

The Quester



**Fairfield Grace United
Methodist Church**

**September
2015**

As I write this, the summer of 2015 is quickly drawing to a close. Before we know it Rally Day Sunday will be here and a new 2015 – 2016 church year will begin. Pastor Cho will be returning on Monday August 31st well rested and renewed to lead us into a fantastic, spirit led new year.

We have been blessed this summer to have wonderful messages each Sunday by pastors that previously served at Fairfield Grace as well as Lay Speakers. The members of the congregation that attended most of the Sunday services felt blessed and fed by the messages. Of course we missed Pastor Cho and probably no one more than me. I admit that I look forward to sitting in the choir watching and listening to the service knowing it is not my responsibility to make it flow smoothly.

When you are in the church office with Anne Regan make sure you thank her for her hard work and dedication during this summer. With very little training, she kept the office running smoothly while getting the bulletins done while coordinating with different pastors or Lay Leader each Sunday. Since you are reading this, she also got the Quester completed.

The Youth Group had a great mission trip this summer. I have talked to a couple of people that were on the trip and they believe that it made a lasting impression on the youth that will influence them for many years to come. I, and I am sure we, look forward to hearing about it at a service in September. They are our future and we need to give them all the help and encouragement we can.

I believe that the 2015 – 2016 church year for Fairfield Grace will be one of growth in spirit and discipleship receiving our guidance from God since the church is His as well as ours. With Pastor Cho's return we will start experiencing "The Story". It is an abridged, chronological Bible that reads like a novel. Scripture segments are woven together with transitioning text into a single grand narrative. There are also study materials that are available to assist with teaching from the book. It helps people better understand God's Word more fully and engage with it more easily. Additional information will be presented at Rally Day and everyone is encouraged to buy a copy of it for their own use.

Start the new church year with joy and an eagerness to serve God asking what can I do to help Fairfield Grace and become a better disciple of Christ!

Yours in Christ,
Bob Price

Lectionary Readings September 2015

Sept. 6	Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23	James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17	Mark 7:24-37
Sept. 13	Proverbs 1:20-33	James 3:1-12	Mark 8:27-38
Sept. 20	Proverbs 31:10-31	James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a	Mark 9:30-37
Sept 27	Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22	James 5:13-20	Mark 9:38-50



Taize: A Time to Pray

There is power and peace in prayer

Fairfield Grace invites you
to come to its weekly prayer services...

When: Every Wednesday
Where: The Sanctuary
Services: 9:30-10:00 am
7:00—7:30 pm (starting Sept. 9)

This is a time to meditate, relax, reflect, and pray in a quiet and peaceful setting, where you can be with God in moments of silence.

All are welcome. Come. Invite a friend!



Ushers

Fellowship Hour

September Team #2 ~ Joe Sugrue

Susanna's Circle

- ~ *Nancy Hauser*
- ~ *Jim/Myra Lubeck*
- ~ *Sheila Muscott*
- ~ *Joe Sugrue*

Worship Leaders

Greeters

Susanna's Circle

- September 6: *Nancy Hauser*
- September 13: *Georgina Holdsworth*
- September 20: *Youth*
- September 27: *Cameron Bowcock*

**Fairfield Grace Families
In Our Prayers**

Week of:

- September 6: *Savage Family and Schindler Families*
- September 13: *Sherwood Family, Shirley Sims
and Snook Family*
- September 20: *Spangler Family, Christine Speight
and Moohak Suh*
- September 27: *Stein families and Jean Stevens*

Susanna's Circle

LADIES, please mark your calendars:

The **Susanna Ladies Circle** will meet for our
Welcome Back Pot Luck Lunch at
10:30 am, Wednesday, September 16
in the **Fellowship Hall**.



Please contact Georgina Holdsworth, Marge Hood or Nancy Hauser to let us know what you will be bringing to share.

In addition to the lunch, we will have some business to discuss and vote on regarding the **Holiday Fair on November 21st**;
ie sandwiches?...vendor tables?...Bake Sale?...Homeless Kits?...
volunteer opportunities (lots!!)?..., etc.

Come and find out what we do. We look forward to seeing many ladies in attendance, both old members and new folks who want to learn more about us.

"Help me, Lord, to remember that religion is not to be confined to the church...nor exercised only in prayer and meditation, but that every where I am in Thy Presence." - Susanna Wesley

Serena's Book Club

We will be discussing chapters 12 and 13 at our first gathering after the summer break on **Monday, September 14 at 7:00 PM** in the Hood Parlor.

Good luck to Joann Hus with her new home in Massachusetts.
We will miss her insight and sense of humor.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2015

Save the Date for the Fairfield Grace Holiday Craft Fair

Morning Bible Discussion Group

Please join us at 9:00 for the next three weeks to share and discuss the following topics before Sunday Service.

September 13, Week 1:

A Bible character you admire

September 20. Week 2:

Someone in history you would like to have a conversation with.

September 27, Week 3 :

Reflections from Pastor Cho on his Sabbatical “moments”.

Please come and share with us!

Sunday Mornings at 9:00.

Jeanne Millett, our choir director, invites you to join the Music Ministry.

Jeanne is looking for individuals of all ages that might be interested in any one of the choirs:

**Chancel Choir, Hand bell Choir
or Treble Choir** (for youth - as young as early elementary school).

Please consider being a part of this important ministry and enhancing our Worship Services. Contact Jeanne Millett (jeannemillett@aol.com) if you are interested or have any questions.

All are welcome.!

*Music is very spiritual,
it has the power
to bring people together.*



We want your photos!

Please take pictures at any of the Fairfield Grace events or activities you attend and send them in to the Quester.

We want to let the Fairfield Grace community know about all the good work it's members are doing! Send updates, news and photos to fairfieldgrace@sbcglobal.net

**Deadline for the October Issue
of the Quester is
Sunday, September 20.**

SEPTEMBER MISSION/OUTREACH REPORT

Opportunities continue to abound for mission activities through Fairfield Grace as listed below:

- ◇ Through our weekly contributions to **Mission Bags** at the end of each pew we support numerous programs and endeavors in our community as they arise. During July, August and September the money collected is being used to augment our budget needs. Collections in October, November and December will be announced in next month's Quester.
- ◇ **Donations of bread from Panera Bread are delivered weekly to Operation Hope every Monday** morning by volunteers from Fairfield Grace. If you would like to participate in this weekly delivery please contact Dot Daruka or Margie Campbell.
- ◇ Donations are always needed for **the Pantry at Operation Hope**. Qualifying residents of Fairfield can go the Pantry to help meet their food needs. All we need to do is fill the wooden box at the rear of the sanctuary. Thank you in advance for reaching out to our neighbors in need.

The September meal for Operation Hope will be provided by our Youth Group under the leadership of Lauren Regan. **A BIG, BIG THANK YOU TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE.** The slots for 2016 are open and we are looking for teams to provide the evening meal on the fourth Mondays in January, March, May, July, September, and November.

MERCY LEARNING CENTER

Tutors are needed to teach English, Reading and Math to low-income women in the Greater Bridgeport area. No teaching experience is needed; training and materials are provided. If you have two hours twice a week and would like to be one of their volunteers please refer to the Flyer on the Community News Bulletin Board outside the church office or call 203-334-6699 or email lynn.gabriel@mercylearningcenter.org

September Birthdays

02	Kun Sam Cho	16	Nancy Hauser
03	Natalie Blumenstock	17	Timothy VanScoy
03	Natalie Havens	18	Dorothy Albrecht
04	Kazuo Mizoguchi	18	Don Stimpson
05	Michaela Bissell	20	Alexandra Beriquete
05	Fiona Kristy	25	Julie Blumenstock
05	Pat Rozelle	26	Elizabeth Savage
07	Meghan Tang	27	Harold Meyers
09	Kim Peters	29	Mary Lou Stock
12	Matthew Havens		
14	Michelle Krancz		



September Anniversaries

Sept 07	Mary Lou & Ed Stock	52 yrs
Sept 10	Darlene & Joseph Dowgiallo	21 yrs
Sept 12	Maggie & David Harrison	28 yrs
Sept 29	Mary & Scott Bedson	30 yrs
Sept 14	Charlene & Ed Schindler	41 yrs
Sept 16	Randy & John Russo	26 yrs
Sept 20	Nicole & Ed Galpin	7 yrs.
Sept 25	Panyin & Francis Amoo	5 yrs

“There are only two days in the year that nothing can be done. One is called *yesterday* and the other is called *tomorrow*, so today is the right day to love, believe and mostly live.”

- Dalai Lama

Submitted by Dottie Connelly

West Virginia - "Almost Heaven"

A Mission Trip Summary Letter from our Director of Youth Ministries

Dear Fairfield Grace family,

This July, our youth group mission trip to Braxton County, West Virginia gave me a new understanding of the state's informal nickname, "Almost Heaven". On Sunday morning, at the crack of dawn, we loaded 15 youth group members and 4 dedicated adults into two vans and began the almost ten hour trek to West Virginia. What transpired over the course of this week renewed my faith in God. While our youth group was returning for a second year and was greeted warmly by name by the Next Step ministries staff, we knew we would be encountering new host families and a new worship experience. We also came in much stronger force than before, increasing our membership by 150% more than the 10 great youth that joined us last year. With new members and an eager spirit to serve, we split up into two different worksites. It just so happened that half of our group was sent to an elderly couple's house, Davy and Diana, while the other half went just down the road to the family house of their daughter, Dendra. I know I speak for all of us when I say that the members of this community were some of the kindest and most loving people we have encountered. They sat outside with us, they got to know us through conversation and laughter, they joined us for our lunchtime devotional, and they shared many, many stories with us. While we worked hard replacing the roof and painting the exterior of Davy and Diana's house and assisting in the complete construction of a new house for Dendra's family, we were most struck by the relationship we built with this family. A family who had little, but loved God, as well as each other, more than most.

Each night our worksite crews were asked to share with everyone how we saw God throughout our experience that day. I am proud to report that our youth group had no shortage of responses. When I reflect on my personal faith journey that week, it is hard to choose the moment in which God was most present to me. Maybe it was the beautiful poetry Diana had written that she shared with us, telling about God's love for us and the importance of caring for the youth of our world. No, it must have been the smiles and hugs (and sometimes tears) I quietly observed as our youth worked alongside each other, sharing their personal struggles with each other and offering insightful and faith-filled guidance. Maybe it was the meaningful interactions I saw between our youth group members and the residents, asking about their lives, and making connections that surpassed age and cultural boundaries. It could have been the beauty of the rolling hills and lack-of-cell-service peace we all experienced, a refreshing change. Maybe it was hearing about the passion and faith of the permanent missionaries, Dani and Clark, and their daughter Joy, who uprooted their family to follow a call from God to serve the people of West Virginia. However, above all, I know in my heart that it was our daily group prayers, our spirited discussions about believing in God, and watching our youth group members grow stronger in their faith, that showed me that God is all around us. Our youth group's special faith journey did not end when we left West Virginia. I think about and pray for our youth group members daily and am filled with joy thinking about the possibilities that this upcoming youth group year has to offer here in Fairfield. I encourage you to pray for our youth group as we strive to find our "Almost Heaven" right here at Fairfield Grace.

Your partner in faith,
Lauren Regan

Come hear about our Mission Trip from our youth group members themselves!

Join us at our
Youth Led Service
and Mission Trip Share

Sunday, September 20th

10:00 am
at Fairfield Grace

Featuring –

Picture Slideshow
Praise and Worship Music
Personal Testimony
... and much more!



Check out our Mission Trip
bulletin board in the office
hallway featuring pictures
from our West Virginia
adventure – we owe a big
thank you to Anne for
creating it!





More photos from the Youth Group Mission Trip Summer 2015



A DAY ON THE WATER TO
CONNECT WITH EACH OTHER





GETTING ON THE ROAD!



Read about our trip in this
issue of the Quester.
(page 8)

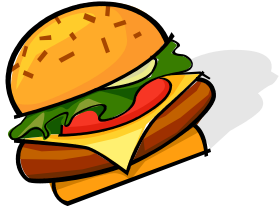


REPAIRING A ROOF



MAKING NEW FRIENDS

Please join us at the
Sunday, September 20
service to hear more
about our experience.



Renewal, Fellowship, & Fun

Fairfield Grace UMC Rally Day and Church Picnic

**Sunday September 13, 2015
11:30 AM**

***Come One, Come All!
Welcome back to all our members and friends***

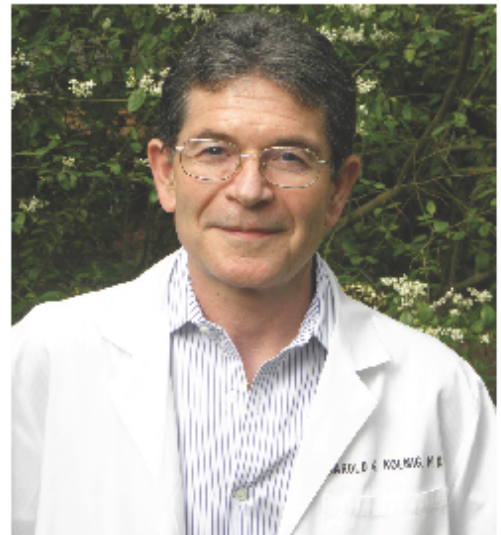


Fairfield Grace will hold its annual welcome back picnic immediately following the 10:00 AM worship service on Sunday, September 13th. Please feel free to wear casual clothes to the service.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED are to make Rally Day a success. Please bring your favorite salad or dessert to share. Volunteers needed to help with grilling, set up and clean up. Sign-up sheets are located in the Sanctuary.

For further information please contact
Nancy Leppla at (203)913-0475 or nleppla@gmail.com

Is Spirituality Good for Your Health?



Presentation by Harold Koenig, M.D., Director of Duke University's Center for Spirituality, Theology and Health; and Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, and Associate Professor of Medicine.

Please join us for this presentation focusing on the relationship between spirituality, prayer, health and healing - based on research by Duke University's Center for Spirituality, Theology and Health.

Dr. Koenig has been featured on national and international TV news programs including ABC's *World News Tonight*, *The Today Show*, *Good Morning America*, *The Dr. Oz Show*, and *NBC Nightly News*.

Dr. Koenig is the author of nearly 500 scientific peer-reviewed articles and chapters, and more than 40 books, including: *Medicine, Religion and Health: Where Science and Spirituality Meet*; *The Healing Power of Prayer: The Surprising Connection Between Prayer and Your Health*; *The Healing Power of Faith: How Belief and Prayer Can Help You Triumph Over Disease*, and many more.

When: Thursday, September 24, 2015

Where: Southport Congregational Church
524 Pequot Avenue
Southport, CT 06890

Time: 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Cost: There is **no charge** for this event, thanks to our generous donors.

To reserve your seat,
please call 203-255-1594

Underwritten & Sponsored by:
Southport Congregational Church
St. Anthony of Padua Church, Fairfield
Congregation B'Nai Israel, Bridgeport
Trinity Episcopal Church, Westport

Co-Sponsored by:
Grace Methodist Church, Fairfield
Greenfield Hill Congregational Church
Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Fairfield
Pequot Library, Southport

Fairfield Grace United Methodist Church Gift Card Program

Please keep in mind that Fairfield Grace has an ongoing Gift Card Fundraiser. All you have to do is use gift certificates to purchase products that you buy every day or buy gifts for that special someone. There is a wide variety of merchants to choose from.

You can order gift cards every Sunday in Fellowship Hall or sign up at **www.shopwithscrip.com** and set up an account to take advantage of all the extra shopping opportunities.

All you need to set up an account is the Fairfield Grace Enrollment Code LLL693493L957.

Thank you for your support.
Martha Wood

Community News and Requests

Spirituality and Health

Southport Congregational Church is hosting a presentation focusing on the relationship between prayer, health and healing by Dr. Harold Koenig of Duke University on Sept. 24, 7:00 – 9:00. There is no charge. Call 203-255-1594

Foster Parent

Family and Children's Agency, based in Norwalk, is looking for people that may be interested in becoming Foster Parents and making a difference in the life of a child. To learn more, attend the meeting on September 14 from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM at 140 Water Street, Norwalk. For more information, contact Karen Clark 203-523-5329 or kclark@fcagency.org.

Connecticut Hospice

The Connecticut Hospice is looking for someone who would like to serve others in the community. You can help as a friendly visitor; meet transportation needs, etc... to patients and families in need of care and support. Contact Joan Cullen at 203-315-7510 or jcullen@hospice.com

Fall Retreat

"To Be Alive"

(Participating in an Unending Conversation)



wiseGEEK

a weekend experience for men and women

WISDOM HOUSE
229 East Litchfield Rd.
Litchfield, CT 06759

September 25-27, 2015
(Friday, 7:00 p.m. –
Sunday after lunch)



We all want to be alive...To feel alive, to thrive, to live "out loud"! We want to be less lonely, less exhausted, less conflicted; more awake, more grateful, more energized, more purposeful. We can do that by joining the unending conversation of the Biblical story...

- Alive in the story of creation
- Alive in the adventure of Jesus
- Alive in the peaceful uprising
- Alive in God's Spirit

Led by Reverend Caroly R. Gibson

Total Cost \$235.00 (includes 5 meals, room, program, and materials)

Register Soon – Space in Farmhouse is Limited

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____ Special Diet: _____

Mail Registration with \$150.00 deposit to:
Rev. Caroly Gibson 145 Hilltop Drive Trumbull, CT 06611
Balance due by September 1st

Questions or Further Details, call (203) 380-1260 email: cgibsonumc@peoplepc.com



Join us for a new way of experiencing the Bible.

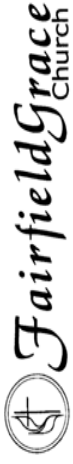
God's greatest love affair with humanity is condensed into 31 accessible chapters. Segments of scripture are woven together like a seamless story from Genesis to Revelation. The poems, stories and teachings of the Bible read like a novel.

Learn more at Rally Day, September 13, when we will kick off this church wide experience!

Questions: Please contact Karen Price (203-333-1272)
or Shelia Muscott (203-368-9199)



September, 2015



Fairfield Grace, Administrative Assistant, Contacts, Committees, Education/Enrichment, Fellowship, Mission, Music, Nursery School, Rentals, Susanna's Circle, Youth Group Sep 2015 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 HEALING TIME @ 8:30am - Patlo 10am - Worship 12pm - Korean 1pm - Faith Circle,	31 7:30pm - Alanon,	1 7pm - Youth	2 9:30am - Talze 7pm - Boy Scouts, 7pm - Trustees,	3 7:30pm - Chancel	4	5
6 Communion Sunday 9am - Adult Study, 10am - Worship 11:30am - Faith 7pm - Yth Group.	7 3pm - Rehearsal for 7:30pm - Alanon,	8 7:30pm - Handbells	9 9:30am - Talze 10:10am - Lect. 7pm - Boy Scouts, 7pm - Finance, Hood 7pm - Talze Prayer	10 8am - Nursery 9:30am - Retired 7:30pm - Chancel	11 8am - Nursery 5:30pm - Spag 10am - Team 4:45pm - Spag	12
13 CONNECTIONAL RALLY DAY 9am - Adult Study, 10am - Worship 12pm - Korean 1pm - Faith Circle, 3pm - Yth Group.	14 3pm - Sanctuary - 7pm - Serena's Book 7:30pm - Alanon,	15 8am - Nursery 7:30pm - Handbells	16 8am - Nursery 9:30am - Talze 10:10am - Lect. 10:30am - Susanna's 7pm - Boy Scouts, 7pm - Talze Prayer 7:45pm - Church	17 9:30am - Staff Mtg. 7:30pm - Chancel	18 8am - Nursery 4pm - Rehearsal for	19
20 9am - Adult Study, 10am - Worship 12pm - Korean 1pm - Faith Circle, 2pm - Benefit 7pm - Yth Group.	21 7:30pm - Alanon,	22 7:30pm - Handbells	23 9:30am - Talze 10:10am - Lect. 7pm - Boy Scouts, 7pm - Talze Prayer	24 7:30pm - Chancel	25	26
27 HEALING TIME @ 9am - Adult Study, 10am - Worship 12pm - Korean 1pm - Faith Circle, 7pm - Yth Group.	28 Cooking for 7:30pm - Alanon,	29 7:30pm - Handbells	30 9:30am - Talze 10:10am - Lect. 3:30pm - Parish Ct 7pm - Boy Scouts, 7pm - Talze Prayer	1 9:30am - Retired 7:30pm - Chancel	2 Youth Grp.	3