



The Beacon

February 2011
Sunday Worship Schedule: 10:25 AM & 6:30 PM

IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER

Heavy snow on a Sunday morning? Ice rink on Hwy 20? Will there be worship @ EGCC? **New this year is the possibility of a "delayed worship."** In the past we have cancelled worship on a Sunday morning, only to have roads mostly clear by 11 AM or 1 PM. Sometimes the forecast will lead us to cancel for the day. However, if it seems that conditions will be improving throughout the day, we may push worship back to 2:25 PM. We will post notices on our website (egchurch.org), voicemail, and Channel 3 - indicating either that morning worship is *cancelled or delayed*. If it is delayed, we ask ushers, choir, etc. to report within the usual amount of time prior to worship (i.e. if you usually arrive 30 minutes before worship, then come to EGCC at 1:55 PM on a delayed worship Sunday). And remember, God is not at all concerned if you have on snowpants, boots, or jeans in the sanctuary - come just as you are!

From the Worship and Caring Ministry

Calling All Women
Women's Annual Day Retreat
"Joyful Hearts, Dancing Spirits"
Saturday, March 26, 9:00 am—3:00 pm

Sign up ASAP near the church office.

Join us for Fellowship, Study, Reflection,
Light Lunch, Song.

GAME NIGHT

Have you got cabin fever, the winter doldrums, are you bored? Come to game night at EGCC on February 25th. We will have dinner with friends old and new. Then there will be a movie for the kids (& other fun things). Of course, there will be snacks too! The food & fun starts @ 5:00 pm in the CEC and will continue until the cows come home! (or it gets too late for the kiddies)! Come and join us. Sign up PLEASE on the bulletin board so that we will have a proper count for food. If the weather is iffy, call Debby @ 860-977-0247 to see if the festivities will be postponed. Games will be provided, but if you have a favorite, please bring it.

SEE YOU THERE

Registration is on-going for the Nursery School. We have spots open in our 3 year old program on Tuesdays and Thursdays and 4 year olds on M, W, F. If anyone would like to enroll their preschooler, they can visit our website, www.egccns.com.

The Visitation Team welcomes Ruth Bates, Edie Dorherthy, and Maureen Brousseau to our Team this month as new visitors! Our check in times will be Thurs. Feb. 17th from 6-7pm in the Buttaro and March 17th for the next.

If you yourself, or someone you know could use a visit, please leave word in the church office or with Pastor Sara.

New Life in the Age-Old Stories

The Connecticut Conference UCC asked for stories of ways congregation's experience new life, and especially ways that these may connect with more ancient elements of our faith tradition. This article appears in this month's Connecticut Conference newspaper written by Pastor Michael Bush.

One of the groups sings a couple of songs with guitar accompaniment to close out their time. One of the groups shares in a monthly dinner together prior to their normal weekly meeting time. One of the groups has committed to serve together the wider faith community each month. All of the groups experience large doses of laughter, sometimes tears, and a great deal of engaged conversation. Each of these groups is a Bible study.

We know that a disciple is one who follows Jesus. We have recognized it is difficult to follow Jesus when we do not know the stories of Jesus, or the stories that give context for the stories of Jesus. More and more people in our church have chosen to be intentional about their discipleship by coming together in communities of questioning, discovery, joy, and relationship around portions of the Biblical story each week. Within the East Granby Congregational Church, there have been up to eight weekly groups formed over the last seven years, most of them centered in the study of the Biblical stories.

Each week we pray together for and with each other. Each week we listen to a passage from the Bible read aloud by a member of the group. We ask what stands out for us in the story, trusting that the Spirit is already speaking to and through us as we listen and share. We ask what the story meant to the original hearers and look for patterns and rhythms of God's activity in the story that help us to know how to be part of God's patterns and rhythms in our own stories here and now. We do not study the Bible just for intellectual knowledge, but that we would know God, know one another, and know ourselves in Christ more deeply and fully. We study and listen so we will be empowered in God's Spirit to live and to act. A gift of new life has been given to many in our church community through these smaller Bible study communities.

Bible study is not something we "graduated from" when we left the felt boards of Sunday School behind. Bible study is not for people who already know "all the answers." Bible study is not about one person telling us the "right interpretation." Bible study is about people committed to be gathered with Jesus in our midst, listening for the voice of God speaking through the Biblical story and one another's stories, and choosing to be transformed, led, and empowered by God's Spirit to live God's healing, hope, and help in the world.

Bible study is bringing deeper trust and greater love to our United Church of Christ congregation. God is indeed still speaking. We are thankful for these transformative ways we have learned to listen and to live what we hear.

Mission & Outreach Ministry

The Missions & Outreach Ministry would like to thank all those who so generously contributed to the Blankets+ project. A total of \$2,000.00 was raised for Church World Service to be used at home and around the world to help those in need. Some of the items that will be purchased by these funds include various livestock, seeds, tools, school kits, blankets, shelter kits, well drilling, and a water pump. Many people in numerous countries will benefit from your generosity, and hopefully those who received the gift cards felt honored by your gifts in their names. Thank you so much.

Opportunities to Grow in Faith
Please join us for one of our weekly groups!

Sunday Night Group *A New Kind of Christianity*, **Sundays 7:20 pm.** Book study re-examining the Christian faith using the book of the same title by Brian McLaren led by Pastor Michael Bush.

Women's Book Study "Crazy Love: Overwhelmed By A Relentless God" Tuesdays, Continues thru Feb. 15, 12:35-1:35 pm with a Potluck lunch on Feb. 1 with a 12:15 pm start. Please meet in the Buttaro Room the first week of the month and then the Purple Lounge the following weeks. This class is facilitated by Pastor Sara.

NEW Women's Book Study -Tuesdays 12:30 pm starting February 22 for eight weeks. *Generous Faith: Stories to Inspire Abundant Living*". Please sign up near the office by Feb. 11 so we can order books. Details on sign up sheet, or speak to Pastor Sara.

Tuesday Night Book Group: continues with Pastor Sara "The Lord's Prayer" an 8 week class from 7-8pm until March 1st...When the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, he gave them the Lord's Prayer. Yet for some of us the Lord's Prayer is simply a formal prayer that we only repeat during Sunday morning worship. This study helps us go deeper into Jesus' teaching about how we should pray. This class is facilitated by Pastor Sara.

Early In The Morning Prayer - Wednesdays 6:30-7:00 am, in the Sanctuary

In the Scriptures we read that Jesus spent time with God "early in the morning." In that spirit, come join a group for a time of mid-week prayer in the sanctuary.

Gospel of Matthew Group on Wednesdays 9:15-10:15 am, in Buttaro Room (Childcare Available!)-

"Do Unto Others" "Blessed are the poor" "Seek ye first" "Wise men from the east saw a star"
Have you heard any of these before? These are all quotes from the story of Jesus told in the Gospel of Matthew, the subject of our exploration on Wednesday mornings. If you have been looking to grow in connection with God and with others in your faith community, this is a great opportunity. If you have questions, please talk with Pastor Michael Bush who facilitates this group. New people always welcome!

Exodus Group on Wednesday 6:30-7:30 PM — Come and join us as we study this second book of the Bible. We meet in the Buttaro Room. This group also meets at 5:30 PM the first Wednesday of the month to share a meal together. Pastor Michael facilitates this group. New people always welcome!

Matthew Group on Thursdays 10:45-11:45 am, in Buttaro Room - see description of Wednesday morning group above. Pastor Michael facilitates this group. We close each time with prayer and a couple of hymns. New people always welcome!

Yoga, Meditation & Prayer on Thursdays 7:00-8:30 PM— A time of movement, meditation and prayer in the CEC, led by Martha Parrish Bush. These yoga sessions focus on the spiritual and are intended for all physical ability levels. While we work with various yoga postures and breath, we practice inviting the spirit to move in and through us. We end our time together with meditation and prayer choosing to listen attentively to what God might want to say to us. This time is quiet, gentle, and honoring of God and all who come to seek God in this way and place. If you're curious, just come and see! Or ask Martha or Sally Mullen for more information.

February Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sr. High Youth Group: February News!!!

(Mission- 'In His Steps')

All 9th-12th Teens welcome to attend*

Regular meetings 1st & 3rd Sundays 7:15pm-8:45pm at EGCC. Service projects and fellowship times to happen 2nd & 4th weekends time to be announced via e-mail and church bulletins.

Come meet for FUN, FAITH, and FELLOWSHIP!!! Bring your friends!

February 6th: Superbowl Party at Gayles Home 6pm to 10pm ish...Come when you can and stay as long as you want to this relaxing time of fellowship. Please bring a snack to share and there'll be pizza too!

February 13th 7:15pm-8:45pm Discussion "Personal Junk & Having God Help Us With It!" & Group Games/Worship Circle in Youth Room.

February 20th: No Youth Group tonight

February 27th: 7:15pm-8:45pm Teen Talk "People Pleaser" plus Group games and Worship Circle.

March 4th to 6th Weekend Retreat 9pm Friday to 1:30pm Sunday Theme "Living Life to the Fullest" Cost \$100.00 2night lodging/meals. Please let Pastor Sara know by February 27th if you're able to attend.

March 9th: Ash Wed. Service 7pm in Sanctuary. Come attend with other youth.

Note: Emmaus Reunion 2pm on Feb. 20th **Mark your calendar for Youth Retreat Weekend March 4th to 6th \$100. All meals/lodging.

Advisors: Jim Pestana, Gayle Wilcox & Kate Boyer

Coordinator of Youth Ministries: Pastor Sara



Happy Birthday to:

- 1 Kelsee Horner
3 Scott Lennon, Erik Harrold, Michael Nickell
5 Gerri Watkins
6 Kim Kelly, Rhonda Pelletier
7 Charlie Kingsbury, Martha Parrish Bush
8 Art Barstow, Sydney Farley, Jennifer Schwartz
9 Claire Newhall, Zane Gray
12 Alison DeVack, Jenna Connole
13 Kathy Connelly, Mandy Waller
14 Renee Jubrey
15 Tony Juliano, Shelby Demke
17 Ruthie Holton, Andrew McIsaac, Wade Jubrey, Mary Bertolini
19 Anne Barnes
21 Dave Barnes, Luke Bilodeau
22 Matt Smith
23 Lois Buttaro, Robin Bach
24 Keith Forney
25 Dan Gibson
27 Carl Pitney
28 Lois Wagner
29 Dick Daggett, Geri Rafferty

Happy Anniversary to:

- 5 Gayl and Bill Christie
8 Judy and Peter Goff
18 Karen and Chip Hines
21 James and Alison DeVack

If your Birthday or Anniversary is not listed here, please call Sharon @ 860-653-2987.

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February, 2011

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1 12:30 "Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a Relentless God" Study 6:45-9:00 Boy Scout Leaders, F.H. 7:-00-8:00 The Lord's Prayer Study	2 6:30 Early Morning Prayer 9:15 Matthew Bible Study 5:30 Exodus Study Dinner 6:30 Exodus Bible Study 7:30 Senior Choir	3 10:45 Matthew Bible Study 7:00-8:30 Yoga, Meditation & Prayer, CEC 7:00 Senior Bell Choir	4 9:30-11:00 Food Pantry 6:30 Emmaus, CEC	5
6 10:25 Worship Middle School Youth Snowman Party 6:00-10:00 Senior High Superbowl Party @ Gayle's 6:30 Sunday Night Alive 7:20 Adult Confirmation 7:20 A New Kind of Christianity	7 7:15 All Ministries Gathering, CEC Followed by Individual Ministry Meetings	8 12:30 "Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a Relentless God" Study 6:45-9:00 Boy Scout Leaders, F.H. & CEC 7:-00-8:00 The Lord's Prayer Study	9 6:30 Early Morning Prayer 9:15 Matthew Bible Study 12:00 Worship Staff 6:30 Exodus Bible Study 7:30 Senior Choir	10 10:45 Matthew Bible Study 7:00-8:30 Yoga, Meditation & Prayer, CEC 7:00 Senior Bell Choir	11 9:30-11:00 Food Pantry 6:30 Emmaus, CEC	12
13 10:25 Worship Middle School Youth Group Swimming Party 7:15-8:45 Senior High Youth Group 6:30 Sunday Night Alive 7:20 Adult Confirmation 7:20 A New Kind of Christianity	14	15 9:30-12:30 Quilters, F.H. 12:30 "Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a Relentless God" Study 7:-00-8:00 The Lord's Prayer Study	16 6:30 Early Morning Prayer 9:15 Matthew Bible Study 6:30 Exodus Bible Study 7:30 Senior Choir	17 10:45 Matthew Bible Study 6-7 Visitation Ministry Meeting 7:00-8:30 Yoga, Meditation & Prayer, CEC 7:00 Senior Bell Choir	18 9:30-11:00 Food Pantry 6:30 Emmaus, CEC	19
20 10:25 Worship 6:30 Sunday Night Alive 7:20 Adult Confirmation	21 Holiday— Church Office Closed 7:15 Council	22 1:30 Prayer Group 7:-00-8:00 The Lord's Prayer Study	23 6:30 Early Morning Prayer 9:00 Beacon Mailing 9:15 Matthew Bible Study 6:30 Exodus Bible Study 7:30 Senior Choir	24 10:45 Matthew Bible Study 7:00-8:30 Yoga, Meditation & Prayer, CEC 7:00 Senior Bell Choir	25 9:30-11:00 Food Pantry 5-6:30 Game Night Dinner, CEC Games, F.H. 6:30 Emmaus, CEC	26
27 10:25 Worship 5:00-6:30 Middle School Youth Group 6:30 Sunday Night Alive 7:15-8:45 Senior High Youth Group 7:20 Adult Confirmation 7:20 A New Kind of Christianity	28 7:00 SrPRT					

Serving EGCC

Ministers - All our members
 Senior Pastor - Michael T. Bush
 Email: MBush@egchurch.necoxmail.com
 Pastor for Caring Ministries - Sara Worcester
 Coordinator of Youth Ministries—Sara Worcester
 Email: SWorcester@egchurch.necoxmail.com
 Dir. of Discipleship for Children, Youth & Families-Lewis Vissia
 Email: LVissia@egchurch.necoxmail.com
 Moderator - Jeanne Daggett
 Vice Moderator - Cliff Gibson
 Church Secretary - Sharon Morey
 Email: Office@egchurch.necoxmail.com
 Music Director - Randy Stuck
 Organist - Dick Daggett
 Sexton - Ann Caye
 Nursery Attendant - Marianne Klein
 Abundant Life Ministry Leader: Bryant Waller
 Human Resources Ministry Leader: David Hasenbalg
 Mission and Outreach Ministry Leader: Kristen Hardendorf
 Spiritual Formation Ministry Leader: Ruthie Holton
 Physical Resources Ministry Leader:Kevin McCloskey
 Worship and Caring Ministry Leader:Karen Pestana

The Beacon is published monthly by
 The East Granby Congregational Church (UCC)

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 Church Website: www.egchurch.org

Bulletin Information is due by Wednesday.

All Beacon articles are due on the 18th of each month .
 All articles are subject to editing.

If you would like to schedule meetings, events or make any
 changes to the church calendars, please call Sharon, or leave a
 note on the desk in the church office.

**TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY
 SEPTEMBER 1, 2012**

We are going to **FRANCE**. The trip is called
 "French Waterways: Highlights of Burgundy and
 Provence". It is a fifteen day trip that includes a 12
 day cruise on the Saone and Rhone Rivers aboard
 an 80 passenger boat. A 4 day pre-trip to Paris
 can be added on as well as a post-trip to southern
 France. Check it out at vantagetravel.com or see
 Judy Saxton. We would love to have you join us!

Communion Table Flowers

Sign up on the bulletin board in the lobby to offer to
 grace the Communion Table with flowers.

February 6 Dudley & Gerri Watkins
 February 13 Peter & Judy Goff
 February 20 Ruth Ostrander & Daggett Family
 February 27 The Boardman's

February Greeters

Greeters are needed. Sign up on bulletin board in
 lobby.

February 6 The Hecht Family
 February 13 Wednesday AM Bible Study
 February 20 Available
 February 27 Available

Fellowship / Coffee Hour



February 6 Kevin & Nora McCloskey
 February 13 Wednesday AM Bible Study
 February 20 Available
 February 27 Available

Audio Tech crew for worship services in the
 month of February is as follows:

February 6 Tom Horner
 February 13 Bill Bowers
 February 20 Kevin Bach
 February 27 Tom Horner

The Beacon

2010 EAST GRANBY CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH MEMORY TREE HONOREES

"IT IS BETTER TO LIGHT A CANDLE THAN TO CURSE THE DARKNESS."

The East Granby Congregational Church Music Committee wishes to recognize those donors who have honored their family and friends to whom the Memory Tree was dedicated this holiday season. The thought of each person represented by a single bulb together on one special tree illuminates the air with memories.

Jean Granger Adams
Ruth and Fred Aggerup
Mildred and William Austin
Ron Barrett
Virginia Bilodeau
Rod Birmingham (2)
Ruth Blanton
Jean Boardman
Ruth and Ed Boardman
Scott Boardman (2)
Ernest Bouley
Laura Bouley
Ron Bouley
Loleta G. Broughton
Norman Brousseau
Keith Buell
William Bunnell
Agnes and Leo Busam
Alan Buttaro (4)
Audrey and Gaetano Buttaro
David Buttaro
Holly Renee Cahill
Angela Cecchini
Beverly and Robert Cecchini
Mari-Jo Cecchini
Ruth Cecchini
Vigilio Cecchini
Gary Chase
Lois Chase
Elizabeth Collins
Mittie and Kennedy Crane
Carol Crooks
Allen Crysler
Gordon Cunneen
Lucille Dunning Cunneen
Emily and Cecil Daggett
Jeanne and Dick Daggett
Chet DeGray
Rebecca and George Dunton

Chris Estby (2)
Alamgir Farhat
John Fisher, Jr.
Kathryn and John Floyd
Carroll French
Marjorie and Francis Goff
Evelyn Goldsmith
Merrill "Brownie" Goldsmith
Lillian Buell Goss
Lynne Gottierz
Phyllis Grabowski
Elizabeth Granger
Elsie and Fred Granger
Norman Granger
Janet Yoczik Gray
George Guinan
Mary and Alfred Hall
Marjorie Harrison
Christopher W. Hayes
John Heer, Jr.
Louise and John Heer, Sr.
Charles Hershberger
Nellie and Merle Hershberger
Edna Herzig
Dot Higgins
Edward A. Higgins
Angie Hoffer
Betty Anne Holly
Nancy and Art Ide
Julie Jennings
Laurie Kugler
Margaret LaCouture
Brian Lindquist
Dawn Boardman Lowery
Cindy Marchese
MaryAnn Markowski
Diane Martyn
Tim Maynard
Mildred and Joseph McKinnie

Nancy Means (2)
Charles Merritt
Margaret Crane Merritt
Winifred and Clymer Noble
Eugene Ostrander
Ruth Ostrander
Kathlyn Parrick
Billy Patterson
Alice and James Pestana, Sr.
Carolyn and Ed Phillips (3)
Jack Prewitt
Princess Diana
Prince William and Kate Middleton
Anne and John Rafferty
Chester Raynard
Gladys and Ralph Ridgeway
Marcia Peterson Robinson
Alan K. Root
Helen Root (2)
Fay and Martena Saxton
Virginia and Lloyd Saxton
Gary Scala
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Schwartz
Cathleen Sharp
Charles Sharp, Jr.
Charles Sharp, Sr. (2)
James Sharp
Edith Sheldon
Polly Shove
Penny Smith
Mary Anne Thomas
Eleanor and Andrew Toussaint
Barbara Ridgeway Vaughn
Cora and Ted Watkins
Winnie Wescott
Don Wescott
Emeline and Gordon Willoughby,
Sr. (2)
Esther and Thomas Yoczik
Judith F. Yoczik
Our men and women in
the military

East Granby Congregational Church
P. O. Box 390
East Granby, CT 06026

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East Granby, CT 06026
Permit #2

The Beacon
February 2011 Newsletter of the
East Granby Congregational Church



PURPOSE STATEMENT:

East Granby Congregational Church, U.C.C.,
is called to receive the abundant Life and Love of God,
to love the LORD our God with all of our heart, mind, soul, and
strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

With the power of the Holy Spirit, we will do this by:

- Seeking first the Kingdom of God
- Following Jesus Christ and being formed as disciples
- Serving our neighbors and equipping one another for ministry.