



Pastors Message

Friends,

So much has been going on at EGCC since the beginning of 2024. These are a few items that come to the fore of my mind: We have had two outstanding guests preachers introduced to us by the Open & Affirming team expand our worldview; we've had a variety of music with the Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, Praise Band and Children's Chorus leading us in worship; we have hired Matt Sczurek as our Director of Music; and multiple teams of volunteers are working on developing a Deficit Reduction Plan that is in line with our Vision, Identity and Mission Statement, to ensure that EGCC is able to most effectively reach our community with a message of God's love for all.

That message is never more present than in the season of Lent. Your Worship and Caring Ministry Team has provided a myriad of ways to support you during your Lenten Journey. Please take full advantage of all the resources at your disposal. Whether it is spending a few minutes each morning pondering the reflection question on the Daily Devotional cards, listening to the "Wandering Heart" Spotify list, joining the Lunchtime Lenten Study on Wednesdays, or strolling along the upstairs hallway studying the artwork and artist descriptions, these resources are meant to take you deeper into your own wandering heart.

It is my hope that it is within your wandering heart that you will become more connected to the God of your own understanding. Let this process of Lent help you explore what the Jesus Way is for you during this period of your life. Take time to ponder this question—What does it really mean for you to follow "the Messiah, the Son of the Living God?" I would love to hear what your wandering heart is telling you.

Blessings to overflow,
Sandra



Council Corner

Hello all,

Our new 2024 Council is in full swing with our first meeting this month. Welcome to the new ministry chairs: Kim Hecht leading the Worship & Caring Ministry and Jeff Hecht leading the Financial Resources Ministry. We also welcomed our returning ministry chairs and new trustees. We got straight to work. As many of you are aware, at our Annual Meeting in January there was a lot of discussion about the church budget. The presented budget was passed with the understanding that Council moves forward to identify how to reduce the deficit for the 2024 budget and identify how to maintain a zero-deficit budget this year and into the future without depending on trustee funds to balance the budget.

With much work by many including our Vice Moderator Joe Doering, we went to the Council with a prepared proposal to create a zero-deficit budget. The proposal passed unanimously after discussion.

The **Zero-Deficit Project** proposal includes the following:

Now that the annual meeting is behind us, we should focus on “right sizing”. These challenges were discussed in the annual meeting and there was a consensus that we need to address these issues, if possible, by May of this year.

Below is a list of topics or areas that will be explored:

- identify possible reduction in expenses,
- identify options to generate additional income.
- Ensure all our financial practices, including EGCC investments, use updated technology and utilize best practice.

All these efforts would have a focus on establishing zero deficit budgets for this calendar year and beyond and ensure that all activities of the church are aligned with our Vision, Identity and Mission.

We are creating 6 sub teams to work on these efforts. The 6 sub teams are:

1. **CEC Facility Usage**
2. **Pledge and educate about how a congregational church functions**
3. **Trustee Funds Review**
4. **Worship and Caring Alignment**
5. **Financial Resource study**
6. **Post-It Campaign:** Brainstorm effort to seek ideas from the congregation to reduce expenses, and/or generate additional income and revenue.

The sub teams will be chaired by a Ministry or Council Team member or Trustee. As of the writing this update, we are finalizing the members of each team. Our timeline will be:

- **March 3:** All-Church brainstorming session to occur. Dave Harrold will be facilitating the process. In addition to discussion on the 3rd, we will be sending a virtual survey to gather your ideas on reducing expenses or generating income for our church. We would like to hear from everyone, our congregation’s ideas are a key part of this project.
- **March 18:** Sub-teams to provide an update at the March 18 Council Meeting

- **April 15:** Sub-teams to provide **final draft of recommendations** at the April 15 Council Meeting. This date meets the requested action as discussed at the Annual Meeting.

From there, Council will work to identify action plans that support the recommendations. We will be finalizing the sub team recommendations and action plans throughout May, and then will schedule an All-Church meeting scheduled for June 9 to share the details.

This is an exciting time for our church, and I'm thrilled to see so many participate and work toward ensuring a sound future for EGCC that aligns with our Vision, Mission and Identity.

As always, please reach out with any questions or concerns.

In His Steps,

Adah Dionne
EGCC Moderator

Treasurer's Report

Match Challenge

Last month I announced that an anonymous donor offered a \$10,000 Match Challenge. Great News – we already have received \$2,005 towards that Challenge. I've even "heard" that there are more donations on the way. THANK YOU isn't enough to say but it's meant in the sincerest way.

Pledges Still Accepted – Pledges Make Planning Easier

Yes – you may still submit your 2024 pledge form to the Income Recorder. My understanding is that those from the Catholic background are not familiar with a "Pledge." The Pledge process is how we make our financial commitment to the Church in the Congregational world.

Trustees

Make a lasting impact with your gift to the East Granby Congregational Church

Learn how you can donate stocks, bonds, mutual funds or QCDs and enjoy tax benefits.

Why give stocks, bonds, mutual funds or QCDs?

1. When you donate these assets to the East Granby Congregational Church, you can avoid paying capital gains tax on the appreciation of your investment.
2. You can also claim a charitable deduction for the full market value of your gift, reducing your income tax liability.
3. If you are 70 1/2 or older, you can make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your IRA and satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD) without increasing your taxable income.
4. By giving these assets, you can support the church's mission and help fund the programs and services that make a difference in our community.
5. You can also designate your gift to a specific fund, such as an endowment fund, a capital fund, or another fund, and help ensure the long-term stability and sustainability of the church.

How to make your gift?

1. The process of donating stocks, bonds, mutual funds or QCDs is simple and convenient. You can transfer your assets electronically or by mail to the church's brokerage account.
2. You will need to provide some information about your gift, such as the name and number of shares of the securities, the date and value of your gift, and the fund you wish to support.
3. You will also need to contact one of the church trustees who can assist you with the details and the paperwork. The trustees are Michael Hecht, Peter Goff, Phil Johnson and Thelma Wilmot. You can reach them by phone or email.
4. Once your gift is received, you will receive a confirmation and a receipt for your tax purposes.

Thank you for your generosity and support

1. Your gift of stocks, bonds, mutual funds or QCDs will make a lasting impact on the East Granby Congregational Church and the people we serve.
2. You will also enjoy the benefits of giving wisely and strategically, maximizing your tax savings and your charitable impact.
3. If you have any questions or need more information, please do not hesitate to contact the church trustees or the church office.
4. We are grateful for your partnership and your faithfulness.

Worship & Caring Ministry

Join us for worship at 10:00 am

Mar 3rd: Communion

Mar 10th: Worship with Rev Sandra.

The sermon will be presented by Candace Low: Disability Community After Church, please join us in Fellowship Hall for discussions and time for questions and answers.

See the Open and Affirming article in this Beacon issue for more information

Mar 17th: **Café Church**- We start our new curriculum: Practices. In the first session we will be discussing *Prayer*.

Mar 24th: Palm Sunday – Please join us after church for a Potluck Brunch and the annual Easter Egg Hunt

Mar 28th: Maundy Thursday 7:00 pm service

Mar: 31st Easter Sunday 10:00 am service

Café Church Topic: *Prayer*: video narration by Brain McLaren

Brian's take on prayer is less about what prayer does or why we pray. Instead, he focuses on giving us permission to pray in ways that are meaningful, helpful, and life giving.

Daily Devotional Cards and Devotional booklet for Lent: a set of daily questions and a prayer using our 2024 theme: *Wondering Hearts*. Are available on the table under the monitor at the east entrance. Contact the church office or Kim Hecht if you need more packets.

Lent – Easter Art Collection: Take a moment on your way to the Sanctuary to view the Art Collection we have up for the Lenten Season. This is a collection of 13 visuals inspired by the scriptures for Lent – Easter

Lenten Study Sign-Up Reminder

On Wednesdays (2/21--4/10) from 12:00 to 12:50 pm Rev. Sandra will be leading a Zoom-based **Lunchtime Lenten Study** following the Lenten Devotional booklet available in the east entrance lobby. Each week offers commentary, poetry, visual art, and reflection prompts. Please contact Karen in the church office or Rev. Sandra to register for the Zoom link.

Name Tags: we are using these to help learn names as we see new faces each week. You can get a “peel & stick” tag from the greeter at the East entrance or as you enter the Sanctuary.

The Collection Plates are now going to be passed by the ushers while the *Music for Joy and Reflection* is performed. We realize that many people do not use the offering envelopes, instead making their donations in other ways – please just pass the plate to the next person.

Communion Offering envelopes: these are placed in the pews on the first Sunday of each month for your use. Monies from this special offering are put in the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.

Worship and Caring ongoing requests....

- Volunteers needed for Sunday worship: Greet, Usher, Lay Leader
- Donate flowers for the altar on Sunday
- Be a meal ambassador to deliver a preprepared meal.
- Be part of Coffee Hour set up/cleanup.
- Facilitate a small group for Café Church

EGCC welcomes **Matthew Sczurek** (pronounced "Zurich") as our **new Director of Music**. Matthew is an experienced organist, accompanist, handbell ringer and vocalist and has a wealth of experience in various musical settings.

Coffee Hour for March will be hosted by Worship & Caring and Council

Music Director



It is with great joy and enthusiasm that I write to you as the new Music Director of East Granby Congregational Church. From the moment I stepped into this wonderful community, I have felt nothing but warmth and welcome, and I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside each and every one of you. Music has always been a powerful medium for expressing faith, joy, and unity, and I am thrilled to have the privilege of leading our congregation in worship through song.

I am particularly thrilled to begin working with our choir and bell choir. These groups, comprised of a dedicated group of members, are not only committed to sharing their musical talents but also to fostering a sense of camaraderie and fun. To our current members, I express my deepest gratitude for your commitment and dedication. Your contributions enrich the musical community immeasurably. And to those considering joining us, whether you're a seasoned singer/ringer or a beginner, there is a place for you in our musical family. If you're interested in joining us, please don't hesitate to reach out to me—I would be delighted to welcome you aboard!

As we embark on this musical journey together, let us remember the words of Psalm 95:1: "Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!" May our voices blend in harmony, our hearts be filled with joy, and our spirits be lifted as we worship together in song.

Blessings,

Matt Sczurek
Music Director & Accompanist

An Update from the O&A Team

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.

That statement reflects who we say we are. With these words in mind the O&A (Open and Affirming) Team is pleased to continue to highlight what EGCC will be offering and how you can participate.

We are so appreciative of those of you who have reached out to members of our team and provided your feedback. Exploring the Breadth of God's welcome, the breadth of God's Love, is a big task and our entire church family is needed for this mission.

Two months into 2024, we have been blessed by two speakers and two wonderful talk-back sessions. Both Rev. Marilyn Kendrix and Elliot Altomare shared their stories from their hearts. We pray that you learned from their presence in our midst. There will be three more speakers this spring and we urge you to be present for them also. These speakers and events reflect just some of the God's children that have been marginalized and have not always felt the breadth of God's welcome from their brothers and sisters.

Exploring the Breadth of God's Welcome – Remaining 2024 Schedule

March 10, 2024 Candace Low (disability community)

April 7, 2024 Rev. Marilyn Sponzo (cognitive decline)

May 12, 2024 Rev. Denny Moon (personal testimony)

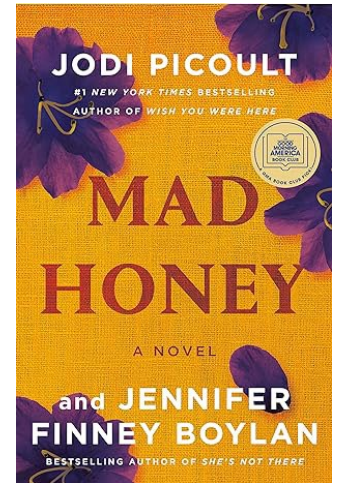
As a team, it is our intention that these events will aid us as a church family as we ponder whether we will "officially" become an Open and Affirming church. Becoming O&A is not limited to sexual orientation or gender identity. It is inclusive of all of God's children...God's children, all created in God's image. Our Vision, Identity and Mission Statement says that we are called to be inclusive and passionate. It doesn't exclude anyone.

Our team encourages you to save these dates, to be present, to question and to pray on what we hear. We all have the opportunity for God's light to shine through us and brighten our world, both individually and as a church family. These are important steps for our church as together we **"Explore the Breadth of God's Welcome."**

Your O&A Team – Wayne Korhonen (chair), Kate Boyer, Dave Houghton, Grace Kingsbury, Lennie Turner and Gayle Wilcox

Friday Night Book Group

To help us get through the end of winter, the Friday Night Book Group has chosen a "can't put it down" thriller to heat things up. We are reading *Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan. *Mad Honey* tells the story of two women who have fled abusive pasts and make a new life in the small town of Adams, New Hampshire. Olivia and her son Asher move into her childhood house and take over her father's beekeeping business. Lily and her mom relocate for her final year of high school. Their paths cross when Asher falls for the new girl at school and Lily can't help but fall for him too. But when Lily turns up dead and Asher becomes a suspect, Olivia's world is turned upside down. As the tense courtroom drama unfolds, Olivia realizes that Asher's hidden more than he's shared with her and the case shines a light on the true cost of secrets kept for love.



If this sounds like just the kind of winter escape you've been looking for, please join us for our next meeting on **Friday March 8th at 7pm** for a spirited discussion and lots of warm fellowship. We continue to meet on Zoom and we welcome all. If you'd like to participate, please send us your email address so we can include you in the Zoom meeting invitation. For information on the meeting, the book, or the group, you can contact Wendy Bowers.

If you are unable to join us this month, but would like a peek ahead, we will be reading *The Screwtape Letters* by C. S. Lewis for our April meeting.

Hope to see you on March 8th. In the meantime, happy reading!



The Food Pantry is currently in need of the following items: tomato sauce in jars, Chef Boyardee, small cans of tomato soup, baked goods, laundry detergent, and canned fruit. Thank you for all your help! If you have any questions please feel free to contact Sandy Landolina our Friend to Friend liaison.

Spiritual Formation Ministry

Sunday School:



Palm Sunday Service March 24th

The children will be participating at the beginning of the church service by recreating Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. They will enter the church waving palms and distributing them to the congregation while Jesus enters on the donkey.

Children should arrive at **9:30 to practice**. Drop off will be upstairs **in the Buttaro Room**.

Brunch/Potluck & Easter Egg Hunt

Please join us after church in the Fellowship Hall for fellowship & brunch. We are asking, if possible, to please bring in a brunch type item (i.e.: quiche, strata, French toast casserole, fruit, bagels & cream cheese, or breakfast type pastries). Food can be brought to the kitchen before church. The ovens & warmer will be on to keep cooked foods hot. Worship & Caring & the Church Officers will provide desserts.



We need people to help in the kitchen with set-up & clean up! If you can help, it would be greatly appreciated!

There will be photo opportunities & an appearance from a special visitor!

Following brunch, the children will enjoy an Easter egg hunt either in the CEC area if it rains or outside if it's dry. Children should **bring Easter egg baskets and coats**. **Please sign up for the Brunch and Easter Egg hunt so we can plan for the day. <https://forms.gle/ubV6vAxerazz8PGS6>

If you would like to donate a bag of wrapped candy i.e.: chocolates, Skittles, Starbursts, mini mixed chocolates, etc. that will fit in the plastic eggs, it would be appreciated! All candy needs to be brought to the Church Office **by March 17th**.

Looking forward to seeing everyone on March 24th!


Any questions, call Debbie Paskiewicz or Magdalena Mackay

Easter Sunday March 31 Families will worship together for the morning service. The Buttaro Room will be available for families with infants and young children. Easter packets and crayons will be available for all the children.

Sunday School registration must be done annually to update emergency contact information. Please register your children for Sunday school if you have not already done so this year, using the following link or let our teacher Erin know:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd3vA2glupN72A8ZEY1aud-APEYoARis698AeK_GK-TbI8G0A/viewform?usp=sf_link

Parents:

Please continue to look for the EGCC Sunday School Newsletter from Miss Erin each week. 

Buttaro Room: During morning worship services, the Buttaro Room, at the top of the back 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 (just click on with the mouse). 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. It's ok to go out the door in front of the pastor. She/he will not get upset. Stop by some Sunday morning and familiarize yourself with the room's layout.



Be a Shepherd; you are needed.

To parents and other adults in our congregation, please consider volunteering to be a Shepherd 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 in order to shepherd or teach. We appreciate your cooperation in helping to keep our children and Sunday school a safe environment. If you have any questions, please contact Adah Dionne. Adah will set you up to receive an email from Praesidium with a code to do the training.

Thank you to the following people who volunteered to be shepherds and/or teachers for the month of: February: Ryan Hecht, Rebecca Dean, Debbie Paskiewicz, Pat Lang, Magdalena Mackay, Kristy Preli, Kate Boyer, Christina Houghton and Marge Korhonen.

Please use the link below to sign up to be a **shepherd or helper**. Helpers do not have to be safe church certified as long as they are with someone who is safe-church trained at all times and cannot be alone with any of the children. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4ca8ab2aa1ffc61-egcc#/>

Granby Congregational Churches combined youth group of 6th-12th graders, which includes East Granby

We invite all kids from 6th-12th grade to two events per month. One event is always the 3rd Sunday of each month from 6:30-8:00 pm and the other event is always TBD and is community service oriented.

Upcoming Events for 2024:

March 17- Movie Night w/candy



April 21- Tie Dye Party



May 19 – Bonfire and Outdoor Games



Look for separate emails from Sarah Pradhan for the youth group events.

Email Sarah with any questions

If you bring a guest, please Email their contact information to Sarah.

Summer Camp Opportunities for Youth

For parents of older children and teens, there are several opportunities for involvement in camps and programs during the summer.

Silver Lake Camp and Retreat Center, Sharon CT. – Nestled in the western CT hills, this camp has several weeks of programming to choose from during July for children entering grade 4 through high school. There is also a family camp for one week in late June – early July. Information is available in CEC 1 and in the Sunday school classroom area. <https://www.silverlakect.org/>



Granby Congregational Church Youth Mission Trip – This mission trip is a two-night trip to Boxford, MA to participate in Boston-North Backyard Mission outreach work. “[Boston-North Backyard Mission](#), a ministry of Second Congregational Church of Boxford, welcomes groups to a variety of urban and suburban service experiences in and around northern Massachusetts.” This opportunity is open to all GCC and EGCC youth, 8th grade and up. Families that are interested should reach out to Sarah Pradhan at sarahgranbyucc@gmail.com. She is hoping to have a final head count by April 1st.



Heads Up Hartford: A week-long overnight community service summer camp that unites urban and suburban youth to improve our communities and develop our leaders. Although summer is a few months away, we're excited to share our 2024 summer camp dates. **This year's dates are June 23-29, 2024.** More details and registration (coming soon) can be found at <https://headsuphartford.org/info%2C-registration%2C-forms>

Spiritual Formation: Marge Korhonen (Chair), Deb Paskiewicz, and Magdalena Mackay

Abundant Life Ministry

Our Prayer Cross – Come Journey Together!

We hope that you all will take some quiet time at the cross, as individuals and as families. There was such positive feedback last year along with some suggesting that we place the cross in the Memorial Garden. Surely that would be lovely for us. However, likely would have less impact for the East Granby Community and passersby on Rt.20. One of the statements in our Vision, Identity and Mission Statement is, “Following the teachings of Jesus, we will demonstrate God’s love and actively invite all to join us on the journey.” In this spirit, the cross location on Rt. 20 seems best. However, we can journey to the cross through the Memorial Garden. Perhaps families can begin by obtaining a ribbon(s) from either inside the church and/or the bag near the cross, then spend time in the Memorial Garden for meditation, prayer and/or family discussion followed by placing the ribbon(s) on the cross.

Please invite your friends and neighbors to do the same. If any of you have climate friendly ribbon (no nylon curling ribbon, for example) or material, lengths of about a yard, up to an inch wide, to donate, that would be much appreciated. There is a bin for ribbon in the church lobby for your donations or from which you may choose a ribbon to tie on the cross. There is also a weather proof ribbon container hanging near the cross. Based on Dave Houghton’s suggestion last year, we will surround the base with palms for Palm Sunday! We also hope to bless all the prayer ribbons during Sunday worship on April 7th.

Come to the Cross...bring your prayers, joys and sorrows...Come to the Cross

Lectio Divina

Despite the cold, the snow, the rain and the wind we will soon be experiencing Easter flowers.

Below is the upcoming schedule for our Lectio Divina Bible Study Group. Our Saturday morning sessions are a time to explore God’s word with friends and members of our church family. If you have limited familiarity with the Bible, this group is perfect for you! None of us are Bible scholars. Nor do any of us have definitive answers. 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!!!!**

When: The first Saturday of each month - Saturday mornings 9 to 10:30 AM and every Saturday during Lent

Where: via Zoom so that those out of state can still attend

Topic: the Scripture for the following Sunday worship (that makes it fun to compare the preacher’s interpretation of the scripture to ours)

How do I join: please contact Carl Pitney and/or Gayle Wilcox – we will add you to the Zoom invitation

Upcoming Calendar dates: All remaining Saturdays during Lent - Mar 2nd, Mar 9th, Mar 16th, Mar 23rd and Mar 30th

Sat., Apr 6th

Sat, May 4th

Sat., June 1st

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

2 Thessalonians 1:2

The Gatherers

ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE

The Gatherers Annual Rummage Sale has been scheduled for **Saturday, April 20**, from 9am-2pm. Set-up will be on Friday, April 19, from 1pm until 4pm. We will be looking for a ton of help on Friday, especially pricing the items. The Nursery School will be having its Teacup Auction on the 20th as well. Start saving your gems for the Sale. Times and places for drop-offs will be given out later.

Judy Goff for the Gatherers

The Bible Book Study Club

Bible Book Study – 1:00 PM Tuesday via ZOOM

ALL ARE WELCOME! No Knowledge of the bible is needed, just a desire to get-to-know others, read, discuss, and learn about God and how He works in our lives by looking at how he has worked in others. We share doubts, challenges, faith, and friendship.

In February we started the book **The Devine Dance** by Richard Rohr and Mike Morrell, forward by William Paul Young. We read a chapter or two a week and discuss it.

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:

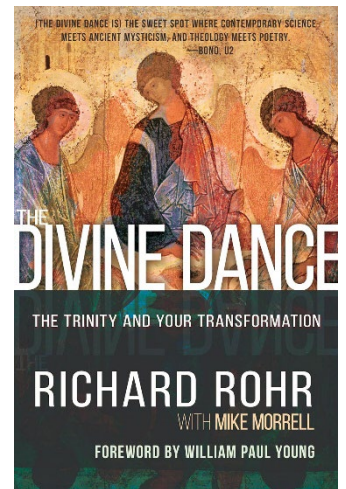
One God, belovedly in communion, as All-Vulnerable, All-Embracing, and All-Given to you and me.

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?

Join us in our journey at 1:00 PM on Tuesday via ZOOM.

Contact Grace Kingsbury or Edie Doherty



Missions and Outreach

Hello from the Missions and Outreach Ministry! God calls us to use our Time, Talents, and Treasures to give back. Do you know a program or organization that could use our help? Let a member of Missions and Outreach know if there is an opportunity for EGCC to give back that is close to your heart.

Save The Dates

Mark your calendar for the following upcoming events. More details to follow:

April 20th, 2024 – EGCC Rummage Sale

April 27th, 2024 – Women's Club 5K Ridge Run

Clothing Shed Update

The Clothing Shed has become a seamless operation thanks to the help of many EGCC members. Please continue to help spread the word as we enter spring cleaning season!

February Giving

Journey Home is focused on finding solutions to the barriers that create cycles of homelessness. They are very active in working with local supporters to not only find housing but also build a foundation to not become homeless again. Please view their website for volunteer opportunities.

Doctors without Borders is a collection of doctors that provide aid around the world to support countries suffering from war, disease, and disasters. They have provided aid to over 72 countries.

Local Support

Project Graduation is an event held after East Granby High School graduation to provide an overnight, substance free/safe graduation party for the graduating seniors. This tradition is going strong in East Granby, and we are proud to support it every year.

Don't forget, EGCC hosts a **Red Cross Blood Drive** once a month! You can schedule an appointment by phone 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or online

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time>.

No walk-ins allowed.

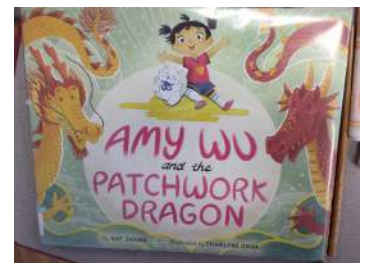


The Preschool Preamble

February brings several holidays, and our students have had fun learning about and celebrating both Valentine's Day and Lunar New Year this month. We made several heart and love-related crafts, hosted Valentine parties, and talked about love.

We also hunted for lucky coins and a lucky dragon in a sensory bin for Lunar New Year (Happy Year of the Dragon!), and made paper lanterns and paper dragon puppets.

We are wrapping up the month with studies of explorers and then inventors as a tie-in to Black History Month, starting with the engineer and astronaut Dr. Mae Jemison next week. We have our own NASA center set up in the classroom, and will even have a rocket ship (made from a refrigerator box) to go with it!



Save the Date: We are excited to announce that we will be having our *annual Coffee Cup Raffle* in conjunction with the church's Rummage Sale, on **Saturday April 20th**. Mark your calendars! Our raffle features gift cards from many local businesses, as well as candles, jewelry, and other fabulous prizes to win.

Registration for fall 2024: We are enrolling for next year's classes, and they are nearly full! If you know anyone who has a preschool-age child looking for a school, please send them our way. We would love to start our year with a full roster!

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*

Vision, Identity and Mission Statement

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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
Director of Music: Matthew Sczurek
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
Human Resources: Rebecca Dean
Spiritual Formation: Marge Korhonen
Worship & Caring: Kim Hecht

Financial Resources: Joe Doering
Missions & Outreach: Kathy Mock
Physical Resources: Bill Hoerle

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:
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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 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 Sign-up online at egchurch.org or

Sunday Sanctuary Flowers: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4ca8ab2aa1ffc61-egcc2#/>

Or 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#/>

Sunday School Shepherds are needed. To sign up, go to:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0e4ca8ab2aa1ffc61-egcc#/>