

† JOYS AND CONCERNS †

"Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" Philippians 4:4

With joy, we celebrate alongside Heather and Ben Talbott on the birth of their daughter, Mia Katharine! We welcome Kara Sullivan who joins the office staff. We are thankful for the gifts Kara brings to our family of faith and ask for God's blessing on her ministry with us.



GFC'S GIRL'S AND WOMEN'S CHOIR IS SINGING AGAIN MOTHER'S DAY – MAY 8TH !

Conducting the group again will be the very talented mezzo soprano, Jennifer Porretta! This will involve minimal time commitment and will be an incredibly rewarding opportunity to share our voices and some time together. You do NOT need to be a confident singer, just come as you are – we are not looking for perfect, just a great moment together.

Here's the scoop:

- Song – Sandi Patty's "Love Will Be Our Home"
- **Thursday, May 5** (6:00pm), followed by dinner in the Social Hall
- **Sunday, May 8** – We will meet at 9:30am for a run through before church and then will sing during the service

Special Guest! Plans underway for a surprise guest drummer...more to come!!

We hope you can join us! Email Caroline Barney at carolineCbarney@yahoo.com or contact Minister of Music, Rick Tripodi, by phone at (203) 629-1601 or by email at rickmatt@optonline.net.

WOMEN'S BOOK & BIBLE STUDY SERIES – ROUND 2!

It is official...we are going to go for round 2 of our Book & Bible Study! We hope that you will be able to join us! **Beginning May 5** and continuing through June 9, you are invited to join us on Thursday afternoons from 12:30-1:30pm in the Parlor. We are going to read and discuss, ***Five Practice of Fruitful Congregations***, by Robert Schnase. Our study and discussion will be led by Dave Stambaugh, our Interim Minister of Faith Formation. It will be a 'fruitful' experience for all who participate, as well as a wonderful opportunity to spend time in fellowship together...so don't miss out! Please contact Dave Stambaugh by email at davidjstambaugh@gmail.com or by phone, (203) 227-2728, extension 104, or Caroline Barney by email at carolinecbarney@yahoo.com if you are interested! Also, let us know if childcare is needed.

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY



While our young people continue their journey toward confirmation, you are invited to revisit and renew your confirmation journey as we explore the Foundations of our Faith.

CONFIRMATION 2.0 is designed for those who are new to church, as well as those who have been going forever...those who have been confirmed, as well as those who don't even know what confirmation is...those who call Green's Farms Church their spiritual home, as well as those who are still looking. With an open mind and a warm heart, we will explore the scriptures, our UCC Statement of Faith, and cover topics like GOD, FAITH, SIN, THE BIBLE, and DOUBT.

Join us Sunday mornings at 9:00am in the Parlor as we dig into the scriptures, discuss our faith journey and discover the importance of discipleship! Each session is self-contained and there is no pre-class reading or preparation required. For more information, contact Dave Stambaugh, Interim Minister of Faith Formation, by phone at (203) 227-2728, extension 104, or via email at davidjstambaugh@gmail.com.

GLOBAL REFUGEE CRISIS: LOCAL EFFORT FOR FAMILY RESETTLEMENT

The seven congregations, including GFC as part of the 'Westport Interfaith Refugee Settlement' or 'WIRS', have been accepted to receive a family and to resettle them in our area. **The Pre-Arrival portion of the Settlement Committee compiled a list of items needed for the apartment the family will live in.** Most of that list has been fulfilled by generous donations from Green's Farms Church (even the use of a truck for transportation of large items!) and by other congregations in the refugee resettlement group. Thank you. Here are just a few used items in good condition that are needed: washer/dryer, outside garbage can. Other needed items may come up in the future. Please contact Allison Wussler who is on the pre-arrival subcommittee, at amartin_00@hotmail.com or (917) 498-2296 or Ellie Lowenstein, lelowlenstein@gmail.com or (203) 255-5379.

If you have an interest in contributing your time and talent in any other way to this effort, please contact Ellie Lowenstein, who is serving as GFC's contact person with WIRS, by email at lelowlenstein@gmail.com or by phone at (203) 255-5379.

GFC's Outreach Department approved a \$2,000 gift from the department's annual budget. Members of the congregation are welcome to join the effort by making individual gifts with checks made payable to 'Green's Farms Church' and 'Global Refugee Crisis' noted in the memo section.

TREASURER POSITION OPEN with our Treasurer Suellyn Durkin's planned departure in June, we are seeking to fill the Treasurer's position as soon as possible! If you are interested, or know of anyone who might be interested, please contact Steve Parrish, Chair, Personnel Committee by email at steveparrish@me.com and he can answer questions and provide additional information regarding the Treasurer's role and responsibilities.

IN THE GALLERY AT GFC From Eden to Gethsemane, gardens have held an important place in our faith tradition. Gardens have been the setting for some of the most important events that tell our history and have also served as a metaphor for creation, transformation and grace. The current show "Botanica: art of the garden" features photographs, poetry, scripture and living plants in an homage to a living, changing garden. Stop by for a look and —later in the season when they're ready—a seedling to take home to your own garden!

A WARM WELCOME! We are thrilled and excited Kara Sullivan has joined GFC's office staff as Operations Coordinator - Communications! Kara has a Bachelor's of Arts degree in American Studies with corporate, non-profit and entrepreneurial experience in sales, marketing, communications and client service positions. Kara's primary role is communications-based activities, with broader inclusion in church and departmental events, programs and activities. Kara is responsible for coordinating the development of church-wide communications, working with our congregational departments and committees to ensure important information regarding our ministries is lifted up (e.g., Outreach, Membership & Community Life, Deacons, Stewardship, Education) and collaborating with our Youth Ministry, Music Ministry and Faith Formation teams on their various programs including Confirmation, Mission Trip, special music presentations, Small Group Ministry, Bible Study, etc. We are thankful for the talents Kara brings to GFC and are very happy she's a part of our GFC team!

GFC ANNUAL MEETING

GFC Annual Meeting will be held immediately following worship on Sunday, May 22. Please join us **LIVE THE VISION** by continuing to identify new and inspirational ways to bring life to our strategic initiatives through our ministries and offerings.