



The United Congregational Church of Holyoke
 An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ
 300 Appleton Street, Holyoke, MA 01040
 Volume 29 Number 4

www.uccholyoke.org (413) 532-1483

APRIL, 2018



UNITED CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF HOLYOKE
TOWERS
 N E W S L E T T E R



Skinner Angels

Because of their location high above the floor — and poor lighting conditions, many of us have never noticed the carved, wooden angels in Skinner Memorial Chapel. Now that they have been cleaned along with every other square inch of the building, they can be glimpsed. This photo is specially edited to bring out the highlights. Each of the ten angels appear to be grabbing the chain that holds the light fixtures below.

Greetings Friends!

Our three months of gathering in Parlor A for worship are coming to an end. We expect to return to Skinner Memorial Chapel on Sunday, April 15th. Bring some cushions to sit on, if you are able.

Our time in Parlor A has been a mixed blessing. The smaller room has permitted a more intimate environment where singing seem louder and people can be heard without microphones. Many have also enjoyed the varied seating arrangements and the comfortable chairs and couches. At the same time, we long for our return to the chapel with it's musical and architectural beauty.

During these months we have also welcomed several guests to our worship services — and we have seen the establishment of **the new Faithwaze community** each Saturday at 4pm. Life is good, and we look forward to a fresh starts and new life going forward.

The next step for the **New Beginnings/Churches Alive** process is a training workshop for leaders in Framingham on April 14th. There is no cost to attend, but we need to have your name on a list before we go. The session will prepare leaders for house meetings that will be set up during the coming months.

The **“Music at United”** concert series has had to cancel some of it's offerings this season. The performance by Linda Laderach, Larry Schipull and Grant Moss was cancelled because Linda, a violinist broke her wrist. Other concerts had to be cancelled because the chapel was unavailable. The June 10th Organ Recital by Adam Pajan is still a “go.”

Plenary sessions for the **April 26-29, 2018 Awakenings Conference** will be held in Skinner Chapel, since the Main sanctuary will not be ready. Two of our evening programs are away from the church.

We continue to be a very active congregation. There is much for which to be grateful. Thanks to all the people who carry leadership and support one another with prayer. Let's make our return to Skinner Chapel a festival of the spring-time and new growth!

Grace and Peace,
 Bobbie, Chuck, Lance, and Sharon



Visit our brand new church website! It was completed just before Easter, thanks to the hard work of CDEvision; a Holyoke firm that also created our Awakenings website. www.ucccholyoke.org

FELLOWSHIP

Betty Medina Lichtenstein, Executive Director of Enlace de Familias in Holyoke, spoke at the April 3rd Fellowship meeting. She described her agency's work at resetting people who have come here from Puerto Rico in the wake of the slow recovery from last year's hurricane on the island.



SAVE THE DATE

The May 1st Fellowship Meeting will host the speaker Chris Brown from Montgomery. She will give a presentation on growing and cooking with herbs.



Also, mark your calendars for the annual end of the year Fellowship Dinner which will be held on Tuesday, June 5th.

A large contingent from our church were on hand to accept citations from Massachusetts State Senator Donald Humason, State Representative Aaron Vega, and Holyoke Mayor Alex Morse. The citation honored our

inclusion of Persons with disabilities and was presented through DDS Citizen Advisory Board.



Other persons from our church also received citations: June Smith (accepted posthumously by Russ), Karlene Shea, and Shaina Humphrey.

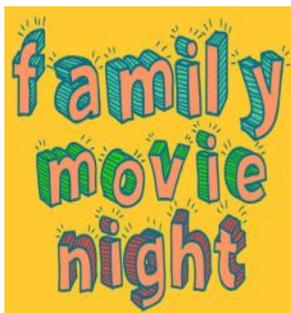


COMMUNITY MEAL & FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

Please join us for the next Community Meal & Family Movie held on Friday, April 13th. The dinner is served at 5pm and the movie will be shown at 6pm.



The family movie being shown is about a Viking teenager who doesn't exactly fit in with his tribe's longstanding tradition of heroic dragon slayers. His world is turned upside down when he encounters a dragon that challenges him and his fellow Vikings to see the world from an entirely different point of view.



**Join Us !
Thursday
April 12th @
5:30pm
Pizza donations
welcomed**

Maundy Thursday Service



ABOVE: Our Maundy Thursday Upper Room Service, included delicious soups and breads, and a prayerful service of communion, followed by the extinguishing of candles.

Good Friday Service



ABOVE: Our church choir and pastoral team shared leadership at St. Paul's Episcopal Church on Good Friday. We are there at the invitation of Marisa Egerstrom, Priest in Charge.

Faithwaze

On Saturday, March 31st Faithwaze hosted a children's Easter Egg Hunt outside in the courtyard. Worship Service and live music, with several musicians were enjoyed by many. Several children participated playing the bells and tambourines. Faithwaze worship Service meets every Saturday at 4pm with soup & bread following at 5pm. All are welcome!



“The Towers” (U.S.P.S. 0618-180)

published monthly by

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SECOND OFFERINGS

First Sunday Margaret’s Pantry

Please bring non-perishable foods OR monetary donations for Holyoke’s food pantry.

Third Sunday Rebekah’s Closet

Please bring diapers, wipes, OR monetary donations to assist young Holyoke families.

Pastoral Team’s Phone Numbers & Emails

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Experience Music at United



Organ Recital
ADAM PAJAN

2pm Sun, June 10

The United Congregational Church

Corner, Appleton (Rte 141) and Maple Streets, Holyoke, MA

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