

YOUTH NEWS

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

Forty people (32 senior high youth and 8 adults) will travel to Washington DC on an AMTRAK train from Windsor Locks on July 31st at 6:50am. We arrive DC at 1:35 and begin a week-long immersion experience to challenge our perspective on race, religion, and privilege. We are still setting the schedule (check back for more info in the July newsletter), but have planned interactive conversations, workshops, and service work with Muslims, Buddhists, Black Lives Matter, a spiritual arts community, a homeless kitchen, and the LGBT Center of DC to name just a few. We will be staying in the George Washington University dorms, eating off campus food, riding the METRO and walking the city.

This is a different kind of service trip. We will be serving in various locations, but the primary intent of this trip is to change, affect, and stretch our perspective through personal experiences that could be transformational. We expect the conversations with the youth division of Black Lives Matter to present a perspective that is different from our own - not for the purpose of arguing or debating, but to see the world through someone else's eyes. Likewise we will meet Muslim youth and young adults who cannot be heard from above the latest news on ISIS. And, we will meet a young spiritual community in DC devoted to the core values of creativity, spirituality and justice, without the trappings of doctrine or denomination. We will visit the Holocaust Museum and take a walking tour through civil rights history in DC.

PERSPECTIVE is how one sees the world. Challenging perspective is about putting one's self through an awkward conversation without defense. Stretching perspective involves risking one's viewpoint long enough to see things through another's eyes. Informing perspective means giving one's self permission to shift, amend, and change. For one week, we will dare to listen rather than speak.

FAITH ED concludes on June 5th. In the sermon that Sunday, Rebecca will give the congregation an overview of the first year of this pilot program. **SCHOOLHOUSE** concludes on June 5th. After the church service, the congregation is asked to join us in Cook Hall for an Ice Cream Social.

Email articles for the next First Edition to
sue@firstchurchgranby.org by June 22nd.


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

The First Edition

June 2016

EVERYDAY SAINTS – Stories of courage and love

Who are your “saints”?

Starting in September we are planning a year-long celebration of people who’ve changed our lives. One Sunday each month we’ll highlight the life and contributions of a public figure who is an inspiration to us. Our list won’t be confined to saints in the dictionary sense of the word, but will include people (living or dead, Christian or not!) whose lives have changed the world for the better. Aung San Suu Kyi? Albert Einstein? Henry David Thoreau? Mother Theresa? Galileo? Gloria Steinem? Daniel Berrigan? Millard Fuller? Jimmy Carter? We want your suggestions as we finalize the list this summer.

Other Sundays during the year we will celebrate the lives of “saints among us,” local people, who have had a positive impact on others. Members of the congregation will help me interview these folks so we can hear (either in person or in recorded form) their inspiring stories of courage and love.

Who are your saints?

Look for a colored strip of paper in the Sunday bulletin to nominate your favorites.

Pastor Ginny

NEW MEMBERS - June 5

Have you thought about making a more intentional commitment to your participation in the life of First Church?

We will welcome new members on June 5

Talk to Pastor Ginny

CONNECT

ICE CREAM SOCIAL, June 5

After worship, we'll celebrate the end of the season for Faith Ed and SchoolHouse 2015-2016. Join us in Cook Hall for ice cream and toppings. Lunch will be served as usual.



STRAWBERRY SUPPER, June 11

Join us for the 2nd annual Strawberry Supper. Baked Ham, Strawberry Shortcake! Seatings at 5:30 and 6:30. Adults \$12; Children under 12: \$7. Sign up outside Church kitchen or call the Church Office 860-653-4537.

TASTE OF RAMADAN, Sunday June 19

We've been invited to attend the annual Muslim Coalition of CT's, "Taste of Ramadan" experience. This interfaith event highlights the fasting traditions of the three Abrahamic faiths. It will be held at the Avon Senior Center, 653 West Avon Road, Avon from 6pm to 9:30pm. For more info, email TasteofRamadan@mcct.us

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!

June 3: Kimbles, 11 Juniper Drive

June 10, 17 & 24: 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

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS, June 12 10am

Like God, we welcome ALL people and ALL animals. Bring your pets to the Annual Celebration and Blessing of the Animals. Weather permitting; service will take place on south side lawn of the church. In case of rain, service will be in Cook Hall. We will also bless Jennica before she departs to serve in Burkina Faso with The Peace Corps!



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.

HOST HOMES NEEDED! SUSI Homestay July 22-24

Ann Wilhelm brings us this opportunity again to participate in international friendship as UConn will welcome student leaders from North and Sub-Saharan Africa to work on social entrepreneurship this summer. The 5-week program includes 4 weeks on campus and a week of sightseeing in Philadelphia and Washington, DC, as well as a ONE WEEKEND HOMESTAY July 22-24. Call the Church Office for more information.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES!

Russell Bentley, UCONN - BS Computer Science and Mathematics. Russell has accepted a position with Apple and will be moving to Cupertino, California.

Jennica Betsch, Bowling Green State University - BA French and International Studies. Jennica is headed to a 27 month commitment to the Peace Corps.

Stacey Dowd, CCSU - MA, Reading & Language Arts

Wyatt Poulson, Full Sail University - BS Gaming Art

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

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 or 860-844-0008.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY IN GRANBY

Don Shaw has managed to reserve five Saturdays for work teams from Granby's two UCC congregations. Sign up on the bulletin board across from the church office.

Dates available: June 25
August 13
September 10
October 8
November 5

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST STEPHEN MINISTERS

On May 22 we commissioned five new Stephen Ministers who will help provide one-on-one care to people in crisis. Heather Dobbert, Beth Matlack, Duncan and Marian Rowles, and Doug Williams join our other Stephen Ministers... Linda and Pete Betsch, Emily Messenger, Marilyn Sponzo, and Ann Wilhelm.



Important Dates at FCC

- Sundays:**
Every 10am Worship
6/5 New Member Welcome & Ice Cream Social
6/12 Blessing of the Animals
Every 7pm Sunday Night Youth
- Mondays:**
6/6 7pm Trustees (first Monday)
6/20 7pm Deacons (third Monday)
6/27 4pm Care Committee
- Tuesdays:**
6/7 & 6/21 1pm NeedleworX
- Wednesdays:**
Every 6:30pm Marquis
Every 7pm Bell Choir
- Thursdays:**
Every 8:45am Yoga
6/9 12pm Women’s Fellowship at Abigail’s
Every 7pm Chancel Choir
- Fridays:**
Every 6pm TGIF
6/3 7:30pm Sound Healing
6/17 - 6/19 Women’s Retreat
- Saturdays:**
6/11 Strawberry Supper

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July & August 9:30am**

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