

Cross Currents



June/July/August 2015 • Open Hearts & Open Minds & Open Doors

Dear Beloved Fellow Children of God,

This is a good-bye letter for just a little while. Our Church will be closed during the first three Sundays in July so I will not be seeing you during that time and I will miss you. And this is our last newsletter until the September issue. During the weeks we are closed in July, our Sexton Kathy plus a hardy group of volunteers, will be doing maintenance projects and a thorough cleaning of our building. How our church can look even more gorgeous is beyond me!! BUT WAIT until August when you see all the repairs, paint touch-ups, and improvements that occurred while our doors were shut. You will be amazed. Should you want to help with any of these July projects, please see me and I will connect you with the Kathy work crews.

Now I want to focus on YOUR repairs, touch-ups, improvements and maintenance projects during July! The summer is a good time to really "indulge" in focused self-care and a deepening of your prayer and devotional practice. It is a good time to increase your time with God and decrease your time in front of screens and at work!

Here are my suggestions for a good, close-to-God-and-each-other summer for you all! Words of (semi) wisdom from Andrea!

- Spend time outside not doing anything. During the summer, we tend to go wild at lakes and beaches, swimming, taking long walks, having cookouts and generally packing a year's worth of fun into a few weeks. Try sitting in a lawn chair or beach chair or even just lying on the ground or beach and being still. God will sneak up on you, I guarantee it. God will surprise you, and you and God can talk and it will be lovely. Try sitting on your deck without the paper, without a book, without a drink, without the radio, without anything but the silence. You and God. It is a lovely time to just say: "Here I am, here you are, here we are together" and see what unfolds.
- Take special care of your precious, weary, vulnerable body during these summer months. Put down the hot dog (I am saying this to myself as much as I am saying it to you) and pick up a kale salad. Eat healthy and sleep long and dream

Highlights

Loving What Is

"...I was flooded with an intense feeling of gratitude, gratitude for this body which had taken me so far...."

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Youth Ambassadors to perform at HCC

"The fundraising concert to help the Youth Ambassadors travel to South Africa is happening at our Haydenville Congregational Church and will feature Dr. Ruth Bass Green, Ingrid Askew...."

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New Beginnings

"...we have felt many emotions in Children's Church and Youth Group - so much gratefulness, some sadness, thankfulness for our wonderful teachers, and mostly deep love and appreciation for the children and youth."

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Massachusetts Conference UCC Annual Meeting!

"Come to the MACUCC meeting where we will be honored for the great work and witness of our faith community!"

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deep dreams. Wear gobs of sunscreen (I know I sound like your mother), do tick checks faithfully, and let yourself remember what it is like to feel rested, healthy and un-stressed.

- Take special care of each other. Just because Café Office Hours are not happening on Thursday mornings does not mean you cannot organize a crew to meet and drink coffee and check in on Thursday mornings or any time. Call folks and find out how people are doing. Appear at a Church family member's door with a muffin and invite yourself in for iced tea. Visit shut-ins who will love to see you, and watch the birds with them. Find out if folks need rides, a shoulder to cry on, a companion to go with them to a doctor's appointment, or an invitation to hear music on the lawn in Florence. Take good care of each other.
- Choose a book of the Bible and read it slowly and with great care over the summer. Exodus is always a good choice, so are the Psalms, or any of the Gospels (I would avoid Leviticus or Numbers, but that's just me!).
- Write love notes to Church family members saying you are thinking of them and want them to know. No one gets real mail any more. All our mail is bills and ads. Be counter-cultural....buy a stamp. Send someone a note saying they are in your heart, they matter to you, and you are sending them a special greeting. It will make their day, believe me.
- Pray more. If you already have a daily prayer practice, maybe increase the time a little, tiny bit. If you do not have a daily prayer practice, maybe begin one. Sit quietly, greet God and listen. Prayers need not be long, fancy, or scholarly. You have all heard me bumble through many heartfelt vocal prayers. It is the intention, the quiet, the listening, and the open heart that makes a prayer deep and authentic.

I know we will return to worship in our lovely Hilltown Church at the end of July, sun-kissed (but not too much), renewed and rested. It is summer my dear dear dear ones. How can we not see God before our very eyes each and every hour of every sweet New England summer day? Enjoy the beach, the corn, the sand, the birds, the breeze, the visits with each other, the phone calls back and forth, the strawberries, the iced tea parties, and the refreshing presence of God. Drink it all in deeply.

Love to each one of you,



Loving What Is

I know. I know this is title of Byron Katie's radical work on accepting reality and not fighting it. Loved the book, can't quite do it but think it is exceptional. But here's the thing: I've been looking at my almost 70 year-old body and taking inventory. Those of us of the female persuasion, or DFAB (Defined Female At Birth), tend to look at our bodies through the ugly looking glass or the miserable magnifying glass. Those of my generation that is. Starting rather early there is that body-shaming talk which girls share: "Yeah, my nose is too big." "YOUR nose? How about mine?" "My behind (other words used...) is way, way too big. I will always walk with my tush to the wall." "Ha, yours? What about this...?" Substitute any body part of your younger female self, disregarding it, dissing it, and creating a fog of bodily misery.

So here's the later part of the story. Seven years ago I had my right hip totally replaced. It was time. Pain had taken over in a deeply annoying way, and I was tired of hobbling about with a cane (who me? Use a cane?) and popping Advil like they were jelly beans. The night before the operation I had to wipe down my body with those special thick, antibiotic wipes. As I was doing so, I was flooded with an intense feeling of gratitude, gratitude for this body which had taken me so far: borne two children; nursed my babies; walked many miles; enjoyed millions of meals; and given me so much pleasure. "Thank you, God," I whispered, "thank you for the gift of my body."

Why can't we do this more often? I don't know if men do this body-shaming stuff that women tend to do (ok, not all of us...), looking in the mirror and tutting: "My comb-over doesn't have it today. Man, that nose—maybe a little cosmetic surgery? And the belly? Whooo!"

This is the body God gave me. I am incarnational. The Holy Spirit dwells within me. If she likes what's here, why can't I love what is? I am going to try to be more forgiving, more loving towards this corpus. When I slap my tummy, wishing it were smaller, I will take that shaming hand away and say, "Thanks, God, for a tummy that works." When I look at the widening hips and thighs, I will stop myself and say, "Thanks, Mother God. I like these too."

If anyone else spoke to us the way WE talk to our bodies, we would kill them. Or at least maim them. Or write a letter of complaint to the Gazette. We wouldn't tolerate it; so why do we accept it in ourselves?

Here are a few verses from my favorite Psalm 139 which tie in with this:

For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

*I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
Your works are wonderful, I know that full well.*

There's more, all of it good, just as we—creatures made by God—are good.

- Annie Turner

Travel Light This Summer

Years ago my four daughters were preparing to go to Scotland for the summer to be with their Scottish grandparents. The night before they left they were packing their bags to the hilt: sweaters and dresses, sweatshirts and jeans, shoes and boots, hairspray and hair blowers, cell phones and computers, overcoats and swim suits. Soon each suitcase was bulging to the point where the zippers wouldn't close. When Jenny and I arrived on the scene we exclaimed "Too much, too much, your grandparents will have a fit when they see so much stuff." How much should we take on our journey?" they asked. We responded: "Travel light."

In the Gospel of Mark 6:7-13, Jesus calls his disciples to go on the journey of ministry with him. He called them to a new way of life which meant leaving their possessions behind. He called them to preach the Word of God, to heal the sick and to help people become whole in body, mind and soul, to transform the lives of others and turn the world upside down and right side up in preparation for the coming of God's Kingdom. And they said to him, "How much should we take on this journey?" And he charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts, one pair of sandals and one tunic. He said, in other words: "Travel light".

Jenny and I were concerned with our daughters being weighted down by luggage. Jesus was concerned with his disciples being weighted down by possessions. Possessions, whether money, clothes, food or housing can become obsessions when we are obsessed by our possessions. Possessions can become gods unto themselves and separate us from the One who is truly our Lord. Our hearts have room only for one all-embracing devotion. Possessions have a demonic power to tear us away from what is

ultimately important in life. To follow in Christ's footsteps we must be able to let go of all the obstacles that might hold us back; like the rich young ruler who couldn't go with Jesus because he could not give up his possessions.

One hundred and fifty years ago Henry David Thoreau preached about the importance of voluntary simplicity and "living more with less" to the people of Concord. He urged Americans to simplify their lives and he went to live in the woods of Walden Pond to prove it could be done. "Instead of three meals a day," he wrote, "eat one." "Instead of a hundred dishes, keep only five, instead of 10 kerosene lamps, use only two and reduce all other things in life to similar proportion." For Thoreau, small was beautiful, moderation the key to health, and restraint a spiritual discipline. "Excessive wealth and goods" he wrote in 1840, "is now crushing and smothering Americans to the point where we are rapidly becoming tools of our own tools."

So, this summer, travel light. Live simply so that others can simply live. If climate change is indeed one of the biggest issues our children and grandchildren will face on Earth in the next 50 years, Jesus' words to his disciples may take on new meaning when he says: "Take nothing on your journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in your belts, but wear only one pair of sandals and one tunic."

- Peter Ives, Theologian-in-Residence

A Greater Vision

The Visioning Day, originally scheduled for May 16, was postponed until next fall to allow more time, conversation and discernment about creating a process that reflects our community's goals to be as open-hearted and inclusive as possible. As the original date drew near, the Transition Committee realized that we needed more time to consider the best process for us as we move from a Pastoral Church to a Program Church that is fully inclusive of all people. Inclusiveness emerged as a central theme on the half-day session in March, and it was felt that the process proposed by outside facilitators may not adequately address this goal. Eighteen members met for an hour on May 16th and affirmed the Committee's decision to pause for now, continue to be in conversation with each other, the facilitators, and our HCC community to determine next steps. If you have any questions, speak to members of the Transition Committee: Ruth Jacobson-Hardy, Lisa Hall, Lynn Fogg, Jan Varnon, Pastor Chris and Pastor Andrea.

- Pat James

Outdoor Worship at Childs Park

Join Pastor Chris on July 12th at 10 am for an informal worship service at Childs Park in Northampton. Singing, praying, light snacking, and the beauty of nature. This event is moderately accessible to those with mobility needs, with parking close to our spot. Bring a chair or blanket and a snack to share. If you're interested in worship leadership for this service, please contact Pastor Chris. Many thanks to Bob Lampron for his help in securing this location!

Children and Youth Ministries Listening Session

On June 1st Pastor Chris will begin working with the Children and Family Ministry Committee, teachers, and (especially) our children and youth to provide faith formation for the youngest members of our congregation. Transitions are an excellent opportunity to explore and evaluate programs and practices, and so we would like to hear your feedback and ideas for our ministry with young people! Bring your Coffee Hour goodies and join us upstairs on June 14th following worship in Children's Church for this 90-minute listening session hosted by the Committee and Pastor Chris. Children are invited and encouraged to attend along with their adults. Parents of children or youth who are not currently active in the program, and those who have volunteered with either the children's or youth programs are encourage to join us. For more information, please contact Pastor Chris.

Hampshire Association Jamboree!

Join our fellow Hampshire Association UCC congregations for a potluck picnic, pie, games, and fellowship. Bring a dish to share and enjoy music by our own Jeff and Julie Olmsted. Sunday, June 7th, 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm at Dow Pavilion, Look Park

Summer Birthdays!

June

- 1 Gloria Lampron
Chris Perry
3 Dale West
4 Carolyn Messenger
5 Lynn Fogg
Jeff Olmsted
8 Reilly McQueston
10 Tatum Hathaway
11 Fred Goodhue
Susan Sachs
12 Becky Dimino
Anne Warner
14 Sam Icklan
15 Mary Lou Robinson
16 Tara Lindros
Miles Swanson-Ricksgers
19 Alton H. Neal
20 Alexander Solis
22 Paul Dunphy
Robert Varnon
24 Sylvia Fappiano
26 Kathy Ryan Morin
28 Anna Swanson-Ricksgers
29 Ellie Loomis
30 Jesse Sky Atkins-Barber

July

- 1 Tony Dover
3 Marcia Gomes
Richard Scott
4 Jennifer Clarkson
7 Anne Pratt
8 William Hathaway
9 Marianne Lockwood
10 Gloria Cross
13 Willot Joseph
Phyllis Muldoon
Gary Stone
15 Sarah Guiel

Linda Ziegenbein

- 16 Cindy Drake
17 Colin Warner
21 Christopher Daehne
24 Cheryl Whalen
26 Lindsay (Firmani) Heart
30 Laura Garcia
31 Trish LaFreniere
Sharon Lehmann

August

- 1 Rachel Greenwood
David MacCourt
Julie Olmsted
2 Lisa Hall
3 Joanne Cannon
7 Mally O'Hare
9 Tom McCabe
11 Chris Carbin-O'Brien
Joshua Crane
13 Stephanie Arvai
Jenny Fleming-Ives
14 Julie Sallzman
Kim Sager-Cutt
Daniel Newcomb-Gerken
16 April Warner
17 Christine Foudy
Elise Rymer
18 Paula Spencer
20 Philip Maurer
Kate Davidheiser
21 Carol Rinehart
Patti McManany
Margaret Chappuis
25 Grace Schiaffo
28 Richard Spencer
29 Richard Turner

"Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take,
but by the moments that take our breath away."
- author unknown, *The Nor'Easter*, vol. 19 number 1

Thoughts on Wholeheartedness

Recently, Pastor Andrea asked us to think about what we can commit to wholeheartedly and what comes to us when we do that.

Like just about everyone I know, I experience the fatigue that comes when the heart goes out of what I am doing - a job, a challenging illness, a difficult relationship, or just the dryness of daily chores. Some commitments must continue. Others can be tweaked. Sometimes, wholeheartedness can become a distant, unreachable memory replaced by weary self pity, worry, and exhaustion.

I find strength to stay with the tough ones and to discern which ones can be modified or let go when I listen deeply to Spirit flowing to me through intuition and my capacity to imagine. When I let my thinking mind take a well-earned break and allow my imagination to have its say, the way is clear for Spirit to speak to me and through me. I find a place of spiritual, physical, mental and emotional refreshment where it is possible to find clarity of purpose and the capacity to continue. Kind of like hitting the refresh button on my computer.

I learned this most deeply during my years as an art therapist with adults and children. Through experience I witnessed and embraced the saving grace of deep listening. It turns out that listening is the most active and important aspect of art therapy and of living into a meaningful life. While listening, I "hear" both the human person/s present with me, my own voice, and Spirit guiding me to "know" which input from me would have the most meaning for my own growth and for the well-being of others. This often happens without any conscious effort on my part and reveals how best to apply my learned skills.

Deep listening, using my imagination and my capacity to learn from intuition, remains a source of deep resilience and resourcefulness as I negotiate my life since retirement. There I find energy, stamina and willingness to learn new skills, to continue the search for wisdom, for meaningful commitments. What do I get? Life more abundantly.

I get impatient and self critical. It doesn't always go well!!! It takes willingness and trust to find the balance between being and doing that allows me to live wholeheartedly.

- Carol Boyer

Each bite of food contains the life of the sun and the earth. The whole universe is in a piece of bread.
~Thich Nhat Hanh

Robert H. Life Scholarship Application

The Rev. Robert H. Life was the pastor of the Haydenville Church from 1904-1934. He was a man of firm faith and was an inspiration to his congregation. In his will he set up a trust fund to assist the members of his beloved church. The income from this trust fund is used to provide scholarships for any Williamsburg resident who is furthering their education and is an active church member or child of an active church member. Each person applying for the Robert H. Life scholarship fund must write a request asking to be considered. The deadline for applying is **June 5, 2015**. Please see or email Karen Guiel for an application (karenguiel@gmail.com).



Dear Andrea,

Thank you so much for sending your sermon. It was a powerful morning.

I was so moved by my experience in coming to your Church on Sunday. As I first entered the building, I was immediately struck by the sparkle in the eyes of every single person... and the warmth in all the greetings I received, natural, spontaneous. I recognized there is something very special happening here! Oh my! As a friend of mine often says, "It's all about love," ...so evident on Sunday.

I was also struck by your welcoming greeting to the congregation. You even included the 'mentally ill' and fussy babies. Wow! This is where it's at!

This is the first place of worship and spiritual celebration that I've ever been to where the essence of the Teaching is embraced and lived.

I'm coming back!

Warmly,

Carol

emailed to Pastor Andrea by Carol Hetrick, printed with her permission.

Affirmation of Faith

With the whole church,
we affirm

that we are made in God's image,
befriended by Christ,
empowered by the spirit.

With people everywhere
we affirm

God's goodness as the heart of humanity,
planted more deeply
than all that is wrong.

With all creation
we affirm

the miracle and wonder of life;
the unfolding purposes of God,
forever at work in ourselves and the world.

Spring Cleaning? De-Cluttering?

Ladies Aid is holding a Huge Tag / Vintage Treasures Sale on Saturday June 13th from 9-3 to benefit the Church.

Donations may be brought to Church any Sunday and as we get closer to the event we will add weekday drop offs (dates to be announced). Pick ups are also possible.

Please make sure all items are clean and in good condition.
No clothing please! And no drop offs on day of sale.

This year we're adding an indoor "Vintage" table for collectibles and quality 'attic treasures' that will generally be priced higher than Tag Sale items. Please mark things "Vintage" if you'd like them to be considered for the vintage table.

Questions? Please contact Cindy Drake for Tag Sale info;
Laine Wilder or Paula Spencer for the Vintage Table.

Summer Playgroup Needs You!

Children's Church ends for the school year Sunday, May 31st. We will continue to have supervised play through the months of June and August (the church is closed for most of July). We need two adults each Sunday to sign up to play with the children, do crafts, and/or have fun on the playground outside. The sign-up will be in the Church Dining Room. Please consider signing up for a Sunday this summer. If you have any questions email Pastor Chris (revcj@ gmail.com) and thanks!

A2A Reading "Any Body, Everybody, Christ's Body"

The A2A Committee will be reading and discussing "*Any Body, Everybody, Christ's Body: A Congregational Guide for Becoming Accessible to ALL*" over the course of our next two monthly meetings. June 2nd - "Everybody."

"Christ's Body" will be covered at our first meeting after the summer break. All are welcome even if you have not done the reading. Come strive with us to make Accessibility part of our Church's future vision. Our meetings run from 5:30-7:00 pm in the Dining Room. The Guide was compiled by the UCC Disabilities Ministries and can be downloaded from its site, www.uccdm.org.



Rev. Chris Davies, Toby Davis, Sam Icklan and Pastor Andrea at the 2015 Pride March. Missing in photo: 116 additional members of the LGBTQ community, friends and allies from HCC, many of whom marched, danced, twirled umbrellas, waved rainbow flags, carried banners and played instruments through downtown Northampton.

Church Picnic!

Mark your calendars! The church picnic is Sunday, June 28th, right after the service. There is a new venue this year: the church's backyard! There will be burgers, hot dogs and vegetarian options for lunch and a cotton candy machine for making dessert. There will also be a bounce-house and hot popcorn! To further our friendship and ties with Cathedral in the Night, we're also inviting them to join us for the festivities! So come make some new friends and come mark the end of the church year and the beginning of the short church hiatus with your church family.

Calendar for June/July/August

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

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 Thank you "Movable
 Feasts" for providing
 the coffee hour
 goodies during June.

 Thank you "Holy Rollers"
 for providing the coffee
 hour goodies during
 August.

Date	Time	Event	Location
Mon. June 1	6:00 pm	Diaconate Meeting	Dining Room
Tues. June 2	5:30 pm	A2A Meeting	Dining Room
Wed. June 3	12:45 pm	Church Book Group	Forbes Library
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Thurs. June 4	9:30 am	Café Office Hours @ Sunrise Over Florence	Florence
	7:00 pm	Evensong, see page 11	Sanctuary
Sat. June 6	10:00 am	Living the Questions 2	Dining Room
Sun. June 7	10:00 am	Worship Service with Communion	Sanctuary
	1:00-3:30 pm	Hampshire Association UCC Jamboree, see page 4	Look Park, Dow Pavilion
Wed. June 10	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Thurs. June 11	9:30 am	Café Office Hours @ Sunrise Over Florence	Florence
	2:30 pm	Haydenville Church Writers' Group	Dining Room
	5:30 pm	Trustees' Meeting	Dining Room
Fri/Sat June 12-13		MA Conference UCC Annual Meeting, see page 10	UMass, Amherst
Sat. June 13	9:00 - 2:00 pm	Huge Tag / Vintage Treasures Sale , see page 6	Dining Room
Sun. June 14	10:00 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
	12:00 noon	Council Meeting	Sanctuary
Mon. June 15	5:30 pm	Peace and Justice Meeting	Dining Room
Tues. June 16	5:30 pm	Soup, Salad, Peace and Justice Meeting	Dining Room
Wed. June 17	6:00 pm	Shepherds' Meeting	Children's Church
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Thurs. June 18	9:30 am	Café Office Hours @ Sunrise Over Florence	Florence
	1:00 pm	Ladies Aid	Dining Room
	6:30 pm	Dr Ruth Bass Green Concert , see page 9	Sanctuary
Sun. June 21	10:00 am	Worship Service/ New Members Joining Ceremony	Sanctuary
		Cathedral in the Night	Northampton
Wed. June 24	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary

Date	Time	Event	Location
Thurs. June 25	9:30 am	Café Office Hours @ Sunrise Over Florence	Florence
	2:30 pm	Haydenville Church Writers' Group	Dining Room
Sat. June 27	11:00 am	Memorial Service to Celebrate the Life of Kim Waddell Reception to follow	Sanctuary
Sun. June 28	10:00 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
Church Picnic following Worship Service			HCC Parking Lot
July			
Sun. July 12	10:00 am	Worship Service, bring chairs or blankets, see page 4	Childs Park
Sun. July 26	10:00 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
Wed. July 29	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
August			
Sun. Aug. 2	10:00 am	Worship Service with Communion	Sanctuary
Mon. Aug. 3	6:00 pm	Diaconate Meeting	Dining Room
Tues. Aug. 4	5:30 pm	A2A Meeting	Dining Room
Wed. Aug. 5	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Sun. Aug. 9	10:00 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
	12:00 noon	Council Meeting	Sanctuary
Wed. Aug. 12	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Thurs. Aug. 13	2:30 pm	Haydenville Church Writers' Group	Dining Room
	5:30 pm	Trustees' Meeting	Dining Room
Sun. Aug 16	10:00 am	Worship Service with Sacrament of Baptism	Sanctuary
Mon. Aug. 17	5:30 pm	Peace and Justice Meeting	Dining Room
Wed. Aug. 19		Ladies Aid Lunch	
	6:00 pm	Shepherds' Meeting	Children's Church
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Sun. Aug. 23	10:00 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
Wed. Aug 26	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Thurs. Aug 27	2:30 pm	Haydenville Church Writers' Group	Dining Room
Sun. Aug. 30	10:00 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary

Youth Ambassadors to Perform at HCC

Haydenville Congregational Church is hosting a special fundraising event for the Youth Ambassadors, a group of young people from Holyoke, Springfield and Amherst. The Youth Ambassadors is a program that offers youth of color ages 14 to 21 opportunities to explore new ways of engaging with each other through the arts and cultural exchange, while learning to become global citizens. Beginning in 2013 The Youth Ambassadors have been building a performance ensemble that they will share with other communities here and abroad including a performance at the National Arts Festival in Grahamstown, South Africa in July!

The fundraising concert to help the Youth Ambassadors travel to South Africa is happening at our Haydenville Congregational Church and will feature Dr. Ruth Bass Green, Ingrid Askew and other invited artists and it will be held on Thursday, June 18th from 6:30-9:00 pm. It will be an evening of gorgeous music and cultural enrichment and will start at 7:00 following light refreshments at 6:30.

- Pastor Andrea

Summer Camp at Silver Lake Conference Center!

It's not too early to make plans for the summer! Silver Lake has all sorts of weeklong, overnight conferences for young people entering 4th through 12th grade, in addition to half-week family and off-site mission work camps.

Whether you are the artsy or musical type, like sports and games, want to challenge the high ropes course or take a dip in the lake, Silver Lake has a conference for you!

Nestled in the Northwest Hills of Sharon, CT, Silver Lake is the year-round Outdoor Ministry site owned and operated by the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ. **Registration is going on now!** To register and for more information, visit silverlakeuct.org. Financial assistance ("Camperships") are available through Silver Lake and the Massachusetts UCC, and are always confidential. See Pastor Chris (a long time Silver Laker!) for more information.

New Beginnings

The last few weeks we have felt many emotions in Children's Church and Youth Group – so much gratefulness, some sadness, thankfulness for our wonderful teachers, and mostly deep love and appreciation for the children and youth. We can both say with certainty that we have received much, much more from them than we have ever given. We have encountered the Spirit countless times in worshipping, praying, learning, and playing with our beloved children and youth, and have found teaching to be a wonderful exercise in being fully present in any given moment.

We have been encouraged by our Community of Practice to take time away from the church, to allow Pastor Chris to transition into his new role as head of Children's Church and Youth Group. We have met with Pastor Chris to share important information about our Children's Church and Youth Group traditions and we know he is planning to keep many things the same in the year ahead. Pastor Chris is excited to dialogue with kids and parents about their hopes and visions for Children and Youth Ministries. He is bringing a wealth of knowledge, enthusiasm, and spirit to his new role, and we know both Children's Church and Youth Group will thrive under his direction. We plan to return to church sometime in the winter, so we can update you on our educational journeys then!

We are forever thankful to all the adults who support our children and youth. Most especially, we would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Family Ministries Committee – Andrew, Karen, Maureen, Matilda, and Andrea – for your leadership, dedication, friendship, and hard work. Thank you to everyone who has supported our children and youth in so many ways – teaching in Children's Church, sleeping over at Lock-Ins and retreats, cooking for us, volunteering with us, and contributing to our fundraising efforts. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

To our church's children, youth, and families: thank you for all the wonderful moments we have shared together, big and small. You have touched our hearts. Thank you for your generosity, love, creativity, passion, and kindness. May the love you send out into the world every day come back to you a hundredfold.

All our love,
Dawn and Joanne

June-July-August Climate Actions of the Month

Are you wanting to get more active around the issue of Climate Change? Here are some ideas to get you started or keep you going. These suggestions are brought to you by Molly Hale of the Climate Action Group of the Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence.

Personal: Summer days with the sun high overhead are perfect for experimenting with a solar cooker. Save energy use during power outages (if it's sunny!) and keep the kitchen cooler in the summer. Many inexpensive designs are available to make your own at <http://solarcooking.org/plans/>

Community: Learn *Bicycling Street Smarts & Basic Maintenance Repair* from Ruthy Woodring of Pedal People in Florence. Learn how to navigate traffic confidently, use a bicycle for practical transportation year-round, dress comfortably, and carry things effectively; learn basic repair skills: fixing flats, adjustments, what tools to carry, etc. Two 2-hour classes on consecutive Sundays (ongoing). The cost is a sliding scale from \$0 to \$40. Bartering arrangements are possible. Bicycles can be provided. Even better, organize some friends to attend together. To set up a date, contact Ruthy by e-mail or call 413-586-8031.

State/National/Global: Consider throwing your early support of time and money behind the presidential campaign of Bernie Sanders. He is likely to be the strongest candidate by far when it comes to serious action on climate. Here's a quotation from *theweek.com* (5/5/2015): *When asked to sketch his plan for a climate policy, the Vermont senator said: "It would look like a tax on carbon; a massive investment in solar, wind, geothermal; it would be making sure that every home and building in this country is properly winterized; it would be putting substantial money into rail, both passenger and cargo, so we can move towards breaking our dependency on automobiles. And it would be leading other countries around the world."*

Inform Yourself: Visit your local bookstore and spend some time browsing the books on climate change. What grabs your interest? What inspires or motivates you?

- Molly Hale

Massachusetts Conference UCC Annual Meeting!

The MACUCC Annual Meeting will be held on **June 12th - 13th at UMass Amherst**, and will feature keynote speaker Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber, author of *Pastriz*. Visitors will have the option to attend only the keynote address on Saturday. Join with our sibling MACUCC congregations in this time of worship, work, and fellowship. For more information and to register, go to www.macucc.org and click on "events."

Our congregation will be receiving a special "Bold, Faithful, and Vital Ministry" award!

Each year the Church Development Council of the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ offers an award to churches and/or individuals who have taken bold steps to help their churches become more healthy, faithful and effective in the changing landscape of religion in our society. They look for churches that are engaging in deeply transformational discernment as they look both inward to their church and outward to their community. They look for models of churches that have found that place where their core values, passions and resources meet the needs of people who are longing for authentic community, to make a difference in the world and to be deeply rooted in the presence of God. The ministries in and through Haydenville Congregational Church exemplify this spirit of innovation, authenticity, and faithfulness.

Come to the MACUCC meeting where we will be honored for the great work and witness of our faith community!

HCC Men Host Breakfast Event

The HCC Men's Fellowship invites all male-identified members of the church to attend a breakfast Saturday, June 13, 8:30 to 10:30. The event will be in the community center at the Rocky Hill Cohousing community at 100 Black Birch Trail off Florence Road in Florence. The center offers a large kitchen and a great space for eating, visiting and conversation. There's also a play area for kids and a trail from the center for those who want to enjoy a short hike after breakfast. Details closer to the event will appear in the Sunday bulletin and on the HCC weekly announcement newsletter. For more information contact Doug Renick 413 320-1002 renick.reinhart@comcast.net or Jim Foudy 413 584-9257 cnjfoudy@gmail.com

Holding Hands

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." - Galatians 5:27

No one would ever say this: "I've got a great idea for a restaurant! Hungry senior citizens served by kids who argue when they're asked to clear the table." But each year our church hosts a luncheon for our elderly members. The servers are our fifth graders.

Last year I was seated next to an agitated senior. He wore a helmet because he'd lost his sense of balance. He spoke in a thick German accent. I waited tables as an adult. He would have scared me.

When our child waiter came by, the old man reached out and grabbed the boy's wrist. "You look like my friend," he said, "from when I was a boy." The waiter set his tray of coffee down, and said, "Ah" in a child's gentle voice. Then he just stood there. He didn't seem flustered. He didn't know how to wait tables, didn't know what he was supposed to be doing. Instead, he stepped closer to the old man. In an instant their awkward handshake became something else; the two were holding hands. The old man talked about his friend. The boy asked a few questions about being a child in Germany.

They held hands. The coffee got cold. They smiled at each other. Eventually the boy wandered off and the old man relaxed into his chair.

And so it goes at church, where the waiters don't know how to do their jobs, the customers want more than lunch and we're all given more than we could ever hope to expect.

Prayer Dear God, thank you for giving us a taste of your upside-down Kingdom inside brick buildings and clapboard meeting houses. Amen.

- Matt Fitzgerald is the Senior Pastor of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Chicago, IL.

If you want to go quickly, go alone.
If you want to go far, go together.
- African Proverb

CrossCurrent Submissions: All items for publication should be sent to: spencer-richard@comcast.net by the 15th of the month. Thanks to Karin McGowan and Paula Spencer for their editorial expertise and to Beth Howland for labeling & mailing our newsletter.

July at Haydenville UCC

A reminder that we do not hold worship in our sanctuary for the first three Sundays in July (July 5th, 12th, 19th). We return to our regular worship schedule on July 26th. Also, Pastor Andrea will be away until July 25th. Pastor Chris will be available during this time.

Evensong is Returning!

For those who love the beauty of a quiet meditative service, Evensong will take place on Thursday, June 4th at 7 pm in the Church Sanctuary. Come join us for a communal service of quiet music, hymns and readings with intervals of silence for healing, respite and spiritual renewal. If you are interested in helping to create an Evensong service, contact Susan Farrell @ 268-9298 or Farrellsings@comcast.net

WIDENING THE
Welcome

Then (Jesus) turned to his host. "When you put on a luncheon or banquet," he said, "don't invite your friends, brothers, relatives, and rich neighbors. For they will invite you back, and that will be your only reward. Instead, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. Then at the Resurrection of the righteous, God will reward you for inviting those who could not repay you." - Luke 14:12-14

"Love Your Church" Spring Work Day

Every summer, a small group of dedicated volunteers assembles to clean, paint, clean some more, and tackle odd jobs around the church. It's a lot of work for just a few people! This year, we are looking to cut down on that workload. On "Love Your Church!" day, June 20th from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, (or any portion of the day) you can help tackle some of these projects. Materials (and snacks!) provided by the church. Come join the fun and show how much you "Love Your Church!"

Church Leadership

Rev. Dr. Andrea Ayvazian

Senior Pastor

Rev. Chris Mereschuk

Associate Pastor

Jan Varnon

Moderator

Lynn Fogg

Vice Moderator

Ann Loomis

Clerk

Jo Cannon

Treasurer

Margie Serkin

Bookkeeper/Office Administrator

Karen Guiel

Diaconate, Chair

Rick Turner

Trustees, Chair

Rev. Chris Mereschuk

Director of Children's and Youth Ministries

Rev. Dr. Peter Ives

Theologian-in-Residence

Rev. Chris Mereschuk

Shepherds, Chair

860 966-8055

Jeff Olmsted

Minister of Music

Kathy O'Connor

Church Sexton

Jackie Cloonan

Ladies Aid, President

Andrew Geery

Youth & Family Ministries, Chair

Jennifer Clarkson

Angel Take-out

Vicki Hicks

Angel Hands, Coordinator

Nancy Winninger

Angel Wings, Coordinator

Jackie Cloonan

Snow Angels, Green Angels, Coordinator

Doug Renick

Peace and Justice Steering Committee, Chair

Maggie Solis

Bob Varnon Stewardship Committee, Co-chairs

Carolyn DuBois

Music Committee, Chair

Sue Carbin

Church Scheduler scarbin1973@aol.com

Linda Zeigenbein

Interfaith Cot Shelter, Meal Coordinator

Chip Roughton

Scripture Reader, Coordinator

Laura Paul

Librarian

Shirley Sicurello

Welcome Ministry, Chair

Sharon Grace

Julie Salzman Head Ushers

Laura Garcia

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CrossCurrents

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Haydenville Church Writers' Group, Facilitator

Lay Delegates

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Bob Varnon

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Alice Barber

Karin McGowan

Laura Garcia

Jo Cannon, Treasurer.

Sylvia Fappiano, LA Rep.

Deacons (by Seniority)

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Karla Hathaway

Jen Matias

Amy Andrew

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Senior Pastor

Moderator

Vice Moderator

Clerk

Treasurer

Trustees, Chair

Diacurate, Chair

Stewardship, Chair

Music, Chair

Peace & Justice, Chair

Family Ministries, Chair

A2A, Chair

- Contributions to *CrossCurrents* are due to Richard Spencer speccer-richard@comcast.net by the 15th of the month.
- Weekly e-newsletter announcements are due to our Office Administrator, Margie Serkin, Office@haydenvillechurch.org, by Tuesday at 5:00 pm.
- Weekly Sunday announcements are due to Pastor Chris RevCjim@gmail.com by Tuesday at 5:00 pm.

Please Note Our Publication Deadlines:

