



Haydenville Congregational Church

November 23, 2014 • ANNOUNCEMENTS/EVENTS

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 HANDSHAKE/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 When it is your week to bring food, please arrive early to help set up before Church and help with the cleanup at the end of Coffee Hour. We count on your participation! **Today’s volunteers:** G, H, I, J, K; **Next Week:** Blue Moon Sunday—there is no coffee hour we do service projects in the community. (the Fellowship Calendar goes by last names).

3. Please bring your completed pledge form in the envelope provided back to Church on November 30th so the pledges can be collected and blessed during our service. OR if you prefer, mail them to the Church and Pastor Andrea will keep them and place them in the basket on November 30th. If you did NOT get a red envelope and would like to make a pledge to our Church or a one-time contribution, please see Pastor Andrea—she has an envelope for you! Thank you one and all!

4. Help Serve Dinner to the Guests at the Winter Shelter this Year! The Friends of Hampshire County Homeless Individuals, Inc. operates a winter shelter from November 1 through April 30. During those months a different organization provides dinner for the guests, the staff, and themselves. This year, we will serve dinner on the following nights: November 30, December 12, January 30, February 22, March 15, and April 26 as filling in during our “off” months for those nights where a meal team is still needed.. If you would like to serve and/or help prepare dinner on those nights, please see Linda Ziegenbein (lziegenbein@yahoo.com). Thank you for your support of this important ministry!

5. Volunteers Needed! The Winter Shelter is looking for people to serve as **overnight volunteers at their shelter**. The shift is from 9 pm until 7 am, and you will be given a room to sleep in. You do not need to stay awake for the shift! If you are available and interested, please contact Linda Ziegenbein (lziegenbein@yahoo.com). Thank you!

6. A Whole New Way to Serve and Help (like you needed one) ~ Turns out our budget for next year might be a little tight...meaning even if we reach our Stewardship Goal, we may need to do some extra fundraising to add some dollars to our church budget. Pastor Andrea is creating a **Fundraising Committee** (this is separate from the Stewardship Committee—they run the Fall Stewardship Campaign). The Fundraising Committee would do special events like dinners and concerts, etc. to raise money for the Church. Interested in helping? See Pastor Andrea

7. McKinley Slide Show Huge Success! Thank you to the almost 50 people who came to the McKinley Slide Show benefit on November 14th. We had quite an exciting time trekking up the big mountain (vicariously!). And that evening raised over \$700!!! All funds to go towards the Thursday morning café office hours at Sylvester's. Thank you! We did great and you all were most generous!!!

8. Welcome Ministry Our new Welcome Ministry is up and running and looking forward to greeting all newcomers after our worship service. Find a member of the Welcome Ministry on the HUG LINE after church, AND another member in the newly created Welcome Ministry HELLO 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.

9. “The Giving Tree” Sponsored by The Men’s Fellowship Are you in need of cold weather outerwear? Maybe you or your child needs a jacket, gloves, mittens, a hat, scarf, or boots. Or, maybe you know someone who needs winter wear, but can’t afford it? Maybe you’d prefer to do the shopping yourself and would like a gift card? **Let us help!** We invite you to complete a “Winter Wear Needs” request tag, which you can find as an insert in your bulletin or in the Dining Room. You may complete as many request tags as necessary. All requests are confidential, with names seen only by the pastors. Fill out the request tag and put it into the box labeled “Giving Tree Requests” in the Dining Room, or hand them to Pastor Chris, by **November 30, 2014**.

10. MITTEN TREE ~ The Mitten Tree will be up soon in the Sanctuary! Please bring hats, scarves, mittens, gloves (new or very very gently used) to “decorate” the Mitten Tree. Then early in 2015, we will give everything collected to local schoolchildren in the Hilltowns. Thank you for your generosity!

11. December Featured Climate Actions Are you more and more alarmed about the climate crisis but feel overwhelmed? We need to act on all four levels listed below. Send these suggestions to your friends! These

actions are brought to you by the Climate Action Group of the Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence.

Personal: To minimize your climate impact during holiday travels, avoid flying, driving alone or in a big car. Instead see if you can take a train, bus, or carpool.

Community: Write a letter to the editor of your favorite newspaper about a climate topic of your choice. Let's keep the climate issue in the forefront of the public's attention. There is no shortage of topics to write about: the Keystone XL pipeline, your thoughts on a carbon fee and rebate system, or local climate-related changes you've noticed just to name a few.

State/National/Global: For holiday gifts this year, honor your friends and family by donating money in their name to your choice of organization that fights climate change. Some possibilities: Rainforest Action Network:

www.ran.org, Environmental Defense Fund: www.edf.org, Sierra Club: www.sierraclub.org, 350.org: www.350.org

Inform yourself: Take the time to read this excellent article by Al Gore that appeared in Rolling Stone magazine in June of this year. In it he discusses the optimistic economics of solar energy, the political landscape of the electric utility industry, the changing public perception about climate-related disasters, and the importance of pricing carbon, divesting from fossil fuels, and meaningful international treaties.

<http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/the-turning-point-new-hope-for-the-climate-20140618?page=4>

12. Sleeping Bags and Winter Coats needed for our brothers and sisters who are homeless who are a part of the Cathedral in the Night worship community. If you have either to spare, please give them to Pastor Andrea who will get them to Cathedral in the Night for distribution.

13. Advent Devotionals available on the Marketplace Table Written by the authors of Still Speaking Devotional, the money goes to HCC, only \$4.00

EVENTS

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

2. First and Third Sundays in the Dining Room, 8:45am to 9:30 am Join us for this new version of **Adult Sunday School** as we deepen our understanding of our faith. Pastor Chris is leading a discussion of Paul's letters to the Corinthian church (I and II Corinthians), reflecting on how this early Christian community struggled to understand this emerging faith and keep harmony amongst themselves. All are welcome!

3. 1-2-3 Offering The Interfaith Cot Shelter in Northampton opened its doors on Nov. 1st and we will serve six dinners there this season. We will also serve two dinners at Cathedral in the Night (in November and March). To support these ministries, we will be collecting a 1-2-3 Offering **today**. We are asking that you donate any small amount you have in your pockets. \$1, \$2, or \$3 given by many will help pay for these community meals.

4. November 30 • "Exploring Membership Classes" a new series of four sessions following worship will begin on Nov. 30th upstairs in Children's Church. Are you interested in talking about your spiritual journey, learning about the UCC, and the history of this church? Would you like to discuss with others what it means to formalize your commitment to the Haydenville Congregational Church? Join us after our worship service. We would love to have you with us! Questions? See Pastor Andrea.

5. Blue Moon Sunday, We will be serving dinner at Cathedral in the Night on November 30 and we want you! Cathedral in the Night is an outdoor ecumenical service that is held every Sunday on Main Street in Northampton outside of First Churches (129 Main Street). The service begins at 5 and dinner is served between 5:45 and 6. Many people from the community depend on this meal and we anticipate feeding up to 100 people. We'll be serving turkey stew with biscuits that night and need your help to make this meal succeed. You can:
- bring drinks or desserts, or bake biscuits
- stay after church to make sandwiches or prepare dinner
- serve dinner outside of First Churches in Northampton
- help clean-up after dinner.

If you have any questions, please contact Andrew Geery (andrew.geery@gmail.com). Thank you!

6. December 3 • Church Book Group~ever onward! If you would like to join our lively and wonderful book group discussions (and we would LOVE to have you) read *Flunking Sainthood* by Jana Riess. We will meet again on Wed, Dec. 3 at 12:45 pm in the Watson Room of Forbes Library in Northampton. Great book! Join us!

7. Sunday, December 21 • Christmas Pageant 2014! This year we will tell the Christmas story with six 'groups' acting out parts of the birth narrative. Every group needs at least one child, but groups can contain anyone! Groups will be headed up by members of the Family Ministries Committee and clergy. We will have ONE REHEARSAL- Dec. 20th at 10 am. We have costumes that can be 'checked out' so see Dawn if you need help in creating your character. Let's make this the most joyful pageant ever! Sign up with one of the leaders on the clipboards in the Dining Room!