

Cross Currents

September/October 2017 • Open Hearts & Open Minds & Open Doors

From Pastor Chris

“There is a River That Makes Glad”

My dear sisters, brothers, and siblings,

If I had to pick some scripture to describe my all-too-brief summer, I’d go with the guiding scripture for this year’s United Church of Christ General Synod: Psalm 46. In it, the psalmist writes of raging seas, trembling mountains, nations in an uproar, kingdoms faltering - - but that God is in the midst of it all, like a peaceful and hope-filled river of living water, beckoning us to “be still” and know that God is God.

I had the chance to serve as an exhibitor at General Synod in Baltimore this year. I absolutely love going to General Synod. Every other year, delegates and visitors from all over the country, ecumenical partners, youth, honored guests, and international representatives gather together for 5 days of worship, education, service, and fellowship.

Now, you may be wondering why even a church geek/pastor such as myself would ever want to spend 5 days at church meetings. Easy: it’s the fellowship. Yes, the business of the denomination is important, the worship is nourishing, the guest speakers and workshops are inspiring - - but it’s the fellowship that truly renews my spirit and deepens my commitment to the UCC, to my call as a pastor, and to my journey as a disciple of Jesus.

What you witness at General Synod is diversity that extends beyond racial and ethnic identities. It is a gathering of people that looks more and more like the full spectrum of God’s wondrous creation. You get a sense that what we do makes a difference - - as individuals, as faith communities, and as a denomination. General Synod is a time when you are immersed in the Living Covenant of community: It can be messy at times; you are moved to laughter and tears; you are called to face difficult truths and find new ways forward, and you are reminded that you do not do this alone.

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Highlights

visit us online at: haydenvillechurch.org

Spotlight

Welcome to the newly revived Spotlight column, where we all get to know one of our beloved members of Haydenville Congregational Church a little better...

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(Pastor Chris, continued from page 1)

Being at General Synod strengthens my hope that another world is possible, and equips me with the tools to build that world.

In August, my almost-9-year-old and I served our seventh week as chaplains at Silver Lake Conference Center, the outdoor ministry site of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ. As I shared during my sermon on August 13th, Silver Lake has been a spiritual respite for me since 1987. It is a place where I feel known, seen, loved, and valued. More importantly, it is a place where young people from all sorts of different backgrounds can come experience that same sense of belonging, where they can get a real taste of God's steadfast love.

When I read or hear some criticism of "kids these days," I immediately think of the incredible and inspiring children and youth that come to Silver Lake to spend a week in community, guided by Silver Lake's longstanding motto, a paraphrase of the Great Commandment: "Love God. Love your neighbor. Love yourself." I think of the young adults on staff and those who volunteer to work with the campers during the week - - acts of selfless service so that they might have the chance to let kids know that they are loved by God.

Being at Silver Lake not only gives me hope for the future, but for the present: the compassionate and caring love and concern for justice I witness once again strengthens my hope that another world is possible.

Several folks have asked me if I feel rested and relaxed after my time away this summer. Honestly, no. Far from it! But while I don't feel rested, more importantly I feel renewed. Being at General Synod and serving at Silver Lake dampens the volume of the discordant noise of violence, despair, injustice, and fear. It quiets things down just enough that I can hear that voice calling out: "Be still, and know that I am God!"

Friends, right now the seas rage and the mountains are trembling. Nations are in an uproar and kingdoms are tottering. There is war and rumors of war. But that is not the end of the story. God is in the midst of all of this. God is the river "making glad," the river of living water that is flowing through the chaos and beckoning us to come sit by the river, to be still, to know that God is with us, and to immerse ourselves in the refreshing and renewing waters of hope.

My prayer for you is that you find those things - - moments, people, places - - that will quiet the deafening cacophony of all that is around you so that you might hear God calling you to come to the river and be still, knowing that God is there with you in the midst of it all.

Peace & Blessings,



September Birthdays!

- 2 Ruth Loomis
- 8 Chalet Seidel
Marcelle Walters
- 16 Jim Foudy
- 17 Ezra Hughes
- 22 Anne Harrison
- 23 Ann Loomis
- 24 Olivia Davis
- 27 Nicole Nakashian
- 28 Mary Sheehan
- 29 Cindy Dolgoff
- 30 Tobias Davis



October Birthdays!

- 3 Alice Barber
- 10 Izzy Mereschuk
- 18 Suzanne Brow
Sarah Tompkins
- 23 Beverlee Orluske
- 24 Carolyn du Bois
- 26 Robert Lampron
- 30 Chris Mereschuk
- 31 Amy Andrew



Spotlight

...taking time to know our beloved church community



This month, I had the pleasure of sitting down with Brother Chris... Christopher Keith Perry, to be exact. Chris often sits in the front left pew, with a warm smile on his face.
-Carla Imperial

Carla: What brought you to Haydenville

Church? And how long have you been coming here?

CHRIS: Two or three years ago, Sister Andrea met me and told me about the church. It sounded really nice, so I checked it out, and I've been coming ever since.

Carla: Where did you grow up?

CHRIS: I was born in Hartford, CT. But I moved around a lot as a kid. We lived in Seattle, Tacoma, Denver, Salt Lake...to name a few places.

Carla: What significant event(s) in your life shaped the person you are today?

CHRIS: When I was 21 years old, I went out to the store to buy something for my daughter (Shatika, now 35 – living in Manchester, CT - with two daughters of her own). I was hit by a car and never made it back home. I should have died, but my Heavenly Father told me it wasn't my time and that if I follow His will, he'll pull me through. I was in a coma for six months. I lost my memory and had to learn who my family was again. I had to learn how to walk and talk again.

Carla: Wow, that's really significant. It sounds like a miracle.

CHRIS: That's exactly what it was, Sister Carla.

Carla: Is there anything else about you that you'd like for people to know about you?

CHRIS: That I'm twenty years sober.

Carla: You are an inspiration, Chris. Who has inspired *you* in your life?

CHRIS: Sister Andrea and her parents, they were so good to me. Martin Luther King, Stevie Wonder, Marvin Gaye.

Carla: All great choices! If you could have a super power, what would it be?

CHRIS: I'd be Superman. That way I would have a lot of super powers. [laughs]

Carla: Brilliant! Do you have a spirit animal? Or a favorite animal?

CHRIS: Well, I like all wild animals. I throw out food for the birds and rabbits every day.

Carla: If you could meet Jesus today, what would you say to him or ask him?

CHRIS: I would thank him for keeping me here. I would ask for the strength I had as a young man, but keep the wisdom I've learned over the years.

Carla: Well said, Chris. Thank you so much...it's been an honor.

Calling all WRITERS, POETS, PHOTOGRAPHERS and ARTISTS...

Our *Cross Currents* newsletter welcomes submissions for future issues! Do you have a spiritual journey to share? A good spiritual or social justice book that you recommend or would like to review? Would you like to be interviewed for our Spotlight section? Do you have a child who would like to write or draw for our new Kidz Corner? Do you have photos of our vibrant church community to share?

If any of this speaks to you, please contact our new editor, Carla Imperial, at carla@imperial-jewett.com for submissions, questions, comments, etc.

AND please, join us in thanking Richard Spencer and all the others, whose hard and wonderful work produced eight years of amazing newsletters for our Church!



Kidz Corner

Sunday, June 11th was Children's Church, and the last Sunday of our beloved Transitional Director of Children's Church, Rev. Lindsey Peterson.

The children led the service, re-enacting the parable of the Good Samaritan and worshipping in song. Malie Geery, age 11, gave a heartfelt sermon on what it takes to be a Good Samaritan. Below is an excerpt from her sermon.

"There are many people in the world who are trying to be Good Samaritans and trying to encourage others to be Good Samaritans as well even in hard times like these today. These people think every day how they can help us, and the world around us, be a better place even if other people said it can't be done. Being a good Samaritan does not mean that you have to be perfect or change the world in drastic ways. If you change the world in small ways that help others want to change the world as well you're doing just as much. For example, author Maya Van Wagenen helped many people in her high school feel welcome and not afraid, even when the CIA was right outside their school, chasing a dangerous criminal down the street. Another example is actress Lilly Singh, who refuses to care about other people's negative judgment, and is rewriting the rules her way. Imagine what a great place this world would be if we were all willing to do what they are doing. These people, and many others change the world, and make many, many people's lives better. Go and do likewise."



Photos by Maureen Ricksgers

Joint Worship and Bike Blessing at First Churches Northampton • Sunday, September 3rd at 10:00 am

We'll join in worship with Edwards Church, First Churches Northampton, and St. John's Episcopal Church for this special worship service held at First Churches. Come hear guest preacher Rev. Laura Everett, author of "Holy Spokes" and Executive Director of the MA Council of Churches. Bike to First Churches if you can, or bring your bike for a special blessing following the worship! Please consider carpooling and offering rides to members who might not want to drive to Northampton. Note that we will not hold worship at Haydenville on September 3rd.

The Search For Our Next Settled Pastor

September will be a busy month in the life of Haydenville Congregational for many reasons, including the next big steps in our search for a new settled pastor.

Over the summer, a dedicated group put in many hours writing the Church Profile that will be used to select our next pastor. Copies of the profile will be available in mid-September in the church library, after it's accepted by Church Council.

A Search Committee is being formed and will begin work this month using the Church Profile as its guide. A Church Council meeting Sunday, Sept. 10 will be asked to accept the Profile and approve the names of those who will serve on the Church Committee. Updates will appear in the Sunday Bulletin and on our web site.

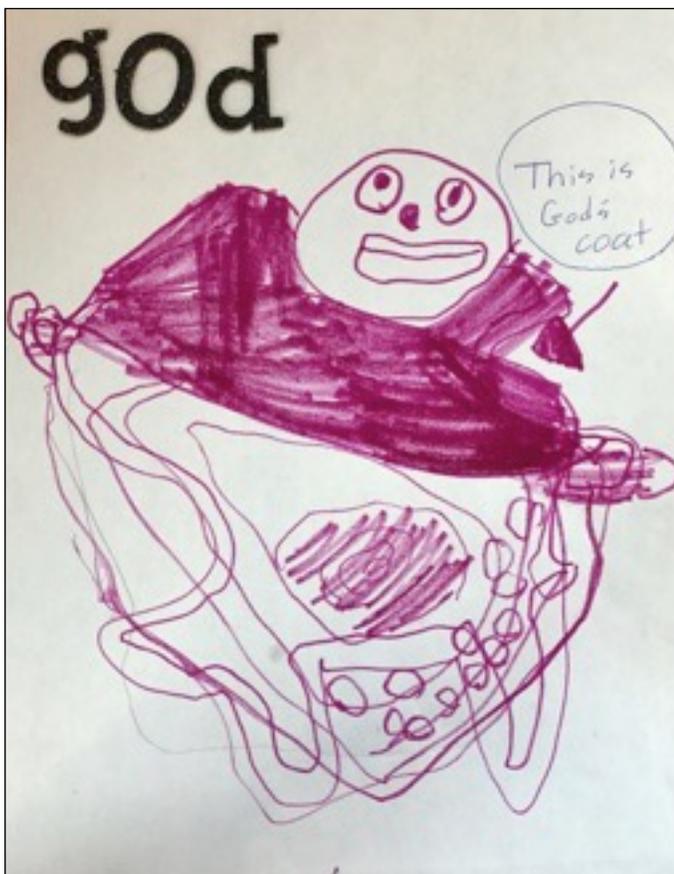
The Search Committee's role is to review candidates, read their profiles, see how they fit with our's, and then make a recommendation to the congregation, which has the final say in calling a pastor. The Search Committee will be guided by Rev. Jill Graham, our area conference minister.

If, after reading the Church Profile, Acting Pastor Chris Mereschuk puts himself forward as a candidate, the Search Committee will review his Profile and consider him first before engaging in a national search. This is expected to happen by the end of September.

The Profile describes the history and finances of the church, our goals for the future, and the gifts and skills needed in our next pastor. Deep thanks for the hard work of the Profile Writing committee, Mariel Addis, Fred Goodhue, Pat James, Jan Varnon, and Nancy Winninger, who worked under the direction of Rev. Peter Wells. To craft the profile, they used a 35 page template provided by the Massachusetts United Church of Christ to ask and answer questions on where we have been as a church, who we are today, and what our vision is for the future. Their responses were based on the conversations in the all-church meetings and smaller discussions this spring and from the visioning work done last year.

What Does God Look Like To You?

"God has a squiggly body because you can see through him because it's like he's made out of air. I'm gonna make him holding all of the planets in orbit. I put an 8 on the paper because there are 8 planets and God is holding all of them in his hands. He HAS to be made out of air because if he was bigger and like us, how could he hold the planets in the sky?" -Holland Pomputius, age 5



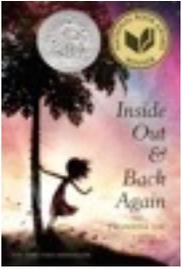
RALLY DAY • Sunday, September 10th at 10:00 am

Our program year begins with lively music and celebration in worship! Children's Church registration and programming starts up, and the full choir sings their hearts out. Join us for this spirit-filled time of worship, and stick around for a bountiful Coffee Hour. All are welcome!



Book Nook

...book recommendations to feed the spirit and the soul



Inside Out & Back Again

by Thanhha Lai

A beautiful story, told through the eyes of a 10 year old Vietnamese girl named Hà, who, along with her family, had to flee Saigon in 1975 during the Vietnam War.

Given our church's mission to support refugee families coming to

Massachusetts, and Megan's and my involvement with the Circle of Care team, I have been searching for literature to introduce the refugees' experience to our daughter. This book is exactly what I was looking for. I read it first, in one evening, and was moved from start to finish. The book is written in poetry format, the author mentions, to "mirror the way that people think in Vietnamese", and its words flow effortlessly into a heartfelt story of Hà's journey from South Vietnam to America. She tells her story with a child's honesty, detailed imagery, and even humor, to make the experience very accessible for children to absorb. Before my daughter read it, I talked about it with her first, to give her a framework of the time and culture, and we discussed its relevance in today's refugee crisis. I think this is a phenomenal book for families to read and discuss together. -Carla Imperial

Other book recommendations from our congregation...

Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time: The Historical Jesus and the Heart of Contemporary Faith

by Marcus J. Borg

In straightforward, accessible prose, Borg looks at the major findings of modern Jesus scholarship from the perspective of faith, bringing alive the many levels of Jesus's character: spirit person, teacher of alternative wisdom, social prophet, and movement founder. He also reexamines the major stories of the Old Testament vital to an authentic understanding of Jesus, showing how an enriched understanding of these stories can uncover new truths and new pathways to faith.

Name Tags! Name Tags! Name Tags!

Help us to be warmly welcoming by consistently wearing your name tag. You can make a reusable name tag or grab a name tag sticker in the Dining Room or narthex. Even if you think "Everybody knows me!" please still wear a name tag.

Deer Hunting with Jesus: Dispatches from America's Class War

by Joe Bageant

"This book should be required reading for anyone who listens to NPR, lives in a 'liberal ghetto' and wonders why people vote Republican against their own self-interest. Bageant is from Winchester, VA and this book is about the working class people that he grew up with. It explains their plight as working class people in America, and how lack of education combined with religious fundamentalism keeps them brainwashed into believing in a system that absolutely does not benefit them." - Rachael (Goodreads)

Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America

by Michael Eric Dyson

Short, emotional, literary, powerful—*Tears We Cannot Stop* is the book that all Americans who care about the current and long-burning crisis in race relations will want to read.

"This book isn't light or easy, but it's essential reading. Michael Eric Dyson delivers a sharp and intelligent argument about how prevalent racism is in our country and why white people need to wake up and speak up against it. This book is a challenge and a call to action." - Rachel León (Goodreads)

Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis

by J.D. Vance

From a former Marine and Yale Law School Graduate, a poignant account of growing up in a poor Appalachian town, that offers a broader, probing look at the struggles of America's white working class. Part memoir, part historical and social analysis, J. D. Vance's *Hillbilly Elegy* is a fascinating consideration of class, culture, and the American dream.

Haydensville UCC on Social Media

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram at @haydensvilleucc and check out Lenten devotional posts and pics from our Beloved Community. Tag #haydensvilleucc in your posts.

Calendar for September/October

Please check the online church calendar to confirm meeting dates, times and locations.

Thank you "Hilltown Hosts" for providing the coffee hour goodies during September and "The Grateful Harvest" during October.

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sun. Sept. 3	10:00 am	Worship Service & Bike Blessing at First Churches	Northampton
Wed. Sept. 6	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Thurs. Sept. 7	6:30 am	Diaconate Meeting	Dining Room
Sun. Sept. 10	10:00 am	Worship Service/Rally Day	Sanctuary
	12:00 noon	Council Meeting	Sanctuary
	12:00 noon	Circle of Care Meeting	Sanctuary
Tues. Sept. 12	5:30 pm	Trustee Meeting	Dining Room
	7:00 pm	Men's Fellowship Meeting	Dining Room
Wed. Sept. 13	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Sun. Sept. 17	10:00 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
Wed. Sept. 20	6:00 pm	Peace and Justice Meeting	Dining Room
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Sun. Sept. 24	10:00 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
Wed. Sept. 27	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Sun Oct. 1	10:00 am	Worship Service with Communion	Sanctuary
	12:00 noon	Exploring Membership Class #1	Pastor Chris's Office
Wed. Oct 4	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Thurs. Oct. 5	6:30 pm	Diaconate Meeting	Dining Room
Sat. Oct. 7	10:00 am	Blessing of the Animals	Front Lawn
Sun. Oct. 8	10:00 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
	12:00 noon	Exploring Membership Class #2	Pastor Chris's Office
	12:00 noon	Council Meeting	Sanctuary
Tues. Oct. 10	5:30 pm	Trustee Meeting	Dining Room
Tues. Oct. 10	7:00 pm	Men's Fellowship Meeting	Dining Room
Wed. Oct 11	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sun. Oct 15	10:00 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
	12:00 noon	Exploring Membership Class #3	Pastor Chris's Office
Wed. Oct. 18	6:00 pm	Peace and Justice Meeting	Dining Room
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Sun. Oct 22	10:00 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
	12:00 noon	Exploring Worship Leadership Workshop	Sanctuary
Wed. Oct 26	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Sun. Oct 29	10:00 am	Worship Service and New Membership Ceremony	Sanctuary

Refugee Circle of Care Update

Catholic Charities has confirmed that the Supreme Court decision to allow portions of the travel ban has put all refugee resettlements on hold until at least October. Three families have been promised to Northampton, and they will hopefully start coming after October.

Our Circle of Care team is slotted to receive the fourth family. We continue to plan and prepare for a family. We will be asking for donations once we know more about the timing, but until then, please hold onto your donations at your home.

We are so fortunate to be able to enjoy summer and vacations and not have to worry about having our homes bombed, having to flee for our lives, or where our families will be living. Please pray for safety and opportunity for all families.

-Lisa Hall

Park Safely and Legally

Note the new "No Parking" signs on the church side of High Street! If you park on the other side, be sure to park a few car lengths up High Street away from the intersection with Route 9. Cars parked too closely to the intersection create a hazard. A reminder that you can also park at the Post Office except for in the handicap space and in front of the loading dock.

Blessing of the Animals

Embark with us as we paws to show some love to our animal companions. Please have your pets leashed, crated, and in your control to avoid any catastrophe. There will be animal fellowship time at the tail end. Consider bringing a donation of dog or cat food, or blankets or towels for bedding to benefit local animal rescue agencies. See Pastor Chris for more information. Safety Note: If your furry friend does not interact well with other animals or with strangers or kids, please leave your pet at home and come get a Blessing-To-Go. Thank you!

Saturday, October 7th at 10:00 am • Church Front

Exploring Worship Leadership Workshop • Sunday, October 22nd following Worship • Sanctuary

It takes many voices to craft and offer our worship liturgy every Sunday, and your voice is needed! Each worship service provides several opportunities for folks to share creative reflections, welcome the congregation, inspire generosity, join in ritual, pray, and proclaim scripture. During this workshop, Pastor Chris will share tips and ideas for writing your own liturgy part and public speaking as well as train you on the logistics of our worship. Everyone is invited to find out how they can be a worship leader in this encouraging and grace-filled setting: "Pro-participation; Anti-perfection." If you have any iota of interest in being a worship leader, then **sign up with Pastor Chris by Sunday, October 15th** to learn about how you can help "Widen Our Worship!"

Church Picnic: 2017



All photos by Tina Marini

Exploring Membership Class Forming

Have you been attending our church and want to learn more about what it means to be a member? Are you ready to formalize your commitment to our Beloved Community? Pastor Chris will be leading a 3-session class on exploring membership following worship on **October 1st, 8th, and 15th, with our joining ceremony on October 29th**. Each session lasts about 1 hour, and childcare will be provided by request. Please **RSVP with Pastor Chris by September 24th** to get in on the fun!

To All Who Make Children's Church Happen

I personally want to thank ALL who have devoted so many hours to our Children's Church for so long: Andrew Geery, Chair of Children's and Family Ministries and the whole team who joins in to participate weekly and help these young ones to grow in their faith. As to not leave anyone out, I am not writing all the names, but we ALL at Haydenville Congregational Church praise your efforts and are grateful for all you do for us. And to all the young children who led the final service this year, MANY THANKS TO EACH OF YOU!! Malie shared a beautiful message and you all were a part of what she was giving us. Bless you all...we treasure all you bring to our church each week with laughter, love and sharing.

Please join us on Rally Day in September, the "kick off" to the great times ahead and the start of Children's programming for the year!

Matthew 5:15-16 *People don't light a lamp and put it under a basket but on a lamp stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way let your light shine in front of people. Then they will see the good that you do and praise your Father in heaven.*

-Beverlee Orluske/Angel Hearts

Children's Church This Fall

The Children's and Family Ministries committee is actively advertising for the Director of Children's and Family Ministries position, but has not yet filled the position. Until a new director is hired, our Sunday morning Children's Church programs will be run a little differently than in the past.

First, nursery care will remain as it as has been, as an option for babies and toddlers up to age 3.

Second, for pre-k and elementary age kids, Children's Church will have the following rhythm:

* 1st Sunday of the month: inter-generational -- kids stay in church with their families to have communion

* 2nd and 3rd Sundays: lessons -- kids stay in church through the offering and then go upstairs for Children's Church.

* 4th Sunday: fellowship -- kids stay in church through the offering and then go upstairs for fellowship (games, art, cooking, etc.).

* 5th Sunday: Cathedral in the Night food prep -- kids stay in church through the offering and then go to the dining room for sandwich making

Third, rather than asking adults to commit to a teaching rotation of several weeks, we're now asking them to commit to a week at a time. We hope this means that more people will volunteer!

Fourth, we hope that middle school youth will continue to help out during Children's Church. We're also hoping that we can host a couple of middle school gatherings during the year for fellowship and to thank the youth for their service.

Once a new director is in place, this schedule can of course be re-evaluated.

Teacher recruitment is on-going, and we need your help! Contact Andrew Geery to sign up.

Your Children's and Family Ministries Committee,
Andrew Geery, Karen Guiel, and Jen Miller-Antill

A revision* to the 2017 Church Directory
Paula & Richard Spencer's new address and phone number: **86 Cahillane Terrace, Florence, MA 01062**
413 341-3302

*Notify the Office Administrator if you have an addition or correction to the Directory. Addresses and phone numbers of Church members are only listed in the newsletter with permission.

Need to Schedule Something at the Church?

If you need to reserve a meeting date and space for your group, please contact our Office Administrator **Linda Babcock** at office@haydenvillechurch.org. Many, many thanks to Sue Carbin for her countless years of handling the schedule, and to Laura Garcia for logging events on our website calendar!

The Home Stretch of Seminary!

This is an update for you, my dear church family, who frequently asks about and prays for me on my journey in seminary. Like so much of life, this experience has seemed to fly by and at times feels like it will never end! I started on this path four years ago, taking two Clinical Pastoral Education units to discern if seminary was the place where God was calling me. The time I spent as Chaplain Intern at Baystate truly solidified my desire to seek more formal spiritual education. I am now in my fourth and final year of seminary- God willing!

This final year I will be taking classes on the History of the Christian Church in America, Christian Education across the Life Span, Music in Worship, Benedictine Spirituality, and Encountering Homelessness in Boston. I will be in Israel for nine days in January, learning about the ways Muslims, Jews and Christians encourage Faith formation. The remainder of January I will be in Boston learning about Interfaith Community Organizing through the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization. I am very excited, and feel so blessed to be having these incredible educational opportunities that will deepen my understanding of Interfaith issues.

Please know how deeply grateful I am to Haydenville Congregational Church for all the ways you as a community have supported and encouraged me during this time of transformation and discernment. Your prayers, uplift and help through the Life Fund have made it possible for me to respond to the still, small voice calling me to search, question and delight in the mystery of the Divine. I am unsure where God will lead me upon graduation next May, but I trust that all will be revealed. As of this Fall, I will enter the formal process for Ordination in the United Church of Christ. In our tradition, a minister must receive "a call" to be Ordained. In layman terms, this is a job! Once I graduate, I can start looking for jobs that are considered Ordainable calls. I may also find work that our Association does not deem Ordainable, and that will be okay too. My wish and prayer is to be Ordained so I could have all the rights and privileges of a Reverend- to perform baptisms, marriages, and of course Communion.

Please continue to keep me and our sister Carole Bull who is In Discernment with our church in your prayers as we navigate where God is leading us next, and again, thank-you!

In gratitude,
Dawn Orluske

Caring Ministries Updates

Time and again, we have shown that we truly care for one another in our Beloved Community. Thankfully, the privilege of caring for the community is not just the job of the pastor! Following in the spirit of the Shepherds and Angel Hearts, our new **Caring Ministries Team** is available for conversation, spiritual companionship, and friendly support through times of crisis, transition, and ongoing need. Pat James, Laine Wilder, Tina Marini, Beverlee Orluske, and Nancy Winninger have begun partnering with Pastor Chris to be available for pastoral and spiritual support. If you would like to meet with one of our Caring Ministers, please contact Pastor Chris to help you make the right match.

We continue to offer our **Angel Take Out** ministry, providing short term meal relief during illness and recovery, major life transitions, and other times of need. Francie Lin coordinates the meals, and is always looking for folks to cook and deliver meals. Nancy Winninger coordinates transportation to church, medical appointments, and other destinations through our **Angel Wings** ministry. Drivers are always welcome so let Nancy know if you can help!

For more information on any of our Caring Ministries, please contact Pastor Chris.

Northfield Interfaith Alliance

Do you long to know more about your own faith and the faiths of others or are called to some kind of ministry? Then, become a part of the Northfield Interfaith Alliance. Their first event will be a course about the religions of the world, from September 2017 through May 2018 (no meeting in December). They will meet in the Lounge of the Trinitarian Congregational Church, 147 Main St. on the second Saturday of the month, 10am - 1pm. Bring a brown bag lunch and we will share a meal at the end.

An optional second year will be offered, which will focus on ministerial skills: pastoral counseling, designing worship, praying with others, performing weddings, funerals and memorials, and preaching.

Course fee: \$200 for the year, payable the first meeting. For more info, see:

<http://www.tccnorthfield.org/northfield-interfaith-alliance.html>

Church Leadership

Rev. Chris Mereschuk
Acting Pastor
revcjm@gmail.com
(860) 966-8055

Jeff Olmsted
Minister of Music

Kathy O'Connor
Church Sexton

Linda Babcock
Office Administrator
Church Scheduler

Sam Icklan
Church Moderator

Toby Davis
Church Vice Moderator

Nancy Winner
Clerk

Jo Cannon
Treasurer

Carole Bull
Member-in-
Decernment

Rev. Dr. Peter Ives
Theologian-
in-Residence

Yohah Ralph
Minister of Outreach,
Advocacy and
Pastoral Care

Shirley Sicurello
Carolyn du Bois
Diaconate, *Chairs*

Karin McGowan
Trustees, *Chair*

Jim Foudy
Human Resources
Coordinator, Men's
Fellowship Chair &
Church
Communications

Andrew Geery
Children's and
Family Ministries
Committee, *Chair*

Bonnie Atkins
Linda Ziegenbein
Toby Davis
Pastor Chris
Pastor/Parish
Relations
Committee

Nancy Winner
Bev Orluske
Pat James
Tina Marini
Laine Wilder
Caring Ministries

Nancy Winner
Angel Wings,
Coordinator

Susan Farrell
Green Angels,
Coordinator

Jackie Cloonan
Snow Angels,
Coordinator

Doug Renick
Peace and Justice
Steering Committee,
Chair

Sam Icklan
Jim Foudy
Carolyn Du Bois
Jo Cannon
Transition
Leadership Team

Sue Carbin
Building
Maintenance, *Chair*

Julie Salzman
Bev Orluske
Kitchen
Coordinators

Susan Farrell
Music Committee,
Chair

Amy Andrew
Librarian

Shirley Sicurello
Welcome Ministry,
Chair

Cindy Delgoff
Head Ushers

Laurie Priest
Ann Loomis
Co-Head Greeters

Bob Varnon
Stewardship
Committee, *Chair*

Linda Ziegenbein
Cathedral in the
Night and interfaith
Cot Shelter Meals,
Coordinator

Ross Bassett
Jan Varnon
Bob Varnon
Lay Delegates

Laura Garcia
Webmaster

Carla Imperial
Richard Spencer
CrossCurrents

Trustees
Karin McGowan
Laura Garcia
Jo Cannon, *Treasurer*.
Carol Shaw
Diane Scott
Robert Davis

Deacons
Shirley Sicurello
Carolyn Du Bois
Olivia Ilano Davis
Ellen Tobiassen
Trish LaFreniere
Cate Shaw
Mariel Addis
Heather King
Susan Farrell
Laine Wilder
Philip Maurer

Church Council
Senior Pastor
Moderator
Vice Moderator
Clerk
Treasurer
Trustees, *Chair*
Diaconate, *Chair*
Stewardship, *Chair*
Music, *Chair*
Peace & Justice, *Chair*
Family Ministries,
Chair

CrossCurrent Submissions: All items for publication should be sent to: Carla Imperial, at carla@imperial-jewett.com.

