published monthly by
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**Bulletin Information is due by Wednesday. All Beacon articles are due on the 2nd Wednesday of each month**. All articles are subject to editing.

All Ministry meetings convene each month. If you would like to schedule meetings, events or make any changes to the church calendars, please call the church office or leave a note on the desk in the church office.

The Worship and Caring Ministry is in the process of forming worship teams.

Please consider volunteering to serve as Ushers, Greeters, or Call to Worship lay leaders. Contact Sandy Houghton or log on to: https://www.egchurch.org/volunteer.

**Church Telephone** (860) 653-2987

**Church Fax** (860) 653-8187

**Church Email:** Office@egchurch.necoxmail.com

**Church Website:** www.egchurch.org

## AUDIO TECH CREW JANUARY

| | |
|---|---|
| **Tom Horner** | **1 - 6** |
| **Bill Bowers** | **1 - 13** |
| **Lew Noble** | **1 - 20** |
| **Kevin Bach** | **1 - 27** |