



The Springboard

July 2019

1825 WHITNEY AVE. HAMDEN, CT 06517 ~ WWW.SPRINGGLENCURCH.ORG

Pastor's Reflection

I want to start by quoting one of my favorite theologians, SGC Associate Pastor Clare Robert. In our many discussions about ministry, she often notes that she believes ministry is really about letting people feel that someone knows their story. As she sees it, part of our job as a Christian Community is to carry each other's stories.

At the end of June, a team of 10 of us from our OASIS Multi-Church Youth Group, with an additional family of 4 from my childhood church in Greenwich, travelled to the Simply Smiles Home for Children in Oaxaca, Mexico. For me, one of the most important elements of these service-learning trips is getting to know people's stories.

One of my other favorite theologians, our Simply Smiles staff trip leader and former CT State Troubadour Kristen Graves said "Once you've seen this kind of poverty, you can't unsee it. Once you know these kids, you can't un-know them and pretend they don't exist." We now know their stories. We carry their stories with us. Their lives are now part of our congregation.

Sure, the kitchen we painted was important work for creating a joy-filled nutritional space for these kids. Sure, the patio we tiled outside the laundry room was important work for making it feel like home. But these are just tangible representations of the real work, the work of becoming part of each other's lives, learning each other's stories, sharing each other's dreams and discovering the heartache and laughter involved in discovering that dream.



Jeny, the high school senior who wants to be a lawyer and can spike a volleyball like a pro. Lucia, the 2nd grader who makes mud pies for her pretend cafe and gleefully runs at full speed during tag. Pedro, the eighth grader who loves playing cards, doing science experiments & art projects, and is super competitive at all sports. Some of them came to Simply Smiles because there were no educational opportunities in their mountain villages. Some came through child protective services. Some came after living on the street or at other children's homes. All of them are full of love, joy, and world-changing levels of potential.

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Children's Ministry Coordinator Hired

We are thrilled to announce that Jessica Tingley will join Spring Glen Church's staff as the new part-time Children's Ministry Coordinator!

Over the next month, Jess will complete her current position as Director of Christian Education at the First Congregational Church of West Haven and then begin her tenure at Spring Glen Church on August 1

About Jess:

Jessica Tingley was born and raised in West Haven, living a life surrounded by church from a young age. Growing up, Jessica volunteered in Sunday School staff, youth group, and family and youth events.

Jessica heard God's calling as a teenager, tried to follow different paths, but God brought her back to church. Since then, she has been embracing Christian Education ministry with open arms, and learning everything she can from books, videos, workshops, and more. Additionally, Jessica is completing a degree from Southern Connecticut State University in a combination of philosophy, religious studies, and psychology. She plans to attend seminary, and was recently named a Member in Discernment in the New Haven Association of the United Church of Christ, seeking to eventually work in ordained ministry.

In her spare time, Jessica enjoys going to the beach, reading, and experimenting with makeup. She loves Friends, New Girl, coffee, and going to the movies. Chances are you'll hear her before you see her, talking or laughing loudly. She'll always be happy to see you and tell you how much God loves you!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Thank you to all of the bakers who contributed the wonderful assortment of cakes for our Pentecost Birthday Party on June 9th. The cakes were a delight to taste. A grateful thanks to you all for the donations to Simply Smiles. Volunteer teachers have chosen their super heroes for the SGC summer Sunday School session. Thank you for stepping up and taking on the task of guiding our children through the lessons and activities. You are appreciated! SAVE THE DATE Sunday September 8th SGC Rally Day Lawn Picnic.

Join us for a discussion of *Searching for Sunday* by Rachel Held Evans Thursday, September 26 at 7pm.

Like millions of her millennial peers, Rachel Held Evans didn't want to go to church anymore. The hypocrisy, the politics, the gargantuan building budgets, the scandals -- church culture seemed so far removed from Jesus. Yet, despite her cynicism and misgivings, something kept drawing her back to Church. And so she set out on a journey to understand Church and to find her place in it. Centered around seven sacraments, Evans' quest takes readers through a liturgical year with stories about baptism, communion, confirmation, confession, marriage, vocation, and death that are funny, heartbreaking, and sharply honest. A memoir about making do and taking risks, about the messiness of community and the power of grace, *Searching for Sunday* is about overcoming cynicism to find hope and, somewhere in between, Church. If you'd like to order a copy of the book (\$10), please contact Debra Tangarone at debratangarone@yahoo.com **by August 2, 2019.**

Welcome to our new Members in Discernment!

A call to ministry is not easily defined. It can take many years and much prayer and conversation to hear the call, and more years of preparation to fully embody it. One crucial aspect of call is to be accepted as a Member in Discernment into a community of faith that agrees to support the person through the process through to ordination. Usually this involves meeting with a small group of church members whose role is to continue the conversation about interests, gifts, challenges and joys, as the candidate contemplates passions, goals and most importantly, how God is speaking about a desire to serve. This year we are blessed to welcome three new members in discernment, Caryne Eskridge, Jack Mahoney and Karis Slattery. Each brings gifts and interests, questions and wonderings to our common life. Each has pondered how God has moved in their life, and have shared their stories with the Deacons, who have found them ready to take this important step in the ordination process. As you read below their stories, you will find sincere reflection and commitment. We welcome them and look forward to supporting them on their journeys.



Caryne Eskridge (she/her)

Will start her second-year as a Master of Divinity student at Yale Divinity School once school starts again in the fall. She began her official discernment process with the New Haven Association in September 2018, and first began to explore her call to ministry after attending the Open and Affirming Coalition Gathering and General Synod in 2017. Caryne is passionate about making ever-growing space for the LGBTQIA+ community to live and worship openly and to contribute their gifts to the church, and seeks to help make the church a place of healing and wholeness for all. She has greatly enjoyed her time at Spring Glen helping to teach Sunday School in the 5th-7th grade class, co-leading a new Bible study that explored scripture through the lens of affirmation for the LGBTQIA+ community, and worshipping on Sunday mornings. Caryne loves gardening, making tasty food and drinks for loved ones, reading fiction, exercising, and spending time with her (amazing) partner Bailey Sullivan, also a member of SGC, and their dog, Samson. Beginning in September of this year, Caryne will be completing a two-semester ministerial internship at First Congregational Church of Guilford, UCC. She will miss being at Spring Glen on Sunday mornings, but looks forward to finding ways to stay involved on other days of the week.



Karis Slattery (she/her/hers)

Is a native Philadelphian pursuing her MDiv through Andover Newton Seminary at Yale Divinity School where she is particularly interested in the intersection of faith, mental health, gender and sexuality. Before moving to New Haven in 2016 with her wife, Caitlin she was working in the HIV/AIDS community in various capacities. She is a self-taught graphic designer and works as the Graduate Assistant at Yale's Office of LGBTQ Resources. Karis's time in Connecticut has come with many joyous changes, such as finding community at Spring Glen, buying a home in Fair Haven, welcoming her first child, Julian in January 2019, and her call to ordination in the UCC. Karis's theological identity is constantly evolving, yet at the same time continues to be rooted in the Gospel and justice work — for her, this means a commitment to growing in her understanding of the lived experiences of those around her. It also means a commitment to be in conversation with her community of faith about how we, together, can draw the circle wider. She is grateful to have the support of the Spring Glen community as she pursues ordination and looks forward to deepening her relationship with those in her community of faith.



Jack Mahoney

Was born and raised in Granby, CT. Baptized and confirmed at First Congregational Church, North Granby. Earned a B.A. in French Language and Studio Arts from Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, PA. Taught, coached, and worked as a dorm parent at The Eaglebrook School. Beginning the second year at Yale Divinity School in pursuit of a Masters in Divinity. Seeking ordination in the UCC in order to serve as a military chaplain.

Fellowship Hour Hosts to be Assigned for the Coming Year

As part of our shared ministry to and with one another, each member of the church is asked to help serve Fellowship Hour at least one Sunday a year. **The schedule for the coming year is set out in advance so all may plan accordingly.** You may respond online with your interest, preferences or restrictions at <https://tinyurl.com/SGChosts2019>. (Just your name and up to 3 multiple choice questions.) Unless you opt-out, most church families will be assigned to a Sunday to cover all weeks of the year. We encourage your response in the early summer so you are assigned to a date that is preferred for you. Thank you to those who have already responded! Questions or ideas – reach out to Courtney Mason (ckendrixmason@gmail.com) or Emily Smith (esmith@fairfield.edu). *THANK YOU! ~ from the Fellowship Ambassadors*

Fellowship Hour Hosting Schedule

Below is the Fellowship Hour hosting schedule for July/August 2019. If you are not able to host on your assigned date, we ask that you try to help find a replacement, perhaps swapping with an individual/family scheduled later in the months ahead. Please notify [Debra Tangarone](#) of any changes. She will update the master calendar and the church office. To find the phone numbers or email addresses of other members, be sure to log in as a member on this website, and then you may access a downloadable church directory from the right hand navigation menu.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Host</u>	<u>Family 1</u>	<u>Family 2</u>
7/7/19	Debra Tangarone	Lucy & Scott Lucker	
7/14/19	Debra Tangarone	Gayle Logan	
7/21/19	Liz Wootton	Rita McLeary & Richard Davis	
7/28/19	Stefanie Summerer	Arnie & Carolyn Cary	
<u>AUGUST</u>			
8/4/19	Debra Tangarone	Dick & Nancy Beals	
8/11/19	Debra Tangarone	Cynthia Licata	
8/18/19	Debra Tangarone	Carolyn & Chuck Paul	
8/25/19	Debby Jagielow	Susan Liddell & Margie Liddell	

Sermon Soundbite

"In the vision he experiences, Elijah has heard, seen, and felt that the God of Israel is not to be contained in nature but controls nature. The God of Israel is so powerful that everything in nature keeps still. And in the stillness there is the small voice which is one of faith, conscience and attention. Elijah is brought back to himself by listening and attending to the voice in the silence. He cannot escape God's presence. God who is bigger than any natural environment. God will not let him alone." - Pastor Clare

“Noon” Book Group moves to Spring Glen Church

Join us for our September 10 discussion of Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Another transplant to Spring Glen Church!

The Church of the Redeemer’s Noon Book Group is moving to Spring Glen Church. The group has been meeting for close to 50 years. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 12:15 pm. We catch up over brown bag lunches and then dive into a lively discussion of our current book.

We read each book until we are done, some more quickly than others. We do not worry about how far each member has read; when most are finished, we move on to the next book agreed to by the group.

For a little fun, we hold two potluck events during the year; one in December accompanied by a Yankee gift swap and one in June to close out the year.

Over the past year, we read: *Fingerprints of God* by Barbara Bradley Hagerty, *Braving the Wilderness* by Brené Brown (chosen after many of us attended SGC’s Fall Women’s Retreat), *The Shepherd’s Life* by James Rebanks *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean, *Educated* by Tara Westover.

Over the summer, we will be reading *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Drawing on her life as an indigenous scientist, and as a woman, Kimmerer shows how other living beings—asters and goldenrod, strawberries and squash, salamanders, algae, and sweetgrass—offer us gifts and lessons, even if we’ve forgotten how to hear their voices. All are welcome! Please feel free to contact me with any questions, Doby Hall, dobyhall@comcast.net

Women’s Retreats SAVE THE DATES

In the fall, our half day retreat will take place on **November 8** at Elim Park in Cheshire. We are excited to welcome our retreat leaders Laura Kisthardt and Karis Slattery! Laura was our ministerial intern this past year and Karis is one of our members in discernment. Laura and Karis are both students at Yale Divinity School.

For our spring retreat, we will again return to Incarnation Center in Deep River on the weekend of March 27-29 retreat with a day option. Our retreat will be the Rev. Donna Mannocho. Rev Donna has led us in a number of retreats and we are excited to welcome her again. If you are interested in helping to plan the retreat, please let me know. Pastor Clare clare@springglenchurch.org

A View From The Pew

“Going to Church” by Dan Smolnik

“Open any generic church leadership website and you will promptly find language asserting, lamenting, or both, the idea that fewer people are going to church. You may recall an earlier piece by me suggesting that the facts are probably much different than the perception.”

Click [HERE](#) to read the entire article.

It's Backpack Time!

The Christian Action Committee has once again committed to donating backpacks filled with school supplies to 37 children. Because of a wonderful Facebook response, we already have many pledges, but we need quite a few more! Please return filled backpacks to the church by **August 4th** to provide ample time to distribute them. Please contact Hannah Leckman (hhleckman@gmail.com) or Amanda Cecala (amandagececala@gmail.com) for more information. Thank you!



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Gaby Chavez, the woman who runs the Simply Smiles Home for Children (who also grew up in a neighboring children's home and who attended Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT with the support of Simply Smiles) talked about how most children's home in the area don't celebrate the kids' birthdays, with the mentality that giving them a place to live should be enough. As the recent headlines from the border have horrifyingly reminded us, kids need a lot more than just a roof over their heads. Gaby notes that Simply Smiles' model is radically different from most others in celebrating individual birthdays, a clear message to the children that they matter as an individual and that they are loved uniquely, specifically, and wholly, that they are known and will not be forgotten, and that we carry their stories with us.

Good talk. Go team. Pastor Jack



Sermon Soundbite

"For me, I think it's important to remember that how we treat each other, how we act out in the world, has at its root the question of what we consider praise worthy...There are places where we have drawn lines, distinctions between the sacred and the secular that need to be re-examined. For this Psalm, it's not necessarily the thing itself, but how we approach the thing. The idols can bow down and point to the true God." - Pastor Jack

Sermon Soundbite

"At it's core the Trinity provides a framework for how God functions in our world...God the transcendent, Jesus the tangible, and the Holy Spirit the teeming infused...Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer...Lover, Beloved, and the Love between them." - Pastor Jack

Hamden Tree Commission Names "Notable Tree" for June 2019

Hamden, CT – June 26, 2019

The Hamden Tree Commission is delighted to name this kousa dogwood (Cornus kousa) as this month's Hamden Notable Tree. The tree is located at Spring Glen Church on Whitney Avenue in the Spring Glen neighborhood of Hamden. The tree, a stunning example of its species, measures 28 feet tall and 40 feet wide. It provides a striking natural contrast to the brick church building and is almost as tall as the building itself.

The tree's cream-colored, four-pointed, star-like flowers form along an array of layered branches, and bloom during the month of June. The kousa dogwood is also known for its red, raspberry-shaped fruit which appears in September and October and matches the tree's bright autumn leaves. This species of dogwood has proven itself to be a hardy and adaptable tree that grows well in various settings. The combination of its delicate beauty and its hardiness make the kousa dogwood a landscaping staple in the northeastern United States.



Upcoming Guest Preachers

July 14 Rev. Dr. Jess Van Denend

July 21 Chuck Paul, MDiv

July 28 Rev. Clare Robert

August 5 Rev. Jennifer Campbell

Sermon Soundbite

"When we pay attention, it is all ordinary, and yet extraordinary. On a given day, we may not see the extraordinary contained in routine. But maybe one day we come home from work and the neighbors' children come over with their chickens. Or the thunderstorm awakens awe at the power of nature. Or the barbecue smells really good. Or nothing happens at all but you sense that it's just enough to be a human being. That, in itself is the extraordinary thing—we are here, we are each given life and we are loved. ."
- **Pastor Clare**

Spring Glen Church

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