

Welcome and Announcements

Beth Nichols & Chris Saunders

Prelude and Candle Lighting*Leaning On the Everlasting Arms
(based on hymn tune "Showalter")*Norman McFarlane
arr. By Robert W. Thygerson

First Church Acolytes: Corinne Dickerson, Kerri Crough, Austin Munson

South Church Acolytes: Eleanor Moody, Chad Henze, Samantha Bordonaro

Call to Worship

Rev. Donna K. Manocchio

This is the day our God has made
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!
This is the day our God has made
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Please take a moment to write down on one side of the paper a grief, fear, or hesitation. On the other side write a hope, joy, or possibility that is emerging at this time of reunion. These will be collected by the deacons during the Gathering Hymn.

Gracious God, your spirit is constantly challenging us and comforting us, confronting us and calling us. Help us to be open to new ways of understanding you, new ways of living your love, and new ways of being the church. Keep our hearts and minds open to your leading. So be with us now and in the days ahead as we seek to share your love and walk in the ways of discipleship. In the living spirit of our Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Gathering HymnEnter, Rejoice and Come In
(See Insert)*

Norman McFarlane

Cards completed in the Call to Worship will be collected by the Deacons at this time.

Message for All God's Children

Sarah Pradhan

Children will proceed to Sunday School.

The Gift of Music – Bell Choir*Celebration*

by Cindy Dobrinski

Prayers of the People for the World

Rev. Donna K. Manocchio

Lord in your mercy
All: hear our prayers.

Lord's Prayer

Rev. Donna K. Manocchio

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and forever. Amen.

Scripture from *The Voice Translation* Revelation 21: 1-6 Charlene Bordonaro, Beth Lindsay

Liturgists: I looked again and could hardly believe my eyes. Everything above me was new. Everything below me was new. Everything around me was new because the heaven and earth that had been passed away, and the sea was gone, completely.

And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride on her wedding day, adorned for her husband and for His eyes only. And I heard a great voice, coming from the throne.

Congregation: See, the home of God is with His people. He will live among them; They will be His people, And God Himself will be with them. The prophecies are fulfilled: He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; Mourning no more, crying no more, pain no more, For the first things have gone away.

Liturgists: And the One who sat on the throne announced to His creation,

Congregation: See, I am making all things new. Write what you hear and see, for these words are faithful and true.

All: It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

Meditation	“A New Thing”	Rev. Donna K. Manocchio
Hymn	<i>In the Bulb There is a Flower, #638</i>	Laura Murach
A New Light	(See Insert)	Rev. Isaac Lawson Becky Sielman, Bob Giles
Going Forward in Blessing and Joy		Rev. Donna K. Manocchio
*Recessional Hymn	<i>We Are Walking</i> (See Insert)	Norman McFarlane

Please take a copy of the hymn and recess out of the South Campus Sanctuary beginning with the first row, and proceed to Cook Hall at the North Campus for a pot luck celebration.

A NEW LIGHT

Introduction

Moderators Becky Sielman and Bob Giles

Resolution Reading

WHEREAS, The First Congregational Church, of Granby (“**First Church**”) and The South Congregational Church, of Granby, (“**South Church**”) have engaged in negotiations regarding the merger of First Church and South Church into Granby Congregational Church, UCC (“**GCC**”), a Connecticut religious corporation to be formed as a result of the merger, pursuant to those powers vested by Sections 33-264c(c) and 33-1036(10) of the Connecticut General Statutes (the “**Merger**”);

WHEREAS, the Members of First Church and South Church (“**Members**”) have previously approved the concept of the Merger;

WHEREAS, the Plan of Merger (the “**Plan of Merger**”), including the GCC Certificate of

Formation and Constitution, was provided to the Members with the notice of these meetings;
and

WHEREAS, the Church Councils of First Church and South Church (the “**Councils**”) have recommended that the Members approve the Plan of Merger.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby:

RESOLVED: That the Members hereby approve and adopt the Plan of Merger.

RESOLVED: That Robert Giles, Moderator of First Church and Becky Sielman, Moderator of South Church, are hereby granted authority to execute such documents, forms, filings, contracts and agreements, make such decisions and expenditures, and take any other actions they deem necessary or appropriate to complete the matters contemplated by the above resolutions.

RESOLVED: That any and all acts taken prior to the date hereof by or under the authorization of any member of the Councils or officer of First Church or South Church in order to effectuate the intention of the foregoing resolutions be, and hereby are, approved, ratified, and continued in all respects.

Call to Meetings

Discussion

Votes

A Word from our Area Conference Minister

Rev. Isaac Lawson

Sharing Our Covenantal Promises

Area Conference Minister

The people of God known as the First Congregational Church and South Congregational Church rejoice to affirm that by the grace of God they intend to be one church together known as the Granby Congregational Church, United Church of Christ.

First Church former members:

We, the people of God formerly known First Congregational Church, rejoice to be reunited with our siblings in faith from South Congregational Church. We make these covenantal promises in hope and in love.

South Church former members:

We, the people of God formerly known as South Congregational Church, rejoice to be reunited with our siblings in faith from First Congregational Church. We make these covenantal promises in hope and in love.

Area Conference Minister

You are now invited to affirm your intention to live in covenant as the Granby Congregational Church, UCC. Please rise in body or in spirit.

***We, the people of God of the Granby Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, relying on God’s grace, and in covenantal relationships of mutuality and support with the other congregations of the Farmington Valley Association and the broader Southern New England Conference, promise to strive to be the church in these days by loving God, ourselves and our neighbors with compassion and joy; to follow in the way of Jesus, growing together as his disciples sharing the good news**

of love and justice; to listen with open hearts and minds to one another's joys and fears, hopes and disappointments; and to faithfully and prayerfully discern our common life together in worship, formation, leadership and service.

***Prayer**

Area Conference Minister: Let us pray.

All: Holy God, who in Jesus Christ has made a new and eternal covenant with all who turn to you in faith, witness the covenant we make today. Confirm this relationship. Bless our intentions, hopes, and commitments with the fruit of holiness. Light our way with the lamp of your word and the fire of your Holy Spirit. Move us on the journey of faith and enable us to walk with all your people toward justice and peace in all the earth. In Jesus, we pray. Amen and alleluia!

Lighting the Unity Candle and Extinguishing the First and South Church candles.

Our guest minister for today is Rev. Donna K. Manocchio. Donna is a retired UCC pastor, now serving as a spiritual director, retreat leader and bridge minister. She served as a bridge minister at First Church, Granby for several months in the beginning of 2019. Donna also shares her gifts as a nonprofit leader as a volunteer member of the development team at Hands on Hartford, a local nonprofit serving neighbors in the capital region. She finds joy in connecting the stories of Scripture with the stories of our lives and building connection and communion and both ordinary and unexpected places.

Rev. Isaac Lawson is the South Central Area Conference Minister for the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ (UCC). The region includes the churches and clergy in the Central Connecticut, Farmington Valley, Hartford, Hartford East, Middlesex, New London and Tolland Associations. Rev. Lawson previously served in a dual call as Associate Pastor at Immanuel Congregational Church, UCC, and Communications Associate at the Center for Leadership and Justice (CLJ), both in Hartford, CT. Prior to moving to Hartford, Rev. Lawson served as a minister of pastoral care and visitation for a local UCC congregation in Washington, D.C. He also spent years working in logistics and operations for the World Bank Group.

Rev. Lawson has a Bachelor of Arts in Communications and Religious Studies with Honors from Goucher College, a Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary, NYC, and a Master of Sacred Theology from Yale Divinity School. For Rev. Lawson, the heart of ministry is summed up in Jesus' command to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. (Mark 12.30-31)

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This is an Open and Affirming Church

We affirm the dignity and worth of every person, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, race, mental or physical ability or sexual orientation. We offer sacraments and rites to all who enter our circle of faith. We celebrate the gifts that each person brings to First Congregational Church and invite them to share in all areas of its service, leadership, activities, responsibilities and privileges.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!