

Cross Currents



November/December 2017 • Open Hearts & Open Minds & Open Doors

From Pastor Chris

My Dear Siblings, Sisters, and Brothers,

"Still Stubbornly Hopeful" • Several years ago I designed an insignia for myself: An anchor with the Greek letter Alpha on the left side of the shank and Omega on the right side, with the word "HOPE" under the tip of the crown. I had remixed and conflated some bits of scripture to recite as something of a mantra: "Hold fast to Christ, our anchor of hope." It's a combination of "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end (*Revelation 22:13*)," Paul's encouragement to the Thessalonians that they "hold fast to that which is good (*I Thessalonians 5:21*)," and the reminder from the author of Hebrews of Jesus's promise that "We have this hope, a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters the inner shrine behind the curtain (*Hebrews 6:19*)."

The call to HOPE and HOLD FAST have become essential to my spiritual and emotional well being - - so much so that they are inked permanently in my skin. As someone who lives with chronic depression and anxiety, having these visible reminders to seek out and hold on to glimpses of hope at all times has guided me through moments (be they hours, days, weeks, months, or years) when I have been tempted to surrender to despair and fear. It's a small, surface-level visual cue that prompts me to dig deeper. But there has to be something deeper to dig into, and so I must nurture my faith.

When I nurture my faith, these glimpses of hope become easier to see and stay imprinted in my mind longer, setting in motion transformations that build my resilience and encourage a healthy perspective. With all that is going on in the world, I have to employ a mental/emotional gatekeeper that will let in those things that help build me up and turn away those things that can tear me down. This is not to say that I choose to be willfully ignorant of the troubles and injustices of this world, but that I must be sure that I am not feeding myself entirely on those things. I must make a conscious effort to invite in and nurture those things that bring me hope.

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Highlights

visit us online at: haydenvillechurch.org

Our Path to a New Settled Pastor

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So as I am in now, my 65th year, I ask for your forbearance. I count on your support and I invite you to continue to know me and allow me to know you....

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Harvest Moon Chili Cook-Off

Come sample a variety of chili, hear some great roots music, purchase some fabulous cookbooks, and support the church and the environment.

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Book Discussion Group

Where do you find hope? How do you nurture hope and share that hope with others?

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Of the 30-something sermons I've preached so far this year, I can't tell you how many times I've preached on hope. Probably close to all of them! It'd be a safe bet that "hope" is going to come up again in a sermon or 10 before the end of 2017. Preachers are almost always preaching to themselves, but I get the sense that it's a message that many of you need and want to hear as well.

As we move closer to Advent, I am preparing a personal devotional practice centered around hope. Part of this will be our book study of Paul Rogat Loeb's "The Impossible Will Take A Little While" that I'm co-leading with Tina Marini (*see announcement in this newsletter, page 9*). This collection of essays on "perseverance and hope in troubled times" has gifted me with innumerable glimpses of hope. I believe it will inspire you, too.

I'll also be returning to my quest to reread the Bible in its entirety — not just the comforting and empowering parts, but all the problematic and confusing parts as well. I find when I choose to read scripture instead of watching yet another episode of something on Netflix, I'm inclined to pray more, wrestle with my faith more, and nurture transformation in myself.

During October, I have been sharing "gratitude texts" with a Unitarian Universalist colleague. Each day we text each other one brief line about something for which we are grateful. I'm going to do the same kind of practice for Advent with another colleague, asking, "Where did you find a glimpse of hope today?" I'll also be posting on the Church's Instagram account for our Advent Social Media Photo Devotional (*see announcement in this newsletter, page 9*).

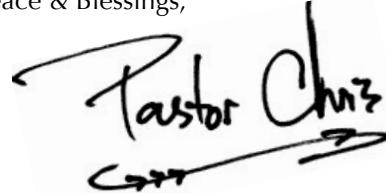
So maybe you, too, can try these practices as a Hope-Centered Advent Devotional:

- Fashion yourself some Hope Glasses: Actively look around you for glimpses of hope.
- Pick up the Bible or some other devotional book instead of watching TV (or whatever you use for distraction). Read it, wrestle with it, pray about it, jot down questions.
- Get a copy of "The Impossible Will Take A Little While" and consider joining our book study, or just read it on your own.
- Find a texting buddy (or partner) for a daily hope-sharing practice.

- Participate in the Advent Social Media Photo Devotional if you're a social media person, or take pictures or even sketch drawings for yourself.

May you — today and every day — experience God's abundant presence in your life. May you see glimpses of hope all around you. And when you can't see them, may you be compelled to create glimpses of hope for all to see. And as we prepare for Advent and the celebration of our brother and teacher Jesus, may you hold fast to the promise of hope we have in Jesus: "a sure and steadfast anchor for the soul."

Peace & Blessings,



Our Path to a New Settled Pastor

The search for a new settled pastor continues with weekly meetings by the Pastoral Search Committee, which was commissioned by the congregation October 1.

The Search Committee members have carefully read the 60-page Church Profile, and, by early November, will have read the Profile of Acting Pastor Chris Mereschuk and interviewed him for the position.

The Search Committee's first task will be to decide whether to recommend him to the congregation as our next settled pastor. Their decision and their reasoning will be conveyed to the congregation in a letter.

If they do recommend Chris Mereschuk as our next settled pastor, he will be asked to preach a sermon at a Candidating Sunday. At the end of that service, the congregation will vote on whether to call him as our next settled pastor. If the Search Committee or the congregation say no to Chris, then the UCC will provide the Search Committee with the profiles of other UCC ministers to consider. Chris will leave and an interim pastor will be appointed until a new settled pastor is called.

The Search Committee members are Cate Shaw, Toby Davis, Susan Farrell, Tina Marini, Richard Spencer, Ellen Tobiassen and Nancy Winninger. There is no deadline for their work. It needs to be a thoughtful and deliberative process.

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Spotlight

...taking time to know our beloved church community

This month, I had the honor of sitting down with Julianne Salzman, aka Julie, aka Jules, aka our extraordinary Coffee Klatch coordinator.



EDITOR: How long have you been coming to Haydenville Church, and what roles have you taken on?

JULIE: Over three years. I scheduled the ushers for two years, and currently serve on the Coffee Klatch organizing committee with Bev, Trish and Shirley, help plan the Thanksgiving

dinners, and sing in the choir.

EDITOR: What was growing up like for you?

JULIE: I grew up in the small town of Shawano, Wisconsin, but attended a large regional school. I grew up Lutheran, and was very involved in our youth group and Imago Dei Camp. I went to college in Augsburg College in Minneapolis.

EDITOR: What are you most proud of?

JULIE: Becoming an educator. First, in the Minneapolis public school system as a substitute, PE teacher, and coach, but more notably, my thirteen years as principal of White Brook Middle School in Easthampton. I helped build a real learning community where kids and adults felt safe, loved, and honored.

Also, I feel proud of the work I did at camp with our families, bridging the gap between the younger and older folk, which became a bit of my life's mission: to bridge gaps.

EDITOR: What's the craziest thing you've ever done?

JULIE: Probably when I up'd and moved here!

EDITOR: Who are your role models in life?

JULIE: Progressive women politicians...because I think they are going to change the world...because the world needs changing. Hilary Clinton, for all she's done and all she's endured.

EDITOR: If you were to address a group of 4th graders, what message would you want most to share with them?

JULIE: To try as many things as they can try in life. Even if they think that they're not good at it.

EDITOR: That's a great message. You must have been an amazing principal.

If you had the opportunity to come face to face with Jesus today, 1) what would be your immediate emotion, and 2) what would you ask him?

JULIE: It would be a recognition of coming home. I would lay my burdens down.

I would ask...what can we do to make a difference? What does it take for people to see their folly? Regarding the crucifixion and the events leading up to it, how did you get through that? Why didn't you just walk away, stage left? And then you came back and embraced those that hurt you.

It's all that - that makes me think he wasn't of this earth.

EDITOR: Thank you so much, Julie, for your time and insight.

Instant Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 17th at 10:00 am • All people of all ages are invited to take on a role in our Christmas Pageant - just by attending worship! Come dressed up as a shepherd, wise person, animal, angel, or a member of the Holy Family. Some extra costumes will be available. Everyone can play a part in this rollicking retelling of the nativity story, with our costumed actors and the whole congregation jumping into action throughout the pageant. Contact Pastor Chris if you'd like to help organize the Pageant.

Trying to Age Gracefully, Loving Haydenville & Ordination

Yesterday, I turned 65 years old.

As soon as I think I've "licked this birthday thing," which means clarifying how I want to celebrate my birthday and asking for that, thereby avoiding any difficult birthday-caused emotions, hah! I get another chance to dwell in the land-of-birthday-doldrums which happens (fortunately) only every few years. This dragon raises its ugly head and dredges up childhood disappointments and a number of dysfunctional and somewhat still-lingering memories of birthday celebrations that went south throughout my lifetime.

This year, in approaching 65, I found myself feeling sad, scared, and melancholic. All because as a child I had it somehow burned into my brain that 65 is the age (a) one must retire, (b) one is officially "old," and is therefore (c) "over the hill." Or, as my friend put it recently about her 90-something mother-in-law, she moves a lot in order to "avoid the grim reaper." It was good though, to be aware of my feeling-states and talk about them with others. I shared with some friends about these feelings, and they accepted me. I talked about the time at work recently when the issue of age came up, and instead of proudly stating my age like I usually do, I thought "maybe it's not a good thing to tell people at work I'm 65." Normally, I feel angry when people become coy or downright adamant about not admitting their age, as it has always seemed ridiculous to me. This is because as a survivor of various things, normally I feel proud of each year I get to. "I've made it!" is usually my inner reality.

Why discuss turning 65 with my church? One reason is we have people throughout the age span at our church and it is likely some of you might resonate with my experiences. Also, I like our church because we talk about difficult things and we seem to have an ethic of sharing openly about who we are right now. Though I'm in favor of decorum, I'd rather some old-time raw honesty. It means that from being ourselves, we can create a circle around and amongst each other that allows the spirit in and amongst us to heal. As someone mentioned to me just last week, "When we are understood, we are home."

If you haven't noticed, I love Haydenville Congregational Church. In the interest of full disclosure, often I come to get, and when I am filled, I am inspired to give. I also come because I am inspired by you and by this Church

home. The God of my understanding wants me as I am and continue to be: whole and broken. My God wants me in community and not in isolation. My God wants me to step away from the ties that bind me: addictions to fixing others, overeating, overdoing, and having "Me! Me! Me! Me!" as my constant refrain throughout the day. I feel called as your Member-in-Discernment to models of community where we all become those who can, in Eknath Easwaran's words "put others first."

So as I am in now, my 65th year, I ask for your forbearance. I count on your support and I invite you to continue to know me and allow me to know you as we accompany each other and as I move forward in my ordination journey. I have had many emotions along the way: rage, indifference, impatience, and mostly now: a measured detachment. I am increasingly ready to keep on listening for God's discernment of what is next for me. May your next birthday be full of such hard-won blessings.

- Carole Bull, Member-in-Discernment

Grasshill Christmas Gallery

24th Annual Craft Fair

Saturday, Nov 25th 9-3:00 pm

Haydenville Congregational Church

Come to our beautiful, light-filled Church dining room for a relaxing and wonderful shopping experience. Twenty local crafters/artisans--including several from our Church family--offer their one-of-a-kind treasures for your holiday shopping. Included are paintings, photography, quilts, jewelry, gourds, embroidered tiny stuffed toys, soaps, pottery, hand carved wooden utensils, seasonal decorations, knitted items, cards and more.

And I should mention the food! My sister Shirley channels our Grandma Warner and pulls off the most fabulous luncheon. Famous corn chowder, plus another homemade soup, sandwiches on homemade bread, cookies, sweet buns, brownies, and her spectacular cream puffs! Also, she'll be selling packages of assorted homemade cookies, loaves of bread, and whatever else she thinks up.

All in all, this is just the way you want to spend the Saturday after Thanksgiving. No hassles, free parking, no admission fee, and handicap accessible.

Questions? call Trish @ 268-7254 or 413 727-5150 or see her in Church.

Our Path to a New Settled Pastor (continued from page 2)

Documents related to the Transition Process along with the Church Profile are in binders in the church library and online in the News and Events section of our church website at <http://haydenvillechurch.org>.

A couple points from previous communications with the congregation bear repeating:

Why is Chris considered first? Based on years of experience, UCC has found it best to consider internal candidates first before opening up the process. This is meant to be fair to those candidates and it also acknowledges that other ministers will not apply for a pastoral opening when there is an internal candidate. (UCC Policy on Pastor Search can be found in the Transition Documents.)

What will guide the Search Committee? Our Church Profile is their primary guide. It draws from the visioning work conducted in 2015, the all-church meetings held last spring, the small group discussions in June, numerous conversations with church leaders and others, and the written church-wide survey. The Profile is the touchstone for Search Committee members in their deliberations.

How can the congregation help the Search Committee? Respect that their deliberations and discussions need to remain confidential. Pray for them and offer gratitude as they undertake this sacred and serious task on behalf of all of us.

In prayer and peace,

Your Transition Leadership Team

Jim Foudy, Jo Cannon, Carolyn DuBois, Sam Icklan

HCC at the Hot Chocolate Run

We are forming a Church team to participate in this year's Hot Chocolate Run benefitting Safe Passage on **Sunday, December 3rd** (worship at 4:00 pm that day). You can register by going to <http://www.hotchocolaterun.com/register/>. Open the drop-down menu, and select Haydenville Church. The registration fee is \$30. If you would like to support our Church team, go to our fundraising page at <https://www.hotchocolaterun.com/give/?tid=6453&eid=2457> and make a donation. Safe Passage is dedicated to creating a world free of domestic violence and relationship abuse. So are we.

I Am A Messiah!

I know what you're probably thinking: "We've been worried about that one for a while—now she's gone off the deep end."

Fear not!

Per Dictionary.com, the online dictionary, a messiah, with a lowercase "M" is:

"a zealous leader of some project or cause."

My project or cause would be this Church, the Haydenville Congregational Church.

I am a Deacon in the Church, so you could say that covers the leader part, and you could certainly call me zealous or passionate about my Church. So, there it is, I'm a messiah with a lowercase "M".

But you know what, I'm not alone. Looking out at the congregation, I see a lot of messiahs with lowercase "M's" out there. Leaders in the Church that are enthusiastic about this faith community. It is, to quote someone I met once, "FABULOUS".

- Mariel Addis

The HCC Mitten Tree

Christmas in Haydenville Congregational Church means many things. We have traditions. One of my favorites is the mitten tree. Some of you may remember the slow motion toppling of the tree during the lovely Christmas Eve service last year. So, a new tradition is that the mitten tree (singular) will be erected in the dining room this year. Our goal is to decorate this tree with mittens, scarves, hats, and warm socks. Right after New Year's, it is my joy to deliver half to the Anne T. Dunphy school. Every year, they hand out warm items to the kids who need them, for whatever reason. Every year, the teachers are so very happy to see me coming!

The rest of the items collected goes to either the homeless shelter or to the immigrant collection site. So, my generous friends, look for a lopsided Christmas tree in the dining room after Thanksgiving. Bring in your gifts of warmth and say a little prayer as you hang them up. It is a good, good thing.

Peace,

Trish



Kidz Corner

Thanksgiving... what are

MY MOM



Eliot, 5

Love, family, School, food, Peace



Izabel, 9

I am grateful for
all I have.



Winnie, 8

mysister



Piper, 7

I am grateful for
good friends.



Kai, 9

YOU grateful for??



Toby, 2

I am greatful for my friends, and family, Food, and water, and of course, peace and love for all!

Hand-drawn symbols including a heart, a peace sign, a heart, a peace sign, and a heart.

Travis, 10

BRC FILER
LILLOTT AND PLAGAUG

(brother and playground)

Charlie, 5

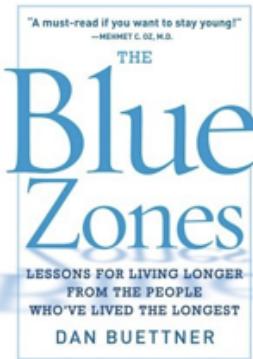


"I think you should be thankful for all that you have..... You have to notice that your spirit wants more than you actually want.
All you need is all you really want."

Holland, 6



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



The Blue Zones: Lessons for Living Longer from the People Who've Lived the Longest. By Dan Buettner

Author Dan Buettner is a National Geographic writer whose team searched the world to find the areas with the highest concentration of healthy people over 100 years of age. The team wanted to detail what people do

to become *healthy* centenarians. They found 5 areas: Okinawa, Japan; Sardinia, Italy; Loma Linda CA, USA; Nicoya, Costa Rica; and Ikaria, Greece. The team studied every aspect of how people in the 5 locations lived, working to discover the commonalities shared in each of the zones.

Buettner and his team concluded that longevity is mostly up to us and while genes play a part (25%) *lifestyle choices* (ie. behavior) are more important. After traveling to each of the Blue Zones around the world, the team concluded that there were 9 critical lessons for living longer:

1. **Be active without having to think about it.** (activity is built into their lifestyles, lots of walking)
2. **Painlessly cut calories by 20%.** (caloric restriction slows the aging process in mammals)
3. **Avoid meat and processed foods.** (all the Blue Zone people eat meat, but sparingly)
4. **Drink red wine daily- in moderation.** (1-2 glasses/day)
5. **Realize your purpose.** (people need to do something with their lives that they feel is interesting or worthwhile)
6. **Take time to relieve stress.** (each of the Blue Zones had a way of de-stressing which they did daily such as meals or tea with friends and family)
7. **Participate in a spiritual community.** (every Blue Zone had their own faith; attending a religious service once a month reduces the risk of death by a third)
8. **Put family first.** (giving and receiving love is a very healthy practice)

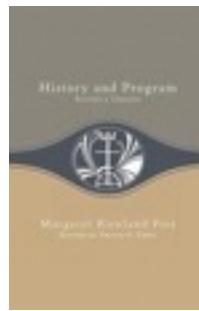
9. **Be surrounded with those who share Blue Zone values** (Buettner suggests we create an "inner circle" of people who share the same Blue Zone values and that we spend at least 30 minutes a day with them)

This is an easy-to-read book and the stories about the people in each zone are fascinating and enjoyable. I guarantee there are habits in this book you will want to adopt.

- Karin L McGowan

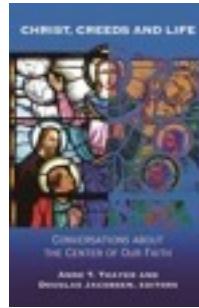
We are a United Church of Christ. We are also rich and vastly unique, largely because we gather together from many walks of faith and spiritual journeys. If your journey includes wanting to understand more about the history and polity of the UCC denomination, here are some resources to help guide you.

History and Program, Revised and Updated by Margaret Rowland Post



"Our world is very different from the world our founders sought to address, in ways our forebears in the 1950s could have hardly imagined. Yet we remain what we have always been at our best... a people of spiritual audacity, prepared to risk old assumptions for the sake of new possibilities." - John H. Thomas, former General Minister and President, United Church of Christ

Christ, Creeds, and Life: Conversations about the Center of Our Faith Edited by A. Thayer, A. and D. Jacobsen



This book focuses on the 1981 doxological version of the United Church of Christ's Statement of Faith. It seeks to help laity think theologically about confessions of faith, both traditional and in hymns, and how they might enlighten faithful living. It is ideal for small group settings and adult and high school church school classes.

Altar of Honor and Remembrance

On All Saints Sunday, November 5th at 10:00 am, we take time to honor and remember the great "Cloud of Witnesses" that have pioneered the way for us. You are invited to bring a photo or memento representing someone in your life (living or deceased) who is among your personal "cloud."

Harvest Moon Chili Cook-Off

Sunday, November 5th, 5:00-7:00 pm, Church Dining Room • Come sample a variety of chili, hear some great roots music, purchase some fabulous cookbooks, and support the church and the environment all at the same time! Our inaugural Harvest Moon Chili Cook-Off will be a time of fellowship and fundraising with batches of chili cooked by local chefs from Bread Euphoria, Belly of the Beast, and others competing for a glamorous prize judged by WWLP's Brian Lapis and other local celebrity judges. Local musicians will add a layer of entertainment. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the United Church of Christ Northeast Environmental Justice Center. Please see Pastor Chris, Trish LaFreniere, or Ann Loomis if you can help with set up or clean up. Suggested donation of \$10.00 per adult.

November Birthdays!

- 1 Ruth Jacobson-Hardy
- 2 Ross Bassett
- 6 Elexy Edge-Wise
- 15 Nancy Winninger
- 20 Joanne Morgan
- 21 Kate Kelly
- 25 Jacqueline Cloonan



December Birthdays!

- 2 Karen Browne-Courage
- 5 Laurie Priest
- 6 Tarra Chenoa-Neff
- 6 Gretchen Browne-Courage
- 10 Maureen Mathers
- 10 Lynn Goodhue
- 17 Judy Swanson
- 17 Megan Jewett
- 20 Jennifer Griswold
- 25 John Kremensky
- 26 Carla Imperial
- 28 Ellen Tobiassen
- 30 Jennifer Matias

Social Media Advent Photo Devotional

For each day, post a photo that represents the word of the day on your Facebook or Instagram page. "Tag" your photo with the word (ex: #peace), #advent2017, and our church (@haydenvilleucc). Find and follow us on Facebook and Instagram: @haydenvilleucc to join in the fun!

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 12/3: (1st Sunday) Peace | 12/16: Patience |
| 12/4: Promise | 12/17: (3rd Sunday) Joy |
| 12/5: Ready | 12/18: Generosity |
| 12/6: Waiting | 12/19: Rejoice |
| 12/7: Journey | 12/20: Shepherd |
| 12/8: Holy | 12/21: Comfort |
| 12/9: Prophet | 12/22: Forgiveness |
| 12/10: (2nd Sunday) Hope | 12/23: Create |
| 12/11: Justice | 12/24: (4th Sunday) Love |
| 12/12: Neighbor | 12/24: (Christmas Eve) Miracle |
| 12/13: Strength | 12/25 (Christmas) |
| 12/14: Wisdom | |
| 12/15: Steadfast | |



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@haydenvilleucc

Book Discussion Group

Wednesdays: Nov. 29th, Dec. 6th, 13th, and 20th, 5:30-7:00 pm • "Hope is believing in spite of the evidence, then watching the evidence change" (Jim Wallis, *Sojourners*) Where do you find hope? How do you nurture hope and share that hope with others? Join Tina Marini and Pastor Chris as we discuss Paul Rogat Loeb's "*The Impossible Will Take A Little While: Perseverance and Hope in Troubled Times*." This collection of essays from a wide diversity of writers recounts glimmers of hope in the midst of seemingly impossible despair. Over four gatherings, we'll share our reflections and inspirations, and we'll be invited to author our own testament of hope at the conclusion of our time together. Pastor Chris has several loaner copies of the book (2nd edition, 2014), which can also be purchased used. While you are welcome to drop in, we'd love for you to attend the entire series. Sign up with Pastor Chris by November 26th.

Calendar for November/December

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

Thank you "Pooh Bears" for providing the coffee hour goodies during November and "Daily Bread" during December.

Date	Time	Event	Location
Wed. Nov. 1	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Thurs. Nov. 2	6:30 am	Diaconate Meeting	Dining Room
Sun. Nov. 5	10:00 am	All Saints Day Worship Service with Communion	Sanctuary
	5:00-7:00 pm	Harvest Moon Chili Cook Off, see page 9	Dining Room
Mon. Nov. 6	7:15 pm	Pastoral Search Committee	Dining Room
Wed. Nov. 8	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Sun. Nov. 12	10:00 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
	12:00 noon	Council Meeting	Sanctuary
Tues. Nov. 14	5:30 pm	Trustee Meeting	Children's Church
	7:00 pm	Men's Fellowship Meeting	Dining Room
Wed. Nov. 15	6:00 pm	Peace and Justice Meeting	Dining Room
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Sun. Nov. 19	10:00 am	Men's Fellowship led Worship "Service of Gratitude"	Sanctuary
Wed. Nov. 22	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Thurs. Nov. 23		Thanksgiving	
Sat. Nov. 25	9:00 am	Grasshill Christmas Gallery Craft Fair, see page 4	Dining Room
Sun Nov. 26	10:00 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
Wed. Nov. 29	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
	5:30 pm	Book Discussion Group, see page 9	Dining Room
Sun. Dec. 3	4:00 pm	First Sunday of Advent: Peace Special Evensong Worship with Communion NOTE: No 10:00 am Worship	Sanctuary
Wed. Dec. 6	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
	5:30 pm	Book Discussion Group	Dining Room
Thurs. Dec. 7	6:30 pm	Diaconate Meeting	Dining Room
Sun. Dec. 10	10:00 am	Second Sunday of Advent: Hope Worship Service	Sanctuary
	12:00 noon	Council Meeting	Sanctuary

Date	Time	Event	Location
Tues. Dec. 12	5:30 pm	Trustee Meeting	Children's Church
	7:00 pm	Men's Fellowship Meeting	Dining Room
Wed. Dec. 13	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
	5:30 pm	Book Discussion Group	Dining Room
Sun. Dec 17	10:00 am	Third Sunday of Advent: Joy Worship Service	Sanctuary
Wed. Dec. 20	5:30 pm	Book Discussion Group	Chris's Office
	6:00 pm	Peace and Justice Meeting	Dining Room
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Thurs. Dec. 21	7:00 pm	Blue Christmas Worship Service, see below	Sanctuary
Sun. Dec. 24	10:00 am	Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love Worship Service	Sanctuary
	7:00 pm	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service	Sanctuary
Wed. Dec. 27	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary

Blue Christmas Worship Service

Thursday, December 21st at 7:00pm • A healing service for those who find Christmas less-than-merry • Holidays can bring a mix of complex emotions for some of us -- the stress of gift shopping, challenged family relationships, living a long distance from families, the high expectation of joy when you just might not be feeling it. Whatever it might be for you, if Christmastime joy is hard to find, please come to this service of reflection, song, and silence led by Pastor Chris and the Deacons where you are free to acknowledge your feelings and experience the holiday in your own way. We'd love to see you there.

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.

Service of Gratitude

On Sunday, Nov. 19, the Men's Fellowship will lead the worship service built around the theme of gratitude.

The idea grew out of a discussion in fellowship meetings last spring on Native American respect and gratitude for the Earth.

Doug Renick found a Thanksgiving Address used by the Iroquois people and that lead to a discussion with Pastor Chris about having a worship service around gratitude, with a particular focus on expressing gratitude for Mother Earth and all that she provides to us. Respecting the created world is critical to our ability to protect it for future generations.

The congregation will be asked to participate in a reading of the Thanksgiving Address, which defines our place in the natural world and, in the words of Robin Wall Kimmerer, Native American botanist, "offers a credo for a culture of gratitude."

Church Leadership

Acting Pastor Rev. Chris Mereschuk revcjm@gmail.com (860) 966-8055	Minister of Outreach, Advocacy and Pastoral Care Rev. Yohah Ralph	Caring Ministries Nancy Winninger Pat James Tina Marini Laine Wilder	Building Maintenance, Chair Sue Carbin	Cathedral in the Night and interfaith Cot Shelter Meals, Coordinator Linda Ziegenbein	Deacons Shirley Sicurello Carolyn Du Bois Olivia Ilano Davis Ellen Tobiassen Trish LaFreniere Cate Shaw Mariel Addis Heather King Susan Farrell Laine Wilder
Minister of Music Jeff Olmsted	Diacurate, Chairs Shirley Sicurello Carolyn du Bois	Angel Wings, Coordinator Nancy Winninger	Kitchen Coordinators Trish La Frenier Shirley Warner Bev Orluske Julie Salzman	Lay Delegates Ross Bassett Jan Varnon Bob Varnon	
Church Sexton Kathy O'Connor		Green Angels, Coordinator Susan Farrell	Music Committee, Chair Susan Farrell	Webmaster Laura Garcia	Church Council Senior Pastor Moderator Vice Moderator Clerk Treasurer Trustees, <i>Chair</i> Diaconate, <i>Chair</i> Stewardship, <i>Chair</i> Music, <i>Chair</i> Peace & Justice, <i>Chair</i> Family Ministries, <i>Chair</i>
Office Administrator Church Scheduler Linda Babcock	Human Resources Coordinator, Men's Fellowship Chair & Church Communications Jim Foudy	Snow Angels, Coordinator Jackie Cloonan	Head Ushers Cindy Delgoff	CrossCurrents Carla Imperial Richard Spencer	
Church Moderator Sam Icklan	Children's and Family Ministries Committee, Chair Andrew Geery	Peace and Justice Steering Committee, Chair Doug Renick	Co-Head Greeters Laurie Priest Ann Loomis	Trustees Karin McGowan Laura Garcia Jo Cannon, <i>Treasurer</i> Carol Shaw Diane Scott Robert Davis	
Church Vice Moderator Toby Davis		Transition Leadership Team Sam Icklan Jim Foudy Carolyn Du Bois Jo Cannon	Stewardship Committee, Chair Bob Varnon		
Clerk Nancy Winninger					
Treasurer Jo Cannon					
Member-in-Decernment Carole Bull					
Theologian-in-Residence Rev. Dr. Peter Ives					

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



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