

# YOUTH NEWS

**THE SUMMER SERVICE TRIP** to Washington DC is set for July 31<sup>st</sup> to August 6<sup>th</sup>. About 30 high school youth and 6 adults will board an AMTRAK train in Windsor Locks at 6:20 am, arriving in DC by early afternoon, and stay in dorms at George Washington University. The trip is about PERSPECTIVE. DC has so many things we don't see here in Granby; in the nation's capitol every need, cause, and issue that troubles our country is represented by action groups, churches, and political lobbies. We will meet with Muslims, veterans, Black Lives Matter DC, interfaith activists, new spirituality experiences, homeless coalitions, etc.

We are so grateful for the congregation's financial support! The cost of our train fare will be paid for by proceeds from the Dessert Auction. However, not every participant has the same resources, so you may be asked by a youth to 'sponsor' some of their trip expenses. If you would prefer to help underwrite the cost of this trip without sponsoring a specific youth, let Ginny know. There are so many exciting opportunities in the capitol, and we want to make the most of our time there.

## **SUNDAY SCHOOLHOUSE - Sundays at 10am**

During the Month of May we will study Islam with input and help from Noora Brown. I will respect her guidance on what to teach and how to represent her faith. Godly Play will be in the SchoolHouse for the first 10-15 minutes, before moving to their own classroom. The 9<sup>th</sup> graders are encouraged to be part of the SchoolHouse for this study. There will be no SchoolHouse Memorial Day weekend.

## **FAITH ED - Thursdays at 7pm**

Faith Ed is coming to a close. On Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> several church members will be sharing with the boys the importance of their faith and what this church means to them. Through the month of May Faith Ed will explore other world religions and how the spirituality is embedded in the secular.

## **SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH - 7-8:30pm**

As we move closer to our PERSPECTIVE trip we take in some new perspectives – What it is like to be young and Muslim, young and terminally ill, young and addicted to drugs or alcohol, young and already experienced with war, young and feeling like you were born in the wrong gendered body.

Email articles for the next First Edition to [sue@firstchurchgranby.org](mailto:sue@firstchurchgranby.org) by May 18<sup>th</sup>

  
First Congregational  
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# The First Edition

May 2016

## **Find your Ferguson**

A year and a half ago Michael Brown, an 18-year-old African American youth, was shot and killed by a police officer in Ferguson, Missouri even though he held his hands up in a position of surrender. The incident set off protests and brought to a head national outrage over the crescendo of killings of unarmed persons of color.

Ferguson was the event that tipped my own awareness of racism and white privilege into something I could no longer just notice then ignore, an overwhelming sense of connection and responsibility. It led me to join MoralMondayCT, to demonstrating on behalf of "Black Lives Matter," and joining the leadership of a new Hartford Chapter of SURJ ("Showing Up for Racial Justice").

Although most Granby people ("people of no color") seldom witness racially motivated injustice, it is nonetheless a sickness that plagues our society. We, in the church, share a vocation to call it what it is, and to be on the front lines calling for change. That is why I will continue to hold up issues of racism and white supremacy and, with you, look for opportunities to try to address them.

"White supremacy" is an ugly phrase. It conjures up images of Governor George Wallace being sworn in on a platform of "Segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever!" or standing in front of the University of Alabama to bar students' entry. But it is a phrase we need to understand.

Bryan Stevenson, founder of the Equal Justice Initiative and author of *Just Mercy*, writes that the greatest legacy of trans-Atlantic slave trade is the pervasive persistence of white supremacy in America... not just white privilege, but literally the idea of white supremacy in a racialized hierarchy. That's the legacy we have all inherited. We didn't create it. We didn't participate in it. But it is still very much "ours."

I hope you will "find your Ferguson" and join me as we work for justice.

Faithfully yours,  
*Pastor Ginny*

## CONNECT

### WOMENS RETREAT ~ “The Path You Carve”

Where are you on your life’s path? Are you in a rut? Are you feeling lost? Are you wanting adventure?

In *Wild*, the harrowing story of her solo 3-month hike on the Pacific Crest Trail, Cheryl Strayed writes that she got “out of the woods” by walking the path she carved herself.

Join other First Church women (and friends) on our annual retreat at the beautiful campus of the Mercy Center on the shore of Long Island Sound in Madison, CT. It will be a weekend of laughter, relaxation, comfort food (we’ll cook our own!), rest, and challenge, led by Pastor Ginny. Cost is \$230 per person, Friday night through Sunday noon. Speak to Linda Smyth for more information.

### THINK SUMMER! THINK SILVER LAKE!

The Silver Lake Summer Camp schedule can be found online <http://silverlake.ctucc.org>. Of particular interest to First Church is the Sacred Journey week (July 31 – August 6) when youth from our partner churches in Korea will also attend. Families can register by mail or online. Please make sure that you indicate on the application that the camper is affiliated with First Church. Monthly payment plans can be arranged when registering. The church is able to offer \$75 scholarships per child for a one week session, with additional scholarship funds also available for families demonstrating need. Want more info? Speak with Pastor Ginny.



### Spring meeting Notice

The Spring meeting for First Congregational Church of Granby, CT (“FCC”) is called for Sunday, May 22, 2016 in the sanctuary following worship to: 1) elect new Program Ministry coordinators, Governance members, and First Church officers in accordance with the FCC Constitution; and 2) consider any other business which may properly come before this meeting.

**Save the date! Strawberry Supper, June 11**

## EXPLORE

### WORDS THAT MATTER: CONVERSATIONS ON RACE

#### Sunday, May 1

There will be a poetry reading by Kate Rushin followed by a discussion on May 1, 4pm at South Congregational Church. The event is co-sponsored by First Congregational Church and South Congregational Church. Event is free and open the public. Call 860-653-7289 for more information.

### WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY

We are finishing up our reading of *Reluctant Pilgrim* by Enuma Okoro.

May 9 at 10:30 am at FCC; 7pm at Linda B’s home

### May 15th is “The Year of Discernment SUNDAY!”

Please join Pastor Ginny after worship for a conversation about the future of the wider United Church of Christ in southern New England.

**WHY?** The boards of directors of the Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island conferences have called for a Year of Discernment into the question of **whether the three conferences should merge or federate** in some way that allows them to do more work together. They have asked that all UCC churches in their states have a conversation on or around Pentecost Sunday. We will be having that conversation Sunday, May 15 at 11:30 in the Memorial Meeting room.

“Discernment” is an intentional process that calls on us to be radically open to where God’s Spirit might lead us. For our conversation, we will be using discernment guidelines that have been provided by the Conference boards. After our conversation we will report to our Conference board the outcome of our process. To read more about this Season of Discernment, visit: [macucc.org/rimact](http://macucc.org/rimact)



### GRADUATE RECOGNITION

We would like to recognize our graduates. If you have a graduate in your household, please contact the Church office at 860-653-4537 or email [sue@firstchurchgranby.org](mailto:sue@firstchurchgranby.org) with full name, school from which he/she is graduating and news regarding plans after graduation (college, military, employment, etc).

## 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

### FILL THE CRIB FOR MOTHER’S DAY

In January we reaffirmed our covenant with the Maternal & Infant Outreach Program of Hartford. We promised to help provide supplies, as we are able, to assist them in their efforts. This spring, in celebration of Mother's Day, we will collect **baby items**. Look for the crib in the vestibule to leave your donations. Items most needed (size newborn to 6 months):

- tshirts & onesies
- receiving blankets
- bibs
- teething & rattles
- pajamas
- burp cloths

### GRANBY HABITAT HOUSE GROUNDBREAKING

#### May 19, 4pm, West Granby Road, across from Post Office

Join us as we break ground on our first home in Granby, CT hometown of our founders, Bob & Marion Mayo. This land was donated by Windsor Federal.

Winetasting and Celebration following groundbreaking 5-8pm at Lost Acres Vineyard.

### BIKE AND BUILD - Tuesday, June 7

The Bike & Build Team will stay overnight at First Church on Tuesday, June 7. All are invited for dinner at 6pm. This is the beginning of their trip to Seattle WA. During their trip they will help build Habitat for Humanity houses and raise money for affordable housing. Greeting and Cook Hall setup teams are needed for the afternoon. If you can help with this event, please contact Bill Bentley at [billbentley@cox.net](mailto:billbentley@cox.net) or 860-844-0008.

## Important Dates at FCC

### Sundays:

Every 10am Worship & Sunday SchoolHouse  
5/15 8:30am Governance Meetings  
5/15 11:30am "Year of Discernment Sunday"  
5/22 8:30am Stephen Ministry (fourth Sunday)  
5/22 11:30am Spring Meeting  
Every 7pm Sunday Night Youth

### Mondays:

5/2 7pm Trustees (first Monday)  
5/9 10:30am Women's Spirituality at FCC  
5/9 7pm Women's Spirituality at Linda B's  
5/16 7pm Deacons (third Monday)  
5/23 4pm Care Committee  
Every 7pm Stephen Ministry Training

### Tuesdays:

5/3 & 5/17 1pm NeedleworX

### Wednesdays:

Every 6:30pm Marquis  
5/25 7pm Bell Choir \*\*Note no Bells 5/4, 5/11 or 5/18)\*\*

### Thursdays:

5/5 & 5/26 6pm Jerrotones\*\*No Jerrotones 5/12 & 5/19\*\*  
5/5 & 5/26 7pm Chancel Choir \*\*No Choir 5/12 & 5/19\*\*  
5/12 12pm Women's Fellowship  
5/19 4pm Habitat for Humanity Groundbreaking  
Every 8:45am Yoga  
Every 6pm Jerrotones  
Every 7pm Faith Ed

### Fridays:

5/6, 5/13 & 5/20 6pm Spring Tune-up  
5/6 7:30pm Sound Healing

### Saturdays:

4/30 VPS Tag Sale  
5/7 2pm Memorial Service-Kenneth Lawrence

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