



Pastors Message

This is just a quick note to say thank you for such a wonderful program year and to remind you that I am starting my summer sabbatical. I hope you are looking forward to hosting some fabulous preachers over the next several weeks. Each minister is a familiar face to you, and I have heard that you value the variety of their theological perspectives and preaching styles. I have arranged for pastoral care coverage in my absence. If you have any pressing needs, please contact EGCC Office Administrator, Karen Handville, who will help direct you to the appropriate person.

I am looking forward to coming back at the end of the summer when we start to focus on the theme of the 2024-2025 program year: EGCC: Creative, Confident Christians. Enjoy the next several weeks—whether you are at the shore, in the mountains, on the farm or in an historic city center; there is nothing quite like a New England summer to display the Grandeur of God.

Blessings to overflow,
Rev. Sandra

God's Grandeur
By Gerard Manley Hopkins

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
Crushed. Why do men then now not reckon his rod?
Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;
And all are seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;
And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil
Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights off the black West went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs —
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.



Council Corner

Welcome summer! It is hard to believe that we are halfway through 2024. In June, I was so thankful for such a wonderful Music Sunday. It was a blessing to see so many singers, bell ringers, and musicians and we are so thankful for the talent, dedication and love that Matt Sczurek is bringing to our congregation. Thank you to all involved.

I would also like to extend a sincere thanks to all those that attended our Special Meeting of the East Granby Congregational Church. The wonderful part of being a member of a congregational church is that everyone has an opportunity to have a voice in the decisions concerning the operation of our church. It was great to see such a good turnout. At June's council meeting we spent time discussing the motions that were passed at the June 9th meeting. The motions passed to reduce expenses and identify possible steps to generate additional revenue included:

1. Regarding the church parsonage:
 - a. Rescind the all-church accepted motion from 2015 to demolish the church parsonage building for an amount of up to a maximum \$40,000.
 - b. Accept the trustee's recommendation to grant a Life Estate to the East Granby Fire Department Association for the parsonage building.
2. Approve the exploration of leasing/renting of some of the potentially available CEC rooms and rooms in the main building currently not in use. For example, the purple room, the small conference table room, the assistant pastor's office, the nursery classroom, etc.
3. Approve an increase of the Abundant Life Ministry budget of an additional \$2,500 to enhance and increase congregational knowledge about how a congregational church is sustained from both a Current Operations and Missions and Outreach perspective.
4. Establish a By-laws taskforce to be appointed by Council by June 30, 2024 with *initial* recommendations to be presented to Council by September 30, 2024, and present at an All-Church meeting to be scheduled for November 2024.

During our council meeting we spent time discussing the next steps our trustees are taking to draft the proper legal documents to move forward with a Life Estate to the East Granby Fire Department Association for the parsonage building. They are working with an attorney to ensure the language considers some of the items discussed at the Special Meeting, such as ensuring outside aesthetics are maintained and align with our churches Vision, Identity and Mission.

Our Abundant Life Ministry continues to seek ways to enhance education and understanding of how a congregational church operates and is sustained.

The council is working diligently to put together a Bylaws Taskforce by the end of this month.

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

In His Steps,

Adah Dionne
EGCC Moderator

Worship & Caring Ministry

Rev. Dr. Sandra has started her summer sabbatical. Please join me in wishing her a joy filled rest.

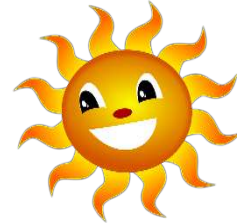
The Worship and Caring Team has been able to fill our summer Sundays with a wonderful list of familiar faces. Join me each Sunday to welcome the following:

July 7th – Rev. Ricki Aiello will lead us in worship and communion
Juli Hall will lead us in music

July 14th – Rev. Terry Schmitt will lead us in worship
Juli Hall will lead us in music

July 21st – Rev. Terry Schmitt will lead us in worship

July 28th – Rev. Ricki Aiello will lead us in worship



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A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the Strawberry Social. What a wonderful time was had by all, fresh whipped cream, homemade baked goods and 20 pounds of strawberries. I think everyone went home with a smile, a heart full of music and a full belly.

Have you ever wondered what the *special communion envelopes* are for?

The church has a special fund that the Pastor can use at her discretion. In the past the funds have been used to help members of the community with heating bills, food, whatever the need is at the time. This is the only income for the fund. If you find you have a little extra this communion Sunday, please help us with the Pastors /Church's Emergency Fund.

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| <b>Coffee Hour hosts for July: Worship &amp; Caring &amp; Officers</b> |
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# 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 communicating and how you can participate.

**Many thanks for completing the survey! Our church responded in numbers as well as affirmation. More than 95% of you were in favor of EGCC becoming an Open and Affirming Church.**

Over the summer, you may wish to take some time to review one or all of our five awesome speakers. [Rev. Marilyn Kendrix](#), [Elliot Altomare](#), [Candace Low](#), [Rev. Marilyn Sponzo](#) and [Rev. Denny Moon](#) shared stories from their hearts.

There will be an email sent in July with links to each speaker. This will be a convenient method of connecting to their sermons and we hope that folks will be able to take advantage of this.

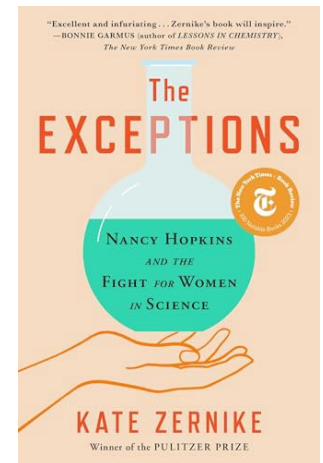
We ask that you continue to prayerfully consider what this will mean for you, for your family, for our church family. With Micah 6:8 in mind, and on your heart, how will we “do justice, show kindness and walk humbly with our God?” Will we let our lights shine brightly out into the world helping to eliminate the darkness of exclusion and marginalization replacing them with love and compassion?

In September we will vote on this important step in the life of our church. We will have the opportunity for God's light to shine through us and brighten our world, both individually and as a church family.

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

# Friday Night Book Group

With the summer sizzling heat upon us, it's a perfect time to find a cool spot and relax with a good book. The Friday Night Book Group is continuing to meet in July and August. Our next meeting is July 12<sup>th</sup>, and we will be discussing ***The Exceptions: Nancy Hopkins, MIT, and the Fight for Women in Science*** by Kate Zernike. This is an incredibly impactful work of nonfiction and well worth the read. "From the Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist who broke the story, the inspiring account of the sixteen female scientists who forced MIT to publicly admit it had been discriminating against its female faculty for years - sparking a nationwide reckoning with the pervasive sexism in science. A story both excellent and infuriating."



This discussion promises to be quite lively, as well as informative. Join us on **Friday 7/12 at 7 pm on Zoom!** If you'd like to participate in the discussion, or just listen in, please send us your email address so we can include you in the Zoom invitation. If you have any questions about the meeting, the book, or the group, you can contact Wendy Bowers.

If you can't make it this month, but would like to read ahead, our book selection for August is "Bel Canto" by Ann Pratchett.

Hope to see you on the 12th. In the meantime, as always, happy reading!

## Mission & Outreach

### Heads Up! Hartford (HUH) Thanks

**The time has passed, and camp is over!** However, as I write this, camp has yet to begin for our wonderful teenage campers, The counselors arrive a day before the campers to "make ready" for them. Twenty years has taught me that HUH is a life-altering camp for young and old alike. This year will be no different. I am writing my Beacon articles from our HUH Ethel Walker camp, in part, thanks to you!

The purpose of this article is to say **THANK YOU** for all that you do, and have done over the years, to make this camp possible. Your prayers, donations of food and personal giving, not to mention, our Mission and Outreach donation have made and continue to make a huge difference.

Bless you all and from Heads Up! Hartford! Have an awesome and blessed summer!

# Spiritual Formation Ministry

## Summer Sunday School

Summer is upon us and hopefully everyone is enjoying time outdoors with family and friends. Spiritual Formation will be holding Sunday school through July with the exception of July 7<sup>th</sup> which is part of the long Independence Day weekend. On that Sunday, families will worship together in church. On the other **Sundays, July 14, 21, 28**, Sunday school will be held outdoors at the picnic table under the maple tree near the EGCC garden. In the event of rain, we will hold Sunday school in the CEC. Kate Boyer and Christina Houghton have graciously volunteered to run the classes on those dates. Many thanks to both ladies!

**During August, Sunday school will be on summer break** with families worshipping together on Sunday mornings. Please keep in mind that 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 on a large screen 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 boxes of toys for different ages and a basket with art supplies for them also. 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.

## May – June Sunday School Classes

With class sizes smaller than during the winter months, Sunday school was held as one multi-age class. Erin and Marge drew up a curriculum that centered around stories of Jesus with activities that would be for the whole group. By and large it worked well.



Erin Lampron, with the children, giving a Sunday school lesson about the Prodigal Son through storytelling and discussion.



Marge Korhonen, Ryan Hecht, Kristy Preli, with the children.  
Theater Workshop practicing various facial expressions to tell Bible stories.

**Parents:** Please continue to look for the Sunday School Newsletter from Miss Erin each week.

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

## Lectio Divina

Join us this summer! We continue to meet every First Saturday morning via Zoom.

**Upcoming Calendar dates: Sat., July 6<sup>th</sup> and Sat., Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

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** on the first Saturday of each month - from 9 to 10:30 AM via Zoom, so that those out of state can still attend. We discuss the Scripture for the following Sunday worship (that makes it fun to compare the preacher's interpretation of the scripture to ours)

To join please contact Edie Doherty, Carl Pitney or Gayle Wilcox and we will add you to the Zoom invitation.

*"Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."*

2 Thessalonians 1:2





...gentle learning  
through play



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

# The Preschool Preamble

## Happy summer!

Our school wrapped up a successful year with a lovely indoor graduation celebration for all of our preschoolers. The children sat in rows, and demonstrated many of the songs we learned throughout the year. They then received certificates to celebrate their achievements. We are so proud of all of them!

## Registration for fall 2024:

We still have a space or two in our Salamanders class (3-year-olds) for this fall, and several spaces in our Bluebirds class (4- and 5-year-olds). Do you know anyone who is looking for a half-day program focused on learning through play? Please send them our way! We are so excited for the new school year!

## Calling all potential Board members!

We are still seeking new folks for our Board, to help guide our school. Have you ever considered serving? 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 Board Members Deb Paskiewicz or Becca Dean if you are interested.

Have a great summer! – *Suzanne and Linda*



**The Food Pantry is currently in need of the following items:** Coffee, sugar, laundry detergent, peanut butter, jelly, pasta sauce, crackers, frosting, brownie mix, mandarin oranges, graham crackers, & pancake mix. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Sandy Landolina or Joe Doering our Friend to Friend liaison. Thank you for all your help!

# 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

## Ministry Chairpersons

|                      |                |                      |                   |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| Abundant Life:       | Gayle Wilcox   | Financial Resources: | Joe Doering       |
| Human Resources:     | Rebecca Dean   | Missions & Outreach: | Kathy Mock        |
| Spiritual Formation: | Marge Korhonen | Physical Resources:  | Bill Hoerle       |
| Worship & Caring:    | Kim Hecht      | Income Recorder:     | Pam Turner        |
| Expense Recorder:    | Dave Harrold   |                      | and Dave Houghton |

## Key Church Communication Info

Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9:00 am – 2:00 pm Phone: 860-653-2987

Email [Office@egchurch.necoxmail.com](mailto:Office@egchurch.necoxmail.com)  
[Pastor@egchurch.necoxmail.com](mailto:Pastor@egchurch.necoxmail.com)

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

Web Site [www.egchurch.org](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> of each month. Beacon Deadline for articles is the 23<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:Office@egchurch.necoxmail.com)

**Volunteer Opportunities** Sign-up online at [egchurch.org](http://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#/>