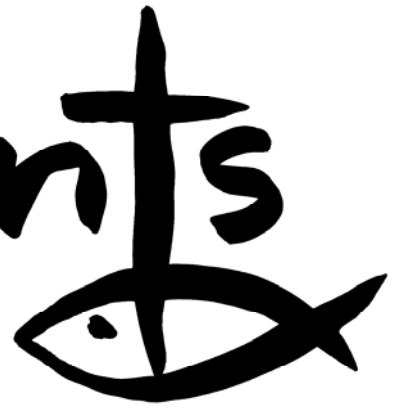


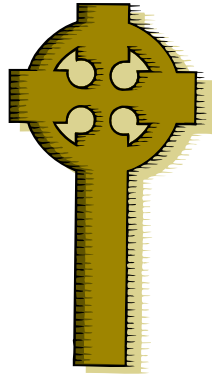
Cross Currents

Newsletter of the Haydenville Congregational Church
January 2011 *Open Hearts & Open Minds & Open Doors*



FROM THE PASTOR

In Celtic tradition, a "thin place" is someplace where the spiritual world and the mortal world come so close to one another that you can almost see, definitely feel, and maybe even touch the presence of God. Experiencing a "thin place" involves surprising moments of clarity--the opaque becomes translucent, the hazy clear, and God's presence a reality. To discern the difference between an ordinary place and a "thin place," we must use a spiritual perspective. In simple terms, a "thin place" is a place where the veil between this world and the Other world, the world of spirit, is *thin*, the Other world is very near. A "thin place" is where connection to the spiritual world is effortless and ephemeral signs of its existence become obvious.



In a "thin place" people sometimes report feeling that the membrane between our physical earthly world and the spiritual realm disappears and that can happen in actual physical locations like the Iona Abbey in Scotland, the ocean at dawn or sunset, and Chartres Cathedral in France, to name just a few examples. There can also be "thin moments" when you feel connected to the here-and-now earthly plane and yet simultaneously aware--acutely aware--of the presence of God. People often report being transported to a "thin place" at births, at deaths, at the long-awaited return of a loved one, at moments of reconciliation, and at times of profound spiritual awakening.

Mahatma Gandhi may have been referring to "thin places" in his *Spiritual Message to the World* (written in 1931) because later in that same speech he states that the "mysterious power" is God.

"There is an indefinable, mysterious power that pervades everything. I feel it, though I do not see it. It is this unseen power that makes itself felt and yet defies all proof, because it is so unlike all that I perceive through my senses. It transcends the senses."

Although theologians and Biblical scholars have written about "thin places" and also about "thin moments," I have come to believe there is a third category which is "thin times." By that I mean there are times in our lives that seem pregnant with meaning and it is easy to feel the presence of God surrounding us. I believe one potentially "thin time" is during the turning of the year. As an old year passes away on December 31 and a New Year dawns on January 1st, many people become pensive and review the year, their feelings, accomplishments and progress on many fronts. People of faith often find that they review or assess their relationship with God. January 1st has the potential for "thin moments" when we lift prayers of thanksgiving to God for our many blessings and ask God to be with us as we move into a pristine New Year filled with hope and possibility.

"Thin moments" are all about connecting deeply to God and being aware of a Divine Presence within or around you. I believe that we can enter into a thin moment around the turning of the year if we make time (despite the revelry and celebrations!) to be alone in prayer and note the feelings that arise as we ceremoniously turn the calendar, open the Bible, maybe get down on bended knee and speak to God. We can help usher in a "thin moment" by making a little ceremony out of the turning of the year....maybe lighting a candle, reading from a devotional book, sitting in a circle of silence and meditation with other people of faith.

As we welcome the fresh, unspoiled, mysterious and precious gift of a New Year, I invite you to make the turning of the New Year into a time of contemplation and closeness with God. Partying is fine! But carve out some quiet time to note the blessing of this new beginning. Be with God, talk with God, grow quiet and inward, and maybe a "thin moment" will surprise and delight you!

Happy New Year and Love,

NOTE FROM MATILDA

Children's Church and Youth and Family Ministries

(Epiphany) is a time of rediscovery that the living God is among us, not just a memory of a story of long ago. It is a chance to rediscover and affirm God's living presence, here and now.

-Seekers Church, 2003

Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of Gold, Frankincense, and Myrrh, and having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

-Matthew, 2:11-12

EPIPHANY AND JUSTICE: Winter in Children's Church

The word "epiphany" may mean to you a revelation or a great idea—a new way of thinking about something that moves us forward. It has always meant this to me and it is a great word that means great things! But it is also a *liturgical season*, beginning in early January and woven throughout the month, that commemorates the various ways God was and is presented to the world through Jesus. (Including his birth and those that witnessed it, his baptism, and his Resurrection) It may seem like an obscure liturgical concept to teach children, but I have learned that the Ecclesiastical notion of "Epiphany" is in fact at the heart of what we hope the kids, each in their own way, experience spiritually. *Epiphany*, translated directly from the Greek, means "manifestation," and in Christian history it "celebrates the revelation of God in a human being." It also commemorates the manifestation of God to the Magi, whose visit with the baby Jesus is described in Matthew 2:11, noted above and celebrated at Christmastime. Through Advent and Christmas we focus on *the manifestation of God in human flesh through the birth of Jesus*. Then in Epiphany we look at the manifestation of God in all of us; for every birth, and every life, is a revelation of God. This is the ongoing "epiphany" of God's incarnation in Jesus. Appropriately, in early January we also focus on social justice, diversity, and the nonviolent "third way" that Jesus taught as an adult, in commemoration of the Martin Luther King Holiday. This is another way that the "Epiphany" is taught, for as we look at creative, imaginative, peaceful ways of relating to each other and the world, nonviolent ways of solving intractable problems (kids have them too!!) we are living out the *Epiphany*, or manifestation of Jesus in our lives...The Magi saw God in the flesh, and we seek to become, in our own flesh, people through whom He/She is made known.

Dawn Orluske, Susan Molano, Penny Gill, Amy McElligot, and Meghann Parkinson will be our January teachers, and we will be taking a hiatus from our Godly Play work, and using the "Wonderful World" Curriculum for these Epiphany weeks. I am wishing everyone a bright and rich Epiphany season, as we pay attention to the slow but steady return of the light to the earth and as we make room for the manifestation of God in our lives!

-In faith and gratitude

Pastor Matilda

BOOK GROUP IN THE NEW YEAR

By Paula Spencer

In December we decided to have an informal coffee and sharing get-together at Bread Euphoria and it was a wonderful time. We've moved The First Christmas (Borg and Crossan) discussion to our January meeting, Saturday January 8th. That will allow more time for everyone to get hold of and read the book, which has been a bit elusive. This means that our other selections for the year will advance to the following month. Favorite children's books and stories will be on the schedule for February. We'll read aloud to one another, and to little Daniel Guiel who is our newest, and very welcome, book group member. Please feel free to join us for any or all of our meetings and let me know if you have questions (397-3277; prspencer1@comcast.net)

SHORT TREASURES

Submitted by Bill Loomis

A little boy was waiting for his mother to come out of the grocery store. As he waited, he was approached by the new Pastor, who asked "Can you tell me where the Post Office is"? "Sure" the boy replied, "just go straight down this street a couple of blocks and turn to your right". The Pastor thanked him and said, "I'd like you to come to my church on Sunday. I'll show you how to get to heaven". The little boy replied with a chuckle, "Aw come on, you don't even know the way to the Post Office".

An elderly woman went into the Post Office to buy stamps for Christmas cards. The clerk asked her what denomination she wanted. "Oh, great heavens!" the woman said, "Have we come to that? Well, then give me 50 Catholics and 50 Baptists".

The new pastor tried to compare the community of the faithful to the church's magnificent stained glass windows. "It takes many little panels of glass to make the whole window," he said. "You see, each one of you is a little pane," he continued, pointing to each child, "you're a little pane, and you're a little pane and...." It took a few moments for him to realize why all the parents were laughing so hard.

WE MADE IT, IN A RECESSION NO LESS!!!!!!

By Pastor Andrea



In September, the Church Trustees set the stewardship campaign goal at \$115,000--that is the largest campaign goal set in my history at the Church (maybe ever in the entire history of the Church!!!). The Stewardship Committee--Lynn Fogg, Kayla Gilman-Solomon, Linda O'Dea, Ruthie Jacobson-Hardy, Ann Loomis and Cate Wilson--took a deep breath and got to work. The campaign, which spanned three full months, was focused around the Biblical theme of "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21). The campaign included a treasure chest in the Sanctuary in which people placed cards stating what they "treasure" about the church, "Stewardship Moments" given each Sunday by committee members, a letter from the committee, a letter from me, and a sermon on generosity and where our treasures lie. We are thrilled to report that after a "drum roll" on Sunday, December 12th, we announced that we had not only reached but we exceeded our goal! We raised \$120,000 exactly. (Truth be told: we actually raised "\$119,960.66 but our Treasurer Ann Loomis could not bear to be so close to a big round number so she contributed \$39.34.) It is an amazing number! Our little Hilltown Church raised \$120,000 from members and friends. Bless you one and all for your generosity. Oh my goodness. Me....who is never speechless...is speechless! **Thank you!**

CHARITY TO CHANGE SURVEY RESULTS

Last October and November the Charity to Change committee conducted a survey of our church community, to gauge the impact of the economic downturn on our families. Fifty-seven households answered the survey. We thought everyone in our community would want to see the results:

Survey Results:

1. 55 families live in Hampshire County, and 2 in Franklin.
2. Number in households: 1 member = 15 households; 2 = 21; 3 to 4 = 13; 5 = 2; 7 = 1.
3. Annual income: 0-\$25,000 = 13; \$25,000- \$50,000 = 11; \$50,000 -\$75,000 = 16; \$75,000 - \$100,000 = 7; Over \$100,000 = 7.
4. Is your annual income more or less that 5 years ago (2004)? More = 17; Less = 31 (54%); The same = 9.

5. Have you or a family member had your hours reduced at work or been laid off in the last 5 years? Yes, I have = 21; Yes, a family member = 7; No = 24*.

6. If yes, has that person gotten back their full hours or found a new job? Yes = 6; No = 22 (79%)

7. Have you had any fears of losing your job? Yes = 7; No = 34* (Some people said "Not yet".)

8. Have you had any fears of not being able to put food on your table? Yes = 2; No = 38*

9. Have you had to choose between buying food, buying medicine or paying for heat? Yes = 6; No = 33*

10. Do you have health insurance? No ins = 1; Commonwealth Care = 4; Cobra = 1; Private Insurance = 10; Medicare = 16; Through employer = 25; Mass Health = 4.

11. Can you afford to see an eye doctor or the dentist when you need to? Yes = 38; No = 9 (16%).

12. Do you feel you have a solid support system for times of need? Yes = 49; No = 9 (16%). (Someone wrote "isolated"!)

* Not everyone answered every question.

Our committee consists of: Susan Farrell (Chairwoman), Sue Carbin, Jackie Cloonan, Andrea Ayvazian, and Lisa Hall. We want everyone to know we are available to discuss the survey results and how people are feeling about them. We are available to listen to members of our church community with low incomes and people who are struggling economically. We are here to support you. Also, if you are interested in working with the Charity to Change committee to address these issues, please contact one of us.

And we would like to announce that the Charity to Change committee will be sponsoring an evening presentation later this winter, with a speaker who will put our church community's survey results in context with the economic situation in the Pioneer Valley generally. Also at that meeting, we will be discussing and brainstorming what we can do individually and as a church community to support our families and all those who are struggling economically in our wider community. Please watch out for an announcement of the date for this event.

FEED OUR FAMILY: A NEW INITIATIVE



The Charity to Change group in our Church is pleased to announce a new initiative for the New Year.

Beginning in January the big basket in the Dining Room that collects food for the Survival Center will be gone. Instead you will find a bookshelf over by the back door--that shelf is for food for both the Survival Center AND our own Church Family. Church members and friends are invited to place any canned goods as well as bread, eggs, and perishable foods on the new FEED OUR FAMILY shelf and here's how the system will work: anyone who needs food, who is finding that finances are very tight, anyone who could use a little help is welcome to TAKE items from the FEED OUR FAMILY shelf. There will be bags there and people can help themselves to items from this "open pantry." At the end of the month, Susan Farrell, Chair of the Charity to Change group, will take all the non-perishable items to the Survival Center and we'll begin each new month with an empty shelf for people to fill once again. This new plan gives us a place to put and share day-old bread we receive from Bread Euphoria, plus eggs people bring in to give away, plus any items folks get on the "buy one get one free" specials at the supermarket. Also in the warm months, people can place extra vegetables from their gardens on the shelf for others to help themselves. So the idea is simple: if you have EXTRA FOOD, please bring and leave on the new shelf. If you NEED food, please help yourself to whatever is there. Remember, the shelf is emptied on the last day of the month with whatever is there going to the Survival Center in Northampton. Thank you CHARITY TO CHANGE for this new initiative. We'll see how it works in January, February, March and April (sort of a "test run") and then evaluate how it is going and if our new system needs any changes or tweaks!

LIKE TO MAKE SANDWICHES? SHOVEL? SING?



We are looking for Team Leaders for the January Blue Moon Sunday (January 30). Would you like to lead a group of people making sandwiches in the Church kitchen after worship and then taking them downtown to give to our homeless

brothers and sisters on Main Street in Northampton OR donating them to the Cot Shelter Program? Would you like to shovel the walk or driveway of a shut-in who needs help? How about singing in Linda Manor or Calvin Coolidge Nursing and Rehab facility? YOU can think of a project and lead it! We would love to hear YOUR good ideas! Let Pastor Andrea know if you have a brainstorm; we welcome new projects and new leaders!

FIRST LIGHT!



The DVD series featuring John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg called "First Light" will resume in the new year. A hearty group saw sessions #1-6 in the Fall. We'll pick up and see sessions #7-12 in January and February but you are most welcome even if you did not come to the first six sessions. That is fine, feel free to join us!

Here are the dates and times for the new series. All sessions are on Tuesdays, from 5:30 to 7:00 PM:

January 18
January 25
February 1
SKIP A WEEK
February 15
February 22
March 1

Please let Pastor Andrea know if you would like to attend but need rides to and from the Church, as that can be arranged! Hope you can join us!

HEY EVERYONE!



Here's the line-up for Coffee Hour goodies in January! And remember to help set up and clean up when it is YOUR day (we go by last names)...don't leave the Church Saints and the same loyal few in the kitchen doing dishes when it is "your" week! Thank you!

January 2: L, M, N, O
January 9: P, Q, R, S
January 16, T, U, V, W, X, Y, Z
January 23: A, B, C
January 30: **BLUE MOON SUNDAY**, no Coffee Hour, teams fan out to do Community Service Projects

WALKING CLUB FORMING!

By Lee Satterfield

A walking club is forming at the Haydenville Congregational Church! We'll walk on Sundays after our worship service--all seasons, weather permitting! Enjoy your Coffee Hour goodies and then we'll go! All ages welcome (parents please join us if young ones are coming). We'll go around the block (shorter and longer routes). Interested? See Lee and bundle up!



TEN MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT CHURCH VITALITY AND GROWTH

By Eugene A. Blair

The [Lewis Center's reporting on American Congregations 2008](#) (a report about congregational vitality and growth based on the Faith Communities Today Project at Hartford Seminary) brought to mind ten myths that prevent congregations from moving forward. In each case, the research findings reveal a different truth and suggest a new question to reshape your congregational agenda in ways that will position your church for growth. Each myth is followed by the research findings and then a provocative question for you to consider.

Myth Ten: Let's just keep doing the same worship we've done since 1960, and people will surely come. The truth is there is a relationship between adding a new service and/or contemporary worship and growth. However, the quality of the worship seems to matter the most to newcomers and the unchurched.

When was the last time you changed, revamped, upgraded, or evaluated your worship or added a new worship service?

Myth Nine: We've always done it that way before so let's keep doing it that way. The truth is congregations, whether liberal or conservative, with a clear identity and purpose tend to grow in attendance and spiritual vitality.

Do you have a mission and purpose statement with goals attached?

Myth Eight: Pastor, if you would just get more youth in here, everything will be all right. The truth is that a strong youth ministry, while important, is not in and of itself strongly associated with attendance growth. There is, however, a strong association between youth ministry and spiritual vitality in any congregation.

No matter how many youth you have, what is your plan for youth ministry?

Myth Seven: We're a friendly church, and visitors should know we want them to come back. The truth is it is important to respond systematically to visitors and newcomers using a variety of different methods. The number of different methods used to connect with visitors and newcomers is associated with attendance growth.

What is your plan to connect with newcomers once they arrive on your parking lot until they come home later that day?

Myth Six: It's the pastor's job to get new members. The truth is the more lay members are involved in reaching new people, the greater the attendance growth. Spiritual vitality goes up the more members see themselves as personal evangelists and act like it.

What is your plan to train members to reach out to others?

Myth Five: Our members know we care, so we do not have to call on them or reach out if they are absent. The truth is contacting those who have stopped coming is directly related to attendance growth and spiritual vitality. This is especially true for churches with over 300 in worship.

What is your plan for training lay people to nurture and care for members?

Myth Four: Where two or three are gathered together, there will be conflict and fights, so live with it. The truth is that clear organizational direction and purpose coupled with strong interpersonal relationships will decrease the likelihood of conflict. When purpose and relationships are present, conflict is more easily resolved.

Have you had an open conversation about conflict and how your church will resolve it?

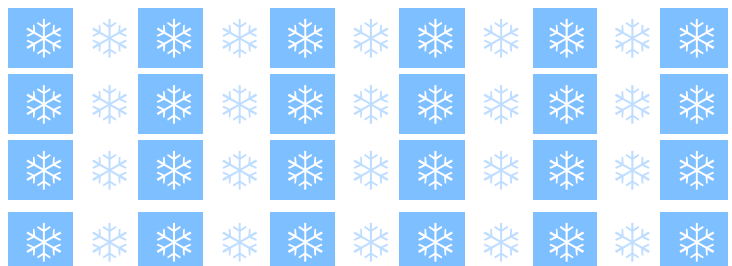
Myth Three: It's all about money; we just need more money and all our problems will go away. The truth is there is a clear relationship between spiritual vitality and financial health. Before you can increase financial health, you have to elevate the spiritual climate.

What is your plan to increase the spiritual health of the congregation in the next twelve months?

Myth Two: The world is our parish, so we are going to save everyone for Jesus. The truth is attendance growth and spiritual vitality are directly related to being clear and specific about whom you want to reach and why.

Who are our neighbors, what are their needs, and how can we help them?

Myth One: Church growth is a matter of having the ideal pastor. The truth is a team of spirit-led, accountable, and committed lay people always trumps whoever the pastor is at any time.



NEW GROUP FORMING FOR PEOPLE THINKING ABOUT PARENTING

A new support group is forming in February for people somewhere on the spectrum from considering parenthood to trying to become a parent and seeking support. The goals of the group are to provide enough information and resources so that individuals or couples are aware of the options and to guide and support each other through the decision-making process. We know there are individuals and couples in the Church considering adoption, foster parenting and pregnancy. This group is being formed so that people can meet one another and share hopes, fears and dreams and get support. All sessions will be facilitated by Pastor Andrea and will be highly confidential.

Pre-registration is required to be a part of this group. Everyone is welcome, but Pastor Andrea needs to talk with you before the first session. If you are interested in joining the group, please contact Pastor Andrea.

SOME THOUGHTS ON SABBATH

By Lisa Hall

Sabbath, rest, more time for being, and less doing, seem to be a theme in my life right now. I've been reading a lovely book about it, called: Sabbath: Restoring the Sacred Rhythm of Rest by Wayne Muller. Here's a quote:

"Jesus offered this ... beautiful practice to his disciples. *Make your home in me*, he said, *as I make mine in you*. The kingdom is within you, he reminded them, alive and miraculous this very moment. I am with you always: When you come to rest, you will feel me. You will remember who you are, that you are the light of the world."

Here's another:

"Our work is fruitful only when we are quiet enough to hear the miraculous resilience and strength present among those who suffer, patient enough to see the light that shines in the midst of darkness. Thus, Sabbath is not only for ourselves; rested and refreshed, we more generously serve all those who need our care."

*Life may be like a box of chocolates,
but it is also like the game of solitaire.
While success is dependent on our ability to
take advantage of every opportunity the game presents,
ultimately we have very little control
over the cards we are dealt.*

Submitted by Jim Palermo

MEN'S BRUNCH – DECEMBER 4, 2010

By Doug Renick

Seventeen of the Haydenville Congregational Church (HCC) band of brothers gathered for a brunch on December 4. A lovely catered meal awaited us. After a brief thank you for all our good fortune, especially for Julianna Donofrio, the cook, we sat down to eat and bond.

As part of the introductions Doug Renick and Tom McCabe, official hosts, asked that people introduce themselves, say where they live now, and how they came to be at HCC. Everyone shared something about their journey to HCC, frequently mentioning Andrea as part of that journey or mentioning someone in the church or outside it who said "You should try HCC." Some of this information had been shared in previous meals together, but there were several new members and it was an interesting way to get to know one another.

We discussed quite animatedly whether the group wanted to do another men's service. Some wanted to do a "lay" service involving men and women, to move away from highlighting our minority group status. Others felt it valuable to express who we are as men in the congregation. We have a particular point of view that is valuable. Despite the joke about our first men's service--eight men, eight months, one hour—we decided to ask Andrea for a date for the next men's service.

There was much laughter and a general ease of being together that was remarkable. The clean up went quickly with everyone pitching in. We didn't set a date for our next gathering, but my guess is that there will be much support for another such event. Who knows, maybe a pot luck where the men cook for each other.

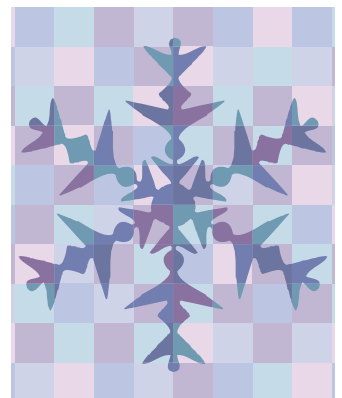
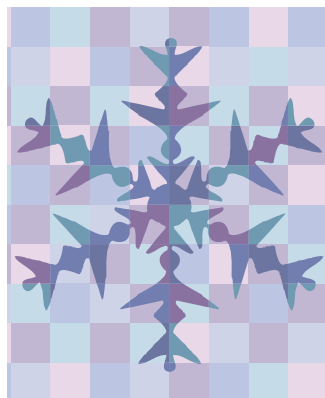
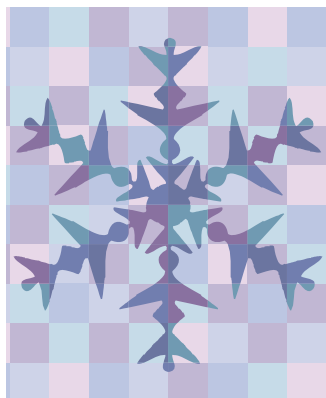
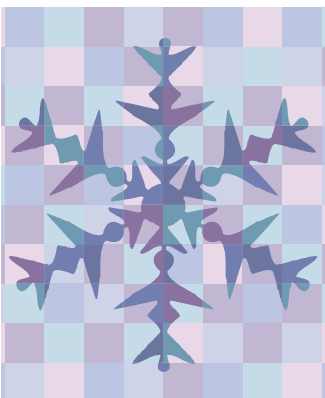
The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers and sisters,
To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman

JANUARY 2011 CALENDAR

Sunday, January 2:	10 AM	Worship Service with Communion
Monday, January 3:	6 PM	Diaconate Meeting, Church Dining Room
Wednesday, January 5:	6:30 PM	Confirmation Class , Group "A" Church Dining Room
Saturday, January 8:	10 AM	Book Group Meeting, Church Dining Room, Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan's <i>The First Christmas: What the Gospels Really Teach about Jesus' Birth</i> . Contact Paula Spencer with questions prspencer1@comcast.net
	2-4 PM	Exploring Membership Class classes 3 and 4 combined
Sunday, January 9:	10 AM	Worship Service Required Confirmation Class
Tuesday, January 10:	6:30 PM	Trustees Meeting, Church Dining Room
Thursday, January 13:		Thursday Night Live! Church Dining Room, Watch for Announcements!
Sunday, January 16:	10 AM	Worship Service, Martin Luther King Sunday
Tuesday, January 18:	5:30-7 PM	First Light DVD Series and Group Discussion facilitated by Pastor Andrea, Church Dining Room
Wednesday, January 19:	6:30 PM	Confirmation Class and Youth Gathering, Church Dining Room
Thursday, January 20:	1 PM	Ladies Aid Annual Meeting, Church Dining Room
	6:00 PM	Charity to Change meeting, Church Dining Room Contact Susan Farrell with questions at Farrellsings@comcast.net
Sunday, January 23:	10 AM	Worship Service
Tuesday, January 25:	5:30-7 PM	First Light DVD Series and Group Discussion facilitated by Pastor Andrea, Church Dining Room
Saturday, January 20:	10 AM	Memorial Service for Marcia Nichols
Sunday, January 30:	10 AM	Worship Service Blue Moon Sunday with no Coffee Hour. Community Service Projects led by Team Leaders





Haydenville Congregational Church

United Church of Christ
143 Main Street, PO Box 257
Haydenville, MA 01039

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS! HOORAY!



January 2 Penny Poudrier
January 3 Wilson Molano, Doug Renick & Jil Blake
January 7 Cindy McQueston & Debra Edwards
January 9 Sue Carbin
January 10 Allen Warner, Sandy Blackmon & Gloria Ayvazian
January 11 James Palermo & Diane Bushee
January 12 Eliza Warner & Tim McQueston
January 16 Vicha Hajdamowicz & Haley McElligott
January 17 Emily Dines
January 18 Myanna Carbin-O'Brien
January 19 Francesca Piantedosi
January 20 Leon Hajdamowicz & Julia Guiel
January 21 Christina Sample
January 22 Beth Warner & Jose Newcomb-Gerken
January 23 Lynne Wallace
January 26 Shirley Warner & MaryEllen McQueston
January 27 Bill Loomis, Linda O'Dea, Cherilyn Strader & Mesfin Daniel McManany
January 28 Samuel Wheeler
January 30 Phillip Hall
January 31 Adriana Piantedosi & Aidan Chappuis

CHURCH SNOW CLOSURE POLICY

The Trustees approved the following policy for how the decision will be made to close Church in the event of a snow storm and how the news will be shared with the congregation. Please note all the steps and how you can be informed if our Church is closing due to the weather.

Pastor Andrea, in consultation with the Chair of the Board of Trustees, makes the decision by 7 AM on Sunday morning.

Pastor Andrea notifies the Assistant Pastor and the Sexton immediately of the decision. The Sexton phones Chair of the Grounds Committee who then notifies the plowing service. The Assistant Pastor calls the Webmaster and the announcement of the closing goes on the website. These calls are made by 7:20.

The Chair of Trustees notifies WHMP and Channel 22. The announcement of the closing is then on the radio and on the "crawl" at the bottom of Channel 22.

Pastor Andrea calls the Clerk and the Choir Director. The Choir Director calls the Organist and the Choir members. The Clerk sends out an all Church broadcast e-mail message to notify the congregation.

Pastor Andrea makes sure the signs announcing the Church closure are put on all Church doors. Pastor Andrea changes the announcement on the Church voice mail.