

Important Dates at FCC

Sundays:

Every 10am Worship & Sunday SchoolHouse
2/21 8:30am Governance Meeting (third Sunday)
2/21 11am Winter Discernment Meeting
2/28 8:30am Stephen Ministry (fourth Sunday)
Every 7pm Sunday Night Youth

Mondays:

2/1 6:30pm Trustees (first Monday)
2/15 7pm Deacons (third Monday)

Tuesdays:

2/9 & 2/23 1pm NeedleworX

Wednesdays:

2/10 7pm Ash Wednesday Service
Every 6:30pm Marquis
Every 7pm Bell Choir

Thursdays:

2/11 12pm Women's Fellowship
Every 8:45am Yoga
Every 7pm Chancel Choir

Fridays:

2/5 7:30pm Sound Healing
2/12 7pm Book Discussion
2/19 7:30 Barbara Crouse Memorial Series Concert
2/26 7pm Book Discussion
2/26-2/28 Youth Retreat

Saturdays:

2/13 6-8pm Souper Saturday

Sundays

Worship at 10am
Sunday SchoolHouse 10am

Email articles for the next First Edition to
sue@firstchurchgranby.org by February 17th


First Congregational
Church of Granby
219 North Granby Rd.
Granby, CT 06035

The First Edition

February 2016

Into the Dark Wood

As a metaphor, the image of the “dark wood” evokes a place to be feared and avoided. Mysterious, unfamiliar and unfriendly, it is a place where we may feel uncertain, empty, lost, tempted, and alone. Yet these very feelings turn out to be our greatest assets on our spiritual journey because they invite us to probe, question, and discover. Mystics through the ages have affirmed that the Dark Wood is the surest place to meet God. According to the ancients, you don’t need to be a saint or spiritual master to experience profound awakening. You don’t even have to be “above average.” All you really need to be is struggling.

When we allow ourselves to embrace the journey within the Dark Woods, God’s Holy Spirit Guide tends to nudge us, to awaken us, to a fuller life. Rather than being problems to be fixed, what if we saw these experiences... of failure, emptiness, loss, and uncertainty... as gifts?

Sundays in Lent...

“The Gift of Uncertainty”
“The Gift of Emptiness”
“The Gift of Being Thunderstruck”
“The Gift of Getting Lost”
“The Gift of Temptation”
“The Gift of Misfits”
“The Gift of Disappearing”

Let’s journey together!
Pastor Ginny

Lent begins Ash Wednesday, February 10
Worship in the sanctuary at 7 pm
“Where We Find Ourselves”

CONNECT

BARBARA CROUSE MEMORIAL SERIES CONCERT:

Alturas Duo with Flutist Minta White

Friday, February 19 7:30pm in the Sanctuary

The award-winning Alturas Dupo will collaborate with multitalented flutist Minta White to present a program of virtuosic classical and South American folk music. Blending South American and Baroque influences using the unusual combination of viola, guitar, and charango, the Alturas Duo has performed in Brazil, Canada, Chile, Bolivia, Ecuador, and the US, including recitals at Carnegie Hall, Merkin Hall, and the Smithsonian.

SOUPER SATURDAY WITH MARDI GRAS THEME

Saturday, February 13 at 6 – 8 pm

Hosted by Pete and Linda Betsch

14 Mechanicsville Road

Join us for some warm fellowship. Hosts provide soup and guests bring appetizers, sides or desserts to share. BYOB. Bring friends! If you would like to share a ride, please contact Linda B. at (860) 920-2500.



EXTENDED FAMILIES

A new program has started! Four Extended Families began in January with 10 or more members in each Family. They each met to discuss plans for their monthly gatherings and to give their Family a unique name to separate it from the others. There was a lot of energy and ideas as well as plenty of food and laughter! Some ideas discussed were doing an art project together, sharing a meal and having a game night, playing wiffle ball, attending a baseball or soccer game, enjoying a kayak or canoe trip, hiking, going through the corn maze and many more. The skies the limited and these Families are already off to a good, strong start.

Do you want to be part of a family? Speak to Linda or Pete Betsch.

EXPLORE

Adult Learning Opportunities ABOUND!

Jan 29 – Discussion: *Between the World and Me*

7 pm at the home of Don Shaw (72 Canal Road)

Feb 12 – Discussion of *Go Set a Watchman*

7 pm at the home of Bob & Peg Giles (10 Cedar Drive)

Feb 26 – Discussion of *Just Mercy*

7 pm at the home of Don Shaw (72 Canal Road)

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY

This spring we will be reading *Reluctant Pilgrim* by Enuma Okoro. Meetings will start February 8.

SUNDAY SCHOOLHOUSE - Sundays at 10am

The SchoolHouse children will be present in worship on the last Sunday of every month in what we are calling FAMILY SERVICE. The children will also come up at the end of the service on Communion Sundays.

SchoolHouse theme for February: We move from learning about Dr. King to learning the history of the Black church in America, and how the development of a strong faith helped them through the many challenges they faced in segregated and unequal American society.

FAITH ED On Sunday mornings, we begin a timeline project - placing Judeo-Christian faith history in context with the Greek philosophers, other religions, the Roman Empire, and the Enlightenment. On Wednesday afternoons we begin exploring what we know about the life of Jesus and the development of Christianity.

SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH

Our theme is PERSPECTIVE. Awareness of perspective can help us challenge the way we see things, and how we organize our sense of truth. We will try to shake it up and think of life as having hidden dimensions, understanding that none of us can see the whole picture.

Youth Retreat will take place Feb 26-28 at Silver Lake!

SERVE

FIRST SUNDAY = GRANBY FOOD BANK

God offers us a place at the table....

We can offer food for the hungry....

Donations most needed:

Soup, Spaghetti Sauce, Pasta

Paper products, Detergent

NeedleworX - Tuesdays, February 9 & 23, 1pm

We make baby items, prayer shawls, and other items. We welcome items from those that cannot meet with us. The gift of a prayer shawl to someone experiencing loss, joy or difficulty can be made from the beautiful collection in the Memorial Meeting Room. Kindly note your gift in our book. Questions? Contact Margery Gardow 860-658-6464 or Kay Janssen 860-653-7496

Sunday, February 21

After Worship

Winter Discernment Meeting

Celebration of Ministries

SUPER SATURDAY - March 12, 2016

Worship, Workshops, Networking

An all day learning event for lay and clergy leaders from across CT/MA/RI Conferences of the UCC.

Keynote Speaker: The Rev. Traci Blackmon, Community Leader and Civil Rights Activist

Place: Killingly High School

for more information: ctucc.org/supersaturday