



Haydenville Congregational Church

January 4, 2015 • 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. A big hearty THANK YOU to the “Pooh Bears” for launching our new Coffee Hour “klatches” program and taking on organizing all the goodies, doing all the setup and all the cleanup for the month of January. Thank you Jo and Jackie, head of the “Pooh Bears,” for taking on the first month of the first year that we are doing the new Coffee Klatch groups. (PS: Every church member/regular attendee is in a Coffee Hour “klatch” and will be responsible for hosting Coffee Hour one month a year! Don’t know your group? See Pastor Andrea.)

3. 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 ministry 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. There will be no Children's Church TODAY. Nursery care will be available for kids three and under. Children's Church will resume on January 11, 2015.

5. Attention: Board and Committee Chairs, Directors and Pastors The Trustees have set the date for the Annual Meeting - Feb 8, 2015. Since we need to have the report out in advance of the meeting, we need to have all your reports by January 16th! To make compiling the report as simple as possible, please use the font Times New Roman (12 point), and send in your report as a Word document or a text file - not a pdf. We are asking Margie to collect the reports, so please send them to office@haydenvillechurch.org

Ok - that's the official word. Now, just from me - there will be home-baked goodies for the first five people to submit their reports! - *Jo Cannon*

6. Building Maintenance Committee The Trustees are looking for a new person or persons to Chair or Co-chair the Building Maintenance Committee. If you are interested in learning more about this very necessary and somewhat unglamorous committee Chair role, please see Pastor Andrea. In the meantime, until a new Chair of the Building Maintenance Committee is named, please bring all concerns about the building (anything you spot or are worried about) to the Trustee of the Month and they will be sure to have the problem fixed. Thank you!

7. As a contribution to our church funds, **Carol Boyer is raffling one of her beautiful quilts** entitled “*You are Welcome Here.*” Raffle tickets are available before and after church. Look for the tickets at a side table in the Church Dining Room where the quilt is displayed. The drawing will be February 22nd, right after church. Let’s make this a great fund-raiser!

8. Sunrise Glasses Collection a Success! The Sunrise Foundation wants to thank our wonderful HCC community for your generous donation of: 26 pairs of prescription glasses, 23 pairs of sunglasses, 85 glasses cases, and 14 pairs of reading glasses during our November glasses collection. These will be used by a Lions Club delegation coming to Camoapa, Nicaragua (where Sunrise works) in late January 2015.

9. Nasty Flu going around! TV reports warn of a particularly bad strain! The “Hug Line” is now a *virtual* hug line. We will wave and blow kisses. The new church rule is no touching until flu season has passed. Much gesturing, bowing, blowing kisses, and high fives with gloves on!

EVENTS

1. Weekly Café Office Hours with Pastor Andrea • Thursdays from 9:30 to 11am 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. The Church Book Group welcomes you! • January 7

We will meet next on Wednesday, January 7th at 12:45 in the Watson Room of the Forbes Library in Northampton. We will be discussing the book *Sermons: Biblical Wisdom for Daily Living* by Peter J. Gomes. Get your hands on the book, get reading, and join us! Questions? Call Pastor Andrea or Rev. Peter Ives.

4. Living the Questions • January 10 "*Debunking the Rapture*" This segment's focus is: "Failing to understand the message of hope offered in the Book of Revelation. Many Christians have been misled by 19th-century doomsayers and modern-day apocalyptic preachers who proclaim their vengeful god's impending extermination of the apostate masses. Just what part of 'love your enemies' doesn't their god understand?" Eleanor Warnock is facilitating this session and using "*Left Behind: A Novel of the Earth's Last Days*" as a source of additional background.

5. Ping Pong in the Dining Room • January 11 The Youth Group will be hosting our second annual Ping Pong Fundraiser in the dining room during Coffee Hour on Sunday, January 11th. Join us for a spirited game of ping pong with your fellow congregants. Last year's event brought out a healthy dose of laughter and competition. The Youth Group will be accepting donations - suggested donation of \$3/game - and all proceeds will go toward our Youth Group retreat to Silver Lake the following weekend. Get ready to get your game on!

6. Dismantling Racism: The Role of Allies as Agents of Change • January 17 You are invited to participate in a workshop to strengthen your antiracism efforts at the church and in the wider world. Although we will warmly welcome and be delighted to include folks of color at this workshop, the primary focus will be on the role of white people as sensitive and effective allies to people of color. We will discuss white privilege, personal, cultural and institutional racism, and what we can do to create change. We will keep the words of the prophet Micah in our minds and on our hearts throughout the workshop: "God has told you, O mortal, what is good: and what

does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." Guided by those prophetic words, the workshop will include some analysis but will emphasize *doing* justice, *acting* with courage, and *being* an ally. All questions welcome, full participation in this very participatory workshop is encouraged, and concrete steps to create change will flow from our discussions. All are welcome. (Please do not sign up for the workshop unless you can stay for the entire four hours.)

- Pastor Andrea, workshop leader
- Saturday, January 17th, from 9 - 1:00 pm
- Haydenville Church Dining Room
- Pre-registration is strongly encouraged (by contacting Pastor Andrea)