

5th Annual  2016

Apple Fest

Saturday, September 24
10am-4pm
First Church -219 North Granby Rd (Rt. 189)

 First Congregational Church of Granby

- Crafts
- Vendors
- Cheese Bread
- HUGE Bake Sale
- Lunch- Soups, Baked Potato Bar & more
- Tea Cup Auction Baskets
- Tag Sale

Apple Fest

TAG SALE

Starts at 9am!

Women's Boutique,
 Kitchen Shop,
 Furniture, household
 items, sports equipment,
 toys & more!

www.firstchurchgranby.org 860-653-4537 

Email articles for the next First Edition to sue@firstchurchgranby.org by September 19th.


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

The First Edition

September 2016

EVERYDAY SAINTS - Stories of courage and love

This month we begin a year-long celebration of people who've changed our lives. One Sunday each month we will highlight the life and contributions of a public figure that 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 change the world for the better. Here's a preview, based on your suggestions: Sacagawea, Teresa of Avila, Nicholas (otherwise known as Santa Claus), Abraham Lincoln, Underground Railroad luminaries William Still and Harriet Tubman, Mary Tyler and Roger Williams (both persecuted by Massachusetts Puritans for their nonconforming beliefs), Temple Grandin, Elie Wiesel, Maya Angelou, and Rev. Richard Allen.

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.

Is a saint someone who lives an exemplary life? Someone who tries to walk the talk? Or someone who reveals something of God, as the holy shines through them.

Pastor Ginny

HOMEcoming SUNDAY
and Gathering of the Waters
SEPTEMBER 11, 2016
10am Worship
Cookout/Picnic following
Bring sides/dessert to share



CONNECT

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?

Bring the little bottle of water from a place that is special to you. During the service, people pour their water into a large bowl one by one. 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.

WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP - Thursday, September 22

Thursday, Sept 22 we will be going to Lost Acres Orchard for lunch. Meet at FCC at 11:45. In October we will celebrate Oktoberfest on October 13 at First Church.

APPLEFEST - Saturday, September 24

September 24th is the 5th AppleFest, our biggest fundraiser, and we still need help! Event time is 10am to 4pm with the Tag Sale starting at 9am. Please sign-up to help with baking cheese bread or working the day of the event. We especially need assistance with set-up and break-down. Sign-up outside Cook Hall or call the office at 860-653-4537 to add your name to the volunteer list!

A *Women’s Boutique* and *Kitchen Shop* have been added. The Women’s Boutique will include purses, shoes, scarves, jewelry and accessories. The Kitchen Shop will accept newer cookbooks.

Donate items to the Tag Sale, Boutique or Kitchen Shop Sept 19-22 from 3:00 to 6:00. Call the church office to make special arrangements.

Items NOT accepted: clothing, books, VHS videos, outdated electronics, outdated sports equipment.

BOOK DISCUSSION - *Neither Wolf, Nor Dog*

Neither Wolf Nor Dog is the title we'll read and explore with friends at South Church, which traces the experience of author Kent Nerburn as he travels with a Native American elder and learns his tribal wisdom. With humor and candor, the story exposes readers to some of the differences between European American culture and that of the First Nation people. Save the date: **Sunday, Nov. 13 at 4 pm.**

EXPLORE

WOMEN’S SPIRITUALITY

As we brace ourselves for the end of summer's relaxed schedule and the resumption of routine, it's important to "bookmark" time to nurture our minds and our souls. We are offering two (or more) book groups at First Church this fall.

[*The Translator*, by Leila Aboulela](#), is a story about a widowed Muslim woman who falls in love with a Scottish secular academic. "An exquisitely crafted meditation on love, both human and divine, *The Translator* is ultimately the story of one woman's courage to stay true to her beliefs, herself, and her newfound love." (200 pages, available from \$0.01 on Amazon)

Morning group:	10:30am at church Sept 12, Oct 17 , Nov 14, Dec 12
Evening group:	7pm in homes Sept 12, Oct 10, Nov 14, Dec 12

UNDERSTANDING ISLAM

November 5, 9:30am to 3pm, \$50 Registration

A day-long workshop with Aida Mansoor is being offered at Wisdom House in Litchfield. For more information, go to <https://wh.retreatportal.com/calendar/viewEvent.aspx?programcode=16SPD02097>

ARRIVEDERCI, AMICI!

Pastor Ginny and Doug depart September 21 for their long-planned trip to Italy. After 3 days in Florence, they will stay a week in the Chianti region of Tuscany on a cooking-and-tasting adventure, and spend a second week in the Campagna region north of Rome where Doug will join a plein air painting group. We return October 9.

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.

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 some community effort, our community garden will produce even more than last year! Pete Betsch is looking for someone to replace him as Team Leader.

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)

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY IN GRANBY

One open date remains for the Saturday work teams from Granby's two UCC congregations. Sign up on the bulletin board across from the church office. Open date: Oct 8

NEEDLEWORX - October 4 & 18, 1pm

NeedleworX will continue this year stitching prayer shawls and infant items. Our meetings will begin in October, in the Memorial Meeting Room. We welcome participants in our meetings and those who stitch on their own time. Margery Gardow, 860-658-6464, and Kay Janssen, 860-653-7496, are happy to answer questions about what we do.

Youth News

High School Summer Service Trip to Washington DC Perspective... on Race, Religion and Privilege

We took off early Saturday morning, July 31st on a bus provided by Amtrak (due to construction between Windsor Locks and New Haven). In New Haven we boarded a train to DC, caught the Metro in Union Station, and then rolled our suitcases through city blocks to George Washington University, where we would be staying. Fortunately for us the weather was beautiful for our week in DC. After settling into our rooms, we got acquainted with our trip families, found food close to campus and then started on a hike to the memorials - Lincoln, MLK, WWI, WWII Memorials, and a view of the Washington Monument. Each morning & evening we met in the basement for a group focus to reflect and prepare us for the experience of that day.

Monday was by far the most challenging perspective shift for most to embrace. We met at the historic Metropolitan AME church, first with a white activist group called Showing Up For Racial Justice. The young adult leaders took us through some interactive games meant to help us understand how white privilege can feel to less privileged minorities. After a pizza dinner and a tour of the church (which had been home to Frederick Douglas, and Rosa Parks’ memorial service), eight youth from Black Lives Matter arrived, joined by the AME church youth, and some local college students. The BLM team separated us by skin color instructing us to answer the same questions in these groups. (This caucus style, while difficult for us, is often used to help empower minorities to speak their truth.) We learned how gentrification affects the black community, among other issues. After the discussion I stayed to talk with the church pastor and elders who indicated to me that it was a ‘first’ for their church, saying, “There have never been this many white people in our church!” and another, “This is what we need to be doing. White churches are talking to each other. And black churches talk to themselves, but we are not having conversations **together** like this! We are all in echo chambers – talking to ourselves, and that gets us nowhere.”

On Tuesday we all headed off to different service sites – homeless shelters, breakfasts, an LGBT youth center, and food for people living with AIDS. In the evening we had an amazing spiritual

experience with leaders from The Sanctuaries - one, a minister who was a cancer survivor and artist, the other a hip hop musician. Before the night was over we were all creating rap rhymes. They had taught us to reach inside and pull thoughts from our souls. It was impressive to hear our kids perform. Many of our guys and some of our girls continued writing rhymes throughout the week. Pretty cool.

On Wednesday we split into teams to provide yard-work or cleaning for some of DC’s elderly who are threatened with eviction and homelessness. One of the Seabury service leaders was a 4 year trans-male, which none of us would have guessed. We were actually the first service group he’d felt comfortable being open with about this – a credit to our kids and our church.

Thursday was our day to meet with Dar Al-Hijrah. Planning this event had been the most challenging for me in the 6 months prior, not because there weren’t Muslim groups who appreciated the idea, but because it was summertime, their youth were scattered, and there were numerous location/transportation challenges. But in the last few weeks things began to fall into place. Mohammed Kibriya was my principle contact as leader of Dah-Youth. Nadia Hassan, the leader of another youth leadership group and Abidah, the Adams Center youth coordinator also joined in the planning. To say it was a success is an understatement. Real friendships and commonalities were discovered on both sides of this gathering. Some of our new Muslim friends from Thursday night even surprised us by making the trip into the city the next day to be with us as Dr. Syeed’s guests for the 12:30 prayer vigil in the Capitol Building.

On Friday we visited an LGBT center and heard the personal stories of a PFLAG parent of a lesbian youth, a trans-female who is a US military chaplain, a gay high school teacher, and a young immigrant gay male from El Salvador. Then...just to help blow out the mental traffic jam in their heads, the youth attended a baseball game between the Washington Nationals and the SF Giants for the last evening.

By that time, I had been released from my “30 hours of Perspective” in the DC Central Cell Block (arrested for playing Happy Birthday without permission on the White House piano). I later learned the action was treated so seriously (overnight in jail)

Important Dates at FCC

Sundays:		
Every 10am		Worship & SchoolHouse
Every 7pm		Sunday Night Youth
9/11		Homecoming Sunday
9/18		Choral Retreat
Mondays:		
9/5 6:30pm		Trustees (first Monday)
9/19 7pm		Deacons (third Monday)
Tuesdays:		
9/27 7:30pm		Voice Recital
Wednesdays:		
Every 6:30pm		Marquis
Every 7pm		Bell Choir - Starting 9/14
Thursdays:		
Every 8:45am		Yoga
Every 7pm		Chancel Choir - Starting 9/1
9/22		Women’s Fellowship @ Lost Acres
Fridays:		
9/9 7:30		Sound Healing
Saturdays:		
9/10		UCC Habitat Work Day
9/24 10-4		AppleFest *Tag Sale starts 9am*
Coming Up:		
OCTOBER 2, 2pm BCMS Concert		

**Sunday Worship and
Sunday SchoolHouse
10am
(children join families in Sanctuary first)
Sunday Night Youth 7pm**

because the piano was next to the staircase leading to the family residence. I regret the stress it caused for my chaperones, the kids, their parents, and the church – and appreciate the support I have received despite my impulse and poor judgment.

I joined the kids Friday night after the game, and was overwhelmed by their reports of new friendships with Muslim youth and their experience at the LGBT center. This was a Perspective trip – more about working our brains than our muscles. Conversations and personal interactions with real people have a way of staying with us, where a lecture, statistic, or news-story might not. The discussions we had, the viewpoints we heard, the face-to-face memories are stored now within us, *because they are lived experiences*, and as such, cannot help but affect our perspective. We live in a multi dimensional world, and we are better people when we recognize that our perspective is not ‘right’. It is just ‘ours’.

Rebecca

SCHOOOLHOUSE starts back up September 11th. Children start in the church service with their families.

SUNDAY NIGHT YOUTH starts back on Sept 11th, 7 – 8:30pm. We have elections at our first meeting.

WOULD YOU CONSIDER BEING A SCHOOLHOUSE HELPER?

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.

MUSIC NEWS

Barbara Crouse Memorial Concert Series

After only two seasons, we are excited to announce the addition of a fourth concert to the 2016–2017 Barbara Crouse Memorial Concert Series. Started in 2014, the BCMCS honors the memory of longtime Granby resident and music leader Barbara Crouse by providing area audiences with a variety of entertaining and enlightening concerts ranging from classical to contemporary. This year’s lineup includes:

- Chat Noir Sunday, October 2 at 3pm
This quartet plays “gypsy jazz” in the tradition of Django Reinhardt, and will transport you to a small Parisian café along the Seine!
- Cuatro Puntos Sunday, January 29 at 3pm
This acclaimed string quartet brings us the music of Mozart and Mendelssohn.
- Pitt Men’s Glee Club Wednesday, March 8 at 7:30pm
This 60-voice ensemble is the oldest a cappella group in the country.
- 3rd Annual Sacred Choral Music Festival Saturday, March 25 at 7pm
Under the baton of Dr. Steven Grives, this year’s festival is a celebration of French sacred music, culminating in a performance of Fauré’s *Requiem* and works by other French composers.

Carnegie Hall Recital Comes to Granby

On Tuesday, September 27 at 7:30pm, baritone Robert Barefield and pianist Carolyn Hague will present a recital of American Art Songs at First Congregational Church of Granby. The program consists of works by Virgil Thomson, Charles Ives, Theodore Chanler, Marion Bauer and Scott Wheeler. This recital will be repeated on October 2nd at Carnegie Hall in New York City to benefit Global ADE, a charity dedicated to strengthening education in developing countries through community-driven programs. Proceeds will support ongoing construction of the Stephen Mazujian Middle School in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Barefield is a member of the voice faculty at the Hartt School. Hague, who will be visiting Connecticut from Vienna, Austria, heads the Master’s program in Lied und Oratorio for singers and pianists at the Konservatorium Wien Privatuniversität.