



Haydenville Congregational Church

January 25, 2015

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Welcome Visitors! If you are new to us, please fill out the colorful “strippy thing” tucked in your Bulletin to let us know you were here! These can be given to Pastors Andrea or Chris, or placed in the offering plate. Also, PLEASE CUT TO THE FRONT OF THE HAND SHAKE/HUG LINE after Church. We want to meet you, and our Hand Shake/Hug Line can be overwhelming. Please come right up, cut in line and tell us who you are. Truly. We want to meet you!

2. Coffee Hour Food: Thanks to the Pooh Bears for starting off our new Coffee Klatch right! February coffee hour will be hosted by Daily Bread. Remember, all members have been assigned to a Coffee Klatch group to take on set up, clean up, and refreshments for just one month per year. If you’re not sure which Klatch you’re in, please see Jo Cannon or Jackie Cloonan.

3. Welcome Ministry Our new Welcome Ministry is up and running and looking forward to greeting all newcomers after our worship service. You can find a member of the Welcome Ministry on the Hug Line after worship, and another member in the newly created Welcome Corner, which is the first table on the right in the Dining Room. Someone from the Welcome Ministry Team will be at that table eager to welcome you to our church and orient you to our wonderful community. Please stop by and say hello!

4. Ladies Aid raffle tickets for the “You Are Welcome Here” art quilt will be available after church. Look for Carol Boyer’s beautiful quilt in the Dining Room and come to the table to get your tickets. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 3 for \$2.00. The drawing will be February 22nd, right after church. Let’s make this a great fundraiser!

5. Snow Angels really, really, really needed! Please sign up for a week on the clipboard in the Dining Room. We really need shovelers! Can you help?

6. Our Church Food Pantry — which supports a number of individuals and families in the church — is in need of supplies. Suggested items: tuna fish, canned vegetables and meats, peanut butter, condiments, snacks, cereal, pasta, and canned soup. Personal care items, such as feminine hygiene products, are also needed. Please bring only unopened, unexpired items. Thank you!

7. New Church-Wide Email Service! Very soon, you will begin to see a new kind of email coming from the church. Through a service called Constant Contact, we will be sending church-wide emails on a weekly basis. If you subscribe to e-newsletters from other organizations, you might already be familiar with this service. This email is designed to replace the multiple emails that we send throughout the week and will include links to our website, updated event information, and other features. Please give us (the Media Team) your patience and your feedback as we launch this new endeavor. The e-newsletter will come from hccannouncements@gmail.com. While the use of Constant Contact should decrease the likelihood of these emails being labelled “junk” or “spam,” please do check to see if our email has landed there. Please look for this new and improved e-newsletter, as well as upgrades to our website, coming soon!

8. Angel Hands are Helping Hands! Please join our group of Angel Hands to reach out to anyone in our beloved community who just needs a little extra help. So far we’ve been asked to move a mattress for someone who’s been sleeping in a recliner, and to help carry groceries upstairs for someone still regaining their strength from a nasty virus. Here’s how it works: If you’d like to help when you can, send Vicki Hicks your contact information and any special notes she should keep in mind. When a request comes in, she’ll alert all Angels with the details. If you are available to help, you’ll respond and we will set it up. Don’t let the lack of a car keep you from joining us! If you need help, please let Vicki know. You have many friends who would like to lend a hand. Just ask! To sign up, to request help, to offer ideas or ask questions, please contact Vicki Hicks at (413) 695-2273 or vickihicks@aol.com.

9. Pastor Chris will be attending a clergy gathering from Tuesday, January 27th, to Thursday, January 29th. During this time, he will be unavailable to return phone calls or emails. He will gladly get back to you upon his return.

EVENTS

1. Weekly Café Office Hours with Pastor Andrea • *Thursdays from 9:30 to 11:00 am* at Sylvester's Restaurant. Come see her at 111 Pleasant Street in Northampton and she'll buy you a cup of coffee.

2. Adult Faith Formation with Pastor Chris • First and Third Sundays in the Dining Room, 8:45 to 9:30 am. Join us for this new version of Adult Sunday School as we deepen our understanding of our faith. We will continue to look at Paul's letters to the Corinthian church, moving on to Second Corinthians with its theme of "power through weakness." Though each session builds on the previous one, you are more than welcome to "drop in" at any time and join us when you can. We are also looking ahead to the end of these sessions and discussing where we'd like to go next with our study. Your input is essential! For more information, please contact Pastor Chris.

3. Fridays @ 4:00 • Meeting Time has Changed! Fridays @ 4:00 Writing Group is changing its meeting days and times. No more meetings are scheduled for January and starting in February the meetings will be at 2:30-4:00 pm on the first and third Fridays of the month. The meetings are open to all interested Church members at all levels, beginner to professional writers. Drop-ins are welcome!

4. Okay Book Lovers, start reading • February 4 You are welcome to join the ongoing Church Book Group. We meet next on Wednesday, February 4th at 12:45 pm at Forbes Library (Watson Room) in Northampton. Our book for the February gathering will be *WHAT WE TALK ABOUT WHEN WE TALK ABOUT GOD* by Rob Bell. Get your hands on the book and start reading! Hope you can join us! Questions? See Pastor Andrea or Pastor Peter Ives.

5. Our Church's Annual Meeting will be held after worship on **Sunday, February 8th** in the Sanctuary. Please mark your calendars and make plans to attend. We need your voice and your vote, it is a most important Church gathering and meeting. There will be a brief Coffee Hour and then we will return to the Sanctuary for the meeting.

6. February 15th Pastor Andrea will be the guest preacher at a UU Church in the Berkshires on February 15th. Pastor Chris will be leading worship and preaching. If you would like to join in worship leadership for that day, please contact Pastor Chris.

7. Ash Wednesday Worship • February 18th at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Lent begins with this simple worship and the imposition of ashes. Please join us.

8. Rock and Shell Cross ~ On the first Sunday of Lent, Feb. 22nd, we are going to make our "rock and shell cross" as I call out the litany of things you may want to let go of or heal during Lent in order that you may deepen your spiritual life and walk closely with Jesus to Jerusalem. This is the 9th year of making our cross on the Sanctuary carpet. This year we are going to do something different. This year I invite you to bring an object with you that symbolizes something you wish to lay down or heal during Lent. There will be time for you to come forward and lay down on the cross the object you have brought with you. Examples of objects you might want to bring to lay on the cross are: a childhood photo, a small empty bottle, a cut-out heart, a cut-up credit card, a cigarette, a selfie, an AA medallion, a photo of someone, a coin, or whatever is symbolic for you. Rocks and shells will still be available for you to come forward during the litany and place those on the cross—just as in years past. You may want to start thinking about what you want to bring with you. Pastor Chris and I hope this will be very meaningful for you. - *Pastor Andrea*

9. Eight-week Bereavement Support Group for lesbian and gay adults who have experienced the death of a life partner or spouse. Participants will explore, within a safe and affirming environment, their complex losses. With the support of group leaders, participants will learn more about the grieving process, share strategies for survival, and tap into the courage necessary to move forward. When: Wednesday, 6:00 to 8:00 P.M, April 1 – May 20. The group is offered to the community free of charge by Hospice of the Fisher Home in Amherst, 1165 North Pleasant Street. Group leaders, Liz Windover, LICSW, and Dusty Miller, Ed.D in Counseling Psychology, both lesbian-identified, are clinical psychotherapists offering years of hospice experience. For more information or to schedule a registration interview, contact Liz Windover at lwindover@fisherhome.org or (413) 549-0115.

Church Visioning Day~

Where have we been? Where are we heading?

*Saturday, March 7th, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm
in the Church Dining Room.*

All welcome to a gathering to think through together how we continue to move from a pastoral to a program church. Breakfast goodies and coffee provided.