A Beacon of Hope
East Granby Congregational Church

The Beacon

HELLO
December

Pastors Message

Dear friends,

The holiday season is upon us, and for many this is “the most wonderful time of the year,” but for others it brings financial stresses that can overshadow the joy of the season. I wanted to let you know that East Granby Congregational Church has a generously funded Pastor’s Discretionary Fund. This fund allows me to provide fully confidential financial support to individuals and families in our church and wider community that could use a helping hand.

This is where you come in; I need to know who could benefit from these funds. Some of the things I have done in the past include providing gift cards for groceries, gas or stores such as Target/Walmart/TJ Maxx; helping cover heating oil costs; and covering a portion of rental payments. If you know of a family or individual whose holiday season would be brightened by the removal of a bit of financial stress, please have them reach out to me. Also please note that this money is available all year round, so as needs arise, please do let me know.

Churches like EGCC help maintain the social fabric in society. I am grateful to be part of a congregation that takes seriously God’s directive to care deeply for humanity. For as it is written in James 2:14-17: *“What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Surely that faith cannot save, can it? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,’ and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.”* Let us all take these words to heart this holiday season and respond to the needs around us through Christian love.

In living faith,

Rev. Sandra

Council Corner

Happy Thanksgiving! I am so thankful to be part of such a wonderful, and supportive congregation. I hope everyone has an opportunity to pause to reflect on the things we are thankful for and embrace generosity for those less fortunate or struggling at this time of year, or those simply in need of comfort and prayer. As we quickly head into the Advent season, I encourage you to consider how you can embrace generosity at this time of year. May generosity draw us closer as a community, and closer to God's heart and deepen our faith and trust in Him. Please take a moment to review the church calendar for the many times we can come together to celebrate the season and reflect on the true reason for the season. Our Missions & Outreach Ministry has put together several giving opportunities, near and far, please see the details in this Beacon.

As a brief follow up to the Zero Deficit project work: The Trustees continue to finalize the details of the Church Parsonage Life Estate with the EGFD Association. They are also beginning to discuss how to approach and research leasing/renting CEC/church space. Trustees will likely establish a team to explore this, please reach out to Mike Hecht or myself if you have interest in working on this team.

We are also getting closer to a final recommended draft of the Bylaws. Our focus has been to update the bylaws in a way that reflects our church's needs to remain viable in the future. That work includes creating a Ministry that brings together all the key parts of planning a solid and realistic budget. We are recommending this be called the Asset Management Ministry. We are also recommending rightsizing our ministries and teams to focus on the work that needs to be done. The Bylaws Taskforce team and Council are working to finalize the draft with the hope of having it available for review in early January. Then we would bring it to an all-church vote at January's Annual Meeting. Many thanks to those that joined me on the Taskforce: Pam Turner, Jan Gibson, Gene Wilmot, Mike Hecht, and Thelma Wilmot. Feel free to reach out to any of us to discuss the ongoing work.

We are also working to update the Safety Education Awareness Guidelines. These guidelines explain our ***Safe Conduct Policy*** and the requirements to work with children and vulnerable adults. More information to come.
As always, please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

In His Steps,
Adah Todd
EGCC Moderator

Team to facilitate EGCC Room Rentals

The Trustees have been given the task of following through on the proposal to rent spaces in the church building to increase income.

Trustee Thelma Wilmot will chair the team. Judy Goff and Sandy Johnson have volunteered to begin the planning of various components of this project. We would like a few more people. Please consider volunteering.

Music Director

As we enter the beautiful season of Advent and prepare for Christmas, I am thrilled to share how much joy and inspiration our music ministry is bringing to these celebrations. The vocal choir and bell choir have been hard at work rehearsing, and I can't wait for you to experience the beautiful music that will enrich our worship services this season. From cherished hymns to festive carols, the sounds of the season will help us reflect on the hope, peace, joy, and love that Advent brings.

I'm also delighted to share the success of our new pickup choir! This effort, designed to welcome more singers into our music ministry on a flexible basis, has been wonderfully received. Thank you to everyone who joined us for our initial sessions. If you've been considering singing with us, your next opportunity will be on **Sunday, January 5th**. Whether you're a seasoned singer or simply love to sing, we would love to have you join us!

If you're interested in participating or would like a copy of the music in advance, please don't hesitate to reach out. This is a fantastic way to connect with others and share your love of music, and I promise it will be a rewarding experience.

Let us lift our voices together and celebrate the gift of music as we prepare our hearts for Christmas.

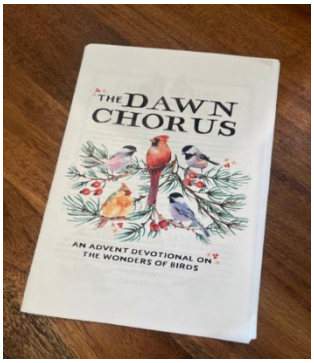
With gratitude and joy,
Matt Sczurek

The Gatherers

ANNUAL COOKIES-BY-THE-POUND SALE
Sat., December 14th | 9:00 -11:30 am

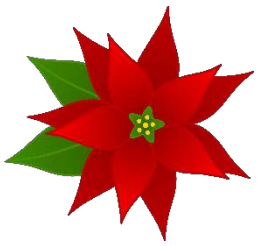
It's getting closer!!!!! Sign-up to help Friday night and/or Saturday at the sale; Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board across from the office. Start getting your recipes ready for the Cookie Sale. You can make cookies, fudge, or candy novelties for the Sale. Take the chance to make a new cookie you have never tried. The regular cookies will be $11/lb. this year. Please bring your cookies to church on Friday night, December 13, and leave them in the kitchen marked for the Cookie Sale. The elves will be there setting up Fellowship Hall. Or make them early and put in the freezer downstairs (Make sure it is on!). Or bring them to church on Saturday morning by 8am and stay for the fun helping or just drop them off. Thanks for everything. Judy Goff

Worship & Caring Ministry



With the Advent season upon us please take a moment to look at the many church opportunities available to you and your family.

This year for Advent - Worship and Caring decided to provide an **Advent Devotional on "The Wonders of Birds"**. We will have printed versions and digital options available starting December 1st. Pickup your printed version at church, the digital version link will be available in the Friday eblasts.



To help decorate our Church, we will sell **Poinsettias** on December 1 & 8, after church in the fellowship hall. Please consider purchasing one for $10. Pick-up your poinsettia on December 24 after the 4 pm service.

Congratulations to our New Members

Janice Gibson & Keith Todd

You are both a wonderful addition to our church community/family. We look forward to continuing to make memories with both of you and your families.

On November 17, we also celebrated a yearslong EGCC congregation reflection to become Open and Affirming. What a wonderful joy-filled Sunday morning.

Coffee Hour for December will be hosted by Physical Resources & Human Resources

EGCC Shadows of Hope Service

Saturday, December 14
4 pm service in the sanctuary

Rev. Dr. Sandra Fischer, the Worship and Caring Ministry and Carmon Funeral homes invite you to remember loved ones during this Advent season. We recognize that the meaning of Christmas changes over time, especially as we experience important losses in our lives of partners, children, siblings, and other family members and friends.

All are welcome, not just EGCC members, please extend the invitation to anyone who needs a time of comfort.

This service includes the reading of names and lighting of candles, followed by a fellowship time with light refreshments.

Please RSVP to Kim Hecht or email the church office by Wednesday, December 13. Include the name of the person you want remembered.

Blessings,
Kim Hecht, Chair Worship & Caring Ministry

Christmas Eve Homecoming

Over the years, the last service on Christmas Eve has become a time for family renewal. Following worship, high school students, college students and their families have gathered for a time of reunion with old friends and an opportunity to meet new friends. After 4 PM worship, we will again gather for hugs and handshakes, cookies and cheer, laughter and love. Everyone attending worship is welcome to attend this rich time of community and refreshment. The Homecoming Reception will be held in Fellowship Hall. Please spread the word to those “coming home for Christmas”.

The Memory Tree

East Granby Congregational Church is pleased to announce that the Thirty-first Annual Memory Tree will again be lighted this Christmas Season to honor and memorialize our loved ones, both living and deceased. The tree will be lighted from December 1 through January 6. The sparkling white lights announce the Christmas Season and serve as a beacon for those whom we honor and remember during the holidays.

If you would like to honor loved ones on this year's Memory Tree, you may do so by writing their name(s) on the form below and send it and a $5 donation per name per light to the East Granby Congregational Church, Attn: Betsy Mack, P. O. Box 390, East Granby, CT 06026. Proceeds raised will be donated to the East Granby Congregational Church music program.

In early 2025 the Memory Tree Honor Roll will be publicized listing the names of loved ones remembered by donations received by December 31, 2024.

HONOREES (please print name)	**DONOR**

Mission & Outreach

Hello from the Missions and Outreach Ministry! We hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving. We have so much to be thankful for. Now is our chance to pay it forward and share that feeling with someone in need. We ask you to please pray on the below opportunities and participate in the one(s) that God is calling you most to be a part of. There is something here for everyone!

November Giving

- Thank you to those that were able to help make **blankets for Meadowbrook of Granby**. We made 34 blankets in total! We are looking forward to making this an annual event to help different local organizations.
- In a continued effort to work more closely with **Metacomet Homes and Higley Village**, two Wreaths were donated for each of their Community Buildings.
- **Mary's Place** is a local non-profit dedicated to providing a safe space for grieving families and children. Mary's Place focuses on creating an environment for children to be able to express themselves using unique tools appropriate to each person's developmental stage.

Continuous Missions and Outreach News

- **Clothing Shed** - Did you know that EGCC earns money based on the volume of clothes donated to the clothing shed? Keep spreading the word and helping support EGCC one bag of clothes at a time! Year to date, this partnership has raised over $500 for EGCC.
- **Tee Shirts available** - EGCC shirts available. Donations accepted but not required. Reach out to any member of Missions and Outreach for more info.
- 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.

Do you see what I see?

The beginnings of a Creche are on the church's lawn by the lit tree. We are looking for ways to help this grow and become a beautiful part of the property we have been Blessed with during the Holiday Season.

New Holiday Giving Opportunity! Children Toys Wanted!

The **Agawam Zero Waste Club, Agawam High School's SAVE Club & National Honor Society** are hosting the 9th Annual Holiday Used Toy Exchange. This event was created to become a source of holiday gifts for residents on tight budgets, as well as increase the lifespan of consumer goods which are discarded long before their usefulness is waned. Donations are being collected on Friday December 6th at the Agawam Library and Saturday December 7th is opened to the public for free shopping. If you are not able to make it to the library, Missions and Outreach will delivery any donations dropped off at the church before 12/6.

Church World Services EGCC has partnered with CWS for many years. While the CWS program has always given back globally, this year they have designed a way for us to give back locally as well.

Best Gift Program is a great way to simultaneously give back to those in need while showing appreciation for someone you care about. A table will be set up in Fellowship Hall during coffee hour every Sunday between Thanksgiving and Christmas (except Christmas Eve). At this table you can offer your donation and will receive a card in return to give to someone letting them know that a donation was made in their honor.

Church World Services is also promoting a **Reverse Advent Calendar** for this season. Every week of advent we will be focused on collecting specific items to pray over and provide to the friend-to-friend pantry. All gifts will be Blessed during the 10:00 am service on Christmas Eve

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – December 3rd - Collecting **canned goods** including but not limited to: Tuna, Chicken, Chili, Beans, Soups, Peanut Butter, Jellies and Jams, Fruits and Vegetables

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – December 10th - Collecting **toiletry items** including but not limited to: Deodorant, Soap, Toothpaste, Shampoo, Tissues, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – December 17th - Collecting **boxed goods** including but not limited to: Cereals, Oatmeal, Rice, Pasta, Potato Sides, Sugar, Flour, Crackers and Cookies

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT December 24th (10:00am Service) - Collecting children's **gloves and mittens** as well as **any gently used winter gear and coats**

The **Giving Tree** is set up in the church lobby. Each tag has a gift from the wish list of an East Granby child that could use a little extra cheer this Holiday season. Please pick a tag(s) and sign the accompanying sheet with your information and tag(s) details. The gifts will be returned (unwrapped) to the church on **December 10th**, prayed over, and delivered to East Granby Social Services.

Granby Adopt-A-Family program is a great opportunity to work as a family or group of friends to impact a life. Become an EGCC Elf and purchase a child's full wish list. All purchases may be reimbursed by Missions and Outreach. The gifts will be returned (unwrapped) to the church on **December 10th**, prayed over, and delivered to Granby Social Services.

The **Christmas Card Board** is set up across from the kitchen. Use this space to share Christmas Greetings and well wishes.

Ocean State Job lot is running a **Buy, Give, Get Coat Drive** to collect coats for Veterans. See the attached fly for details.

Share!

Reduce!

9TH ANNUAL Holiday Used Toy Exchange

Reuse!

Clean, gently-used toys will be collected from the public:

12 - 4:30 PM on Friday, December 6th

at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street

Free general public shopping Saturday, Dec. 7th 10 AM – 1 PM

Please no dirty, broken or incomplete toys

Hosted by the:
AHS National Honor Society,
AHS S.A.V.E. Club &
Agawam Zero Waste Club

Any remaining toys will be donated to local charities

*** Musical Instruments * Action Figures * Dolls * Sports Equipment * Books * Bicycles * Cars * Trucks * Electronics * Video Games * DVDs * Stuffed Animals * Model Kits * Building Toys * Creative Learning Toys * Outdoor Toys & Structures * Games & Puzzles**

Please no infant or toddler items that are safety-regulated

For additional information please contact the Agawam Zero Waste Club at AgawamZeroWaste@gmail.com

Ocean State Job Lot

Buy-Give-Get is back!

Northeast winters can be fiercely cold, and together, we can **help tens of thousands of veterans in need** keep warm this winter by donating new winter coats through our Buy-Give-Get program. This year, because of the tragic devastation caused by Hurricanes Helene and Milton, we will also be donating coats to citizens who were impacted by the hurricanes.

Shop at any Ocean State Job Lot store and:

1. **Buy** a winter coat for just $40 (regularly $120 or more).
2. **Give** the coat you purchased back to the cashier, and we'll make sure it's delivered to a veteran in need.
3. **Get** a $40 Crazy Deal Gift Card - free! *

*When you use the $40 Crazy Deal Gift Card, your final cost will be zero!
There's no cost to you, and a veteran in need receives a brand new winter coat.

Through this Buy-Give-Get program, Ocean State Job Lot will work to donate nearly 65,000 coats to veterans in need.
Over 300,000 winter coats for veterans since 2016

Thank you for helping us make an impact for veterans throughout the Northeast!

EGCC Ornament

Purchase an EGCC church ornament for $ 5.

The church has been a landmark in the center of EG since 1830. This makes a nice gift for anyone with East Granby ties! We also have a limited number of ornaments with the EG Town Hall/ Town seal

Available after church each Sunday, contact Thelma Wilmot or the church office.

Monies raised will support the Elevator Fund

Spiritual Formation Ministry

Moments with Rose

As we transition into the cold months, we can reflect on some great happenings in the CEC. November 10th, the middle schoolers joined us in the round room for a couple of songs before going to their class for discussion. Our smaller groups were thrilled to have them join us. The Rising Stars had a very exciting lesson with Miss Tessa on October 27th, where they learned "The Pumpkin Prayer". The students recited this prayer step by step while taking turns carving a real pumpkin, taking a hands-on approach to learning how this prayer is relevant to the activity. Some parents may have seen the prayer Miss Tessa prepared for each of the children come home with them. If you would like a copy, we are happy to provide one to you. Additionally, Miss Erin's class is practicing something very special to present to everyone on Youth Sunday - I don't want to spoil the surprise, so we all have to stay tuned!
Christmas will be here before we know it, and I am delighted to experience my first holiday with the congregation. As we begin to prepare for the upcoming events, I am already sensing the excitement from our children, and I am honored to be a part of the planning of all of these wonderful events. I hope everyone has a healthy, joyous holiday!

Rose Pizzoferrato
Christian Education Coordinator

Sunday School in December

December is a busy month of the year in our church, one that brings family and friends together to celebrate Advent and the birth of Jesus. Within our worshipping community are two programs in which our children will participate.

December 1: Hanging of the Greens during morning worship 10:00.
The Hanging of the Greens service is part of morning worship where children and adults participate by placing crèche figures or Advent symbols in the sanctuary to herald the start of Advent. Sunday school follows after the Hanging of the Greens.

Coffee/Tea in Fellowship Hall 11:00–11:30

Advent Workshop: 11:30 – 1:00 in the CEC. While enjoying fellowship with our church family, we will be making Advent wreaths for use at home during the Christmas season. All supplies for the wreaths will be on hand, though if you have garden shears, please bring them for your use. Light snacks will be provided.

December 22: Christmas Pageant during morning worship,10:00, the children and youth tell and portray the story of Christ's birth. Families will sit together during the service. The children will be rehearsing during Sunday school class time in December. Please look for further information in the weekly bulletin and the Sunday school newsletter.

Thinking Ahead:

January 5th The Intergenerational Chime Choir will play during the morning service. Spiritual Formation is looking for Sunday school families and congregation folks who would like to be part of the Intergenerational Chime Choir. You don't have to read music, just A, B, C, …G, and have a general feel for the flow of music. We will rehearse January

5th at 9:00 in the Buttaro Room at the top of the stairs. Anyone who wishes to join this pop-up chime choir, please speak to or email Marge Korhonen.

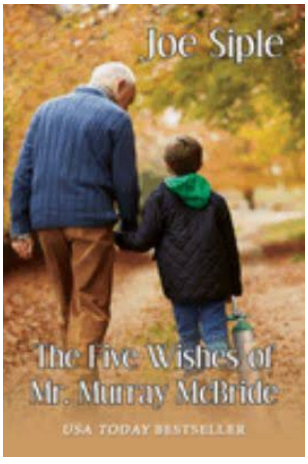
Safety Education Awareness, SEA, Training: This year November was Safety Education Awareness month. Many people attended the SEA on-site training after church on November 10th or they are doing their training online at home during November. Our church requires all adults working with children and young people to have this training on an annual basis in order to stay current with our insurance requirements.
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 in 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.

Granby Congregational Church's combined youth group of 6th-12th graders includes East Granby Congregational Church
We invite all kids from 6th -12th grade to two events per month. One event is always the 3rd Sunday of each month from 6:30-8pm and the other event is always TBD and is community service oriented. Please look for email updates for the December 15th Youth Group meeting that Sarah Pradhan will send out.

Spiritual Formation Ministry,
Marge Korhonen (Lead), Magdalena Mackay, Debbie Paskiewicz

Friday Night Book Group

The Friday Night Book Group will be wrapping up the year with a heartwarming family/coming of age story. Our book selection for December is ***The Five Wishes of Mr. Murray McBride*** by Joe Siple. In the course of our reading we meet 100-year-old Murray McBride, who has outlived everyone he has ever loved. But when he meets Jason Cashman, a 10-year-old boy with a terminal illness, Murray may learn something about finding meaning in life as he helps his young friend fulfill his last wishes. Get the tissues ready - this sounds like a tear-jerker! In addition to having an emotional hook, this book has another draw - it's only 235 pages! Perfect for the busy holiday season. So come and join us for an evening of inspiring book discussion and uplifting fellowship. Our next meeting is on **Friday December 13th at 7pm on Zoom.** If you'd like to participate in the discussion, or even just listen in, please send us your email address so we can include you in the Zoom invitation. Any questions about the book or the group can be directed to Wendy Bowers.

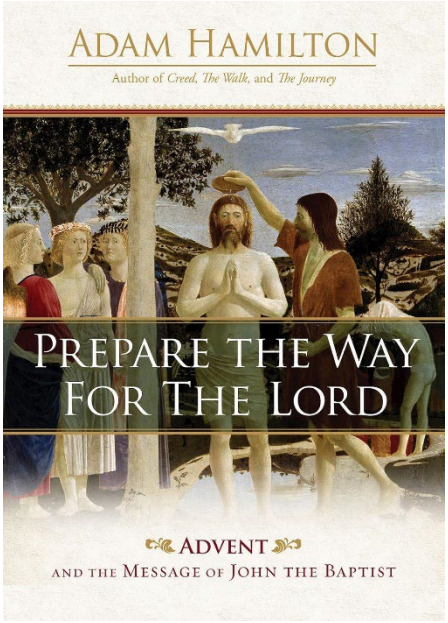


We hope to see you on the 13th! In the meantime, as always, happy reading!

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.

We are just finishing Anne Lindberg Morrow's *Gift from the Sea*.



The book we are reading for Advent starting December 3 is *Prepare the Way for the Lord: Advent and the Message of John the Baptist* by Adam Hamilton

Prepare to receive Christ this Advent with the message of John the Baptist and best-selling author and pastor Adam Hamilton. The bible study group has read several of his books and enjoyed his understanding of the background of the biblical characters and his somewhat unique and spiritual interpretation of the events.

For centuries, Christians have turned to the story and message of John the Baptist in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Adam Hamilton explores the Advent themes of John's life and ministry, and how John calls all followers of Jesus to prepare our hearts for his coming.

In each of the Gospels, the story of Jesus is intertwined with that of his cousin John, the one whom the prophets foretold would come to "prepare the way of the Lord." When we hear the message of John the Baptist, it makes us and our world ready to receive Christ.

Chapter topics include:
1. A People Prepared for the Lord
2. God Is Gracious
3. The Fruit of Repentance
4. Witnesses Testifying to the Light

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

Contact Grace Kingsbury or Edie Doherty.

friend to friend
Food Pantry & Thrift Shop

The Food Pantry is currently in need of the following items:
Tomato paste, stewed tomatoes, diced tomatoes, whole tomatoes, tomato sauce, Chef Boyardee and cereal. 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!

Spend quality time with your family
"A Future with Hope"

Fri, Jan 17th - Sat, Jan 18th, 2025

Come Join the Fun!!! Spend time with your church family and friends at our retreat during MLK weekend in January. Our dear friend, Rev. Craig Cowing will be leading us. We plan to have both in-person and Zoom options. This enables us to reach out to those out-of-state or those more comfortable with that approach.

We will explore further our Season of Generosity theme, A Future with Hope. We will gather on Friday evening for a 90 minute session followed by a full day on Saturday. As is our retreat tradition, there will be time for group discussion, introspection, fellowship, food (?!) and breaks.

Childcare can be available, but we'll need to know by Jan 1, 2024. Please sign-up on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the church office or contact the church office to have your name added. We are asking for a minimum offering of $50 to cover costs. Scholarships are also available (contact Gayle Wilcox). Don't let $ stand in your way!

We will explore and question together, spending time a large group, small groups, and individual reflection. We will have a chance to not only think about being connected in gratitude and love, but to actually be connected in gratitude and love.

"Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian Love"

Please consider giving yourself, or a loved one, this precious gift of time in 2025!

Lectio Divina

Why not end 2024 or begin 2025 with new spiritual practice once a month?!? We'd love to have you join our Zoom group. 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!!!!

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

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

Upcoming Calendar dates: Sat., Dec 7th, Sat., Jan 4th, Sat., Feb 1st and Sat, Mar 1st

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

2 Thessalonians 1:2

Abundant Life

A Future with Hope…It's Ours!

We are in the midst of our **Season of Generosity**. On November 3rd we "offered" our pledge cards and spiritual gifts inventories to our God. If you were unable to return your pledge to the church yet, please either bring it in person or mail it as soon as possible. We need to finalize our exciting plans for the year to come.

Please chat with God, prayerfully exploring who God wants you to be. What are your gifts and talents? Where is God pointing you? What is the best way that you can share your special gifts of time, talent and treasure in 2025? Many thanks to everyone who completed the spiritual inventory lists. In the weeks to come, we will be filling leadership slots for 2025. Please prayerfully consider serving.

You are a unique and essential part of the East Granby Congregational Church family. We need You! We are ONE in the Spirit. During the upcoming year, our church family can pull together as one, closer than ever, as we follow God's direction into **A Future with Hope**.

EGCCNS Preschool ...gentle learning through play

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

The Preschool Preamble

Gratitude - This month, we have thought about what things we're grateful for, as we decorated our classroom mural with gratitude leaves. This lovely classroom display is part of a month-long discussion of what it means to be thankful, which culminates in each child decorating a "Gratitude tree" with their own leaves (removed from the wall) at the end of the month, which they bring home for their holiday decorations.

In addition to gratitude, we explored hibernation, learning about different types of hibernating animals each day, and helping squirrels and chipmunks store "acorns" in our sensory bin; we also set up mini hibernation caves using pop-up tents that we set up in the classroom. Inside each tent were calm activities such as puzzles that the children could do while they "hibernated!"

An important part of our lead-up to the Thanksgiving holidays was our study of the local Indigenous peoples who lived in the greater East Granby area. We learned that the closest village to our school belonged to the Pocumtuc tribe, who lived in wigwam houses (made with tree saplings and large pieces of tree bark) and farmed and fished near the Congamond Lakes. Unfortunately, the Pocumtuc are no longer an extant tribe - European colonists forced them from their land, and the few who survived fled to tribes farther north (mostly in Canada). We also learned about things we are grateful to indigenous peoples for, such as corn, which European colonists didn't know how to grow.

Craft and Vendor Fair: We are so grateful to all the vendors and shoppers who came out for our first ever fall craft fair! It was a great success, and we hope to make this an annual event. Many thanks to the church for letting us use the CEC and Fellowship Hall for this fun day!

Have a great month! – *Suzanne and Linda*

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.

ONA Covenant

"No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"

We, the East Granby Congregational Church (EGCC), value and welcome a diverse congregation. In keeping with our Vision, Identity and Mission statement, EGCC strives to follow the teachings of Jesus and demonstrate God's love. It is in this spirit that we endeavor to create a safe space for all of God's beloved children. We are an Open and Affirming congregation with love and respect for all persons regardless of age, ethnicity, race, nationality, marital status, family configuration, political affiliation, economic circumstance, mental or physical ability, sexual orientation or gender identity. We celebrate the God-given gifts that each person brings, share in the sacraments and invite all to join us as we journey together relying upon the unconditional nature of God's love and grace as our guiding light.

EGCC Information

Staff

Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Sandra Lea Fischer
Christian Education Director:	Rose Pizzoferrato
Sunday School Teachers:	Erin Lampron & Tessa Hecht
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 Recorders:	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
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 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 use the links below.

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#/