



# The Haydenville Congregational Church

*Open Hearts • Open Minds • Open Doors*

Rev. Chris Mereschuk, *Acting Pastor*  
Jeff Olmsted, *Minister of Music*

143 Main Street  
PO Box 257, Haydenville, MA 01039  
[office@haydenvillechurch.org](mailto:office@haydenvillechurch.org)  
<http://haydenvillechurch.org>

Facebook and Instagram @haydenvilleucc  
(413) 268-9344

*As you prepare for worship, you are invited to  
light a prayer candle or write down a Joy or  
Concern. Please silence your cell phone.*

## December 24, 2017 • 10:00 am Fourth Sunday of Advent

- Prelude** Jeff Olmsted  
Song of Invocation "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Chalice Hymnal #119
- Welcome** Jan Varon and Pastor Chris
- Gathering Hymn\*** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" Chalice Hymnal #148
- Lighting of the Advent Wreath** Beverlee Orluske and Gary Orluske  
*Love Candle*
- Anthem** "Love Came Down at Christmas" Arranged by Jeff Olmsted
- Offering** Heather King  
Circle Song^ "The gift of Christ is all I seek today. The gift of Christ is all I seek today. The gift of Christ is all I seek. The gift of Christ is all I seek today."  
Doxology\* "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" Chalice Hymnal #50 (Music #49)  
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose  
power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*
- Children's Message** Pastor Chris  
Singing the Children to Children's Church "You are walking in the light of God. You are walking in the light of God. You are walking in the light of God. You are walking, you are walking, O!, you are walking in the light of God. You are walking, you are walking, O!, you are walking in the light of God."
- Scripture Reading** Bob Varnon  
Luke 1:26-38 **One Voice:** *For the word of God in Scripture, for the word of God among us,  
for the word of God within us,*  
**All Voices:** *Thanks be to God.*
- Song of Preparation** "Spirit of the living God, fall a-fresh on me. Spirit of the living God, fall a-fresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me. Spirit of the living God, fall a-fresh on me."
- Sermon** "A Gift That Will Last" Pastor Chris  
Musical Response
- Prayers of the People** Pastor Chris  
Pastoral Prayer *Our Mother/Father/Creator God who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.*  
The Lord's Prayer (please use the version of the Lord's Prayer you are most comfortable with)

**Sending Hymn\*** "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" Chalice Hymnal #150

**Benediction\*** Pastor Chris

**Postlude** Jeff Olmsted

## ***Our Worship Is Over - Now Our Service Begins***

*\* Please rise if you are comfortable doing so.*

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### **Luke 1:26-38**

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

~ New Revised Standard Version

**Welcome Visitors!** • We are so glad you chose to worship with us this morning! Please take a moment to fill out the visitor slip found in your bulletin and place it in the Offering plate or hand it to Pastor Chris on our Hug and Handshake Line at the close of worship. We love to know who is in worship, and we'd love to connect. Then stick around today for some refreshments in the Dining Room!

### **Today's Worship Service Leaders**

**Deacons of the Month:** Olivia Ilano Davis and Cate Shaw

**Trustee of the Month:** Robert Davis

**Ushers:** Kristina Malek and Beverlee Orluske

**Greeters:** Tatum Hathaway, Karla Hathaway, and Chris Perry

**Children's Church Leaders:** Jen Miller-Antill and Karen Guiel

### **FYI: Some Things For You to Know About Our Church •**

Our **all-gender restrooms** are located through the doors at the front of the Sanctuary. Our accessible bathroom with a diaper changing station is located in the Dining Room. The door by the piano is the closest, and leads to a ramp. Feel free to go in-and-out of the worship service as needed.

For your comfort, **blankets, shawls, and hand fans** are available in baskets at the front and rear of the Sanctuary.

**Children and babies** are always welcome to remain in worship. If needed, there is a play space in the Narthex (Route 9 entrance). Nursery care and Children's Church are also available.

In our effort to be more welcoming to folks with allergies, we are a **"Fragrance-Reduced"** community. We thank you for refraining from wearing perfumes and colognes.

An **AED and First Aid Kit** are located in the **kitchen**, and a number of our members are trained first responders and/or work in the medical field.

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**Church Leadership: Ministers** *All of us* • **Rev. Chris Mereschuk** *Acting Pastor* • **Jeff Olmsted** *Minister of Music* • **Kathy O'Connor Sexton** • **Linda Babcock** *Office Administrator, Church Scheduler* • **Rev. Yohah Ralph** *Minister of Outreach, Advocacy, and Pastoral Care* • **Carole Bull** *Member-in-Discernment* • **Rev. Dr. Peter Ives** *Theologian-in-Residence* • **Sam Icklan** *Church Moderator* • **Toby Davis** *Church Vice Moderator* • **Jo Cannon** *Treasurer* • **Nancy Winner** *Clerk* • **Jim Foudy** *Human Resources Coordinator* • **Carolyn du Bois and Shirley Sicurello** *Co-Chairs, Diaconate* • **Karin McGowan** *Chair, Trustees* • **Cate Shaw** *Chair, Pastoral Search Committee* • **Laurie Priest and Ann Loomis** *Co-Head Greeters* • **Cindy Dolgoff** *Head Usher* • **Sue Carbin** *Chair, Building Committee* • **Andrew Geery** *Chair, Children's and Family Ministries* • **Doug Renick** *Chair, Peace and Justice Steering Committee* • **Jim Foudy** *Human Resources Coordinator* • **Jackie Cloonan** *Coordinator, Snow Angels* • **Susan Farrell** *Coordinator, Green Angels* • **Nancy Winner** *Coordinator, Angel Wings* • **Linda Ziegenbein** *Coordinator, Interfaith Cot Shelter Meal* • **Laura Garcia** *Webmaster* • **Carla Imperial** *Cross Currents*

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# Haydenville Congregational Church

December 24, 2017

## Announcements

**1. December Coffee Hour Hosts** • Many thanks to **The Daily Bread** for hosting our December Coffee Hour.

Our January hosts are **Loaves & Dishes**. Contact Julie Salzman if you'd like to join a Coffee Klatch.

**2. Dreaming of a Green Christmas** • Following discussions with several environmentally conscious church members, the Deacons and Pastor Chris decided to work with Pat James to craft a more eco-friendly floral celebration of Christmas. We will not be offering or displaying poinsettias this year, as they have a very limited lifespan, are not grown locally, and are also toxic to pets. Instead, we have flowers grown from bulbs and an Advent Wreath crafted from succulents. Both the flowers and the Advent Wreath are intended to have a life beyond Christmas. If you would like to purchase any of the flowers or succulents for your own home, please see Pat James or Pastor Chris. Remaining flowers will be planted in the church flowerbeds. Our thanks to Pat James for her work, along with Laine Wilder and Cate Shaw for the wreaths and greenery, and the Deacons for decorating the Sanctuary.

**3. Drivers Needed for Angel Wings** • We are looking for drivers to give folks occasional or routine rides to church on Sundays. Rides are needed from Amherst/Hadley, Florence, Northampton, and Haydenville/Williamsburg. If you can help out, please contact Nancy Winner: [nancywinner@comcast.net](mailto:nancywinner@comcast.net). Thank you!

**4. The Mitten Tree** • *From Trish LaFreniere* • Christmas at Haydenville Congregational Church means many things. One of my favorites is the Mitten Tree in the Dining Room this year. Our goal is to decorate this tree with mittens, scarves, hats, and warm socks. Half of the donations will go to the Anne T. Dunphy school. Every year, they hand out warm items to the kids who need them, for whatever reason. The rest of the items collected go to either a local shelter or to the collection for refugees. Look for the Mitten Tree in the Dining Room. Bring in your gifts of warmth and say a little prayer as you hang them up.

**5. Memorial Gifts to the Church** • As we approach Christmas, please consider giving a one time financial gift to the church in honor or in memory of a loved one. Your loving gift goes a long way in supporting our Beloved Community.

**6. Winter Weather Alerts and Cancellations** • Worship cancellations due to inclement weather will be publicized on TV channel 22 (WWLP/NBC) and posted on our Facebook page. Worship service cancellation decisions are made by 7:00 am. As always, please use your own best judgement about traveling to Haydenville if the weather is bad.

**7. Open Food Pantry** • Help yourself to items from our Open Pantry shelves in the Dining Room. There are bags available in the kitchen. Take home what you need! We are also in need of food donations, especially breakfast foods, pasta and sauce, and canned fruit. Thank you all for your generosity!

**8. Children's Church Reminder** • While the Children's Church Director position is vacant, our Children's Church is being led by members and friends of our Beloved Community, and is running on a new schedule. For the first Sunday of the month, all children are invited to remain in worship with their adults (communion is served and is open to all). There will be classroom lessons on the second and third Sundays, and a fellowship time with art, games, and music on the fourth Sunday. When there is a fifth Sunday, all children are invited to help with prep for Cathedral in the Night. Your help and leadership is essential and greatly appreciated! You can sign up for one or more Sundays, and you don't need to have a child in the program in order to help out. Please contact Andrew Geery to sign up or for more information.

**9. Announcement & Newsletter Submissions** • Have something you want to share with the church? Have an article, poem, photo, quote, or book review for the newsletter? Please send all submissions to [hccnews@haydenvillechurch.org](mailto:hccnews@haydenvillechurch.org). The bulletin and email announcement deadline is Tuesday at 5:00 pm. Submissions to our bimonthly newsletter are on the 15th of the month. See Pastor Chris for questions about the bulletin or email announcements, and Carla Imperial for the newsletter. Thank you!

**10. Clothing Donations for Family from Puerto Rico** • Wow! Recently we were able to generously support a Puerto Rican family in need. Not only did we get essential warm clothes and gifts for this mother and her 7 year old and 5 month old sons, but you also donated enough money to reimburse those who did the shopping. Those donations were blessed, and brought to the Northampton schools on Monday morning to be rushed to the family. If you have very good used warm clothing to donate as well, here are the sizes: Mother: size medium women's and size 8 shoe; Son age 7: size 7 clothing and size 1 shoe; and baby son, age 5 months: size 3-6 months. You can bring donations to church and we'll get them to this family. ~  
*From Your Circle of Care*

**11. Supporting Lucio and First Church Amherst** • Lucio Perez remains in sanctuary at First Church Amherst. He is a long standing member of the Springfield community who has committed no criminal offenses, but will be deported and separated from his family if he leaves the church. Many faith communities are providing meals for him, rides for his family to visit him, and taking turns being at the church with him. Our P&J committee has asked what we can do to help. Lucio's greatest need is for money to support his family. Their basic rent, utilities and food cost \$1400 more per month than his wife brings home from her low wage job. And she's been notified she will be laid off for 6 weeks starting in December. You can make online, tax deductible donations at: <https://tinyurl.com/ImSanctuaryFund>. And there is more information about Lucio and his family there. Or mail checks made out to: First Church Amherst, 165 Main St., Amherst MA 01002 with "Immigrant Sanctuary Fund" in the memo line.

## Events

### **1. Christmas Eve Offering and the UCC Christmas Fund** •

On Christmas Eve we divide our "loose plate" offering between our church and the United Church of Christ's Christmas Fund. Formerly known as "Veterans of the Cross," this special missions offering provides emergency financial assistance to retired clergy and church workers in times of need. Thank you for your generosity!

### **2. Blue Moon Sunday & Cathedral in the Night** •

**December 31st at 10:00 am and 5:00 pm** • When there is a 5th Sunday in a month, our church prepares and serves a meal for Cathedral in the Night. We need your help following worship on Sunday, December 31st to make our meal, then again at 5:00 pm to serve the meal in front of First Churches Northampton. Please contact Pastor Chris if you are available to help prepare and/or serve. Thank you!

**3. Preventing Nuclear War** • **Sunday, January 7th from 12:00-1:00 pm** • **First Churches Northampton** • Do you remember when you worried about nuclear war? Have you wondered why the US president can order a nuclear bomb attack without consulting anyone, including Congress? Do you think the US needs 8000 nuclear weapons, half of them on hair-trigger alert? Do you know that exploding only a few of these weapons would disrupt the climate and possibly cause global famine? Does all this make you feel safe? If not, come to hear Dr. Ira Helfand, co-founder of Physicians for Social Responsibility and two-time Nobel Peace Prize winner. His talk: "Back from the Brink: A Call to Prevent Nuclear War." Contact Doug Renick if you have questions.

## **Call to the Annual Meeting and Annual Report Submission**

**February 4, 2018 following Worship**

The Annual Meeting of the Haydenville Congregational Church, United Church of Christ will be held in the Sanctuary on **Sunday, February 4, 2018 following the worship service**. Please plan on staying to review the Annual Report and vote on many important issues. All members have a vote and are encouraged to attend. Non-members are welcome to attend and share their voice.

**Annual reports** from all board and committee chairs are due on **Monday, January 8, 2018**.

Please send them to Linda Babcock at [office@haydenvillechurch.org](mailto:office@haydenvillechurch.org).

Thank you!