

Cross Currents



November 2015 • *Open Hearts & Open Minds & Open Doors*

From Pastor Andrea

On September 16th at 4:30 PM, nineteen members of our church family made a circle in the Church Dining Room and settled in for session #1 of the six-week series "Spiritual Journeys in the Last Third of Life: Guided Conversations for Elders and Seniors." The group included women and men, and spanned the ages of 61 to 92. After going around and saying our names and when and where we were born, we read a poem from the LIFE PRAYERS book, reviewed the Guidelines for the series, and began our discussion about spiritual journeys and aging.

The first writing exercise in the class included making three lists: hopes for the final chapter of life; what I can contribute to the series discussions; and fears I am holding. After that we wrote our obituaries.

Sitting in that circle was my dear mother, Gloria Ayvazian, the eldest in the group...by far. Not only did she participate fully, but she added wisdom, humor, sharp insights and a big dollop of love to the gathering.

Gloria was a part of the first three classes, then she was hospitalized, and then she died. The irony, as many members of the class have noted, is that Gloria actually died during the "Spiritual Journeys in the Final Third of Life" series. Little did we know during class one that it was Gloria's Spiritual Journey in the final weeks of life.

Gloria was a feisty, funny, slightly outrageous, faithful, brave and wonderful person. She was a fine and loving mother to Leslie, Andrea and Gina but she also mothered and nurtured many others. She was a friend like no other friend—loyal, patient, forgiving, generous, interesting and interested, and she loved without judgement. She was one in a million.

Gloria was a beloved member of our congregation, referred to by many as the "Queen Mother." She loved that title and would remind people often of her great importance in the Church! Although she made jokes about that, it was also true. She held a unique position as the Church's oldest member, and certainly one of our most beloved. Everyone gravitated to Gloria...and she relished having such a wildly diverse group of friends.

Our family wants to thank each one of you for the ways you loved Gloria and showed her. You visited her, made her meals, called her regularly, and even wrote her letters! You greeted her Sunday after Sunday with open arms always happy when she walked into the Sanctuary and headed for her spot in the front pew.

You talked with her about theology and politics, took her out for soft-serve ice cream, and sat with her at the Church Fair. You made her life rich and happy. She loved our Church deeply. She was so grateful for your friendship and love. And my sisters and I are grateful for the joy you brought to her.

Now Leslie, Gina and I have joined that club of people whose parents have passed on. It is not a club I like being in, but a club I knew I would join. So many of you have gone through the same loss that my sisters and I are now experiencing. And you have grieved and wept and somehow struggled on. You know too well the path my sisters and I are now walking.

So many of you still tear up when you talk about losing your mom and/or dad. Just a couple of Sundays ago someone sat in church weeping during the entire service. When on the "hug line," I asked the woman what was wrong, she said, "I miss my dad."

Many of you have buried both parents and miss them daily. You still think of things you would like to tell them, places you would like to take them, adventures you would like to share with them.

This losing parents thing is hard.

But God is good, and God is near, and within a loving community—like our Church—we move forward...crying in Church, taking hands in coffee hour, calling each other in the evenings, holding each other in prayer, hugging each other in silence. We do it all so we can get through.

And somehow we get through.

Somehow. Through grace and with tears, somehow we get through.

Thank you for holding our family in prayer. You are good pray-ers and we have received strength from your loving blessings. Thank you for being a wonderful Church family.

You are the best.

I will close with the words of St. John Chrysostom that I am finding so comforting at this time: *"They whom we love and lose are no longer where they were before. They are now wherever we are."*

With love and gratitude,



Sticks and Stones May Break My Bones, But Words Will Never Hurt Me

"...it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles."

~Matthew 15:11

Over the past several years, I have come to despise the term "Politically Correct" and all of its various conjugations. I've heard the term more in the last year - - coincident with the already-contentious presidential election and the emergence of the "Black Lives Matter" movement - - mostly used with contempt or as slander, and mostly when someone wants to appeal to a base (and I do mean *base*) constituency that is resistant to confronting societal ills, injustice, and systems of oppression.

The current socio-political-cultural atmosphere in the U.S. seems especially divisive and divided with little room for nuance or intelligent conversation - - or at least that's the impression one could get from politicians and pundits. Instead of the noble goal of human (or even national) unity, there is instead a campaign to calcify the "Us vs Them" mentality, more deeply entrench people within their cultural bubble, and perpetually pit people against each other out of fear of the other - - whoever that "other" may need to be in a given election cycle. To soften or even reconsider one's stance on or opinion of a certain group of people and/or the urgent issues related to that group is anathema, or at least showing weakness. Even the very simple action of choosing and using words that are culturally sensitive or at least not offensive to the "other" is slandered as being too "Politically Correct."

Truthfully, I do not understand why that is so hard or forbidden. I do not believe that defending one's "right" to use hateful or offensive speech is a hill worth dying on. Rather, I now believe that claiming that one is not "politically correct" (in its current popular usage) is a thinly veiled excuse for one's racism, misogyny, homophobia, transphobia, xenophobia, or any other-phobia borne out of a lethal combination of ignorance, fear, and privilege. It seems like it is often a doubling-down and a refusal to acknowledge that the words we choose to use and the way we choose to describe other people can and do have a real, deep impact.

But I am not interested in being "Political Correct." I do not strive to be "Politically Correct" chiefly because I believe the term and all it has come to mean mischaracterizes and trivializes what is at the heart of that effort. Most essentially, the call here is for all of us to speak in ways that show respect and sensitivity to others. There is nothing political or partisan about showing respect and sensitivity to our fellow Children of God.

There have been countless times when I have chosen my words poorly - - sometimes out of ignorance, sometimes being unaware of the appropriate and current preferred terminology, sometimes in an ill-conceived attempt at humor, but rarely out of malice. I have certainly done this in my time as your Associate Pastor, and chances are good that I'll do it again. No one likes to be corrected or to feel like they have done something wrong, yet I greatly appreciate the people who have taken a moment to inform me that the language or terms that I have used are considered offensive, are outdated, or have a problematic etymology. I am open to growing, to understanding my

siblings better - - especially when folks move within a cultural context with which I am not familiar or a part of myself, and doubly so when I am being shown where my position of privilege has rendered me unable to hear other voices.

Being someone who wants to treat others with the greatest respect - - both through my words and actions - - I admit that I sometimes feel hamstrung by my desire to say the "right" thing or at least not unintentionally offend people - - would it serve me better to be silent? No. Like so many of us, I do the best that I can with the best intentions, all while remaining open to the possibility that my word choices need modification. Educating myself on appropriate and preferred words, names, terms, and phrases nurtures my understanding of others and increases my empathy and compassion. And when that happens, I am more likely to understand the "other" more deeply, and the lines between "Us vs. Them" begin to fade.

We can pretend that the words we say don't matter, that people should just "toughen up," that we are entitled to "Freedom of Speech," or that we don't want to be censored. And yet we all know that children and adults alike can suffer real trauma through continued verbal abuse. And while prolonged patterns of verbal abuse are one thing, the often casual and sometimes malevolent use of terms, words, and expressions that offend, degrade, and dehumanize others is like a death by a thousand cuts: no single injury is fatal, but the culmination of the wounds brings eventual demise - - but only after a slow and excruciating ordeal.

So maybe think of it that way if you are resistant to or even defiant about striving to use language that is respectful and sensitive: each time we use a word that offends, degrades, or dehumanizes a fellow Child of God, we are adding yet another cut to their progressively eviscerated soul, to the image of God that dwells inside of them, just as it dwells inside of us. Your choice to use respectful and sensitive language is not political or weak - it is a healing ointment, or at least one less cut.

Peace & Blessings,



Even if you are not ready for day
it cannot always be night.

- Gwendolyn Brooks

The American Thanksgiving

We give the Pilgrims, who sailed from Plymouth England to Plymouth Massachusetts in 1620, credit for our first Thanksgiving in America. It took them 67 days to cross the Atlantic and on that trip Elizabeth Hopkins gave birth to a baby boy whom she named Oceanus. They viewed themselves as like the people of Israel crossing the Red Sea. Only 55 of the 102 pilgrims survived that first winter, but in November of 1621 they celebrated their first Thanksgiving with turkey, partridge, duck, goose, cranberry, pumpkin, corn, and clams, inviting Chief Massasoit and the 90 Native Americans to join them. There were no pumpkin pies, however, for they had no flour or molasses at that time. But the focus was not on the food but on worship that lasted 4 hours in the morning and another two hours in the afternoon.

That changed around 1700. The clergy protested but families insisted that worship services be limited to 2 hours and the rest of the day be devoted to the meal and games. No longer were there 3-hour sermons but the sermons were still important, often for political reasons. From 1764 to 1789 Thanksgiving sermons were critical of King George III and British rule over the American colonies and urged rebellion. During the Revolutionary War, Thanksgiving sermons focused on the battles of Lexington, Concord, Saratoga and Yorktown. Soon afterwards, Thanksgiving sermons celebrated the birth of our nation with Constitution and a Bill of Rights.

From 1815 to 1850 Thanksgiving went west as over 1,500,000 New Englanders moved out to settle Ohio, Michigan, Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota bringing the New England tradition of Thanksgiving with them. From 1840 onwards Thanksgiving sermons often supported the abolitionist movement, the need to end slavery and the need to repent for the injustices done to the Native Americans from the very beginning. During the Civil War in 1863 President Lincoln, at the urging of Sarah Hale, proclaimed the first fixed national day of Thanksgiving setting the date as the last Thursday in November. After the Civil War, Thanksgiving entered the Victorian Age and for the first time Americans watched football games on Thanksgiving Day starting in 1887 when Yale played Harvard at the Polo Grounds and New Yorkers watched the Fifth Avenue Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Finally, in 1944 Franklin Delano Roosevelt settled the matter by proclaiming hereafter Thanksgiving not the last Thursday of November but on the 4th Thursday of November.

Through out the history of America, Thanksgiving has been about three things:

1) thanks to God for all God's blessings upon us, the gifts of creation, the gift of life, the gifts of our gardens, gifts of our families and all the gifts God has given us here on this tiny planet we call home.

2) Thanksgiving has been about community building. The Pilgrims and Puritans were first and foremost community builders. They believed that God was calling them every day to do justice, love kindness and to seek the welfare of their community and in that calling to find their own welfare in the community

And **3)** Thanksgiving was about the meal. James Carroll has said it best: The Thanksgiving dinner has been to Americans what the Seder has been to Jews and the Last Supper has been to Christians. In the end Thanksgiving has been our sacramental meal that has bound us together. May you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

- Rev. Dr. Peter B. Ives, Theologian-in-Residence

Following

It is a sad fact that my mood on a gray day can be improved by noting that someone new is following me on Pinterest. How lame is that? When I get the little notifications on my iPhone saying that, "Grace so-and-so is now following you," I check to see: Is it my foodie stuff she is interested in, the gardens I want, or the art I like?

This made me think about what it means to follow someone. It is so easy to click following for Twitter, Instagram, and Pinterest, and I do it often. It's not a bad thing, and in fact, is a way of keeping in touch with people, cultural trends, people I admire, and developments in our church.

But is it truly following? I think it is more like the way one of my kids used to clutch my purse or jeans as I walked through the grocery store aisles, or like the way my Jack Russell terrier hangs close to my heels, hoping for a treat.

When Jesus asks his disciples to "follow me," and when we are also called to join that ragtag group of men (and women, please let us not forget Mary Magdalene and many more), we are not asked to grab onto Jesus' robe so we don't get lost. We are asked to put His teachings into our lives, to incorporate what He said and did into the very marrow of our daily lives.

How do I become a true follower, a modern disciple? First, I begin by looking at my favorite saints, whether official or

not: St. Oscar de Romero; Dorothy Day; St. Martin de Porres; St. Francis; and St. Joan of Arc. What did they have in common?

Courage. They stood up to their detractors, to opposition, and to persecution. The call of the Gospel was so immediate, so personal and compelling that we can understand what discipleship means by these actions: Dorothy Day's care for the homeless and the hungry; St. Martin de Porres's outreach to the marginalized Indians and slaves in Peru; St. Francis kissing a leper; and Oscar de Romero entreating soldiers to stop the violence. He was shot for that very stance. I, however, am intermittently courageous, more like Bert Lahr in "*The Wizard of Oz*", the cowardly lion.

Persistence. Read Dorothy Day's journals and see how tired she was at the end of the day, how discouraging it could be to conjure food and shelter out of thin air, and how not-fun it was cleaning the Catholic Worker's car after someone had been sick in it. She simply did not give up. Nor did St. Joan, no matter what happened on the battlefield, she kept going. I need to put more persistence into my days, in making sure the abundance of my life is shared with others whether that is a phone call to someone in distress or buying diapers and food for our local Survival Center.

Staying close to God. All of these saints—and many more besides—put prayer and contemplation at the center of their lives. Dorothy Day attended Daily Mass and partook of the Eucharist; St. Francis slept out on Mother Earth, wrote Canticles to the Sun, and praised God often. Clearly, I need to integrate contemplation more fully in my life, even though I find that Centering Prayer makes me jumpier rather than calmer.

Humility. I believe all of the saints share this central characteristic—a refusal to put themselves at the center of their world. Other people always came first. The holy men and women's thoughts focused on those in need and how they could be helped. Sometimes I am humble, but that can be hard to distinguish from lack of self-confidence. Only one is given by God.

Maybe I can use my impulse to tag someone else's posting, picture, or recipe, and incorporate this into a more God-centered way. I could witness more to my faith and invite others to join me in that witness. I can use my Twitter account to alert followers to issues of social justice and voting policy. I could use my FB page to remind people of the beauty in our world, for, as our pope has famously said, "Beauty leads to God."

- Annie Turner

Fall Goings-on with the Deacons

This fall, the deacons are planning their yearly retreat, a time to renew spirits and spirituality, to plan and to enjoy fellowship with one another. This year's retreat will occur on November 15th.

Another exciting November event that the deacons have a part in planning is the Thanksgiving dinner at the church. Anyone who is interested in sharing some good food and company with their church family is welcome to come to dinner on Thanksgiving day.

As we move toward Advent and the holiday season, the deacons will also be meeting to come up with a theme for the advent wreath, and to plan a reverent and beautiful Christmas Eve service.

Who Are We? What do Deacons do, anyway?

You may be used to seeing deacons setting up for Sunday service, running around with microphones during sermon response time, assisting with communion, and helping to close up the church after service. While Sundays are an important time for deacons of the month, all twelve deacons are appointed to serve and support the spiritual aspects of our church and our church family. If you have a question, a request, or a concern, please see a deacon.

Deacons bring attention to parishioners' requests at deacon meetings, invite those with a question, a request, or an idea to a monthly meeting to offer their viewpoints, offer confidential and respectful discussion of issues, and welcome new ideas that will make our church stronger, and even more inclusive and loving. Your presence and voices are what make our church great; we want to hear them!

Below is a list of our current deacons. We look forward to hearing from you!

Karen Guiel, Maureen Bourbeau, Karla Hathaway, Mary Sheehan, Amy Andrew, Pat James, Jen Matias, Paula Spencer, Toby Davis, Carolyn duBois, Fred Goodhue, Shirley Sicurello

-Karen Guiel, chair

November Birthdays!

- 1 Ruth Jacobson-Hardy
- 2 Ross Bassett
- 5 Martha Sager-Cutt
- 6 Ella Agostino-Pierce
Elexy Edge-Wise
- 8 Ruth Beebe
Sean McElligott
- 9 Sayla Russell-Baker
- 10 Danielle Poudrier
- 11 Angelique Baker
- 12 Margie Serkin
- 13 Tara Castaldo Heart
- 15 Nancy Winner
- 16 Rose Sullivan
- 17 Mary Lee Satterfield
- 18 Tildy Turchinetz
- 20 Joanne Morgan
- 21 Kate Kelly
- 22 Nancy Demarais
- 25 Jacquelin Cloonan
Lila Mereschuk
- 26 Ira Neff
Daniel Neff
- 29 Beth Agostino
- 30 cmoore



The Lucky Church Raffle Winners



Lucky church raffle winners, Ira Neff, Susan Ferrill, Chip Roughton and Bill Loser off to the new Florence Pie Bar in Chip's restored 1948 Pontiac Silver Streak. Thanks Chip!

photo by Susan Farrell

Evensong Service

On Thursday, September 15th, sixteen people attended our quiet evening service. Quotations and poems were read on the theme of *September - Turning of the Seasons - Transformation - Renewal*. We sang "Turn, Turn, Turn", Susan Farrell gave a heartfelt personal reflection on transformation and renewal, and Heidi Zahar played a piano interlude. There were silences for reflection throughout the service. We hope to see you at our next Evensong on November 19th at 7:00 pm. Below are some of the quotations and poems from our service.

May the nourishment of the earth be yours,
May the clarity of light be yours,
May the fluency of the ocean be yours,
May the protection of the ancestors be yours.

And so may a slow
Wind work these words
Of love around you,
An invisible cloak
To mind your life.

- John O'Donohue

A hidden fire burns perpetually upon the hearth of the world.... In autumn this great conflagration becomes especially manifest. Then the flame that is slowly and mysteriously consuming every green thing bursts into vivid radiance. Every blade of grass and every leaf in the woodlands is cast into the great oven of Nature; and the bright colors of their fading are literally the flames of their consuming. The golden harvest-fields are glowing in the heart of the furnace.... By this autumn fire God every year purges the floor of nature. All effete substances that have served their purpose in the old form are burnt up. Everywhere God makes sweet and clean the earth with fire.

- Hugh Macmillan

I loved autumn, the one season of the year that God seemed to have put there just for the beauty of it.

- Lee Maynard

Summer ends, and Autumn comes,
and he who would have it otherwise
would have high tide always
and a full moon every night.

- Hal Borland

Our Photo Directory is LIVE

Everyone with email should have already received their own individual user ID and password to access the new photo directory which is linked on the church website. **It is your responsibility to go online and add/edit your information including your photos.** If you don't have email, you will still be in the directory and can receive a hard copy if you like.

Helpful tips:

1. The directory lists "Families" and "Members." A "family" consists of anyone living under the same roof. A "member" is anyone living in that house (whether they are a church member or not). You have the option to include members of your "family" (i.e., household) in the directory or not.
2. Even if you are the only person in the church with your last name, you are still listed as both a "family" and a "member."
3. If two adults live under the same roof but have different last names, the surnames are put together in alphabetical order. For example, Sylvia Fappiano and Cheryl Whalen are listed under the family name "Fappiano & Whalen," but not under "Whalen & Fappiano."
4. Photos: You can add both a "family" photo (i.e., a group shot of everyone living in your house) and a "member" photo (an individual photo of yourself). It is important that you use a clear, close-up photo of your face for the "member" photos. (Think passport photo). We need to see your face.
5. If you would like your photo taken and uploaded for you, please find Jen Clarson during Coffee Hour.
6. The App. A link to the mobile app is on the directory site.

Questions/problems: please see Chip Roughton or Jen Clarson during Coffee Hour. Or contact Chip at chip.roughton@gmail.com or 413-387-5214. (If email, please put "Photo Directory" in the subject line.)

Bridging the Divide

Cross-Cultural Communication and Micro-aggressions

Nov 21 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
HCC Dining Room
Facilitators: Jen Matias and Pat James

Thank you "Warm Rays of Sunshine" for providing the coffee hour goodies during November.

Calendar for November

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

Date	Time	Event	Location
Sun. Nov. 1		All Saints Day , Daylight Savings Ends	
	8:45 am	Sweep of the Bible Lecture with Pastor Andrea	Dining Room
	10:00 am	Worship Service with Communion,	Sanctuary
	6:00 pm	Youth Fellowship	Dining Room
Mon. Nov. 2	6:00 pm	Diaconate Meeting	Dining Room
Tues. Nov. 3	5:30 pm	A2A Meeting	Dining Room
	7:00 pm	Transition Committee Meeting	Dining Room
Wed. Nov. 4	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Thurs. Nov. 5	9:30 am	Café Office Hours @ Sunrise Over Florence	Florence
Sat. Nov. 7	10:00 am	Visioning our Church's Future	Dining Room
Sun. Nov. 8	10:00 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
	12:00 noon	Council Meeting	Sanctuary
Tues. Nov. 10	7:00 pm	Men's Fellowship Meeting	Dining Room
Wed. Nov. 11	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Thurs. Nov. 12	9:30 am	Café Office Hours @ Sunrise Over Florence	Florence
	5:30 pm	Trustee Meeting	Dining Room
	6:00 pm	Family Ministry Meeting	Children's Church
Fri. Nov. 13	12:30 pm	Writer's Group	Dining Room
Sun. Nov. 15	10:00 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
	TBD	Deacon's Retreat	Carolyn duBois' house
	1:00 pm	Men's Fellowship Retreat, <i>see page 10</i>	Valley Women's Martial Arts Center, Easthampton
	6:00 pm	Youth Fellowship	Dining Room
Mon. Nov. 16	6:00 pm	Peace and Justice Meeting	TBD
Tues. Nov. 17	5:30 pm	Active Hope, Inspiring Change, Peace & Justice Soup & Salad	Dining Room
Wed. Nov. 18	6:00 pm	Shepherds' Meeting	Dining Room
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary

Date	Time	Event	Location
Thurs. Nov. 19	9:30 am	Café Office Hours @ Sunrise Over Florence	Florence
	1:00 pm	Ladies Aid	Dining Room
	7:00 pm	Evensong	Sanctuary
Sat. Nov. 21	10:00 am	Bridging the Divide, Cross Cultural Communication Peace & Justice Workshop	Dining Room
	7:00 pm	Marcia Gomes Concert	Sanctuary
Sun. Nov. 22	10:00 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary
Wed. Nov. 25	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Thurs. Nov. 26		Thanksgiving	
Sat. Nov. 28	9:00 am	Grasshill Gallery, <i>see page 10</i>	Dining Room
Sun. Nov. 29		First Sunday of Advent	
	10:00 am	Worship Service	Sanctuary

Blessing of the Animals



photos by Laine Wilder

This Is What You Should Do

This is what you should do:

Love the earth and sun and animals,
despise riches, give alms to everyone that asks,
stand up for the stupid and crazy,
devote your income and labor to others, hate tyrants, argue not concerning God,
have patience and indulgence toward the people...

reexamine all you have been told in school or church or in any book,
dismiss what insults your very soul,
and your flesh shall become a great poem.

~ Walt Whitman

Pastor Chris blessing "Honey" right, "Kipper" top left and "Lola" bottom left on October 3, 2015.

This Month In Children's, Youth & Family Ministries

Children's & Youth Ministry Programs Registration

Please help us by filling out a registration form for your child! This form gives us valuable information about allergies, concerns, and photo releases. Please also add your email address to our list to receive special program-specific emails!

Volunteers still needed! Please consider volunteering with our programs! There are many, many ways you can be involved ranging from classroom teachers to youth advisors to various support and administrative roles. Information about opportunities is available on the website.

Need forms or information? All forms can be found on the haydenvillechurch.org website under the Children's Youth, and Family Ministries section, as well as outside of the Children's Church classroom on the second floor.

Youth Group Fellowship Meetings! Come check out Fellowship at Haydenville Congregational Church on the *1st and 3rd Sunday of the month from 6:00-7:30pm*: November 1st, November 15th, and November 29th: Cathedral in the Night (5:00pm in front of First Churches in Northampton). Our Youth Group is open to all youth in 6th through 12th grade.

Nursery to Narthex? The Children's and Family Ministry Committee is exploring the feasibility of *converting the current Nursery upstairs into a classroom for our older groups*. The idea is that the "baby cry" area in the Narthex (sanctuary foyer) would be improved and become the nursery, staffed by our paid nursery attendant. We are *soliciting feedback and opinions* from anyone who currently utilizes our nursery and/or the Narthex area. Please be in touch with Pastor Chris to share your comments, concerns, and/or support.

Calendar for November

November 1: Group 1 & 2: Holy Spirit & Communion; Youth Fellowship at 6:00pm

November 8: Group 1: The Ark & Temple; Group 2: Mary & Martha

November 15: Group 1: The Prophets ; Group 2: Ten Outcasts; Youth Fellowship at 6:00pm

November 22: Group 1: Holy Family; Group 2: The Annunciation

November 29: Group 1: Advent; Group 2 helps with Cathedral in the Night meal prep; Youth Fellowship at Cathedral in the Night at 5:00pm

Coming Up In December: Instant Christmas Pageant on 12/13!

Rev. Chris Mereschuk, Associate Pastor and Director of Children's, Youth, and Family Ministries
Andrew Geery, Chair of the Children's and Family Ministries Committee

Raise it Up

Raise up the duplicity of the moneyed and the poor.
Raise up the damage we do to each other in the name of Christianity.
Raise up the inhumane treatment of all of God's creatures.
Raise up the brutality done to people of color in the name of justice.
Raise up the anger and fear that lead to hatred.
Raise all these issues to expose them and fight against them.
After they are exposed let's then raise the acts of courage and love done in God's service.
Raise up the beauty of youth fighting against bullying.
Raise up the men encouraging women's independence.
Raise up God's love as a beacon of light we can follow.
Raise it up again and again---raise it up.
- Sally Lemaire

Please Note our Publication Deadlines:

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

Without music life would be a mistake.
- Nietzsche

Grasshill Christmas Gallery

22nd Annual Craft Fair

Saturday, Nov 28th 9-3:00 pm

Haydenville Congregational Church

On "Shop Small Saturday," one of the best things you can do is come to our beautiful, light-filled Church dining room for a relaxing and wonderful experience. Twenty local crafters/artisans--including several from our Church family--offer their one-of-a-kind treasures for your holiday shopping. Included are paintings, photography, quilts, jewelry, gourds, embroidered tiny stuffed toys, soaps, pottery, hand carved wooden utensils, seasonal decorations, knitted items, cards, and whatever my eight-year-old grandson Rowan comes up with (last year, it was enchanted islands, Buddha trees, Zombie Claus cards and feather ornaments from his own chickens).

And I should mention the food! My sister Shirley channels our Grandma Warner and pulls off the most fabulous luncheon for sale. Famous corn chowder, plus another homemade soup, sandwiches on homemade bread, cookies, sweet buns, brownies, and her spectacular cream puffs! Also, she'll be selling packages of assorted homemade cookies, loaves of bread, and whatever else she thinks up.

All in all, this is just the way you want to spend the Saturday after Thanksgiving. No hassles, free parking, no admission fee, handicap accessible.

Questions? call Trish @ 268-7254 or 413 727-5150 or see her in Church.

New HCC web site needs you

The HCC Media Team's new web site for the church is coming along well. It has lots of space for photos and we are asking everyone to help provide them.

We're looking for candid photos from coffee hour, workshops and programs, church committee meetings, fundraising events, choir, baptisms, the welcome of new members, and work in the community by church members. In other words, photos that show who we are and what we do. The more we have to choose from, the better. And if anyone has any historic photos, love to see those as well.

So bring your camera to church events, take candid, make sure the people you photograph are OK with appearing on our Internet site, and make a note of the date, where it was taken, and names of people in the photo. You can email photos to myhccphotos@gmail.com. Our webmaster, Laura Garcia, will take it from there.

- Jim Foudy

Men's Retreat Planned for Nov. 15

The Men's Fellowship is hosting its first-ever afternoon retreat.

The theme is "*The Road We Take: Using Our Spiritual Wisdom As A Guide*"

It will be Sunday, Nov. 15 from 1 to 5 pm at the Valley Women's Martial Arts Center at One Cottage Street in Easthampton, across from Nashawannuck Pond. It is a lovely space with a view of the pond. All male-identified members of the congregation are invited.

Rev. Richard Fournier, a long-time area minister and spiritual group leader, will lead the retreat. Rich has a special interest in helping people understand how their life experiences offer spiritual wisdom that we can use not only to guide our lives but to pass on to others. It will be a chance for men to talk together, share life experiences, grow in spiritual understanding and deepen our own connections with each other.

A donation of up to \$10 is requested to help cover the costs (Rich, space, snacks), but all are welcome. The church is helping with the cost. There will be snacks. Anyone interested please contact Jim Foudy at cnjfoudy@gmail.com or Doug Renick at renick-rinehart@comcast.net.

WIDENING THE

Welcome

Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind. Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called - that you might receive a blessing

- Peter 3.20

I have decided to stick with love.
Hate is too great a burden to bear.

- Martin Luther King

The Way Out of No Way

"O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good, For God's steadfast love endures forever! Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom God has redeemed from trouble. . . . God delivered them from their troubles and led them by a straight way." - Psalm 107: 1-16

The author of Psalm 107 is thankful for many things—the hungry being fed, the prisoners set free, the sick healed. He or she sums it up in one line: "God delivered them from their troubles and led them by a straight way."

We may never have been truly hungry or imprisoned or even sick for more than a few days. Thanks be to God! But I suspect we've all been lost at times. If not lost, then faced dead-ends, not able to see the way ahead.

Those dead-ends come in all kinds of forms. The pink slip at work. The program whose funding is cut. The doctor's diagnosis. The umpteenth phone call from our child's counselor. The divorce papers.

The psalmist tells the truth about human life. Troubles and heartache are part of the deal. Whether we're raising kids, running a business, working for the government, or simply trying to "do justice and love mercy," life sometimes is perpetually "one step forward, two steps back."

But the psalmist tells another truth—about God's presence in human life. The psalmist reminds the people of Israel how God has fed them, freed them, and most of all, *led* them throughout their lives.

In his *Strength to Love*, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King offered the same reminder. After yet another death threat, King affirmed, *"Only God is able to give us the interior resources to face the storms and problems of life When our days become dreary with low-hovering clouds and our nights become darker than a thousand midnights, let us remember there is a great benign Power in the universe whose name is God (who) is able to make a way out of no way, and transform dark yesterdays into bright tomorrows. This is our hope for becoming better [people]. This is our mandate for seeking to make a better world"*

And this is our way out of no way. Thanks be to God.

Prayer *God, some of us face dead-ends in our jobs, others in our relationships. Some simply can't see the way ahead. Help us, Lord, to trust that you are able—able to lead us into life, able to show us the way out of no way. Amen.*

Talitha Arnold is Senior Minister of the United Church of Santa Fe (UCC). She is the author of [Worship for Vital Congregations](#), published by The Pilgrim Press.

Pledging Online

Why set up electronic payments for your contributions to Haydenville Congregational Church?

1. It benefits the church with a steady and predictable contribution.
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4. Follow the directions for your bank
5. You only need to fill out a "Pay To Account" for HCC once
6. Select a payment period like monthly, an amount and date for the payment and you are done!

- Rick Turner, Trustee

Rally Day Bookmark

On Rally Day everyone received a special bookmark with their Bulletin. Here is the message that was printed on the bookmark, and if you missed the service and would like your own please see Pastor Andrea.

My Church is composed of people like me.

I help make it what it is.

It will be friendly, if I am.

Its pews will be filled, if I help fill them.

It will do great work, if I work.

*It will make generous gifts to many causes,
if I am a generous giver.*

It will bring other people into its worship and fellowship, if I invite and bring them.

It will be a Church of loyalty and love, of fearlessness and faith, and a church with a noble spirit, if I, who make it what it is, am filled with these same things.

Therefore, with the help of God, I shall dedicate myself to the task of being all the things that I want my Church to be.

Amen.

Church Leadership

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Associate Pastor;
Director of Children's,
Youth, and Family
Ministries

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Moderator

Lynn Fogg
Vice Moderator

Ann Loomis
Clerk

Jo Cannon
Treasurer

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860 966-8055

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Coordinator

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Clerk
Treasurer
Trustees, Chair
Diaconate, Chair
Stewardship, Chair
Music, Chair
Peace & Justice, Chair
Family Ministries,
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