The Beacon

hello
August

Council Corner

Happy summer to all. I hope the summer season gives everyone the chance to relax and rejuvenate and get ready for the second half of 2025.

The Council met in July to discuss several important subjects, some of the key topics discussed included:

- The Pastoral Search Team is meeting and beginning to update our church profile that will be used for posting the open position. The important part of a church profile is that it accurately reflects who we are as a congregation and our vision, mission and identity.
- Gene is working closely with our elevator vendor with the hope that we are still on track to begin the upgrade by the end of August. Please keep in mind that construction materials may be stored in the hallway. Watch and follow all the caution signs throughout the project.
- Reminder: All those who support the Sunday School to include staff, officers and shepherds have been asked to complete Safe Conduct training by August 15th.
- Council has agreed to have an All-Church Meeting on **Sunday August 24th** for the purpose of designating the next step for the parsonage. As mentioned in prior Council Corner articles, the EG Fire Department Association stepped away from the proposed lifetime lease for the parsonage. Council with the help of the Mission & Outreach Ministry explored other non-profit options but could not find one that we could pursue. At this time, the council will draft a warning to propose selling the parsonage. The warning will be published by August 10.
- ONA Update: Council accepted the ONA Team's proposal to remove a pew in the sanctuary to create space for those with mobility challenges. This will also include adjusting the position of the piano which improves access and egress to and from the sanctuary.
- Emergency Evacuation: The EG Fire Marshall has requested that we create an emergency evacuation plan for exiting the sanctuary. The Worship & Caring Ministry is responsible for developing this plan, which will incorporate an annual evacuation drill. The Asset Management Ministry will also coordinate the inspection of the fire escape stairway to ensure it is safe to use.

Lastly, the SNEUCC has provided us with information about protecting the privacy of worshippers. To that end, and working with the Tech Team, notices will be placed throughout our facility and a reminder in each Sunday bulletin stating: *Portions of this worship service or other church events are made available digitally for those who cannot attend in person and footage from this worship service or event may be streamed live, recorded and stored on our website, You-Tube and used in marketing materials for our Church and community. If you do not wish to have your likeness recorded, streamed, or photographed please inform an usher who can seat you appropriately out of the view of the cameras.*

As always, please reach out to Jan Gibson or me with any questions, comments, or concerns. Have a blessed day.

In His Steps,

Adah Todd

EGCC Moderator

Treasurer's Report

Elevator Status as of July 15, 2025

Here we are near the end of July. Our Elevator Project is scheduled to begin on August 25th. Two weeks ago, I approved many drawings one of which shows the display and panel that contains the door/elevator actions (open/close, first floor/second floor for example). This week I contacted Kone engineering to ensure that we are in fact on schedule. I hope for a response soon confirming our expectation.

Things to be Aware of

Have you noticed that the temperature in the CEC hasn't always been what you anticipated? The controls for the HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) need updating. An evaluation to determine the needs has begun. One of the first things "noticed" is that the existing air conditioning unit for the CEC is original to the building addition – in other words – it's old.

Did you know that the boiler for the hot water system for the church stopped working recently? I know that "something" needs attention. I can't wait to find out the answer to this question.

We had ONE set of storm windows on the south side of the Sanctuary that fell and broke. These need to be replaced – how about the other windows? On the north side of the Sanctuary, the gutters fell off and have been replaced. Thank you, Bill!

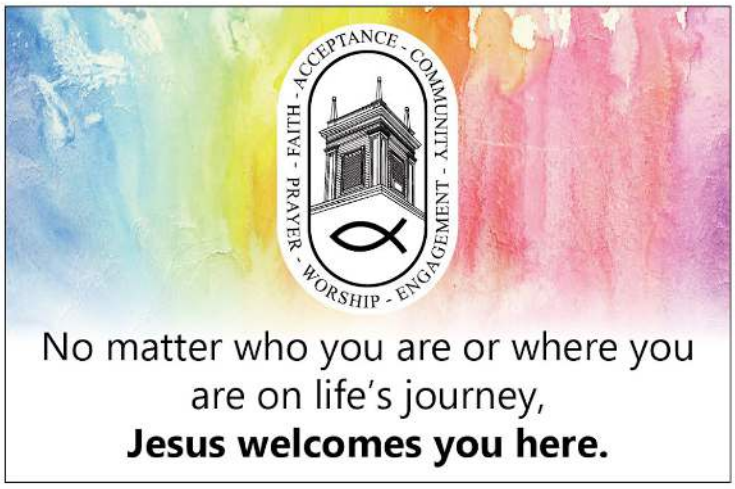
How about the carpet as you walk from the east entrance down the hallway to the CEC. Anything you notice?

There are more items I could list – but that's enough for now!

I look forward is seeing your smiling faces at church on Sunday.

Gene Wilmot
Treasurer

Open and Affirming (ONA) News



As an Open & Affirming community exciting things are happening! Were you there? Did you see the moving service when Candace Lowe shared an inspiring video and presented our church family with a Disability Pride flag. This flag now adorns our wall. We also were blessed to have the Rev. Marilyn Kendricks as our guest preacher. These two special ladies were a big part of our O&A learning process and it was wonderful to have them back.

Speaking of flags, doesn't our **O&A flag** designed by Aaron Weaver look awesome! Keep your eyes open for other new and exciting ways that we express welcome to everyone.

Here are some important August dates that involve inclusion of all of God's children.
In that spirit:

Purple Heart Day Aug 7
Recognizes U.S. service members who were wounded or killed in combat. A day to honor military sacrifice and courage.

Women's Equality Day Aug 26
Honors the 19th Amendment and promotes ongoing efforts toward gender equity in voting, work, and leadership.

Black Business Month All August
Celebrates the impact of Black-owned businesses and encourages support for Black entrepreneurship nationwide.

Wishing you a blessed August,

Your Open & Affirming Team, Kate Boyer, James Crocker, Jan Gibson, Aaron Weaver and Gayle Wilcox

Worship & Caring

Join us for worship in our CEC at 10 am or watch online at https://egchurch.org/services/. We continue our All-Star line-up of guest pastors this summer. The August lineup is as follows.

August 3rd – Rev. Craig Cowing – Communion

August 10th – Rev. Nina Schmid

August 17th – Rev. Pam Vollinger with Asher Scarlato

August 24th – Rev. Pam Vollinger

August 31st – Rev. Nina Schmid

If you have been enjoying this beautiful summer by traveling far or simply relaxing in your hometown, we have missed you! Never fear, you are always in our thoughts and prayers. When you have a little time, check out the July services online; each visiting pastor brings something special to our church. We are blessed to live in a world where we can travel all summer and still attend Sunday services. So cool!

Lastly, if you are looking for a way to volunteer, please consider being a greeter or an usher. The Worship and Caring team would be grateful.

Coffee Hour hosts for August: Physical Resources & Human Resources

Mission & Outreach

Hello from the Missions and Outreach Ministry! There are many opportunities to share our time and talents. Please see below for details, and we look forward to seeing you!

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Opportunities to Share Time, Talents, and Treasures

Save the date! On August 22nd, EGCC will be hosting a **craft table** at the East Granby Parks and **Rec End of Summer Bash** celebration. Please consider signing up to help youth decorate garden rocks. No experience necessary. All supplies will be provided. The sign-up sheet is on the M&O board across from the kitchen.

The **Garden** is flourishing and providing a beautiful harvest! Thank you to Jason Fortier and his family for taking on the bulk of this project. From prepping to planting, to weeding and harvesting, thank you Jason for keeping the garden thriving.

Thank you!

Thank you for participating in the collections held on Mother's Day and Father's Day. We were able to provide an abundance of diapers and toiletry items to support the members of our town through the **Food Pantry**. These collections will be held annually to support our community.
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May, June, July Giving

These month's donations went to support the following:

- EGCC Donated Gift Cards for the East Granby Social Services **Back to School Gift Cards** program. 30 Gift Cards were provided to families in need in our local community.
- **Immacare** is focused on ending homelessness in Hartford. They are working to create safe and affordable housing options while working with recipients to gain the skills and opportunities to succeed.

- **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.
- The **Hartford Interval House** is a local agency dedicated to ending domestic violence. They aim to empower women by offering a nurturing, encouraging environment, along with the necessary tools to help them heal and move forward.
- **Americares** is offering health-focused relief and aid to those impacted by the Texas Flooding. They are working to help restore health services for low-income and uninsured residents in affected communities. They are also working with the local hospitals and support centers to offer hygiene kits, first aid supplies, and other critically needed items.
- **Connecticut Food Share** supports people across the state by addressing root causes, creating long term solutions, and distributing nutritious food through local partnering programs. This is a new donation opportunity for EGCC as their funding has been severely cut this year, and they need assistance to continue to make an impact.
- **Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS)** empowers immigrants and refugees to become self-sufficient and a part of their communities. The help people across the United States with basic health and wellness, educational services, employment placement and legal services.

Continuous Missions and Outreach News

- **Elevator Fund** – We appreciate all the continued support with the envelope fundraiser. The envelopes will stay up until the maintenance begins in the last week of August. The goal is to have all the envelopes filled before the repairs begin.
- **Clothing Shed** - EGCC earns money based on the volume of clothes donated. See the M&O board outside of the kitchen for more details.
- **EGCC Tee 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 on line https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time No walk-ins allowed.

friend to friend
Food Pantry & Thrift Shop

The Food Pantry is currently in need of the following items:
Pasta sauce, hearty soups, Chef Boyardee, canned mixed vegetables, cereal and red kidney beans. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Leona Bevins. Thank you for all your help!

Spiritual Formation Ministry

Moments with Rose

We are well into summer, and planning for the upcoming Sunday School year is in full swing!
If you are planning to teach or Shepherd this year, Safe Church Training must be completed before September 1st. Please reach out to me or Adah Dionne for details.

If your child will be joining us, kindly fill out the registration Erin has sent to your email, as this is required before their first day of attendance. There is also a link in the Sunday School eblasts. If you have any questions regarding this, please email me or Erin. We have simplified the registration process, so it is much easier for families with multiple children.

We have been working very hard over the summer organizing and going through our classrooms and art supplies. We've put together a wish list of items we could use, and it's now available on Amazon. If you'd like to contribute, just click the link below. Every little bit helps—thank you for blessing our kids!

Amazon Wish List

Enjoy the rest of your summer!
Rose Pizzoferrato
Christian Education Coordinator

Lectio Divina

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: Every first Saturday morning 9 to 10:30 am

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 Edie Doherty, Carl Pitney and/or Gayle Wilcox at– and we will add you to the Zoom invitation

Upcoming Calendar dates: Sat., Aug 2nd, Sept 6th, Oct 4th, Nov 1st and Dec 6th.

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

-2 Thessalonians 1:2

Upcoming Faith Opportunities – Mark Your Calendars!

We have awesome news! Our very own LeeAnne Daggett Steenhoek will be facilitating our October and January retreats. How exciting! A child of our church is coming back to worship with us, to minister to us. These are the dates that you will want to add to your calendars:

> **Saturday, October 18th** – Fall into Faith – a day long retreat 8 am to 4 pm at EGCC.
>
> **Friday, January 16th – Saturday, January 17th** - Over Martin Luther King, Jr. weekend we will join together for a short time Friday evening and continue all day Saturday at EGCC.

We have 15 or so “regular retreaters,” tried and true folks seeking God by spending time together with our church family. We invite others to join us. It would be wonderful to bring some new ideas and different gifts to our retreats. We enjoy scripture, learning, questioning, fellowship, food, fun and simply getting closer as a church family.

Retreats are like extended Café Church sessions. Please consider making these special days a priority. We ask that you pray on gathering with us in October and January. You may join in-person or virtually online. YOU are welcome…We’d love to have you!

Friday Night Book Group

Greetings from the Friday Night Book Group. The Friday Night Book Group will meet again the second Friday of September.

EGCCNS Preschool ...gentle learning through play

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

The Preschool Preamble

Open House! Mums! Vendor Fair! Oh, My!

As we approach our new school year, we have so many things going on! First, an open house: on Saturday August 2, from 3-4 p.m., we will be inviting prospective students, former students, and anyone who would like to see our school into our beautiful classroom. Please stop by and say hello! We still have spaces in our 4 & 5-year-old Bluebirds class, and have an active waiting list for our 3-year-old Salamanders class. Our registration form is available here: https://egccns9.wixsite.com/egccns-preschool

Second, Mums! Everyone loves mums flowers! Short for chrysanthemums, these cheery blossoms add beauty and heart to gardens and patios throughout the autumn. We are already taking pre-orders for our mums sale, which will take place at East Granby Congregational Church (and we'll also be selling the flowers at Suffield on the Green, and at the Duck Derby), all on the weekend of September 5, 6, & 7. Order some mums, support our school, and enjoy beautiful HUGE mums plants all fall!

Finally, a Vendor Fair! Our fair last fall was so popular and successful, we are planning to run it again. Vendors are already signing up, and the fair will be held in the CEC at East Granby Congregational Church, on Saturday November 22, from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Mark your calendars! If you are interested in reserving a rental spot, please see Rose Pizzoferrato.

We'll see you soon! – *Suzanne and Linda*

The EGCCNS Preschool's

18th Annual MUM Sale Fundraiser*

As our grower cannot guarentee colors, we will do the best to fill your order and set them aside for you! The past few years we've had no problem filling the orders!

Pre-Order your festive **8"plants** by **August 30th** at NOON.
Pick up at the
East Granby Congregational Church

OR

Purchase plants at the
East Granby Congregational Church

Saturday, Sept. 6th 9am-2pm
Sunday, Sept. 7th 12pm-2pm

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

8"pots: 1 @ $15, 2 @ $25, 3 @ $35, 4 @ $45, 5 or more $11 each

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Name:_____

Phone:_____

Email:_____

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

Please indicate the total number of each color choice

Amount Enclosed $_____

Cash or Check - Make check payable to **EGCCNS**

Venmo option available by calling Debbie

Send to: EGCCNS P.O. Box 390 East Granby, CT 06026

OR drop off at church office Tues.-Fri. 10am – 2pm

For more information or questions call Debbie Paskiewicz

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

**All Proceeds Benefit the EGCCNS Preschool*

Celebrating Our Members

August Birthdays & Anniversaries

08/04 Lennie Turner

08/13 William Pokorny

08/21 David & Linda Harrold

Apologies to anyone we miss, let Karen know so she can keep our files up to date.

Open and Affirming 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, gender expression 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.

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 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 Todd
Vice-Moderator:	Jan Gibson
Treasurer:	Gene Wilmot

Ministry Chairpersons

Human Resources:	Rebecca Dean	Missions & Outreach:	Kathy Mock
Spiritual Formation:	Kate Boyer	Physical Resources:	Bill Hoerle
Worship & Caring:	Kim Hecht	Income Recorders:	Pam Turner
Expense Recorder:	Dave Harrold		and Dave Houghton
Asset Mngmt:	Mike Hecht		

Key Church Communication Info

Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9 am – 2 pm
Phone: 860-653-2987
Email: Office@egchurch.necoxmail.com
Pastoregcc@gmail.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 at egchurch.org or use the links below.

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