

## Important Dates at FCC

### Sundays:

Every 9:30am Worship \*July & August\*  
Every 7pm Sunday Night Youth

### Mondays:

6:30pm Trustees (first Monday)

### Tuesdays:

### Wednesdays:

Every 6:30pm Marquis

### Thursdays:

Every 8:45am Yoga

### Fridays:

Every 6-8pm TGIF

### Saturdays:

### FALL DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR!

<b>SEPTEMBER 11</b>	<b>Homecoming Sunday</b>
<b>SEPT EMBER 24</b>	<b>AppleFest</b>
<b>SEPTEMBER 27, 7:30pm</b>	<b>Concert</b>
<b>OCTOBER 2, 2pm</b>	<b>BCMS Concert</b>

Email articles for the next First Edition to  
[sue@firstchurchgranby.org](mailto:sue@firstchurchgranby.org) by August 24<sup>th</sup>.



# The First Edition

July 2016

## How, then, shall we live?

We have the parables of Jesus to guide us, such as the story of the Good Samaritan, a model for crossing societal norms to help another. The Sufi tell a similar story about a spiritual seeker who was so distracted by the sick, crippled, and beaten down who continuously passed by as he tried to pray that he cried out to God, “How is it that a loving creator can see such things and do nothing about them?” Out of the silence, God said, “I did do something about them. I created you.”

How shall we live in this post-Pulse, post-San Bernadino, post-Sandy Hook, post-Columbine world?

A friend whose daughter lives in Orlando shared this message from her. It’s long, but so worth a read.

“I have come to see that what we are told are the ‘real issues’ behind 49 dead are lies, or at best half truths, contrived to give us an easy out from the real issue: that we have brought these horrors upon ourselves. That is a hard thing to hear but the truth is that we have created a society where this kind of horror is inevitable. As much as we want to blame something outside of us—guns, government, terrorists, the FBI, the mental health system—they are not to blame for this or any other atrocity we have faced. They are institutions that need to be examined thoughtfully and adjusted with prudence but they are not to blame. We are.

“We have become so enamored of our own opinions that anyone else’s viewpoint is to be screamed down. We rejoice in name-calling. We delight in blaming “stupid boys” or “bitchy girls” for our inability to work with the opposite sex. We hide behind our faith and yell at fags and queers and freaks and whores. We hide behind our “right” to scream in public at “baby killers” and “welfare queens.” We talk about black lives and blue lives instead of valuing all lives.

“We tolerate words and actions that would put a school child in detention but we use them freely on the internet and social media and, at times, with each other in person. We separate, divide and classify and then take pleasure in shaming another to feel superior in our own position. We imbibe “news” and media that provokes the most visceral emotional responses from us while calling thoughtful debate boring or uninteresting. We have become a nation of people who thirst for conflict instead of understanding.

## Sunday Worship July & August 9:30am

**Sunday Night Youth will continue to meet during the summer and will have weekly movie nights.**

“It should not take death for us to come together, but it often appears that this is the case... but only for a moment... and then the fighting resumes: my side, your side, our side, their side... and we all lose as we lower more bodies into the ground. Is it any wonder that our government is impotent when we cannot even have a civil discussion among ourselves?

“I KNOW that I can do better and these wonderful people who lost their lives DEMAND that I do. Their lives demand that I not allow their deaths to become fodder for a political party or agenda or an excuse for more hatred and division. Their lives demand that I take a hard, hard look in the mirror and see what I can do within my own sphere of influence to change the world.

“Every time we turned our heads away as some parent became unhinged at our child’s soccer coach, every time we participated in a thread online that involved name calling and belittling of others, every time we “liked” and shared that meme poking fun at a fat person in Wal-Mart, each time we heard someone bully another and we stood by and did nothing, and every time we ourselves separate and classify each other, hate spreads. It spreads to our children so that they hurt so badly they kill their classmates and teachers and then they kill themselves. It spreads to our young people until they feel so utterly helpless that they too act out and harm those around them.

“If hate can spread, if we can change our social landscape so much as to allow inflammatory words and actions to become the norm, WE CAN CHANGE IT BACK. We have to change it back. Their lives... all of them from Oklahoma to Sandy Hook to Pulse... demand we do. I am making that promise to myself, and to my own child who will inherit the world that I create for him, that I will check my words before I say or print them, I will listen first and explain with compassion always, and that I will call out hate no matter how insignificant it may seem.

“We got to this point by ignoring the small infractions until finally they became horrific ones. I vow to do all I can to reverse that tide. I challenge you to do it too... and to spread the message that hate has no place in this country. It is only when we stop feeding this beast that we will ever be able to come together and solve the bigger issues that do face us... our broken mental health system, our failing schools, our impotent government, and the gaping holes in our gun laws... and solve them with prudence and common sense and not knee-jerk reactionary policy. We cannot reach the summit of a mountain without the first step. We are proving that much on a daily basis. We have to do something different. We have to BECOME different. And it starts with each one of us.”

*Pastor Ginny*

## CONNECT

### TGIF- Fridays in the Summer

Join us for summer fellowship. Guests bring an appetizer or dessert to share. BYOB. Bring family & friends! Sign up to host!

- July 1: Sherry Poulson, 251 Silver Street, N Granby
- July 8: Ginny & Doug’s, 10R Greenwoods Rd, N Granby
- July 15: Rowles, 19 Farmview Lane, Granby
- July 22: Ford, 48 Day St South, West Granby
- July 29: Letendre/Reek, 12 Fairmount Lane, Granby
- August 5: need host
- August 12: Betsch, 14 Mechanicsville Road, Granby
- August 19: Reinhardt, 9 Sunny Heights, Granby
- August 26, Sept 2: Available to host

### GATHERING OF THE WATERS

When we re-gather on Homecoming Sunday, September 11, we will mark the beginning of the new church year by celebrating “water communion.” What is that, you ask?

People bring to the service a small amount of water from a place that is special to them. During the service, people one by one pour their water into a large bowl. As the water is added, the person who brought it tells why this water is special to them. The combined water will symbolize our shared faith coming from many different sources.

We have special one-ounce bottles for you to take with you on your travels this summer. Don’t forget to take one!

## EXPLORE

### SUMMER WORSHIP AT 9:30

We return to informal “cafe church” in Cook Hall (Sundays at 9:30 in July and August). Our summer theme is “Finding God in the World.” Breakfast hosts are needed. Sign up on bulletin board.

### EVERYDAY SAINTS – Stories of courage and love

Starting in September we begin a year-long celebration of people who’ve changed our lives. Some Sundays we will highlight the life and contributions of a public figure who is an inspiration to us. Other Sundays we will celebrate the lives of “saints among us,” local people, who have had a positive impact on others. Nominate your favorite saints!

## SERVE

### HANDY HELPERS NEEDED

Can you tune a mower, repair a broken stair tread, or program a cable TV remote? Contact [Sue](#) or [Ginny](#) to add your name to a list we can call on when these needs arise among our frail elders.

### MEALS-TO-GO - Help stock the freezer!

During the summer our Sunday Kitchen crew takes a break. But there are still 12-15 folks who look forward to that extra healthy, home cooked meal. When you prepare a meal, how about packaging and labeling the extra, and putting it in the church freezer so we can continue to help others?

### COMPANIONSHIP

Could you spend a couple of hours in someone’s home to give the caregiver a bit of respite - or just time to run a few errands? Call Ginny if you can help.

### HOW DOES OUR GARDEN GROW?

With a little help from you! Come help water and weed. [Wednesdays 5-6pm](#) and [Saturdays 10-noon](#)  
With some community effort, our community garden will produce even more than last year!

**STEWARDSHIP TEAM** needs a First Church member who will draft the core letter for 2016 Fall Campaign with variations for different audiences. Call or e-mail Bill Bentley or Walter Ford.

### REACHING OUT PROGRAM MINISTRY needs:

- Team leader for 2017 Bike & Build event – a one-time effort that builds on good notes from past 10+ years of experience.
- Team leaders to work on Mission Grants and Volunteer Projects for the 2016-17 Church Year.

Contact Bill Bentley ([billbentley@cox.net](mailto:billbentley@cox.net))

### HABITAT FOR HUMANITY IN GRANBY

Don Shaw reserved five Saturdays for work teams from Granby's two UCC congregations. Sign up on the bulletin board across from the church office. Open dates: July 16, Aug 13, Oct 8, Nov 5

### FCC MEN’S GROUP

Sign up for Habitat for Humanity Build Days! This is part of our Summer Work Project!

## YOUTH NEWS

### HIGH SCHOOL SUMMER SERVICE TRIP to Washington DC PERSPECTIVE... on Race, Religion and Privilege July 31st - August 6th

At 6:50am on July 31<sup>st</sup>, 32 Youth and 8 adults will board an AMTRAK train at the Windsor Locks Station. Seven hours later we will arrive in Washington DC, for a week long immersion experience on race, religion and privilege. This is a very different summer service trip. It is as much about stretching our understanding as it is hard labor and work. We will be in the nation's capitol where every need, cause, and issue that troubles our country is represented by action groups, churches, and political lobbies. DC has so many things we don't see here in Granby, and so we hope to shift and challenge our perspective on some of these matters.

Our theme this year in youth group has been Perspective. Like the movie we have seen together, we realize that we all live in something like a "ROOM." We only know that to which we have been exposed, which in Granby, is less than most. We have plans that include the following encounters:

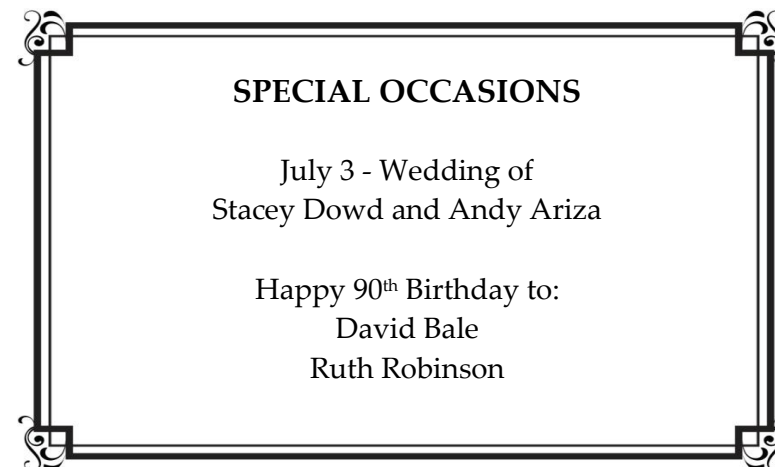
- **A two-hour workshop called "Unapologetic Blackness"** with leaders of the DC Black Lives Matter youth division: Defining Blackness and maintaining cultural integrity in the presence of racial inequity.
- **An interactive experience with artists and leaders of THE SANCTUARIES** - a spiritually diverse and creative community in Washington, *DC* committed to personal growth and social transformation in young adults, through art and justice work.
- **Daily Service Work** at various locations in the DC urban area that involve interaction and conversation – with the poorer sections of Washington DC, service that has been effective in preventing homelessness, assisting elderly with yard-work and cleaning, feeding the homeless, and learning through conversations with them.
- **An Immersion experience with Muslim youth through ISNA** (Islamic Society of North America) based in DC. Learning, comparing, befriending, understanding, relating to Muslim teens and young adults.

- **Panel Discussion/Q & A with the National LGBTQ center and PFLAG** (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays). Hearing the stories of gay, lesbian and trans youth and their families.
- **A trip to the HOLOCAUST MUSEUM, THE ANACOSTIA MUSEUM, a Civil Rights Heritage walk, the MLK Memorial, a Justice Art Gallery, an ethnic dining experience**, as well as a **White House Tour** and other options as time permits!

The cost for the AMTRAK roundtrip has been paid in full by the church's support of the Dessert Auction. Families have been asked to pay for housing, food, and the intercity METRO pass. If you are interested in giving to a particular youth, or towards the trip as a whole, please let Ginny know. And.. Thank you!

#### WOULD YOU CONSIDER BEING A SCHOOLHOUSE HELPER?

**SUNDAY SCHOOLHOUSE** does not meet during the summer, but the fall is just around the corner. We are asking adults in the church to consider signing up to be a Schoolhouse helper (with help & materials from Rebecca) for one month during the school calendar year. We have beautiful remodeled rooms with thematic materials that can be used or adapted to your preference. Children will be in worship on Sundays, but will need adult helpers for the last 40 minutes downstairs. Please think about taking a month off from the worship service to support our children! You will have all the help and support you need.



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SPECIAL OCCASIONS

July 3 - Wedding of  
Stacey Dowd and Andy Ariza

Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday to:  
David Bale  
Ruth Robinson

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