

Shaking off the dust, coming to center and Moving Forward

Dear Church Family,

It is spring! And like the crocuses and daffodils poking through, exciting things are happening in our church.

The Worship Committee led by Rev. Dr. Peter Ives is providing rich, inspiring and meaningful Sunday worship services. We are thankful for the pastoral care provided by Rev. Carol Rinehart.

The Search Committee is meeting and our revised Church Profile will soon be available to interested candidates through the UCC clergy network.

Fun fundraising projects are underway.

And our transition — the name of the game for a while now — is about to take on a whole new and exciting dimension. We call it Moving Forward!

Starting April 22 and ending May 20, our church will enter into a time of setting goals, charting a course for our future, and preparing for our next settled pastor. The Rev. Dr. Claire Bamberg will be working with us to address concerns and effects following the loss of two pastors, help us identify our strengths, practice healthy communication skills, and move us forward as a spiritual community.

Rev. Bamberg lives in Connecticut. She has served as a minister to both UCC and UUA congregations in New England and the mid-West. She is a licensed mental health professional, a certified mediator and now works as a consultant to churches and other organizations dealing with transition and organizational change.

On Sunday, April 22 Rev. Bamberg will lead worship, examining the theological aspects of change. During an extended coffee hour and congregational meeting afterwards, she will help us to understand the predictable stages of change and where we are in it. This will help us begin to understand some of the feelings we have all been having, and, we believe, it will help us begin the work of personal understanding and alignment towards a shared future.

In between this weekend and May 19 we will have a series of small group meetings. In these meetings we will be encouraging/ soliciting/ requesting as many of us as is humanly possible to participate and offer feedback and perceptions about our future.

On Saturday, May 19 Rev. Bamberg will be back, leading us through a workshop using information gleaned from the small group discussions to talk about healthy communications, and how to apply our strengths to sustain the congregation and our mission in the world. This builds on our past visioning processing and will help us live that vision.

Sunday, May 20, Rev. Bamberg will lead worship service. Drawing on sacred and secular writings, she will summarize for us the reflection of the work we have done during the month and offer guideposts for a future for which Haydenville will be even better equipped for having done this healing, transforming, forward-moving work.

Save these dates for our Moving Forward program:

Sunday April 22

Rev. Bamberg. Sermon: *Transition set in the context of theological reflection*

Lunch (extended coffee hour)

Congregational meeting Sunday noon to 2 with Rev. Bamberg.

April 22-May 19.

Group leaders are trained.

Small groups of 7-10 people gather at various times in various places. We'll post meeting times and meeting leaders and people can select the one they want to attend.

Saturday May 19

Open to the entire congregation

Two, two-hour workshop sessions led by Rev. Bamberg broken up by lunch.

Sunday, May 20

Rev. Bamberg. Sermon: *Where are we called to be in the world and how do we get there?*

The Moving Forward program was developed by the Transition Leadership Team with the support of the Trustees and Worship Committee leaders. We encourage as many members of the congregation — whether you are active now or have been in the past — to participate.

More than ever, We Are The Church.

Your Transition Leadership Team

Jim Foudy, Jo Cannon, Carolyn du Bois, Sam Icklan, Lynn Fogg