

# Cross Currents



June / July / August 2016 • Open Hearts & Open Minds & Open Doors

## From Pastor Andrea

Our Church has a long tradition of closing for part of July every year. During the time when we are not holding worship services, meetings, or other events in the Church, our Sexton Kathy and members of the Building Maintenance Committee do painting, repair jobs, and what Kathy calls "project cleaning" throughout the building. The Church building becomes a kind of construction site with all kinds of fix-up jobs being done, carpets shampooed, and repairs—large and small—done throughout the church.

This year the building will be closed the first three Sundays in July. And, as it is written in my contract, I have the entire month of July off. Here is the July schedule....I will be away but worship services resume in the building on the fourth Sunday in July.

**July 3, 10 and 17:** Church closed

**July 10:** Outdoor Worship Service led by Pastor Chris (more details to follow soon)

**July 24:** Church reopens, 10:00 am; Pastor Chris leading worship in Church Sanctuary. Coffee Hour provided by the Church: lemonade and cookies

**July 31:** Church Worship Service, 10:00 am; Pastor Chris leading worship. Blue Moon Sunday, Community Service Projects, No Coffee Hour.

Every year it touches me that some people lament that our Church will be closed for part of July. Some of you wring your hands and wonder how you will function with the Church closed for three weeks. Others of you express the feeling that it is a good break for us all. And some of you, every year, ask me for recommendations about where you might worship while our Church is closed.

## Highlights

visit us online at: [haydenvillechurch.org](http://haydenvillechurch.org)

### You Know You've Got Cancer/Chemo When....

"Lists are good when your mind is a bit boggled, your body not so fine, and you are looking for some order and control in your life...."

**Page 3**

### Pride March • May 7



**Page 5**

### Thoughts on Renewal

"What do Mr Rogers, Studs Terkel and Rev Dr Andrea Ayvazian have in common?"

**Page 6**

### Giving Away the Things We Love: A Way Into Insight and Compassion

"However, upon reflection it became clear that my feelings, though deeply felt, were but a hint of the profound layers of loss that refugees already traumatized by war, .... must experience."

**Page 9**

### June/July/August Birthdays • 3

**Calendar • 7**

### From the Deacons' Bench • 10

### This Month In Children's, Youth & Family Ministries • 11

### Church Leadership • 12

This year, for the first time, I want to offer some recommendations about where you might worship on July 3 and 17....here are some good choices!

**The Village Church, Cummington** • During the summer months, the Village Church in Cummington welcomes students from the nearby Greenwood Music Camp. The students sing, play a variety of instruments and delight the congregation. Everyone is welcome at these services that are also like mini-concerts each week!

**The Easthampton Congregational Church** • The ceiling in the fellowship hall of the Easthampton Congregational Church came crashing down after worship one Sunday in April. Thankfully the building was empty and no one was hurt. Should you want to worship with them in July, in their intact Sanctuary, that would be a wonderful act of support and solidarity. But do call ahead: they also worship with the Southampton Congregational Church (in Southampton) some Sundays during the summer.

**Congregational Church of South Deerfield** • The Congregational Church of South Deerfield, a nearly 200-year-old church, will close its doors at the end of this calendar year. Apparently lengthy discussions led the members to realize that the church could not maintain its building and professional pastoral ministry and so they have decided to close. This is a hard, brave, and difficult decision. Worshiping with our siblings in South Deerfield in July would be moving, and an act of friendship and solidarity as they go through this time of saying good-bye to their church and the history they share together.

The important message is this: worship SOMEWHERE when our church is closed. It is good to stay with the pattern of worship every Sunday. I always go to church when I am away on vacation. When I walked the Camino across Spain on my sabbatical (2013), I went to Mass in tiny, stone Catholic Churches almost every night—and the service was in Spanish! Staying in the rhythm of worshiping every Sunday is a good discipline. So please do worship somewhere when our church is closed. And bring greetings to those churches from the Haydenville Church Family!

With loving blessings,



## HR Coordinator

Pastor Andrea and the Board of Trustees are delighted to announce that Jim Foudy will be starting immediately as our new Human Resources Coordinator. This is a volunteer position that Jim has agreed to fill for the rest of 2016. The position will then be evaluated and may become a permanent position beginning in 2017. Pastor Andrea made this appointment, with the support of the Trustees.

This new position, which we anticipate will require about five hours/month, will make an important contribution to our church and our staff. The creation of the Human Resources Coordinator position is further demonstration of our church's movement from a Pastoral to a Program Church.

The Human Resources Coordinator will:

- Oversee the payroll company in administering payroll and benefits
- Work with the Treasurer to assure accurate compensation of our staff
- Contact the Pension and Insurance boards as necessary to assure accurate and timely payment of employee benefits
- Update employment agreements in conjunction with the Trustees on a yearly basis
- Work with employees, the Trustees, the payroll company, pension and insurance boards to resolve any issues reported by an employee

These many and varied tasks have been done for many years by our Treasurers. As our Church grows, and grows more complex, Pastor Andrea and the Trustees realized we needed to remove these many tasks from the Treasurer and create a new position to focus on HR issues alone. We thank Jo profusely for handling the HR work of the church for so long and so well!

We are beyond delighted that we approached Jim Foudy and he said yes to assuming this role.

## Instant Choir

Want to join the choir for one morning? Come to practice at 9:00 am on **June 12, July 24, 31, and August 7, 14, 21, 28** and sing with us in worship at 10:00. No experience necessary! No commitment required!

- Jeff Olmsted, Minister of Music

## You Know You've Got Cancer/ Chemo When....

I'm compiling a list. Lists are good when your mind is a bit boggled, your body not so fine, and you are looking for some order and control in your life—something in short supply when going through chemo. As the famous Franciscan priest, Richard Rohr, once said, "*Suffering is whenever you are not in control.*" Check!

So here's my list, a way of ascertaining you are in the midst of this struggle, just in case you didn't know:

- Your favorite time of day is bedtime when you can take off your makeup, pull off your wig, and get into your pajamas. Ah....
- You have started to reread your Kindle books again even though you just reread them 3 weeks ago. For me that includes: "*The Crossing Places*" by Elly Griffiths (wonderful, humorous, woman forensic archaeologist in East Anglia.) As my aunt famously once said, "*Give me an English mystery, set in a little village, and I'm all set!*" I'm rereading perhaps for the 10th or 11th time, the first volume in Deborah Harkness's "*All Souls Trilogy*," called "*A Discovery of Witches*." Vampires, amazing witches, Oxford, England, romance, danger, and more! Rereading feels safe—you know the territory, and life is all about keeping safe right now. You've already had enough surprises.
- On your vanity in the bathroom you have, side by side, nausea pills (thanks, Zofran!), stool softener, and laxatives. Do NOT take them all at the same time. They tend to go in cycles, I'm just sayin'.
- You know there is something important to tell your partner (a strange odor of burning? A weird sense of coming undone in your lower abdomen?) But you can't quite find the words for it. It remains just out of sight, until it becomes obvious in some way.
- You make a list of friends and family to call that day but it only has two names on it, because two is all you can decently manage without babbling and falling into a fugue state.
- You schedule your visits with folks very carefully because two is about all you can do in a week—at least, that's what I've found. Chemo/cancer is a huge energy drain, and I wish I could go for walks with my beloved people, but it just ain't gonna happen until I'm done.
- You catch a glimpse of your bald head in the mirror and start back. "Say it ain't so! That can't be me!" You think you are getting used to it, but....

*continued on page 4*

## Summer Birthdays!

### June

- |    |                         |
|----|-------------------------|
| 1  | Gloria Lampron          |
|    | Chris Perry             |
| 3  | Dale West               |
| 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 Clarson |
| 7 | Anne Pratt       |

- |    |                         |
|----|-------------------------|
| 8  | William Hathaway        |
| 9  | Marianne Lockwood       |
| 13 | Willot Joseph           |
|    | Phyllis Muldoon         |
| 15 | Sarah Guiel             |
|    | Linda Ziegenbein        |
| 16 | Cindy Drake             |
| 17 | Colin Warner            |
| 24 | Cheryl Whalen           |
| 26 | Lindsay (Firmani) Heart |
| 30 | Laura Garcia            |
| 31 | Trish LaFreniere        |

### August

- |    |                       |
|----|-----------------------|
| 1  | Rachel Greenwood      |
|    | David MacCourt        |
|    | Julie Olmsted         |
| 2  | Lisa Hall             |
| 3  | Joanne Cannon         |
| 7  | Mally O'Hare          |
| 13 | Jenny Fleming-Ives    |
| 14 | Julie Sallzman        |
|    | Kim Sager-Cutt        |
|    | Daniel Newcomb-Gerken |
| 17 | Christine Foudy       |
| 18 | Paula Spencer         |
| 20 | Philip Maurer         |
|    | Kate Davidheiser      |
| 21 | Carol Rinehart        |
|    | Patti McManany        |
|    | Margaret Chappuis     |
| 28 | Richard Spencer       |
| 29 | Richard Turner        |



## Understanding Islam Series

The Haydenville Congregational Church series on Understanding Islam ends in June with this event.

**Saturday, June 4 • 10:00 am to noon**

*Being Allies: Combating Anti-Muslim Rhetoric and Violence. What Can Be Done?*

The program is open to the public and will be held at the Church.

- When shaving your head in the shower with your husband's razor and shaving cream, (bristles keep appearing) you get little razor cuts on top of your head. Sticking plaster? Bandaids? Why did no one warn me about this? My head has become a huge chin.
- You pour a glass of lovely chilled Chardonnay (preferably "Toasted Head") one night and realize after one sip that you'd really rather be drinking water or Gatorade instead.
- You try and roll a joint (courtesy of legal MM and the Dispensary in Noho) and realize your education is seriously deficient. I've always been a wine gal myself. The weed falls out, the paper comes unstuck, and I almost singe my eyebrows trying to keep it lit. Husband goes on YouTube for tips on how to roll joints, which they cunningly call "Herbal Infusion."
- You think you're doing fine, keeping up your spirits and courage, and then one day find yourself with tears streaming down your face.
- You forget about this difficult journey for awhile—maybe you're in the middle of a great escape book—and then suddenly think, "Huh, what's wrong? What is that black cloud on the edge of my mind?" Then you remember, "Oh, yeah."

-Annie Turner

## Counter Cultural Wisdom of Jesus

Five years ago there was an article in the *Boston Globe* by Judy Foreman entitled, "Fighting isn't how you deal with cancer." She wrote the article for Senator Ted Kennedy on hearing the news about his brain tumor. "Everyone is going to say to you," she wrote, "'Fight, Ted, fight!' You have to fight your cancer, but it's the wrong image. The fighting image is so American. But it's insidious, because it implies that if you fight, you can win. And if you don't fight hard enough, you lose and are therefore a loser. And if you die from cancer it suggests you didn't try hard enough and it's your own fault. But in truth, cancer doesn't care whether you fight or not."

Judy Foreman goes on to say "We think that a fighting attitude will improve our overall survival rate, while pessimism will beget failure. But studies show that it doesn't. So I would change the mantra from 'Fight, Ted, fight' to 'Breathe Ted breathe.' Sail your boat. Kiss your wife, hug your kids. Keep doing the work you love. Focus

on what really matters in the living of your life. 'Breath, Ted, breathe.'"

These words from Judy Foreman are words of wisdom. There are two types of wisdom in every society. The most common type of wisdom is conventional wisdom. This is the mainstream wisdom of our culture, what we take for granted like saying: "Fight, Ted, fight!" But there is a second kind of wisdom called countercultural wisdom. It offers us the invitation to see differently; to discover a way less traveled that can make all the difference to understanding what's really best for us. And it is this countercultural wisdom that Jesus tries to teach us when he says, "Therefore I tell you do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow, they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these."

In his book *Meeting Jesus for the First Time*, Marcus Borg says that if you really want to understand who Jesus was you must understand three primary things about his life. First, he was a person through whom the power of the Spirit flowed. He lived in the Spirit. He opened his heart to the Spirit. He breathed the Spirit in his breath. Second, says Borg, he is a teacher of alternative wisdom. He questions society's conventional wisdom. He tries to get all of us to see differently because he knew that what our society takes for granted is often not good for us. He wanted us to take the road less traveled, and live in a way that led to life in all of its fullness. And third, he was a movement founder. As he healed people's lives he drew people into a movement that sent forth ripples of hope for a better world. And that movement continues today.

Today we face a major world danger. It is the threat of extinction from global climate change and the huge outpouring of carbon dioxide into the earth's atmosphere. Measuring the amount of carbon dioxide you emit from your homes and cars is countercultural wisdom; that same kind of alternative wisdom Jesus tried to teach about the need to simplify our life, and live simply so that others can simply live. The old Shaker hymn says it best: "'tis a gift to be simple, 'tis a gift to be free, 'tis a gift to come down where you ought to be, and when we find ourselves in a place just right, 'twill be in the valley of love and delight." We need this alternative wisdom of Jesus and the Shakers, and Judy Foreman for our lives today and seeing what matters.

Rev. Peter Ives, Theologian-in-Residence

## Pride March • May 7



## Thoughts on Renewal

What do Mister Rogers, Studs Terkel and Rev. Dr. Andrea Ayvazian have in common? They're my most recent human touchstones for keeping my spirit up because they renew my faith in the goodness of other humans. They keep shining a light or, as Andrea reminds us, we get to see the inbreaking of God's love.

I was taking my weekly walk with a friend recently, and she told me about a Story Corps episode where François Clemmons was interviewed about his very special relationship with Mister Rogers. For 25 years he was the African-American Officer Clemmons on the much-loved children's show *Mister Rogers Neighborhood*. He was persuaded by Fred Rogers to join the cast in 1968 which was a time when the relationship between black folks and police officers was far from trusting or even friendly. He said, "I grew up in the ghetto. I did not have a positive opinion of police officers. Policemen were siccing police dogs and water hoses on people. And I really had a hard time putting myself in that role. So I was not excited about being Officer Clemmons at all."

But Mister Rogers had a special agenda in creating this first African-American recurring role on a kids' TV series. Fred had been ordained as a Presbyterian minister in 1962 and was asked to use his ministry to serve children and families through TV.

A poignant example of his ministry was one episode which Mr. Clemmons remembered with great emotion. On a hot day in 1969, Mister Rogers was resting his feet in a plastic pool and invited Officer Clemmons to join him. I quote "The icon Fred Rogers not only was showing my brown skin in the tub with his white skin as two friends, but as I was getting out of that tub, he was helping me dry my feet." Clemmons says the scene – which the two also revisited in their last episode together in 1993 – touched him in a way he hadn't expected. He said "I think he was making a very strong statement. That was his way. I still was not convinced the Officer Clemmons could have a positive influence in the neighborhood and in the real-world neighborhood, but I think I was proven wrong."

And finally, he said he'll never forget the way Mister Rogers wrapped up the program, as he always did, by hanging up his sweater and saying, "You make every day a special day just by being you and I like you just the way you are." This time in particular, Rogers had been looking right at Clemmons, and after they wrapped, he walked over.

Clemmons asked him "Fred, were you talking to me?"

"Yes, I've been talking to you for years," Rogers said, as Clemmons recalls. "But you finally heard me today."

I found this story so moving, I decided it was a great cornerstone to talk about renewal... the renewal of my spirit. It just happened to coincide with my finishing Studs Terkel's book, *Hope Dies Last*, a compilation of words from peace and justice advocates from labor strikes to civil rights marches to the light shone on gay rights today.

And what better peace and justice advocate to raise up than our very own Rev. Dr. Andrea Ayvazian? I've been a member of this church for 11 years. I was here to hear her second sermon so I've had a lot of time to witness her relentless, and yes I do mean relentless, sharing of her passion for peace and justice.

I raise up all three of these folks as examples of people who work for the good, always appealing to our better natures. I do believe that there is evil in the world and they face it straight on and they never give up, showing me how love will always prevail.

- Susan Farrell; Evensong sermon

## July Worship Leadership

**You can help!** Pastor Chris will be leading three worship services during the month of July. We will offer an Outdoor Worship service on Sunday, July 10th, and we will return to our usual worship in the Sanctuary for July 24th and 31st. Pastor Chris needs your help! If you would like to co-create one of these worship services, offer a reading, or have another idea please contact Pastor Chris [revcjm@gmail.com](mailto:revcjm@gmail.com). Exact details and themes are forthcoming, but all help and/or ideas are welcome at this point. Thanks!

## Books on Islam Donated to Library

In honor of the work Haydenville Congregational Church has been doing around combatting Islamophobia, Tynan Power has given the Church Library copies of two books he has contributed chapters to: *Progressive Muslim Identities* and *All-American: 45 American Men on Being Muslim*. Both include the voices of LGBTQ Muslims who often go unheard.

## Calendar for June/July/August

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

.....  
 Thank you "Holy Rollers" for providing the  
 coffee hour goodies during June and the  
 "Miracle Whips" during the month of August.  
 .....

Date	Time	Event	Location
Wed. June 1	12:45 pm	Book Group with Peter Ives	Dining Room
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Thurs. June 2	9:30 am	Café Office Hours @ Pine Street Café	Florence
	6:30 pm	Diaconate Meeting	Dining Room
Sat. June 4	10:00 am	Understanding Islam: Being Allies - Combating Anti-Muslim Rhetoric and Violence. What Can Be Done?	Dining Room
	4:00 pm	Terry Dwyer and Sue Langer Wedding (small reception for family to follow)	Sanctuary
Sun. June 5	10:00 am	Worship Service with Communion	Sanctuary
Mon. June 6		Beginning of Ramadan	
Wed. June 8	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Thurs. June 9	9:30 am	Café Office Hours @ Pine Street Café	Florence
	5:30 pm	Trustee Meeting	Dining Room
	6:00 pm	Children, Youth & Family Ministries Committee Meeting	Children's Church
Fri. June 10	4:00 pm	HCC Writing Group	Dining Room
Sun. June 12	10:00 am	Worship Service, Children's Sunday, Instant Choir!	Sanctuary
	12:00 noon	Refugee Kit Assembly Party	Dining Room
	12:00 noon	Council Meeting	Sanctuary
Tues. June 14	7:00 pm	Men's Meeting	Dining Room
Wed. June 15	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Thurs. June 16	9:30 am	Café Office Hours @ Pine Street Café	Florence
	6:00 pm	Journey Support Group	Dining Room
Sun. June 19	10:00 am	Worship Service, Father's Day	Dining Room
Wed. June 22	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary
Thurs. June 23	9:30 am	Café Office Hours @ Pine Street Café	Florence
Fri. June 24	4:00 pm	HCC Writing Group	Dining Room
Sun. June 26	10:00 am	Worship Service, Church Picnic to follow, see page 9	Sanctuary
Thurs. June 30	9:30 am	Café Office Hours @ Pine Street Café	Florence

Date	Time	Event	Location
<b>July</b>			
Sun. July 10	10:00 am	Outdoor Worship Service, bring chairs, see page 6	TBD
Thurs. July 21	6:00 pm	Journey Support Group	Dining Room
Sun. July 24	10:00 am	Worship Service, Instant Choir!	Sanctuary
Sun. July 31	10:00 am	Worship Service, Instant Choir!	Sanctuary
<b>August</b>			
Thurs. Aug. 4	6:00 pm	Diaconate Meeting	Dining Room
Sun. Aug. 7	10:00 am	Worship Service with Communion, Instant Choir!	Sanctuary
Thurs. Aug. 11	5:30 pm	Trustee Meeting	Dining Room
Sun. Aug. 14	10:00 am	Worship Service, Instant Choir!	Sanctuary
	12:00 noon	Council Meeting	Sanctuary
Sun. Aug 21	10:00 am	Worship Service, Instant Choir!	Sanctuary
Sun. Aug. 28	10:00 am	Worship Service, Instant Choir!	Sanctuary
Wed. Aug 31	7:00 pm	Choir Practice	Sanctuary

## Supporting Refugees: Kits & Knits

The Peace and Justice Steering Committee has begun our project to collect items for Welcome Kits for new families arriving in Western Mass. Please bring an item to "Understanding Islam" event on June 4th, or on Sunday, June 5th. Then we'll purchase whatever is needed to complete the kits and have a Kit Assembly Party on June 12th after church.

### Kitchen Kit:

8 forks, knives & spoons, 8 plates & bowls, 8 mugs or teacups, pots, pans & baking dish, mixing/serving bowls, manual can opener, kitchen knife & utensils, cutting board, kitchen towels and dish cloths or sponges

### Household Kit:

8 bath and 8 hand towels, light bulbs, clock (with alarm), 8 pillows & pillow cases, bed linens: sets of sheets (twin & queen) and blankets: twin & queen

### Cleaning Kit:

Bottle of dish detergent, all-purpose cleaner, 2 waste baskets, 2 boxes of tall trash bags, sponges or cleaning cloths, paper towels, broom and laundry detergent

### Child & Baby Supply Kit:

Backpack, pens, pencils, erasers, sharpener, crayons & coloring book and diapers & wet wipes

### Bathroom Kit:

8 rolls of toilet paper, 4 bottles of shampoo, 8 bars of soap, 2 tubes of toothpaste, deodorant (men's & women's), box of feminine products, hand/body lotion, Band-Aids, shaving cream & disposable razors and hairbrush/comb

### Attention Knitters:

We'd also like to start making hats, mittens, and scarves for infants, children and adults to give to refugees. Knitters and crocheters, please help! We'll work on these over the summer and collect them in the fall. If you need a simple pattern contact Lisa Hall.

We are all born to be a blessing.

- Rachel Naomi Remen

## Giving Away the Things We Love: A Way Into Insight and Compassion

There is a deeply satisfying sign on our church door: "Refugees are welcome here". It prompted me to remember how hard it was to downsize for a recent move and how giving away my mother's glass rolling pin set the stage for a wider understanding of forced loss. I treasured the rolling pin but knew I would no longer have the space to keep it. At church I gave it to a friend who thought it was cool and said she would like to have it. Giving it to her felt good.

But reflecting on this in the safe space of church I experienced deep sadness and loss of control in my life. I felt scared. Giving away this precious thing because I was forced by aging and circumstance to move away from a familiar and much loved home left me feeling bereft of comfort, of security. I could not protect against the loss of this well-loved rolling pin and many other things.

However, upon reflection it became clear that my feelings, though deeply felt, were but a hint of the profound layers of loss that refugees already traumatized by war, drought and poverty must experience. They are violently losing the visual and tactile elements of their lives: cooking tools, neighborhoods, friends and family, trees, food traditions, water, home, language and customs, religious practices, clothing, income - their rolling pins and more. And, perhaps most painfully, their children are at the mercy of forces beyond their control.

The circumstances that brought about my move were lived out in peace. My family and friends were not threatened with destruction. My move did not send me into foreign lands, take away family or the deep friendships that flavor my life, make it more fun, and sometimes just more bearable. The rolling pin is in safe keeping now. My friend and I will honor my mother by baking an apple pie together.

Refugees do not have this option. They have to start over on everything. A daunting job they did not ask for.

What does compassion ask of us in response to this situation? That we see them as fellow human beings, that we speak up for them, and that we advocate for government policies on all levels that welcome them here and bring peace to the lands they love as home.

- Carol Boyer

## Church Picnic!

Mark your calendars! The annual Church picnic is Sunday, June 26th, right after the service. This year the picnic is being hosted by Laura and Velma Garcia at their house in Williamsburg (directions below)! There will be burgers, hot dogs and vegetarian options provided but you will want to help bring the extras: salads, chips and dips, fruit, beverages, paper products, relishes, desserts, etc! So come make some new friends and mark the end of the church year. As usual we will need lots of volunteers so if you can help with set-up, take down, or planning, contact Andrew Geery at ([andrew.geery@gmail.com](mailto:andrew.geery@gmail.com)) or Linda Ziegenbein at ([lziegenbein@yahoo.com](mailto:lziegenbein@yahoo.com)). Thanks!



**Directions to our Picnic:** From the Church, go west on Route 9 for two miles. As you enter Williamsburg center, just after the brick schoolhouse on the left and just before the Williamsburg General Store, take a sharp left on to South St. Follow South St. for one mile and Laura and Velma's house is number 80 on the right, with a brick mailbox. It is a tan-colored house with a red door. Park along the left side of the driveway or on the street in front of the house.

## Relay For Life of Hampshire County

It is time for the Relay For Life. For those who may not know what it is, it is an overnight walk to raise money for the American Cancer Society. The relay is on June 17-18 at Look Park. Sylvia, Cheryl and Lexi Fappiano-Whalen have been on a team, Porky's Pals, for 5 years. Teams raise money by fundraising or donations. A donation of any amount is much appreciated. Sylvia, Cheryl or Lexi will be on the hug line on the 5th and 12th collecting donations from our church family. Thank you all for supporting this cause.

**Office hours for Ferdene Chin-Yee, our  
Church Bookkeeper/Office Administrator,  
are from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, Monday,  
Wednesday and Friday.**

## We Have a New Bookkeeper/ Administrative Assistant

We are delighted to welcome Ferdene Chin-Yee to our staff as Bookkeeper/Administrative Assistant on a temporary basis. Hired by the Trustees and Pastor Andrea, Ferdene comes to us with extensive experience in accounting and administrative technology, having worked in the Pioneer Valley for nonprofit organizations for the past 20 years.

Ferdene's office hours are from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm, Monday, Wednesday and Friday; you can reach her through our [office@haydenvillechurch.org](mailto:office@haydenvillechurch.org) address. We are thrilled to have found her and we welcome her warmly to our leadership team.

*Dear Andrea and Kind Souls at the  
Haydenville Congregational Church,  
Thank you so much for letting us into your home  
and making us so welcome. Your generosity of  
spirit in giving up your event for us is  
breathtaking. The evening began in love and  
continued with the Spirit of the Hills Chorus and  
the inspiration provided by the walkers and the  
dozen children's agencies who do so much for  
children.  
Thank you again.  
Best,  
Pamela Wicinas, Director of Development,  
Cutchins Programs for Children & Families*

"Everybody needs beauty as well as  
bread, places to play in and pray in,  
where nature may heal and give  
strength to body and soul alike."

- John Muir

## From the Deacons' Bench

I began my three year term as a Deacon this past March. You may be wondering, what exactly does a Deacon do? A Deacon is a lay minister of the Church with particular responsibilities in the area of worship, the sacrament of communion and outreach to new worshipers.

Since that time, I have immersed myself in learning what is involved in that role - learning the ropes - including the rope that rings the bell. I have attended several of the once-a-month meetings with the other Deacons and Pastor Andrea. I observe week to week as the Deacon of the Month participates in the service both before, during and after. Then of course there is familiarizing myself with where everything is located.

I am constantly asking questions, like an inquisitive two-year-old learning about the world around them. It is a lot to learn and at times seems a bit overwhelming, and on top of that there are all the worries of will I mess up or forget something. This is where my fellow Deacons surround me with support, assistance, words of encouragement and hugs.

Recently, Paula Spencer, my "Deacon Buddy" met me for the tour of the church going down the list of the responsibilities of the Deacon before and after church. As recommended, I have placed that safely behind my name tag for quick reference and peace of mind.

Even though my first time as "Deacon of the Month" is in June and fast approaching, I am beginning to feel confident and actually looking forward to it.

Although the learning curve seems steep, I have also come to some self discovery in this process. I love our church, our pastors, this wonderful group of fellow Deacons of which I am now one and those people whom I have come to know and think of as family. I feel my love for God will only deepen through my experience as a Deacon. Twelve Deacons, twelve disciples, all of us followers of Jesus and deeply committed to our faith.

As I do every day, I say a prayer of thanks for all my blessings of which I have many! Amen.

- Christine Foudy, Deacon

## This Month In Children's, Youth & Family Ministries

### June through August in Children's, Youth, and Family Ministries

**June 5:** Joint lesson to prepare for Children's Sunday; Communion served by Dawn Orluske

**June 12:** Children's Sunday (All ages in Sanctuary Worship); Welcome Kit assembly party following worship

**June 19 - September 4 :** Summer Playgroup

**September 11:** Rally Day, Children's Church starts new program year

### Children's Sunday Worship and School Supply

**Welcome Kit Project • June 12th •** Our kids are taking over worship on June 12th! During this all ages worship service, Pastor Chris will collaborate with our children and youth to lead the congregation in a time of worship and celebration. We will also take a moment to recognize and appreciate everyone who has volunteered in our programs throughout this past year - so if that's you, we'd love to see you there!

Additionally, we'd love to have Children's Church participants bring in **school supplies** to add to the **Welcome Kits** for newly arriving refugees. We'll bless these items during worship, and you're invited to stay after worship to join the kit assembly party. Any items help, but we are focusing on classroom supplies for students in kindergarten through 5th grade (pencils, pens, crayons, markers, notebooks, paper, scissors, glue sticks, etc.)

### Summer Camp at Silver Lake Conference Center! •

Looking for a fantastic and transformative experience for your child or youth this summer? 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. Silver Lake has all sorts of weeklong, overnight

conferences for young people entering 4<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> 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!

**Registration is going on now!** To register and for more information, visit [silverlakect.org](http://silverlakect.org). Financial assistance ("Camperships") is available through Silver Lake and the Massachusetts UCC, and totally confidential. See Pastor Chris (a long-time Silver Laker!) for more information.

### Children's Church Registration on Rally Day & Family Meeting

**•** Our Children's Church program will resume on Sunday September 11th with an opportunity to register your child. Registration is very important because it is an opportunity for Pastor Chris and the teachers to learn any important things about your child (such as allergies or necessary accommodations), as well as updating us on the best way to keep in contact with you. New registration forms will be available, but you may also "renew" last year's registration. All forms are also posted on our website.

The Children's and Family Ministries Committee has also decided to offer a "**Family Meeting**" early in the program year so we can share our curriculum calendar and go over some thoughts about our covenant, policies, and practices. Please look for that date in the September newsletter.

You will also have the opportunity to sign up as a **volunteer**. This year, we are urging all adults with a child in the program to volunteer in the classroom sometime during the year. All volunteers are required to complete a registration form (or renew last year's form) and complete a satisfactory CORI check. We will hold a volunteer information session early in the program year.

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

## Church Leadership

<b>Rev. Dr. Andrea Ayvazian</b> Senior Pastor	<b>Rev. Dr. Peter Ives</b> Theologian-in-Residence	<b>Nancy Winninger</b> Angel Wings, <i>Coordinator</i>	<b>Chip Roughton</b> Scripture Reader, <i>Coordinator</i>	<b>Bev Orluske</b> <b>Nancy Winninger</b> Keepers of the Keys	<b>Deacons</b> ( <i>by Seniority</i> ) Jen Matias Amy Andrew Pat James Paula Spencer Shirley Sicurello Carolyn DuBois Olivia Ilano Davis Tobias Davis Karen Browne-Courage Trish LaFreniere Cate Shaw Christine Foudy
<b>Rev. Chris Mereschuk</b> Associate Pastor; Director of Children's, Youth, and Family Ministries	<b>Yohah Ralph</b> Minister of Outreach, Advocacy and Pastoral Care	<b>Jackie Cloonan</b> Snow Angels, Green Angels, <i>Coordinator</i>	<b>Laura Paul</b> Librarian	<b>Mary Gerken-Newcomb</b> Haydenville Church Writers' Group, <i>Facilitator</i>	
<b>Jeff Olmsted</b> Minister of Music	<b>Kathy O'Connor</b> Church Sexton	<b>Bev Orluske</b> <b>Nancy Winninger</b> Angel Hearts	<b>Sharon Grace</b> <b>Julie Salzman</b> Head Ushers	<b>Ross Bassett</b> <b>Jan Varnon</b> <b>Bob Varnon</b> Lay Delegates	
<b>Lynn Fogg</b> Moderator	<b>Bookkeeper/ Administrative Assistant</b> Ferdene Chin-Yee	<b>Doug Renick</b> Peace and Justice Steering Committee, <i>Chair</i>	<b>Jennifer Miller-Antill</b> <b>Laurie Priest</b> Head Greeters	<b>Rev. Dr. Peter Ives</b> <b>Pat James</b> <b>Raquel Manzanares</b> <b>Jen Matias</b> Keepers of the Covenant	<b>Church Council</b> Senior Pastor Moderator Vice Moderator Clerk Treasurer
<b>Sam Icklan</b> Vice Moderator	<b>Jim Foudy</b> Human Resources Coordinator	<b>Carolyn DuBois</b> Music Committee, <i>Chair</i>	<b>Sue Carbin</b> Church Scheduler <a href="mailto:suecarbin1973@aol.com">suecarbin1973@aol.com</a>	<b>Trustees</b> ( <i>by Seniority</i> ) Alice Barber Karin McGowan Laura Garcia Jo Cannon, <i>Treasurer</i> . Sylvia Fappiano, <i>LA Rep.</i> Carol Shaw	<b>Trustees</b> , <i>Chair</i> Diaconate, <i>Chair</i> Stewardship, <i>Chair</i> Music, <i>Chair</i> Peace & Justice, <i>Chair</i> Family Ministries, <i>Chair</i>
<b>Lisa Hall</b> Clerk	<b>Andrew Geery</b> Children's and Family Ministries Committee, <i>Chair</i>	<b>Linda Zeigenbein</b> Interfaith Cot Shelter Meal, <i>Coordinator</i>			
<b>Jo Cannon</b> Treasurer	<b>Jennifer Clarson</b> Angel Take-out, <i>Coordinator</i>				
<b>Pat James</b> <b>Jen Matias</b> Diaconate, <i>Co-Chairs</i>					
<b>Alice Barber</b> Trustees, <i>Chair</i>					

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

