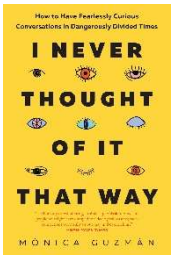
HELLO August

Pastors Message

Rev. Sandra would like to remind you that you are invited to participate in a community summer read of the book “I Never Thought of It That Way” by Marcia Guzman. Discussion date in the fall TBD.



If you are interested in the faith-inspired festival she attended in July, follow this link to check it out: https://wildgoosefestival.org/about/

Also, she is encouraging everyone that volunteers for the Spiritual Formation Ministry to complete the Safe Church Training over the summer so we can be fully functional in the fall. Contact the office for more information. 860 653-2987

Council Corner

Happy summer! I hope this mid-summer mailing finds you well and that you have been able to find some time for rest and rejuvenation. We are keeping all those who have experienced challenges and loss due to some of the severe rains and flooding and other significant weather events in our prayers.

The Council has been quiet this summer and we did not meet in July due to conflicts with vacation, but the individual ministry teams continue to work independently. Thanks to our Worship and Caring team for their planning and organizing summer pulpit coverage and all the other details that are needed for Sunday worship. They continue to seek volunteers for Call to Worship, greeting and ushers.

Marge Korhonen and the Spiritual Formation Ministry are working hard to prepare for Sunday School this fall. One of the needs is to find volunteers to serve as shepherds and teachers each Sunday. All volunteers must follow our **EGCC Safety Awareness Education (SEA) guidelines** to ensure a safe environment for all. In accordance with SEA, the United Church of Christ, and our insurance, all those that work with the youth must complete a background check every five years and must take some online safe church training. This is all very efficiently accomplished through our online resource called *Praesidium*.

The process takes about an hour of your time. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Marge or me to sign up, and we will register you for the background check and training. It would be great to get that accomplished now so that we have a list of volunteers that we can call on when Sunday School starts in September. As a church, it is critical that we all take the steps to ensure our youth are nurtured in a safe environment. Please think and pray about how you can play a part in our church. Contact the office to get started.

Another opportunity to serve; we are gathering a team to update our Guidelines for Safety Education Awareness (SEA) Of Children, Youth and Adults Associated with East Granby Congregational Church, United Church of Christ guidelines. They were originally drafted in 2017 and they need to be reviewed and updated. Please contact me if you are interested in helping with this task. We would like to get this started in September and updated by year end.

As always, please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns about our church.

In His Steps,

Adah Dionne

EGCC Moderator

Worship & Caring Ministry

Join us at 10:00 a.m. in our air-conditioned Sanctuary or watch the live stream!

Rev. Pamela Rose Vollinger will be with us for 3 weeks this month.

Aug. 6: Communion Sunday Pastor Pam

Aug. 13 & 20: Pastor Pam

Aug 28: Rev. Dr. Sandra Fischer returns

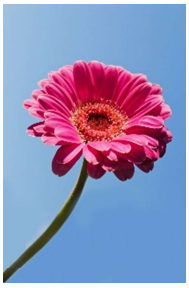
The Memorial Garden: currently Kim Hecht is battling an infestation of poison ivy in the garden. Please, use caution when visiting there.

It's summer but worship continues every week, we always need volunteers to be:

Greeter: Be in the lobby area from 9:35 to 9:58 am to say good morning!

Lay Leader: Welcome all, Announcements, lead us in the call to worship, Invocation (provided by pastor), Lord's Prayer and do a simple prayer at offering time.

Usher: Open the curtains, turn on the lights, get out the "fidgets" for our children, hand out the bulletins, smile! Then "close up" the Sanctuary after the service.



Flowers for the altar add a pleasant sight. Maybe you have your own garden flowers and could arrange some in a vase - which we can give you from our stash in Fellowship Hall..

This is a thought I shared at our last Worship and Caring meeting that I am passing along to you:

Train your mind to see the good in everything.
Positivity is a choice.
The happiness of your life depends on the quality of your thoughts.

The Inspiring Souls

Coffee Hour hosts for August: Physical Resources & Human Resources

Spiritual Formation Ministry

Sunday School Update:

We hope you're enjoying your summer vacation!

Buttaro Room:

During Sunday worship, the Buttaro Room, at the top of the stairs, is available for families to use. There is an excellent video feed of the service in that room plus comfortable chairs and a relaxed environment in which to watch the service. For your children, there are two boxes of toys for different ages and a basket with art supplies for them to use. Please feel free to use the Buttaro room at any time during the service and stop by some Sunday morning and familiarize yourself with the room's layout.

Thank you to the following people who volunteered to be hosts to show folks (especially new ones) where the Buttaro Room is and how it is set up: Marge Korhonen, Pat Lang, Juliette Dunlevy, Tara Brinkerhoff, Kate Boyer, Deb Paskiewicz and Jenn Hecht.

Sunday School registration must be done each year to update emergency contact information. Please register your children for Sunday school even if you have already done in the past. Follow the link or let our teacher Erin know:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd3vA2gIupN72A8ZEY1aud-APEYoARis698AeK_GK-Tbl8G0A/viewform?usp=sf_link

Be a Shepherd or Teacher: To parents and other adults in our congregation, please consider volunteering this fall to be a Shepherd or teacher in the Sunday school classrooms! Shepherds assist teachers in the classrooms, and their help is very much appreciated. All shepherds and teachers must be church members for six months, have completed a background check, and have viewed two, 30-minute Safe Church Training modules each year in order to shepherd or teach. To get started, please email the office. We appreciate your cooperation in helping to keep our children and Sunday school a safe environment.

Parents: Look for upcoming information about the start of Sunday school in September in the weekly Sunday School Newsletters and the September Beacon.

Granby Congregational Church's combined youth group of 6th-12th graders, which includes East Granby, is now on summer hiatus. Watch for information about the fall startup.

Flooding at Pilgrim Pines, Swanzey, NH

Many folks in our church will remember the several years we held an EGCC Family Weekend at Pilgrim Pines Camp and Conference Center in Swanzey, NH. Those were fun, intergenerational weekends for all who participated filled with fellowship, laughter, music, activities, and time to reflect. Recently there were heavy rains in New York, Vermont, and New Hampshire that resulted in floods causing much havoc. Pilgrim Pines is situated in this area and did experience quite a bit of damage from the flood waters with certain sections of the camp more affected than others. The children's summer camp, Camp Squanto, received the least damage and is expected to reopen. The main camp, where our church programs were held, has several damaged buildings and roadways. Also, the lake was quite swollen eroding the beach area and affecting nearby playgrounds, while the roads leading to the camp were severely impacted. **Please keep the folks at Pilgrim Pines in your prayers as they work to move forward in cleaning up, fixing, and rebuilding the damaged areas of the camp.**

Spiritual Formation Ministry: Marge Korhonen (Chair), Deb Paskiewicz, Juliette Dunlevy and Pat Lang

Missions and Outreach

Hello from the Missions and Outreach Ministry! There are many ways we can help as a community and on our own. See below for ways to give back and share our gratitude with others.

Volunteer Opportunity!

The sign-up sheet is posted on the Missions and Outreach board to help with the **EGCC Community Garden!** We need some help for a couple of weeks in August. Thank you to those that have been helping with the garden. It has been very fruitful already and will continue to thrive thanks to many helping hands.

Disaster Relief

The extreme weather conditions have been impacting many across the country. One organization that is very close to the hearts of many from EGCC is **Pilgrim Pines in Swanzey, NH.**

Before COVID, Pilgrim Pines was the location for EGCC's annual family retreat held in June of every year. The location offers endless amenities as well as clean and comfortable housing options and a lake for swimming and fishing. The meals were always delicious, and filling and chapel was filled with prayers and songs of worship and praise.

Sadly, Pilgrim Pines has suffered devastating damage by the recent flooding and the staff is working diligently to try to get the grounds up and running again. This month's donations from Missions and Outreach have gone to help Pilgrim Pines get back on their feet. We know Pilgrim Pines holds a special place in many of our hearts and we hope to be able to join there once again. We have added the web address for donations if anyone would like to donate on their own as well.

https://www.pilgrimpines.org/donate

Ocean State Job Lot is currently running a **Give Back, Get Back program for backpacks**. If you purchase and donate a $15 backpack at the register, you get a $15 crazy deal card.

EGCC hosts a **Red Cross Blood Drive** once a month! You can schedule an appointment by phone 1-800-RED CROSS (733-2767) or online https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time.

The latest Blood Drive dates and info can be found on the Missions and Outreach board.

The August date has changed from 8/22/23 to 8/15/23.

No walk-ins allowed.

Abundant Life Ministry

Lectio Divina

Join us the first Saturday of each month from 9:00 to 10:30am via Zoom. Aug 5th and Sept 2nd are the next meeting dates when we discuss the Scripture for the following Sundays worship (that makes it interesting to compare the minister's interpretation of the scripture to ours)

God's word speaks to each of us differently and we learn so much from each other. You don't need to commit to every Saturday morning, come only when you are able. WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU JOIN US!!!!

Contact the office to be added to the Zoom invitation.

"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."
2 Thessalonians 1:2

Friday Night Book Group

For our August meeting, the Friday Night Book Group will be discussing **"Cassandra Speaks"** by Elizabeth Lesser. This is a nonfiction look at the stories we tell and how those stories become our culture. Historically the stories have been told by men, but what if women had been the storytellers? What story would Eve have told about picking the apple? Why is Pandora blamed for opening the box? And what about the fate of Cassandra, who was blessed with knowing the future, but cursed so that no one believed her? This book is about what happens when women are the storytellers too - when we speak from our authentic voices, when we flex our values, when we become the protagonists in the tales we tell about what it means to be human.

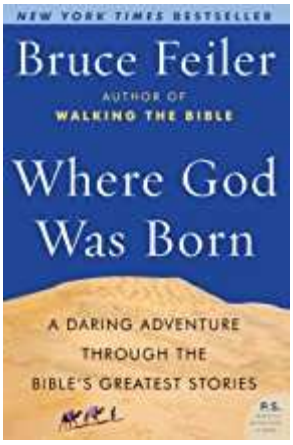
Does this sound intriguing? Join us on **Friday, August 11th at 7 pm** for what promises to be a fun and thought-provoking discussion. We welcome everyone, even if you didn't finish the book, haven't read the book, or have never heard of the book, but are just interested in the topic and want to listen in. We are meeting on the Zoom platform, so if you'd like to be included please contact us and provide your email address so we can send you the Zoom meeting invitation.

Can't make it this month, but would like to read ahead? For our September meeting we will be discussing "The Giver of Stars" by Jojo Moyes. This is a wonderful work of historical fiction about the pack-horse librarians of Kentucky during the Great Depression. Not to be missed!

Hope to see you on August 11th. In the meantime, happy reading!

The Bible Book Study Club

We will take a summer vacation and meet again on **Tuesday, August 29th**. We will just talk about our summer and the author Bruce Feiler. We already know some about him, but we will see what he has been doing since we last read *Walking the Bible.* We found him to be an interesting and provocative writer.



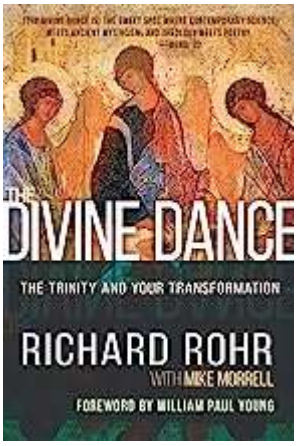
For **September 5** we will read the first chapter of Bruce Feiler's book, *Where God Was Born: A Daring Adventure Through the Bible's Greatest Stories.*

“Feiler brings to life the birth moment of Western faith and seeks to use the past to understand the present climate of religious extremism.”—Washington Post

At a time when America debates its values and the world braces for religious war, Bruce Feiler travels 10,000 miles through the heart of the Middle East—Israel, Iraq, and Iran—and examines the question: Is Religion Tearing Us Apart . . . Or Can it Bring Us Together?

Where God Was Born combines the adventure of a wartime chronicle, the excitement of an archaeological detective story, and the insight of personal spiritual exploration. Taking readers to biblical sites not seen by Westerners for decades, Feiler’s journey uncovers little-known details about the common roots of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, affirms the importance of the Bible in today’s world, and offers a rare, universal vision of God that can inspire different faiths into a united allegiance of hope.

After that we will start reading *Devine Dance* by Richard Rohr with Mike Morrell, William Paul Young (Foreword)



What if changing our perception of God has the potential to change *everything*?

God is not what you think. Visions of an angry, distant, moral scorekeeper or a supernatural Santa Claus handing out cosmic lottery tickets to those who attend the right church or say the right prayer dominate our culture. For many others, God has become irrelevant or simply unbelievable.

In *The Divine Dance*, Fr. Richard Rohr (with Mike Morrell) points readers to an unlikely opening beyond this divinity impasse: the at-times forgotten, ancient mystery of the Trinity—God as utterly one, yet three.

Drawing from Scripture, theology, and the deepest insights of mystics, philosophers, and sages throughout history, Fr. Rohr presents a compelling alternative to aloof and fairytale versions of God:

One God, belovedly in communion, as All-Vulnerable, All-Embracing, and All-Given to you and me.

The Divine Dance makes accessible and practicable the Christian tradition's most surprising gift...

God as Community...as Friendship...as Dance.

Are you ready to join in?

Open and Affirming

Hello to all, this is a quick update from the ONA team that is working on the Open and Affirming (i.e. ONA) initiative for our church. Let me introduce the team to you:

Wayne Korhonen (chairman)
Kate Boyer
David Houghton
Grace Ann Kingsbury
Len Turner
Gayle Wilcox

We have had a few meetings since we started in April. The team is discussing what ONA means to us and proceeding through literature and suggestions that the UCC has provided to us. We have also started interviewing a few folks to seek to understand how the congregation feels about Open and Affirming,

In the near future we will be sending out a survey and continue interviewing as many folks as possible who would like to share their input. Interviews can be set up by contacting any team member. The interviews will be anonymous and can be held in any format desired (face to face, zoom, with the whole team or individuals, etc.).

There will be continued follow-up from this team and our progress. Keep an eye out for more information in the Beacon, e-mails, or church announcements.

We are looking forward to continuing our team's understanding of the ONA process and sharing it with the EGCC community.

Thanks - Wayne

friend to friend
Food Pantry & Thrift Shop

The Food Pantry is looking for Canned Tuna, Canned Chicken, Hearty Soups, Canned Vegetables, Ramen Noodle Packages, Freeze-dried Potato Sides Dishes, & Baked Goods

Thank you for all your help!

If you have any questions please feel free to contact Sandy Landolina our Friend to Friend liaison.

EGCCNS Preschool

...gentle learning through play

The preschool is looking forward to another exciting year. We hope to enhance student learning through scholastic magazine subscription. Scholastic magazine provides seasonal nonfiction and fun school-readiness activities to young learners. In order to provide the students with this opportunity we are seeking sponsors for the magazine subscription.

To sponsor 4 year class: $94.88

To sponsor the 3&4 year old class: $151.80

Contact Becca Dean or Suzanne Richardson-White with questions or interest in sponsoring

Becca: rebecca.a.dean.slp@gmail.com (860) 916-5543 Suzanne: sukeyvet@gmail.com (706) 254-3773

The EGCCNS Preschool's

16th Annual MUM Sale Fundraiser*

As with last year, the grower cannot guarentee colors, but last year we had no problem filling the orders! If you choose to preorder, we will do the best to fill your order and set them aside for you!

Pre-Order your festive **8" plants** by noon on **Sept. 1st**.
Pick up at the
East Granby Congregational Church

OR

Purchase plants at the
East Granby Congregational Church on
Saturday, Sept. 9th 9am - 2pm
Sunday, Sept. 10th 12 - 2pm

Pre-Order Your Bright & Beautiful MUM Plants Now!!

8"pots: 1 @ $15, 2 @ $24, 3 or more $10 each

Name:_____Phone:_____

8" pots: ____Rust/Bronze ____Purple/Pink ____Yellow ____Red ____White

Please write the number totals in each color choice

Amount Enclosed $_____

Cash or Checks Made payable to EGCCNS
Mail to: EGCCNS, P.O. Box 390, East Granby, CT 06026
OR drop-off at the church office Tues - Fri 9am – 2pm
For more information or questions contact Debbie Paskiewicz

Thank you for your continued & generous support of our preschool!

*All Proceeds Benefit the EGCCNS Preschool

EGCCNS Preschool ...gentle learning through play

9 Rainbow Road, East Granby, CT 06026 ♥ egccns9@gmail.com ♥ (860 653-3913)

The Preschool Preamble

Fall Registration: Our classes are filling quickly for the fall! If you know anyone looking for a preschool, please send them our way! We would love to see our classes fill up!

Calling all potential Board members! We are seeking church members to join our Board to help guide our school. Have you ever considered serving on our Board? We meet monthly via Zoom and have a few fun social and fundraising events during the year - it's a great way to make a difference in the lives of our preschoolers! Please see current Board members Deb Paskiewicz or Becca Dean if you are interested.

Have a great month! – *Suzanne and Linda*

CELEBRATING OUR MEMBERS

To my church family,

Thank you for all your thoughts and prayers for this journey I am on. Your cards have meant the world to me. I feel stronger each day so hope it continues. My thoughts are also with all of you. I so love our online service. 🙏 and thoughts

Linda Wolfe

Vision, Identity and Mission Statement

East Granby Congregational Church, UCC, is called to nurture the joy and fullness of Creation with Encouragement, Inclusion and Compassion. Following the teachings of Jesus, we will demonstrate God's love and actively invite all to join us on this journey.

We are led by our core values of Faith, Acceptance, Community and Love.

We fulfill our calling through Prayer, Worship, Engagement and Service.

EGCC Information

Staff

Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Sandra L Fischer
Christian Education Director:	TBD
Sunday School Teacher:	Erin Lampron
Music Director/Pianist	Juliana Hall
Administrative Assistant:	Karen Handville

Officers

Moderator, Council Chair:	Adah Dionne
Vice-Moderator:	Joe Doering
Treasurer:	Gene Wilmot
Income Recorder:	Pam Turner
Expense Recorder:	Dave Harrold

Ministry Chairpersons

Abundant Life:	Gayle Wilcox	Financial Resources:	Sybil Pokorny
Human Resources:	Rebecca Dean	Missions & Outreach:	Kathy Mock
Spiritual Formation:	Marge Korhonen	Physical Resources:	Bill Hoerle
Worship & Caring:	Thelma Wilmot		

Key Church Communication Info

Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9:00 am – 2:00 pm Phone: 860-653-2987
Email Office@egchurch.necoxmail.com
Pastor@egchurch.necoxmail.com

Mailing Address:
East Granby Congregational Church, UCC
P.O. Box 390
East Granby, CT 06026

Web Site www.egchurch.org
For Donations: Mail checks, Donate on the Website or use QR Code:

Meeting Information

EGCC Ministry meetings are held as scheduled by the Ministry Chairperson.
EGCC Council meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of each month.
Contact the Council or Ministry Chairperson if you wish to attend.

Beacon Information

The Beacon is published on the 1st of each month. Beacon Deadline for articles is the 23rd of the month for the next month's publication. A Word document is the preferred format for submitted articles and will be subject to editing/formatting. Articles should be sent to Karen at: Office@egchurch.necoxmail.com

Volunteer Opportunities

Sunday Sanctuary Flowers: Use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin Board across from the office OR Contact Karen in the office.

Sunday Worship Teams need Lay Leaders, Ushers, Greeters. To sign up, go to: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040d4faca628abf49-worship#/ or Contact Linda Harrold

Sunday School Shepherds are needed. To sign up, go to: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4ca8ab2aa1ffc61-egcc#/ or call Pat Lang