

March 2020

A Beacon of Hope



East Granby Congregational Church

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS DURING WORSHIP SERVICE

On behalf of the Worship and Caring Ministry, we invite you to view the many possibilities to serve during Worship. Each Sunday Greeters, Ushers, and members to provide the Call to Worship, serve important roles during the Service.

We are also hoping that some of our youth will serve, or perhaps, families might like to serve together. To Sign up for a role in the Worship Service simply go to: <https://www.egchurch.org/volunteer> or contact Bridget at bridgetbortz0D@gmail.com.

WHAT'S HAPPENING WEEKLY AT EGCC?

Tuesday: Book Study, 1:00 pm, BR
Wednesday: Early Morning Prayer, 6:30 am, BR
Food Pantry, 5:30 pm
Children's Choir, 6:45 - 7:15 pm
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm
Thursday: Bible Study, 10:45 am, BR
Bell Choir, 7:00 pm, MR
Yoga, 7:00 pm, CEC
Friday: Food Pantry 9:30 am
Sunday: Choir Rehearsal, 9:25 am
Worship Service, 10:25 am



IMPORTANT DATES COMING UP!

APRIL 5TH, PALM SUNDAY
APRIL 9TH, MAUNDY THURSDAY
APRIL 10TH, GOOD FRIDAY
APRIL 12TH, EASTER



Dear Friends,

The days are getting longer, and Spring is just around the corner! Though we have been blessed to have experienced a relatively easy Winter, by New England standards, I still welcome the signs of new life in greener grass, buds on the trees, and the first flowers. Frank Houghton plants outside our East Entrance doors at the church. The orchid flower that Judy and Peter Goff blessed me with, more than five years ago, is again in full bloom in my office, and it is spectacular!! Drop by to see it, if you're a lover of orchids - this one is extraordinary!!

This Sunday (Saturday night, before bed, really!), we'll turn our clocks ahead one hour, for the beginning of Daylight Saving Time, and I for one can't wait to enjoy the longer time of sunlight in the evenings. Not being a morning person, the sun setting by 4:30 in the afternoon is simply dreadful for me.

Another sure sign that Spring is coming - we've embarked on the season of Lent in the church. Just six short weeks from now, we'll celebrate the gift of new life in Christ at Easter. But between now and then, we're offered the opportunity to prepare for that new life, much like children in the womb grow and prepare themselves for life in the world, as seeds spend the days of winter in the ground, and as caterpillars go through metamorphosis to emerge from their cocoons as beautiful butterflies with the gift of flight.

While some of us come from religious traditions that encourage us to "give up" something for Lent - as a discipline meant to bring us closer to God, I find it much more effective for me to "take on" something, in my effort to draw nearer to God. Whenever I intentionally add something to my routine or schedule that causes me to be in greater contact with my church family, my relationship with God grows.

At our Ash Wednesday service, I invited everyone to make it a priority - to actually put it on their calendar each and every day - to set aside time (between 5 and 20 minutes - whatever will work for you) to just sit in a comfortable place, be still, and ask the question "How is it between you and me, God?" Some days, I have to work hard to push out other thoughts about work, and my to-do list, and other distractions, but when I am able to just quietly have a little conversation with God in my head, I am often surprised at the thoughts that come to me.

I am reminded of how much of my day I function not really mindful of God's nearness. I am more aware that the voice with which I speak most often to myself, is sometimes much harsher than the loving voice of God. I get in touch with God's hopeful plans for me, and visions of opportunity come more sharply into focus. I'm reminded that I still have a long way to go on my journey to grow into the image and likeness of God, and also that it pleases God that this is still my goal.

Sometimes, I get clarity about how I might proceed in a challenging relationship, in a way that shows forth God's grace and forgiveness. And sometimes I'm just reminded of how much I too need to be forgiven. Sometimes I find tears come to my eyes, as painful feelings that I've pushed aside a bit, so that I can function effectively in my work, find their opportunity to surface. And I experience God's comfort and embrace amid those feelings.

Sometimes I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the opportunities God gives me to make a difference in peoples' lives, and sometimes, I am just overwhelmed by the unmet need that I know about, but don't have time or opportunity to respond to. Sometimes, the words just reverberate in my mind: "Be still, and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)

I can never be sure, when I sit down, and become still, and ask that simple question, "How is it between you and me, God?" what will come to my heart and mind. It is often quite surprising; sometimes very revealing, and always beneficial to my life, and my relationships - especially my relationship with God - the most important relationship I need to nurture, every day.

I encourage you also, during this Lenten season, to take the opportunity to set aside time each and every day to engage in the same exercise, and see how it prepares you for the new life that God means for each and every one of you, at Easter. And if you would like to share some of what comes to you in those moments of stillness, I would welcome hearing from you.

With love and prayers,

galla@gjm11w

Super Saturday - March 14th 8:00 AM to 3:45 PM

Presented by the Southern New England Conference of the UCC
Minnechaug Regional High School- 621 Main St, Wilbraham, MA

Let's take a Road Trip, and enjoy the day together!!

There are so many interesting workshops being offered at the Spring Super Saturday, that it would be great if we had a bunch of people from our church attending different workshops, and then sharing their notes and learning with our church leaders. Let's car pool, and have some fun!!

In Ephesians 4, the author tells us that when Jesus ascended into heaven, "He gave gifts to his people". (v. 8b) 'The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, *to equip the saints for the work of ministry*, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ." (w. 11-13)

The Southern New England Conference of the U.C.C. is very committed to the "equipping" of the saints for the work of ministry. Leading and serving in the church, and in the world, in the name of Jesus requires us to become equipped to exercise our gifts and abilities differently than perhaps we have learned to operate in the secular world. And taking seriously our call to be ministers of the Gospel, it is important that we be constantly availing ourselves of opportunities to learn and grow together. One of the best ways we can do that, is by attending events that are specially designed for that goal, such as this upcoming event. I encourage you to plan to attend.

Super Saturday promises to offer a full day - with worship, workshops, forums and fellowship! The day will open and close with worship, and in between you'll get to choose from 26 different workshops to attend in the morning, and from 22 different workshops in the afternoon. At lunch time, you might choose to participate in one of three special learning opportunities, or just enjoy a longer lunchtime to talk with new friends, or members from our own congregation.

Whether you currently serve in a ministry position in our congregation, or you're interested in learning more about the UCC, or you would like to know how to become equipped to translate your passion into ministry, you'll find something for you on Super Saturday!

The cost to attend is \$69.00 and includes lunch. The deadline for registrations has passed, but you can still attend, and register at the door.

You can download a copy of the full brochure for Super Saturday at

<https://www.sneucc.org/files/tables/content/12792138/fields/files/3f96c235836a414d9db475a1b735d804/mar+2020+brochure.pdf>

At Super Saturday, there will be workshops offered on the following areas of ministry:

Church Vitality, Faith Formation/Christian Education, Mission, Outreach/Community, Justice & Witness, Church Leadership & Administration, Racial Justice, Environmental Issues, Spirituality, Care and Wellness, Open & Affirming/LGBTQ, and Stewardship/Church Finances.

If you are interested in attending, and want more information, or would like to plan to travel together to the event, please let Pastor Denise know, ASAP!



Greetings EGCC Ministers (All Members) and Friends

Blessings to you and your family.

I would ask each of you, during 2020, to find time in your busy schedules to prayerfully seek and discover ways to minister to your fellow church members, and members of the community. The EGCC purpose statement on the cover of each weekly bulletin is our guide to this ministry. Some suggestions could include:

- make a phone call or short visit with someone facing a health or family challenge
- take time to introduce yourself to church guests, or new members you have not met
- find time for prayer and worship, listening for God's specific direction for you
- join a bible study or book study group
- join a choir (choral or bell)
- provide a food contribution to the Friend to Friend food pantry, resident in our church
- sign up to provide sanctuary flowers for a week, and share them with a person in need
- sign up to spend time with the children as a shepherd, or in the Nursery
- volunteer to be an Usher in worship
- agree to join a ministry when contacted by the Abundant Life Ministry members

None of these are new ideas. I have learned over many years, that many of you are already doing these things on a regular basis. To those people I not only say thank you I encourage you to "keep it up". If you have yet to create these habits, or find the time, please set that as a goal for 2020.

I know it is a great feeling when you are supportive of others.

Thank you

Dave Harrold



Financial Report for the Beacon

2020 is moving along quickly- or at least that's how it seems to me. It's the middle of February as I write this article for the March 2020 Beacon, and New Years seems like it happened last week.

The income for January 2020 is very similar to January 2019's income. The January 2020 expenses were slightly higher than January 2019, but consistent with anticipated values. What this means is that currently, we're following a financial path that is consistent with the pledges and budget as presented at the 2019 Annual Meeting. The 2019 Annual Meeting budget as presented showed an \$88,000 deficit. A motion at the meeting was passed that requires a deficit reduction of \$44,000 for 2020. Clearly there is a lot of effort required to accomplish this task.

At the February 2020 Council meeting, a Deficit Reduction Committee should have been appointed and approved. By the printing of this article, work should have begun addressing the necessary \$44,000 reduction in the 2020 budget. Remember that this article is written prior to the February Council meeting. The congregation has required that status on this reduction be presented by April 1, 2020.

As progress is made in Deficit Reduction, I'll include that information in these monthly articles. The results for January are listed below with the assumption that the Expense Budget is \$44,000 less than presented at the 2019 Annual Meeting (\$357,120 minus \$44,000 equals \$313,120 and that the Income is based on the 2020 Budget presented of \$269,189.

January Results - 8.5% of the Year Complete

Current Ops Income	\$12,984.19	Year to Date	\$12,984.19	4.8% of Budget
Current Ops Expenses	\$34,156.85	Year to Date	\$34,156.85	10.9% of Budget

None of the \$34,000 Trustee Budgeted Support is included in the Income above.



Mark your calendars!

Look what's happening!
A new tradition at EGCC



Congratulations On Your Baptisms!

On February 9th, 2020, Alex, Clare and Ian Dean were baptized. May it bring love, peace, and joy as we celebrate this holy occasion with you.

We are delighted that Geoff and Becca and their children are members of our church family!

You are invited to join us at Coffee hour. following worship, in celebration of the Boya family and their expected bundle

Come and enjoy appetizers and more while celebrating the impending arrival of Elyse Boyer!

Date: March 8th

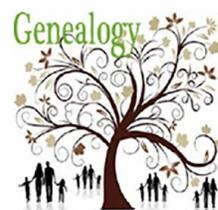
Time: Coffee hour after worship

Where: The CEC

•Your presence is all that is requested

For questions contact:

Christina Houghton 860.614-4782 (-) Leticia Soltero 860-519-8595



Find out who is in your family tree!

Learn how to research and
The Genealogy Group meets
in Fellowship Hall twice a month.

We will meet next on Wednesday,
March 4th from 2:00 - 3:30 pm,
and on Thursday, March 5th
from 7:00 - 8:30 pm.

PLEASE JOIN US!



"Lunch and Learn" was a great opportunity for everyone associated with our Children's Ministry to get tips and tricks provided by Tara Brinckerhoff. From rhythmic clapping techniques, to providing positive reinforcements for classroom management, Tara and the group had rich conversations, to enable better relationships with the children and youth.

Leticia was there to encourage and thank the teachers, volunteers, and helpers. She reminded them that they had a unique call to be working with kids, and an opportunity to be "the Jesus" they learn about, each time they interact with them!



EGCC NURSERY SCHOOL NEWS
We would like to invite you to our
7th ANNUAL EGCCNS PANCAKE BREAKFAST Fundraiser

It will be held again in conjunction with the **CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE!**

Get *a* great start to your day and join us for **HOT** off the griddle
pancakes (plain or blueberry)

- **Gluten free available by request,
100% maple syrup,
sausage, juice, coffee or tea.**



When: SATURDAY APRIL 25TH

From: 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM

Where: EGCC FELLOWSHIP HALL

Suggested Donation: \$8.00 Adults \$5.00 Children under 10 Under 2 free

Take out orders available

**We so appreciate the fantastic church member turnout last year
for our Pancake Breakfast, it was amazing!**

Thanks for all your support throughout the year!

For any questions, please contact Debbie Paskiewicz at 860-214-7986.

EGGANS Preschool



*...gentle learning
through play*

Now enrolling! for 2020 -2021

our accredited preschool is in session from September through May.
Children may be enrolled at 2 years 8 months (32 months).

Classes offered:	3 • yr olds (32 months+)	T,Th	9 -11:30
	4 & 5 • yr Olds	M,W,F	9 :08-11:30
*	4 & 5 •yr Olds	M,W,F	8:15 -11:30
	4 & 5 •yr Olds	M,T,W,Th,F	9 :00.-11:30
*	4 & 5 •yr Olds	M,T,W,Th,F	8:15 -11:30

* The 45-minute extended time is used for academic enrichment activities focusing on prekindergarten skills

Location: The Preschool room and outdoor playground
area on the north side of our round building

East Granby congregational Church
9 Rainbow Road, East Granby, CT 06026

Info: Lee LaRoche, director egccns9@gmail.com 860 653-3913

Children and Youth Sunday was a fruitful, faith-filled, fun, worship hour!



The kids worked hard, along with all the many helping hands, to share the message about. "What To Wear!" Based on Colossians 3:10-14(MSG) the children and youth shared a memorable message about never forgetting to put on our Godly garments, and especially "Love". Dressed in humility, patience, kindness, forgiveness, and mostly love, to name a few Godly virtues, the disciple of Christ is sure to shine everywhere, and in turn bring all the glory to God!



The kids had a blast modeling in the Godly Garments Fashion Show, sporting their T-shirts depicting Christian virtues! We praise God, and give many thanks for our Children and Youth here at EGCC!



On February 23rd, HUH held a potluck at EGCC to share a wonderful meal and also to share information about this wonderful Ministry, which brings youth from urban and suburban settings together for a week each summer. The youth work together each day providing service to the community, and in the evenings gather for worship, games, Bible Study, conversation and reflection. Maya Brody and Jasmyn Dunlevy did a fine job presenting and answering many questions about the program. They discussed topics ranging from what kind of tasty snacks they provide to how they saw God moving in them and their cohorts! About thirty people were gathered to learn about and support this endeavor.

Many thanks to Gayle Wilcox who was the lead on launching this project. If you or anyone you know may be interested in the program, contact her at 860-653-2460.

Heads Up! Hartford (HUH) News

Many thanks to all who joined us for lunch and the HUH presentation Sunday, February 23rd. A special thanks to Maya and Jasmyn for sharing their experiences. A great time was had by all!

Our outreach to the community and the teens alike continues to be life-changing! Our needs remain the same - we still need your help! This will be the 17th year anniversary of Heads Up! Hartford and the 16th year that EGCC has sent a team of "missionaries" to Heads Up! Hartford. We look forward to your continued support of our teens and adults - both High School, college-age and beyond!

YOU, too, can STILL be a part of this important mission project! There are so many ways to serve!

- **Most importantly**, please hold the HUH team, and those we serve, in prayer, now, before, during and after camp. Camp runs from Fri., June 19th through Fri, June 26th.
- You can donate **snack foods** - packaged snacks or bags of fruit - things that do not need to be refrigerated and in containers that you do need to be returned. When we get closer to camp week, there will be an area in the kitchen marked "HUH snacks". Perishables can also be brought to The Ethel Walker School in Simsbury, which is our "home base" during the week of camp. Veggie or fruit trays are a team favorite!
- Given the difficult economic climate, we have many teens throughout the HUH program seeking financial aid. Especially our urban sister churches have teens unable to cover their tuition costs. Historically, HUH has never turned anyone away. In order to retain this approach and still cover expenses, we are looking to others who might wish to contribute towards tuitions. The weeklong-7 night camp costs \$425.00. Perhaps you can serve by covering tuition or partial tuition. Please contact Gayle Wilcox (860-653-2460), if God is calling you in this way.
- Attend the closing ceremony at The Ethel Walker School on Friday, June 26th at 7 PM to support these amazing teen volunteers, and the adults who serve beside them.

"What would you have me do, Lord? How would you have me serve You?"

Emmaus Dates

Sunday, March 15 th	2 PM to 4:30 PM	Reunion at Trinity Episcopal, Tariffville
Sunday, April 19 th	2 PM to 4:30 PM	Reunion at Trinity Episcopal, Tariffville
Friday, May 1 st -3 rd	Weekend 62	St. Peter's, South Windsor
Sunday, May 3 rd	4PM	W/E 62 Closing, St. Peter's South Windsor
Sunday, May 1 st	2 PM to 4:30 PM	Reunion at Trinity Episcopal, Tariffville



Join us for an evening of great company!

May 9, 2020

6:00-9:00pm

Where: Chrysalis Center, Inc., 255 Homestead Avenue, Hartford, CT 06112

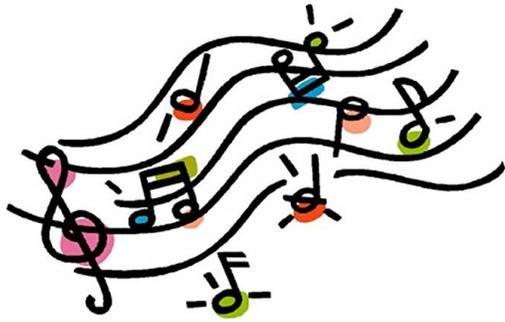
\$50.00/ticket

Join us for a silent auction.

Dinner and drinks with Jeyroviaec

To purchase tickets for the event go to Eventbrite and search for
Heads up! Hartford or click on the link below:

www.eventbrite.com/headsuphartford



MUSIC PAGE

This year for Lent I would like to share a musical resource that you may find meaningful: a podcast called "Songs in the Desert." This podcast is hosted David Sinden, who is the Organist and Director of Music at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in St. Louis, Missouri. David was a classmate of mine at Oberlin, and always a charismatic and innovative presence in the organ department. I am always interested to see what he is doing with liturgical music - and this podcast is one I'm delighted to be a part of!

"Songs in the Desert" is a collaborative audio project about Christian hymns and our responses to them. Each weekday of Lent 2020 a new, short (2-5 minutes) podcast will become available.

This year I am sharing thoughts about a hymn that has great significance to me - "Many and Great, Oh God, Are Thy Things." Based on the Dakota tune "Lacquiparle," the text by Joseph Renville is:

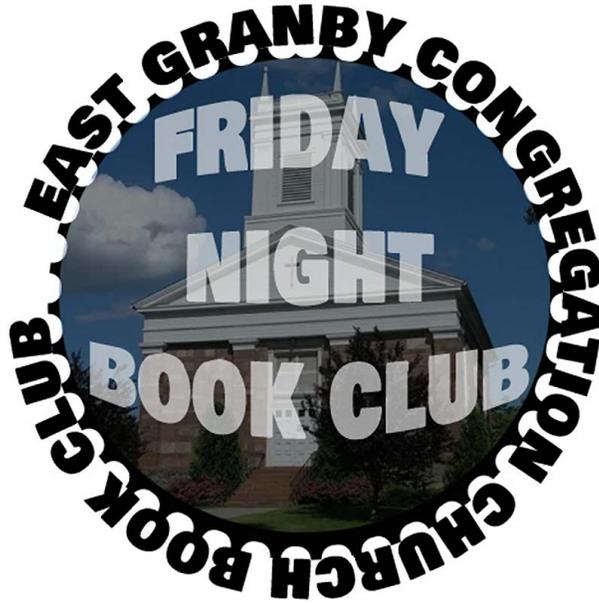
*Many and great, O God, are Thy things,
Maker of earth and sky.
Thy hands have set the heavens with stars;
Thy fingers spread the mountains and plains.
Lo, at Thy word the waters were formed;
Deep seas obey Thy voice.*

*Grant unto us communion with Thee,
Thou star-abiding One;
Come unto us and dwell with us;
With Thee are found the gifts of life.
Bless us with life that has no end,
Eternal life with Thee.*

When my maternal grandparents, James and Virginia Spalding, were first married in 1945, my grandmother joined my grandfather where he served as a Presbyterian minister at Fort Peck Indian Reservation in Montana. The experience was formative for them and inspired a lifetime of activism and support of Native American causes. The hymn, "Many and Great, O God, Are Thy Things" is included starting in the 1990 edition of The Presbyterian Hymnal, largely due to their advocacy.

The hymn has reappeared in several moments of my life, and I look forward to sharing more of my reflections as part of "Songs in the Desert." My episode will be released in late March, and I hope you'll listen to many of the episodes throughout Lent, as each one is sure to be meaningful and interesting, and accompanied by good music! I encourage you to include this listening as part of your own observation Lent this year - and hopefully, in the years to come.

The podcast is available at <http://songsinthedesertpodcast.blogspot.com/>. Give it a listen, and who knows - maybe next year you will sign up to contribute some thoughts about a hymn that has great significance to you!



Friday Night Book Group

The Friday Night Book Group's reading selection for March is "My Beloved World", a memoir written by Sonia Sotomayor. The book cover summary of My Beloved World is as follows: "The first Hispanic and third woman appointed to the United States Supreme Court, Sonia Sotomayor has become an instant American icon. Now, with a candor and intimacy never undertaken by a sitting Justice, she recounts her life from a Bronx housing project to the federal bench, a journey that offers an inspiring testament to her own extraordinary determination and the power of believing in oneself." The New York Times describes the book in this way, "An eloquent and affecting testament to the triumph of brains and hard work over circumstance, of a childhood dream realized through extraordinary will and dedication." The book recounts Sotomayor's early life and, other than an aside mention here or there, it does not cover aspects of her later life or her appointment to the Supreme Court. For those of you who are worried about reading something that is politically charged - this is not that book - it is apolitical and does not reveal or discuss her legal philosophy.

This narrative of a personal journey leading to tremendous success in the face of overwhelming odds should be an inspiration and a springboard for a lively discussion.

Our next meeting is on Friday, March 13th (yes, Friday the 13th!), at 7:00 pm in the Purple Lounge. Please join us! As always, all are welcome, even if you haven't finished or haven't even read the book! Come for the discussion and the fellowship of those who seek to expand their horizons by soaking in the contents of a good book.

Can't make our March meeting? Start reading ahead for April! We will be reading "The Little Pink House: A True Story of Defiance and Courage," by Jeff Benedict. This book tells the saga of Susette Keio and her neighbors in New London, CT as they fight the seizing and condemning of their homes by eminent domain, to make way for a big development for the Pfizer Corporation. The story is so sensational it was made into a movie in 2017.

If you have any questions, or would like help obtaining a copy of either book, please contact Wendy Bowers at 860-478-0685 or fitwits@cox.net.

See you on the 13th!

Happy Reading!

MARCH 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:25 am Choir Reh. 10:25 am, Worship Svc. Communion Sunday	2	3 1:00 pm Book Study	4 6:30 am, Morning Prayer, BR 2:00 pm, Genealogy Grp FH 5:30 pm, Food Pantry 6:45-7:15 Children's Choir 7:30 pm, Choir Reh.	5 10:45 am, Bible Study, BR 7:00 pm, Genealogy Grp.FH 7:00 pm, Bell Choir Reh 7:00 pm, Yoga, CEC	6 9:30 am, Food Pantry	7 Set Clocks ahead 1 hour, before going to bed!
8 Daylight Savings Time 9:25 am Choir Reh. 10:25 am, Worship Sv Nursery School Open House following Worship Service	9 7:00 pm, Spiritual/Leadership Dev.Mtg. 7:30 pm All Ministry Meetings, Various Locations	10 1:00 pm, Book Study, BR 1:00-6:00 Red Cross Drive, CEC 7:00 pm NS Board Mtg	11 6:30 am, Morning Prayer, BR 5:30 pm, Food Pantry 6:45-7:15 Children's Choir 7:30 pm, Choir Reh.	12 10:45 am, Bible Study, BR 7:00 pm, Bell Choir Reh, 7:00 pm, Yoga, CEC	13 9:30 am, Food Pantry 7:00 PM Friday Night Book Club	14
15 9:25 am Choir Reh. 10:25 am, Worship Svc.	16 7:00 pm, Church Council Meeting, BR	17 BEACON DEADLINE 1:00 pm, Book Study, BR	18 6:30 am, Morning Prayer, BR 5:30 pm, Food Pantry 6:45-7:15 Children's Choir 7:30 pm, Choir Reh	19 7:00 pm, Bell Choir Reh 7:00 pm, Yoga, CEC	20 9:30 am, Food Pantry	21
22 9:25 am Choir Reh. 10:25 am, Worship Svc.	23	24 1:00 pm, Book Study, BR	25 6:30 am, Morning Prayer, BR 5:30 pm, Food Pantry 6:45-7:15 Children's Choir 7:30 pm, Choir Reh.	26 10:45 am, Bible Study, BR 7:00 pm, Bell Choir Reh 7:00 pm, Yoga, CEC	27 9:30 am, Food Pantry	28
29 9:25 am Choir Reh. 10:25 am, Worship Svc.	30	31 1:00 pm, Book Study, BR	1	2	3	4



Easter Plants

The Worship and Caring Ministry will again be taking orders for Easter plants after worship on March 8th, 15th, and 22nd during fellowship time.

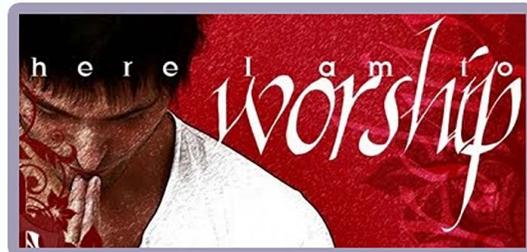
Easter plants will consist of an assortment of lilies, tulips, and hyacinths at a cost of \$12/plant this year.

Any extra funds raised will be used to offset the cost of the loose flowers that adorn the Easter Resurrection Cross.

If you prefer, you can mail in your check and order to the office, to Karen Short's attention. All plants will need to be taken following whichever Easter Service you attend.

If you have any questions, you can reach Karen at 860-490-8124.

MEMORIAL CHAPEL



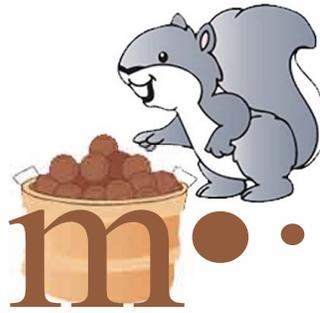
Are you recovering from surgery?
Do you have a nagging cough, but are not contagious?
Are you suffering with chronic back pain?

These are just a few examples of the reason the Memorial Chapel was dedicated in November 2019. The Memorial Chapel is a place where you can watch the worship service in real-time via a live video feed from the sanctuary, where you can find a seat that is comfortable for you sit (or you might prefer to stand, or maybe even walk around as you require). There is a dedicated chapel Usher and the room is conveniently located near the elevator and the restroom.

We have Bibles and hymnals available. It functions exactly like the main sanctuary, and we even serve Communion on the 1st Sunday of each month!

In the words from the Hymn inspired by Psalm 100:4, Enter, Rejoice and Come in!

THE GATHERERS



MARCH FUNDRAISER

Dear Congregation,

Due to my brother's death in January, it is necessary for me to step back from the proposed March Raffle Fundraiser. I will be spending some time in MD, to settle his estate. If someone else wants to oversee the Raffle, that would be great. Otherwise, I will have to delay it until the fall, or until next year.

I am sorry.

Judy Goff

APRIL RUMMAGE SALE

The Gatherers have chosen a date for the Annual Rummage Sale. It will be held on Saturday, April 18, along with the Nursery School Pancake Breakfast. Please start assembling your donations. You will be able to drop them off at the beginning of April. More info to follow in the April Beacon. Remember, no computers, clothes, printers, or TVs. We will also need lots of help on Friday, April 17, for pricing and sorting, and Saturday for selling. Questions, call Judy Goff, (860) 653-7747.



PURSE AUCTION

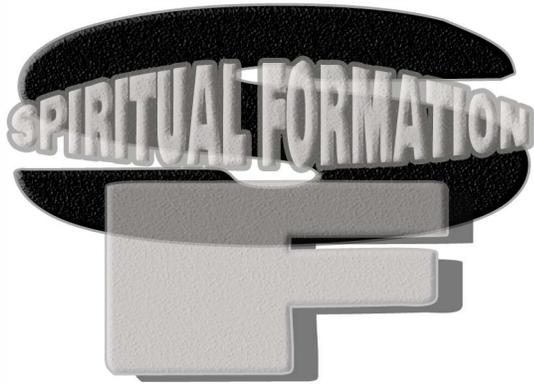
The Gatherers are considering running a purse auction again at some point. We had a lot of fun, and made some good money when we did it a few years ago. So if you have some good purses you would want to donate, let me know. Judy Goff, (860)653-7747.



EASTER HAMS NEEDED

The Missions and Outreach Ministry supplies the Food Pantry with hams for Easter. We are asking for a donation of 3 lb. hams to distribute to the families in need. If you would like to help out, there will be a signup sheet on the refrigerator door in the main kitchen beginning the middle of March. To make sure we have hams for everyone, hams should be placed in the refrigerator by Sunday, April 5. Questions, call Judy Goff or Linda Wolfe.





It's that time of year again! **Come join your EGCC family** on retreat at the Pilgrim Pines Camp and Conference Center in Swanzey, NH from June 12- 14, 2020. Please see the sign-up poster in the church lobby next to the office, and consider this exciting opportunity, especially if you have never been there before!

Children under 4 are free. The price for children ages 4-16 is \$87 each, and \$171 for ages 17+. This price is for the entire weekend and includes the delicious food for all the meals prepared for us by the staff at the dining hall. We ask for a 50% deposit after sign up, with the balance due by the end of April. If you have any questions, please ask Christina & David Houghton, or Kate & Michael Boyer.

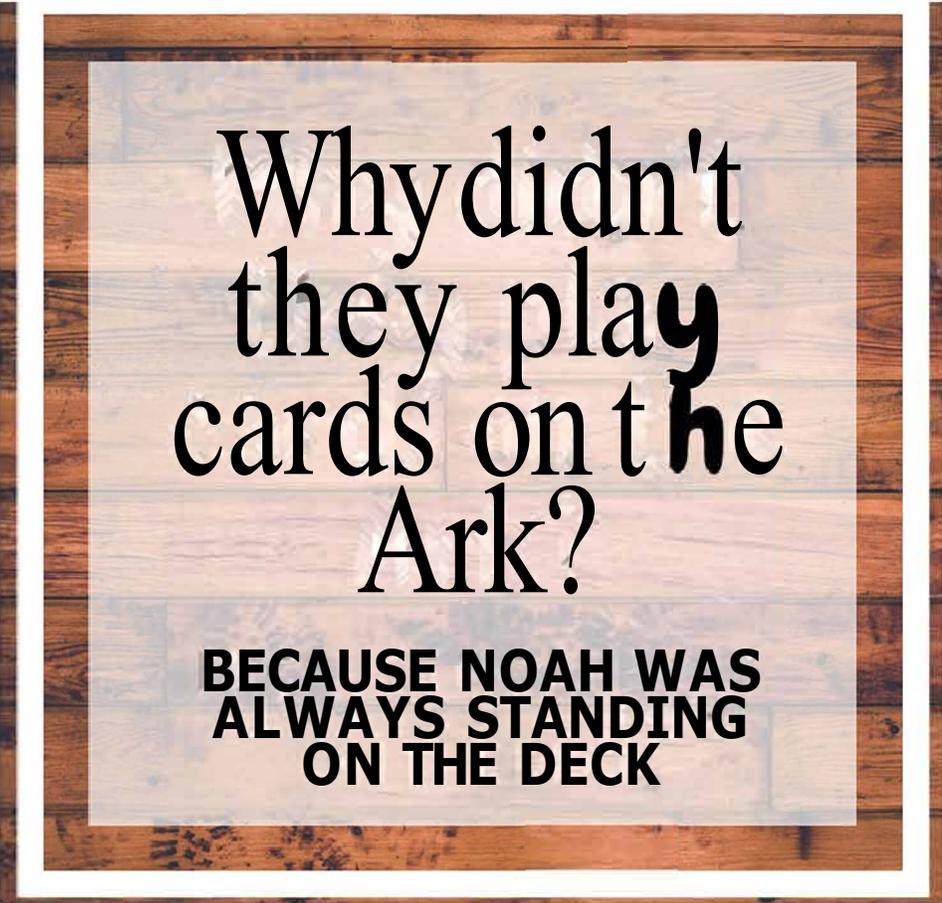
Every month we are sharing a testimonial of a church member(s) experience and why the retreat is important to them:

I enjoy going on the family retreat because of all the wonderful families attending and the memories made. Being at the lake, and the opportunities we share together, makes it fun. From swimming, boating, and fishing, it's fantastic. There are games and a campfire on Saturday night. I personally love fishing with the kids, and seeing them catch their first fish. The time together at the lake is a mini vacation, and is a break from a fast-paced world. It's a wonderful time being together during our meals. You see and hear everyone talking about their day. The day is full of excitement, and everyone shares what the weekend has meant to them. From the youngest to the oldest on the family weekend, God finds a way to bless each of us during our time together.

From a thankful heart,

Kevin Bach





Why didn't
they play
cards on the
Ark?

**BECAUSE NOAH WAS
ALWAYS STANDING
ON THE DECK**



Now do
groups of
angels greet
each other?

HALO, HALO, HALO!



friend to friend

Food Pantry & Thrift Shop

MISSION AND OUTREACH
MINISTRY

In March the Food Pantry is looking for donations of spaghetti sauce. Thank you all for your help in February. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Linda Wolfe, our Friend to Friend liaison.

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 will re-open for the season on Thursday, April 2nd. A donation drop-off event will be held Saturday, March 14th, from 9 am - 1 pm at the EG Community/ Senior Center. For more details, please see the flyer at www.friendtofriendeg.com

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

“This is the day
which the Lord hath
made; let us rejoice
and be glad in it.”

PSALM 118:24

Thank you!

Thank you, everyone, for your prayers, thoughts, cards, hugs, flowers, and sincere sympathy for us on the loss of my brother, Jim Austin. It's what makes EGCC our family and second home. Love and blessings, Judy and Peter Goff

Thanks for Wonderful Memories

Next year, 2021, we will be celebrating our 1st anniversary, March 17th, during our 111th anniversary celebration with our friends and family. We will be celebrating our 111th anniversary with our friends and family. We will be celebrating our 111th anniversary with our friends and family.

2019 EAST GRANBY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH MEMORY TREE HONOREES

"IT IS BETTER TO LIGHT A CANDLE THAN TO CURSE THE DARKNESS."

The East Granby Congregational Church Music Committee wishes to recognize those donors who have honored their family and friends to whom the Memory Tree was dedicated this holiday season. The thought of each person represented by a single bulb together on one special tree illuminates the air with memories.

Sonja Adkins	Harrison Goff	Princes George and Louis
Glenn Aggerup	Marjorie and Francis Goff	and Princess Charlotte
Ruth and Fred Aggerup	Lillian Buell Goss	Princess Diana
Ruth Akerlind	Dawne Grainger	Irene Rachinski
Fran Aniello	Jean Grainger	Anne and John Rafferty
Tammy Yoczik Aston	Lynne Grainger	John Rafferty (8)
Carol and James Austin	Janet Yoczik Gray	Barbara Regan
Mildred and William Austin	Betty and Tex Guinan	Gladys and Ralph Ridgeway
Alice Bassett-Jamella	Juli Hall and David Sims	Phyllis Roberts
Nancy and Al Biddleman (3)	Linda and David Harrold	Wyima ("Y") and Charles Root
Herb Birmingham	Maddie Haas	Judy St. James
Ken Birmingham	Susie and Bruce Hayden	Sama Family
Rod Birmingham (3)	Edna and Stan Herzig	Fay and Tina Saxton
Don Blomquist	Ted Hieronymous	Lois Saxton
Ruth and Ed Boardman	Dorothy Higgins	Virginia and Lloyd Saxton
Scott Boardman (3)	Ethan Hoerle	Josephine and Arthur Schwartz
Pete Bolan	Betty Anne and Ted Holly (3)	Evelyn and Charles Sharp, Sr.
Bollam Family	Myrtle and Robert Hunter	Edith Sheldon
David Bouchard	Nancy and Art Ide	Isabel and John Simonds
Keith Buell	Julie Jennings	Dan Sullivan
Agnes and Leo Busam	Glenna Kadet	Bob Swansburg
Rev. Alan Buttarro (5)	Dennis Kardos	Judy Swansburg
Audrey and Gaetano Buttarro	Charles Kingsbury (3)	Roderick Sweet
David Buttarro	Elizabeth and Lewis Kingsbury	The Reverend Denise Terry (2)
Judy Buttarro	Judy Kingsbury	Joy Turner
Ron Caserta	Annemarie and Art Kramer	Barbara Ridgeway Vaughn
Donald Coffman	Mary Larew	Bill Watkins
Wanda Coffman	Betsy Mack	Cora and Ted Watkins
Elizabeth and Ray Collins	Cindy Marchese	John Watkins
Del Cote	MaryAnn Markowski	Ruth Watkins
Peggy Crane Coyne	Mathis-Berger Family	Tom Watkins
Kennedy Crane, Jr.	Tim Maynard	Ruth and Arch Watt
Kennedy Crane, III	Nancy Means	Agnes and Ray Wilcox
Mittie and Kennedy Crane	Charles Merritt	Frances and Merrill Wilcox
Robert Crane	Margaret Crane Merritt	Ina and Warren Wilcox
Gordon Cunneen	Sandra Moore	Thelma and Gene Wilmot
Lillian and Howard Cushman	Howard Morse, Jr.	Marion and Charles Wilson
Patrick Cusick	Lew Noble (2)	Esther and Thomas Yoczik
Jeannie and Dick Daggett (2)	Winifred and Clymer Noble (2)	Judith and Thomas Yoczik
Bob Derry	Kathlyn Parrick (4)	
Edie Doherty	Rhonda Pelletier	
David Drysdale	Patricia Phelps	
Lucile Cunneen Dunning	Molly and Frank Phillips	
Rebecca and George Dunton	Robyne Pohlman	
Ann and Fred Fahr (2)	Walter Pohlman	
Jason Fitzsimmon	Kayla Pokorny	
John Fontana	Sybil and Fran Pokorny	
The Reverend Marie Ford	Jack Prewitt	
Frederick Goff	Prince William, Princess Kate,	



SERVING EGCC

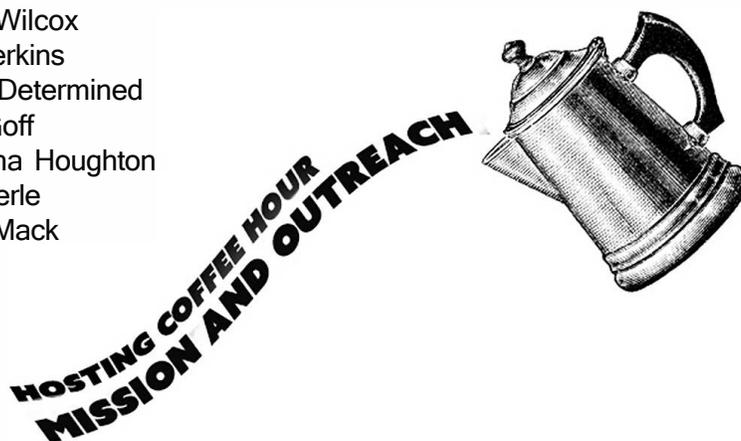
Ministers:	All our members
Senior Pastor:	Rev. Denise Terry
Moderator:	Dave Harrold
Vice Moderator:	Karen Rhodes
Treasurer:	Gene Wilmot
Christian Education Director	Leticia Soltero
Administrative Assistant:	Janet May
Music Director:	Mary Larew
Organist:	Juliana Hall
Nursery Attendant:	Emily De La Cruz
Abundant Life Ministry Leader:	Gayle Wilcox
Financial Resources Ministry Leader:	Bob Perkins
Human Resources Ministry Leader:	To Be Determined
Mission and Outreach Ministry Leader:	Judy Goff
Spiritual Formation Ministry Leader:	Christina Houghton
Physical Resources Ministry Leader:	Bill Hoerle
Worship and Caring Ministry Leader:	Betsy Mack



Please Sign up on the bulletin board in the lobby to offer to grace the Communion Table with flowers. Or Sign up on-line at: www.egchurch.org/flower-donations



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



The Beacon is published monthly by The East Granby Congregational Church (UCC)

Bulletin Information is due by Wednesday. All Beacon articles are due on the 17th of each month. All articles are subject to editing. Please send your info to: Lauren Ouellette - LaurenOVideo@yahoo.com If the article or print piece is not received by the 17th, publishing can not be guaranteed.

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: Bridget Bortz. 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

MARCH AUDIO-CREW

MARCHI
MARCHI
MARCHIS
MARCH22
MARCH29

TOM HORNER
BILL BOWERS
KEVIN BACH
TOM HORNER
LIWNOIL



THE BEACON

March 2020

Newsletter of the
East Granby Congregational Church

PURPOSE STATEMENT:

East Granby Congregational Church U.C.C.,
is called to receive the abundant Life and Love of God,
to love the LORD our God with all of our heart, mind,
soul, and strength and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

With the power of the Holy Spirit, we will do this by:

- * Seeking first the Kingdom of God
- * Following Jesus Christ, and being formed as disciples
- * Serving our neighbors, and equipping one another for ministry.



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