

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN MANSFIELD – July 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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2 10:15am Worship	3	4 OFFICE CLOSED INDEPENDENCE DAY	5 6pm QCRR Meeting	6	7	8 9am-Noon WAIM Work Day
9 10:15am Worship	10 9AM –1PM Sewing & Service	11 10am-Noon Staff Meeting 5:30pm Governance Board Meeting	12	13	14 1pm-3pm Set-Up & Prep for Blueberry Festival	15 7am-11 Blueberry Festival
16 10:15 Worship	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 10:15am Worship	24	25	26 6pm Food, Fun & Fellowship	27	28	29
30 10:15am Worship 2 nd Hour – Mission & Budget Discussion						

WORSHIPPING, LEARNING, AND SERVING THROUGH JULY

Sunday, July 2, 2017 - In Worship we gather to be fed for ministry around Christ's Welcome Table as we listen for God's Word in stories of sacrifice and welcome.

Matthew 10:40-42 is about the giving and receiving of hospitality. Lots of questions can be raised in this broad theme: How well do we realize that God says everyone is welcome? The unloved, the excluded, the unwashed, the mad, the provokers and dissenters, the bad. In welcoming "the other," Jesus crossed boundaries of culture, race, gender, and social class. When do you think the church (globally, nationally, locally) has failed, and is failing, to cross boundaries such as these? How well equipped is our community to be a place of hospitality and welcome?

A Prayer for the Week...

Faithful God, your love stands firm from generation to generation, your mercy is always abundant. Give us open and understanding hearts, that having heard your word, we may seek Christ's presence in all whom we meet. Amen.

Sunday, July 9, 2017 - In Worship, we hear stories of new relationships and the easing of burdens in Genesis 24 and Matthew 10. Worship Circle gathers with the theme, "Delight."

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 contain Jesus' famous words, "Come to me...I will give you rest." "For my yoke is easy, and my burden light." In your life, where are the places that you experience Jesus' easy yoke and light burden? How do you understand rest as part of discipleship?

A Prayer for the Week...

We rejoice, O Christ, for in your tender compassion you shoulder our burdens and ease our heavy hearts. Give us the strength to carry each other as you have carried us. Amen.

Sunday, July 16, 2017 - In Worship, we listen for God's Word in stories of new birth and growth in Genesis 25:19-34 and Matthew 13. Our Worship Circle continues summer series called, "The Mamas and the Papas" with the theme, "Divided."

Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 invites us to be aware of God's abundance in unlikely places. How do you understand God's economy of abundance at work, even in the rocky and thorny times and places of the world? Theologian Tom Long writes: "The church is called to 'waste itself,' to throw grace around like there is no tomorrow, precisely because there is a tomorrow, and it belongs to God" (Matthew, Westminster John Knox Press, p. 151). How do you respond to this statement?

A Prayer for the Week...

Ancient Gardener, your holy word is planted in our hearts as good seed in fertile soil. So nurture us that we may bear fruit abundantly. Amen.

Sunday, July 23, 2017 - We listen for God's Word in stories of cunning and patience in Genesis 28:10-19 and Matthew 13:24-43. Worship Circle focuses on the story of Jacob and Esau with the theme, "Promises."

At Bethel heaven and earth meet, and Jacob is brought into close relationship with God. When Jacob wakes from his sleep he also awakens from his unknowing. The God that his father and grandfather knew and walked with has become real to him. When have you assumed that you have been forsaken yet awakened to new understandings of the nature of God and your relationship with God? Consider the significance of Jacob having this awesome encounter take place in a dream. The vision comes free of manipulation on Jacob's part. Where might you and the church need to be open to dreams, and the One who sends them? How might letting go of any attempt to control become a gift of grace that opens us to Holy Presence and ensuring call or vocation?

A Prayer for the Week...

O God of Jacob, you speak in the light of day and in the dark of night when our sleeping is filled with dreams of heaven and earth. May Jacob's vision remind us to be open and watchful, ready to discover your presence in our midst. Amen.

Sunday, July 30, 2017 - This week, we listen for God's Word in stories of trickery and visions of the Kingdom in Genesis 29:15-28 and Matthew 13:31-52. Worship Circle focuses on the story of Jacob's dream and gathers with the theme, "Honor."

We don't hear the voices of Leah and Rachel (or Zilpah and Bilhah) in this narrative, we do know it comes from a time when women were considered the property of their fathers and husbands. Things have changed in many places of the world, though not all. Even in places with a seemingly long history of working towards equity there are still remnants of discrimination and unjust practice. What unjust behaviors and practices still exist because of gender inequity? What injustices still exist because of the idea that people are property? In what ways is your community involved in giving a voice to those who are voiceless? Where do you see God in the face of injustice?

A Prayer for the Week...

Seed-planting, fish-netting, bread-baking, pearl-hunting God, you shape us into living parables. Pray with your Spirit in us so that we may understand our experiences as healing metaphors, and become creative and abundant stewards of the environment you entrusted to our love. Amen.

MINISTRY OF CARING

Your Ministry of Caring leadership team (Donna Clauson, Carol Fineout, and Julia Sherman) met this week (with the participation of Carol Tetzlaff and Libby Scott) to set the agenda for the coming year. We set a meeting schedule for the first Tuesday of every month at 6 PM and are hoping for participation from all members interested in building the mission and fellowship of First Church.

Put it on your calendar and join us August 1st at 6PM. We expect to talk about what our Ministry Team is responsible for and how to ensure that people who want to be involved in our mission have a "way in."

We also planned a FFF night (Food, Fun, and Fellowship) for July 26th starting at 6pm. Come for dinner (we'll have food here - you can make a freewill offering) and we'll work on making greeting cards to send to members in need of a little TLC.

GOVERNING BOARD OF FIRST CHURCH

Dear Members of First Church in Mansfield,

Soon after we were elected to the Governing Board of First Church on June 11th, we jumped right in to begin our work on behalf of our community. We met with UCC Conference consultant Charlie Kuchenbrod to help us prepare for the challenges our church, and all traditional faith communities, are facing. We are particularly aware of financial matters which affect the life of our community.

As we work to address these matters, we hope that you will join us at two summer Second Hours on Sunday, July 30th and Sunday, August 27th, 2017 as we share what we've learned, offer some proposals and request your feedback to help us best serve our church family and prepare for the future.

We look forward to working with you,
Donna Clauson, Deb Richards, Dawn Hoffman, Janna Pedersen, Ava Little, Jo-Ann Wunschel, Jim McGaughey

3RD SATURDAY MONTHLY BREAKFAST!

On another beautiful Saturday we served 47 people. The ham & cheese omelet was a popular selection. We count our blessings and give thanks for the many hands that made the June breakfast and bake sale a success.

Terrific job by a great team of volunteers. Without your help and the support of the wider community, this endeavor would not have happened so seamlessly. (Forgive us if we have missed any names)

Jean Bell	Winston Hawkins
Ellen Boehle	Jim McGaughey
Donna & Jack Clauson	Carol McMillan
Artemis Damble	Claire Reynolds
Carol Drescher	Jo-Anne Roberts
Carol Fineout	Julia Sherman
Sharon Foster-Chalecki	Carol Tetzlaff
Barb Giardina with Grace Slayton	Laurel Thurman

ANNUAL BLUEBERRY BREAKFAST

Mark your calendar for our upcoming 8th Annual Blueberry Breakfast to take place on July 15. Volunteers are needed to help with this event. Bakers and jam makers; blueberry pickers the week before; setup and preparation the afternoon before; final prep the morning of the event; servers, and of course the all-important clean-up crew!

Breakfast will include hot blueberry french toast with Blessed Blueberry Sauce, sausages, home fries, fresh fruit, and coffee/tea/juice/milk. In addition, our sale table will feature local blueberries, blueberry jams & sauces, muffins, cakes, breads, and pies.

For help picking blueberries contact Julia Sherman at:
Telephone: (860) 423-8111
e-mail: julsherman@hotmail.com

To sign up for baking or jam making contact Sharon Foster-Chalecki at:
Telephone:(860) 456-1338
e-mail: sfchalecki@sbcglobal.net)

To volunteer on Friday during prep or Saturday during the event contact Laurel Thurman at:
Telephone: (860) 429-7465
e-mail: lthurman7465@gmail.com

This is an all-hands-on-deck event, and we would love to have as many volunteers as possible. Don't miss out on having fun at this spectacular 3rd Saturday Breakfast.

SOME SUMMER GREEN TIPS

Summer is here and although most of us will be working or will be on our computers most of the time, here are a few tips to help make your summer a little more eco-friendly. Not every tip will relate to everyone, but there is bound to be something in here that you can use to help you have an eco-friendly summer.

- Let in some light. Why waste electricity in your house or workplace, when all you need to do is open the blinds and you've got light.
- Get a few living air purifiers aka indoor plants. They will liven up your home as well as help fight indoor air pollution, which is often worse than most of us realize.
- Plant some native plants. There are many reasons why you should do this, but here are a few good reasons to plant native species in your garden. Of course, one of the best reasons is that you won't waste so much water.
- Find out when your local Farmers' Market is being held and go there to get some in-season, local produce.
- Eat at home. Get away from processed foods and start making more meals at home. It's cheaper and better for you too.
- If you need to do any driving, slow down a little. Not only will it help with your fuel consumption but it will help you enjoy your drive time.
- If you can walk or ride your bike instead, then do so. Many people don't consider this as a viable option, but just think how much you used to walk around when you were younger. Those feet were made for walking.
- Make the simple change so you do all your energy-heavy chores off peak hours. Do your laundry, dishes, vacuuming, cooking, etc. at night. Doing so will cut your energy bill and help prevent your home from heating up unnecessarily during the day.
- The thought of going somewhere to camp during the summer months a little too daunting? Set up camp in the backyard. Especially if you have kids, this is a great idea for a smart, eco-friendly activity the entire family will enjoy.
- Have a potluck get-together. Invite family and friends over for a picnic or backyard party. Ask them each to bring a specific food item (in a reusable container) along with their own dinnerware, cups, etc. This way you'll have a great mix of foods and drinks. Plus, there will be very little clean up or waste afterward.
- Drink, but don't waste water. Your body needs water to stay healthy and hydrated. So you need to drink water. Don't waste it though. Any "leftover water" can be used to water plants, give to your pets, etc. Just be aware of what you are doing and you will probably save quite a bit.

Source: <http://biofriendlyplanet.com/green-ideas/eco-friendly/21-simple-eco-friendly-summer-tips/>

WINDHAM AREA INTERFAITH MINISTRY

WAIM Back to School Program provides vouchers from WAIM to eligible school families for school clothing and uniforms. Families register early in August and receive vouchers later that month so that each child will have a new outfit for the first day of school. Vouchers usually are for \$25-\$30 per child. If you would like to donate to this program you can send a check to WAIM at P.O. Box 221, Willimantic, CT or put a check in the collection with "WAIM BTS" noted.

First Church WAIM Work Day is Saturday, July 8th from 9am – Noon. As you know, our faith community is one of 39 faith communities belonging to the Windham Area Interfaith Ministry. As a member, we commit to help WAIM by sending a group of volunteers twice a year on a Saturday morning, and assist the organization monetarily. Please invite your friends and family to come with you. It's much more fun with a group. You can come at around 9 am. The address is 866 Main Street in Willimantic. If you cannot find street parking, public parking is across Main St, and one block down Walnut Street.

WAIM's annual fund raiser, the Steeplechase Bike Tour, will take place on **Saturday, August 19th, 2017** Calling all cyclists, families and friends to join us for the ride. Meet us at the Eastern Connecticut State University Athletic Complex, rain or shine. Choose from 5 different scenic rides, or a 5-mile walk. **Pre-register now through August 18th, 2017, or on the day of the event from 7-11am.**

<http://steeplechasebiketour.org/register>

COVENANT SOUP KITCHEN

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS!!! First Church of Christ will be providing a meal at Covenant Soup Kitchen on Saturday, August 12th. We will be serving hamburgers, hotdogs, macaroni salad, chips, dessert and beverages. Volunteers are needed to prepare the meal and to donate food or monetary donations to help with the food cost. Sign-up sheets are in Fellowship Hall. If you have any questions, please contact Molly Fish at 860-942-3785. Your participation is greatly appreciated

SPECIAL SUMMER MUSIC:

We enjoy a variety of music and other arts during our summer worship, and encourage individuals, small groups and families to contribute their talents in this special way. There is a sign-up sheet posted in Fellowship Hall. Anyone who is interested should call or email Howard Drescher at 860-423-7601 or howardsd43@gmail.com. Erik is willing to support you with accompaniment and rehearsals.

UPDATE FROM THE NEIGHBOR FUND

We wanted to update you on an important milestone for the Neighbor Fund. Because of your generous donation, and with the help of Sagrado Corazon Church and Miguel Chach's family, **we were able to post bail for Miguel Chach on May 10th.**

Sister Mary Jude of Sagrado Corazon drove with a family member to pick him up in Boston, and he is finally out of detention. As per an arrangement with the court, he can now apply for asylum to stay in the United States because of the difficult situation in his native country of Guatemala.

This simply could not have happened without your donation, and we cannot thank you enough. As the Neighbor Fund moves forward, we will be supporting the continuing legal and family needs of the two men detained thus far in Willimantic -- Miguel and Manuel Chach -- while also building up emergency funds for more local detentions that we expect on the horizon.

Your act of solidarity defines the very meaning of good neighbor. It helped to build a bridge, not a wall, for a better world to come.

Here is the latest article by Russell Blair in The Hartford Courant about The Neighbor Fund- just out today!

<http://www.courant.com/politics/hc-windham-community-bail-fund-20170522-story.html>

SAVE THE DATE! FIDDLER – BILL THURMAN

SAVE THE DATE!! On Sunday, August 20, we at First Church have a treat in store. Fiddler Bill Thurman, Laurel's brother, will be with us for morning worship and for a special "down-home" musical program following the service at noon in Fellowship Hall. Bill grew up in Memphis, Tennessee, and plays all kinds of fiddle including classical, Celtic, bluegrass, old-time, jazz, blues, soul, pop, etc. As he says, "If it's good music, I play it." He has a lifetime of musical experience behind him, and has made many CDs, the latest of which is *Nothin' but Fiddle and a Sarcoma Survivor*. This CD is a product of Bill's journey with a rare form of cancer. It features a lone fiddle player and a varied selection of tunes from Celtic to Jazz to Amazing Grace. Bill is donating a portion of every CD sold to the Smilow Cancer Center at Yale/New Haven Hospital, where his surgery and recovery took place in 2016. He will play several tunes from this latest CD for us, as well as other favorites. Come, bring a friend, and enjoy Bill's music on Sunday, August 20 at noon in Fellowship Hall. We'll have pizza and cake, too!

SEWING & SERVICE

As stores start their "Back to School" sales, the Sewing and Service group would like you to take advantage of the sales for the following items that we need for the school kits which we make.

This year we need:

- 135 spiral bound notebooks (70-120 pages each)
- 20 12" rulers that include centimeter markings
- 20 boxes of 24 crayons
- 50 pencils with erasers
- 15 blunt (round tip) scissors

Also, when you see sales we will be in need of the following items for our hygiene kits at least:

- 50 hand towels (approximately 16" x28")
- 50 washcloths

There will be a box makes "Sewing and Service" near Joe's office where you can place your items. Any questions please contact Sharon Foster-Chalecki.

A MESSAGE FROM THE MANSFIELD GARDEN GATE CLUB

We hope you are enjoying the climbing hydrangeas and roses, which are blooming, along your historic slate walkway and the Dewing Wall. We appreciate all of the donations from church members and other community members, which allowed us to complete the Rose Garden Restoration Project during 2016. While we miss Kay Holt, now enjoying her New Hampshire home, we hope to continue her efforts, as well as those of her mother, in maintaining the rose garden.

If you have a few extra minutes when visiting the church, or during the long, light evenings, we also appreciate help deadheading the roses. All that's needed is a clippers and a bucket. Hopefully, some of our garden club members will be there fertilizing, combating the gypsy moth caterpillars, and weeding.

Thank you and have a wonderful summer!

Nancy Rucker, Special Projects

BAGELS WITH GOD

When Interim Pastor Matt McCaffrey suggested that the congregation begin creating small groups, Carol Fineout and Pat Felletter began to facilitate a group entitled Bagels and God, which has been meeting monthly on a Tuesday morning ever since Matt was with us. Each time we begin by sharing prayer, centering and eating breakfast together after which we discuss a portion of a text the group has selected in advance.

In June Carol Dresher led a discussion of Ray McGinnis' book on creating psalms. She shared the kinds of psalms in the Hebrew Testament and we were invited to write our own psalms of thanksgiving in the language of our time. Three psalms were submitted for sharing which we named Psalm 151, 152, and 153.

Psalm 151

For the birds humming and
Drinking outside my window
I give praise to God.
For flowers and their inhabitants
Which decorate the table,
For friends gathered together
At breakfast, because we can.
I'm thankful to God every moment.

Psalm 152

1. Hello there, You, with Stars in the Sky.
2. Thank you for sunrise and sunset,
For my corner of the world.
You, with the Stars in the Sky.
3. You have kept me from floods.
You have kept me from tornadoes.
You have kept me from bodily harm.
Thank you for my safety.
4. You, with Stars in the Sky.
You have led me from skepticism to hope.
You have held a small church in your hands.
5. Worms assail my deck
You looked the other way.
I have trusted they will soon be gone.
6. When heat broils my head and hands,
You have blessed me with comfort.
I can use air conditioning.
7. Help me to be more thankful
And not to be discouraged.
8. Teach me that tears and smiles
Walk hand in hand.
At night I welcome the sunset.
At morning I welcome its rise.

Psalm 153

Oh, Sacred One I give you praise,
You who created out of chaos
This place where I live.
Let me give compliments to you
For those creatures we overlook:
The frog of Africa.
The praying mantis in my garden.
The weed that sends forth a blossom
So tiny I must stoop and look up close.
The wide-mouth fish living
In the darkest of oceans.
The bear who lives above and below Arctic waters.
How can we not see how we
Put them in harm with global warming?
How can we not see that park lands need preservation?
How can we turn a blind eye to enemies
Of the earth
Without seeking your wisdom and justice?
Let me give thanks for what I have
Rather than lamenting what I don't?
Let me not fail to see your grace
In every little thing I fail to appreciate.
Oh, Sacred One, I give you praise.

FIRST CHURCH INFORMATION YOU NEED

- **Care Cards:** Each week we suggest several people or groups who might be strengthened with notes of caring prayer and love. Stationery is provided. We invite you to take a quick minute during fellowship time to write a note, put the recipient's name on the envelope and leave it on the table to be mailed Monday morning. Thank you for this demonstration of our connectedness and love!
- **We're a Tuna Church!** This means you are invited to put a can of tuna fish into the net bag in Fellowship Hall every once in a while. We're committed to providing 30 cans of tuna each month to our local food banks, so add a can of tuna to your shopping list. Your help is greatly appreciated! Please look for dolphin-safe tuna. It is better for all God's creatures! Also, please be aware when purchasing tuna that Greenpeace indicates that Chicken of the Sea brand uses destructive fishing practices. We are also collecting canned fruit. Let's keep up the good work!
- **Reminder:** if you need to reach Pastor Ann or Pastor Joe for an emergency, please call their cell phones: **Ann - 781-223-4914 and Joe - 608-354-3686**. Emails and texts are also another quick way to get in touch with them. They check office messages on days they are at church and irregularly on other days.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

July

07/02 LAUREL THURMAN
07/04 JOY TRUMAN
07/05 NATHANIEL BAKER
07/07 JOSEPH RENZULLI
07/09 CAROL TETZLAFF
07/10 ELLEN BOEHLE
07/12 NORMA HAWKINS
07/13 PETER JOHNSON
TABAREK SALMAN
07/17 MABEL SACCOMANNO
07/19 ROSWELL HALL
07/24 MARY PHELPS
CAROL DRESCHER
07/27 JACK CLAUSON
07/28 DEBBIE RICHARDS
07/29 JOE BLOTZ

**THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN MANSFIELD (UCC)
(CONGREGATIONAL)**

Ministers

All the People of the Church

Pastors

Rev. Ann Plumley & Rev. Joseph Blotz

Music Director

Cathie Rowe

Organist

Erik Haeger

Office Administrator

Wendy O'Connor

Childcare Provider

Emily Salman

Church Office Hours Tues. - Fri. 9am-1pm – Closed Mondays

Tel.: (860) 423-9008 **E-mail :** firstchurchmansfield@snet.net

Website: www.myFCC.info

Like us on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/FCCMansfield

The QCRR Meeting of 6/7/2017, with approximately 30 present, was convened by Julie Menard, school liaison for the first refugee family. She introduced Mansfield Mayor Paul Shapiro. Willimantic Mayor Ernest Eldridge had been expected but could not attend.

I. Opening Remarks

Mayor Shapiro said that the current global refugee crisis echoes history and that, while we see negative events in the news and from Washington, D.C., we also see hope, as in the case of the QCRR. Citing the importance of his faith in his own life, he praised our group for encouraging people of various faiths, or no faith, to work collaboratively. He noted that, while we can't solve the entire refugee problem, the QCRR has wisely acted one step at a time: a much better choice than mourning alone or overdosing on dispiriting cable TV/Internet coverage. He praised the QCRR for doing what all our faith traditions call us to do and added that, if we are not doing it because of our faith, still we are fulfilling a vital role.

II. Co Leader Update

A. First Family:

Those present discussed the successes and challenges of the first family, the Al Dalatis. Since the family has decided to move to New Haven on July 1st, the most relevant information on this situation has already gone out in a separate e-mail from Ann Plumley and Steve Lane. At the meeting, volunteers voiced concerns about the father's English and celebrated the mother's improving English as well as the children's utter fluency. The father did pass his driving learner's permit test, which is also good news. Ann Kouatly, case manager, voiced concerns to Mayor Paul Shapiro about rising housing costs that make Mansfield inhospitable to refugee families and others on tight budgets.

B. Second Family:

Co-leader Pastor Ann Plumley said the Nabhans arrived safely and mostly healthy, and that their pick up and transport went smoothly due to an excellent translator from New Haven. When the mother, Rana, saw a photo of their new house, she beamed for the first time and was incredulous.

They have been scheduled and shepherded through a significant portion of the first 30-day requirements, have been oriented to their home and to technical and safety procedures there, have met neighbors, learned to grocery shop, and applied for social security numbers and every benefit they're entitled to. All have completed required refugee health examinations with no concerns identified there. They have also been enrolled in ESL classes that begin mid-July and have committed to ESL tutoring. While they have been led through an overwhelming amount of information, they have met the challenge with grace, humor, flexibility, and openness. Every time Ann goes there, all family members have shiny new vocabulary words they want to try out on her.

Now the family is focusing on the kindergarten orientation cycle. Carol Kraus, the education liaison for the Nabhans, said that she and Julie Menard spent a lot of time working on forms, which were ready to be submitted. The family, who had toured the elementary school, was deciding whether they want their three year-old boy to go to preschool. At the Family Resource Center, the Nabhans exchanged numbers with Arabic speaking woman. They, and 15 other families, attended a kindergarten orientation, where the Nabhans met an Arabic-speaking mother whose child will be in the same class as their daughter. The Nabhans enjoyed meeting all the kindergarten teachers and appreciated that all English was translated into Spanish, as that allowed the father, Husam, time to get the Arabic translation from one of our wonderful translators.

Case manager Eric Goldberg noted that they're truly a delightful family who usually look happy. The day prior, kids had had vaccinations and had blood drawn, and he noted that the parents' skill in comforting and expressing affection made the tears subside quickly. Echoing Ann, he expressed delight that the children love to greet people with the English they're already acquiring. The family seems to feel safe, which is so important. All we're doing to ease their transition is working, and they are very appreciative.

Back-up case manager Virginia Fulton reported that she's been taking them to walk to a playground. The father likes to run, so she connected him with running enthusiast Marc Scrivener, the Willimantic fire chief. The whole family visited the nearby fire station where they got a tour, hats for the kids, and Husam made a date to run with Marc, who can assess his running skills.

III. Employment Update

Ann also remarked that the QCRR might have a job offer in short order for Husam. He attended an employment fair and is very focused on wanting to work. We have learned from IRIS that Rana is required to work, despite having very young children. The QCRR will first focus on Husam, and, after their kindergartner daughter is in school, we'll focus on Rana's prospects. She has a low education level and no job experience and says she would like work in childcare.

IV. ESL Update:

After Barb Giardina summarized the Al Dalati family's situation, ESL Coordinator for the Nabhans, Sarah Renn, said that tutors have been working with them since 2 weeks after their arrival. Husam joined an ESL class for its final 3-4 weeks, and both parents will have tutoring for the month prior to their July ESL class. Hopefully, we will have volunteers to sit in on the ESL class they take, as we did with the first family. Volunteers have been assigned to individual family members. They can share the content of their lessons through Google Docs entries, which should be helpful to volunteers and allow Sarah to better monitor progress and offer advice.

We continue to need volunteers for each parent, and for the children. Husam's schedule is in flux as we await information about his prospective employment hours. We are looking for special ESL / playdate help with the children during the ESL classes held mid-July - mid-August. Leaving children in child care is not a familiar, comfortable experience for our parents or the children. Virginia Fulton and Pam Roberts are working this out carefully; be in touch with Pam if you'd like to help.

As we turn to finding employment, arrangements will have to alter slightly. In the next 6 weeks or so, we will have to increase ESL hours for the mother so she can fulfill her quota of 35 hrs/week of employment readiness, which includes ESL, so that they can continue to receive Temporary Family Assistance.

While Sarah is away traveling in June and early July, Libby will be checking her QCRR.ESOL e-mail account for her.

While Google calendar has been testy, Sarah always individually schedules with volunteers. If there is a discrepancy between her verbal instructions and the calendar, go with the time you individually agreed upon with Sarah.

A few QCRR adults with their children will meet at least once weekly with the 5 year old daughter, 3 year old son, and the 15 month old to promote primary ESL skills, perhaps moving to multiple days per week if the children and parents think that is best. Plans include taking the children to parks and using music and toys to encourage interest. The group will also work to gauge how they can best help the parents to help their children learn English, get acclimated and make friends.

V. Volunteer Coordinator Update

Pam Roberts shared that the QCRR needs to, and plans to, update driver's schedules. ESL is just starting, and finding drivers on short order is challenging, so she's looking for more drivers rather than relying on only a few repeatedly. We remain committed to encouraging the family to walk and to use public transportation. Volunteers *may* be asked to meet the family at Generations, for instance, rather than to provide rides to a Generations appointment. We understand that driving is expeditious, but encourage volunteers not to undermine the family's long-term independence with a short term "quick fix" ride.

If transporting the whole family is essential, the vehicle must be able to accommodate three car seats and two adults in addition to the driver. This will be clear when the volunteer assignment is offered.

In relation to health appointments, some noted that the family may want to make use of the phone translation service at Generations that is available from a statewide resource. Eric Goldberg will inquire about it.

VI. Fundraiser update

Thank you to Pastor Ken Ferguson, who donated his portion of the proceeds from a June 4th preaching festival in Central Village to the QCRR. All legal fundraising is welcome. Ev Hyde mentioned that some refugees in New Haven are raising funds through offering a subscription cooking service, conducted in tandem with a local farming outfit and wondered if this could be something to consider. Some money will be used to fulfill the new family's request for a heavy-duty meat grinder, common in preparing Middle Eastern dishes.

The meeting adjourned early, and the **next meeting will be July 5, 6-7:30 pm** at the First Church of Christ, Mansfield Center, as usual.

If you have any questions, please contact Jen Beck at qcrr.411@gmail.com

In hope and peace, Jen B.