



UNITED CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF HOLYOKE
TOWERS
 NEWSLETTER

New Beginnings News

We're at that tricky stage — just after everyone says, "Let's start something new!" -but nobody knows for sure about the "who," "what," "where," "why" or "when."

What we do know is that we've had some amazing successes with innovative programming in the past 6 months. We're thinking of the "Les Boulevardiers" event in May, and the Family Fun event in July as two prime examples. More are coming, such as the spiritual retreat in September.

In each case, one or more people came up with an idea, shared it with a few others, built a vision that they wanted to try, and brought it to the Church Leadership Council for blessing.

Each of these had generous support from our members and friends and gave back to the wider community. In the case of Les Boulevardiers, the event took in over \$1800 to help Trans Asylum Seekers in partnership with other UCC churches in the region. In the case of the Family Fun event, UCCH members and friends welcomed hundreds of neighborhood children and adults to summertime fun on our church lawn.

New Beginnings has meant finding partners, hearing and respecting other people's ideas, and doing things that live out our vision.

Have an idea you'd like to see developed? Share it with someone and see what they think. Find others who can help. Keep your own thinking flexible so that each person can be heard.

This is a great opportunity for everyone in our congregation. It will be tricky — no getting around it. Still, our first experiences have proven to be life-giving and fulfilling. As Jesus told his disciples, *"Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these..."*

-Bobbie and Chuck

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AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2019



UCCH Spiritual Retreat "The Cup of Our Life"



Please come to our first retreat on developing and igniting your spirituality!

A group of members is working hard to plan a one-day retreat on sharing and claiming our own sense of the sacred and recognizing our own spirituality.

It is scheduled for one day, Saturday September 28, 2019 from 9 am to 7 pm on the beautiful grounds of Genesis Spiritual Center in Westfield, MA.

Bring your own favorite cup and use it during the three sessions planned for the day. In between sessions, there will be many opportunities to be inspired through creative activities and simply enjoying the grounds, which include a labyrinth.

The cost is \$52 per person, which includes lunch and supper. Vegan or gluten free meals are available for an extra \$10 for the day. Coffee, tea and snacks will be provided. Some financial help is available.

Please register or indicate your intention to attend by August 25 by calling or emailing UCCH Office Manager Andrea Mancini (413 532-1483 or email: office.uccholyoke@gmail.com). Finalize by September 20.

QUESTIONS? Ask a retreat committee member: Sally Carlton, Muriel Griffin, Tim Damon, Myra Grammo or Paula Thouin.

June Fellowship Dinner



ABOVE: Karlene Shea (center right) presented the Fellowship Scholarship Award to Kameron Bacon (center left), son of Heather Luce and grandson of Karin Luce. The event was part of the spring Fellowship Dinner held on Tuesday, June 4. Julia Cavilieri, daughter of Laurie Cavilieri and granddaughter of Paula Thouin, also received a scholarship but was unable to attend the dinner. Congratulations Kameron & Julia! We Wish them God's blessing in their educational futures!

Faithwaze Breakfast Chapel



AT LEFT: Madison Thouin, granddaughter of Paula Thouin, plays the ukulele at Faithwaze Breakfast Chapel on Sunday mornings. Come for breakfast and service to hear how talented this 14 year old is! You won't be disappointed. Every week musicians will perform during Faithwaze.

June Community Meal



ABOVE: Kubra Fidan brought the idea to Lisa Hraba: a local group offered to prepare a Turkish Feast for the June 14th Community Meal. Kubra also brought many Muslim friends, so that every table hosted great conversations. It was a beautiful event! Thanks Kubra and Lisa!



ABOVE: Sunday worship all the men were invited up to the front of the chapel for a hymn sing. Left to right George "Dizzy" Desnoyer, Robert Grammo, Tim Damon, Jim Johnson, Jim Palermo, Alan Gilburg, and Chuck Morkin. The two young men in front are Matthew and Dominic Rodzen.

Save the Date Tues., Oct 1

Come join us for the next Fellowship Meeting on October 1, at 6:30pm. This will be a Potluck Supper. There is a sign-up sheet in Parlor B if you can bring a hot dish or salad. Officers will provide desserts.

Community Meal & Family Movie Night

Our next monthly Community Meal & Family Movie Night will be Friday, September 13. The meal is served at 5pm, and the family movie is shown at 6pm. Please use the Appleton Street door. **ALL** are welcome to join us!

SUMMER FAMILY FUN DAY

Thank you to ALL who donated either money, time, or helped in any way to make this a wonderful UCCH community event!



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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

Bobbie Morkin 413-313-6865

Chuck Morkin 413-207-2492

Assoc. Minister Lance Humphrey 413-246-8854

bobbiemorkin@comcast.net

chuckmorkin@gmail.com

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Volunteer Opportunities

We’re always in search of volunteers to host Sunday Coffee Hour, to be a Lay Reader, or to host the monthly Community Meal. There’s sign up sheets in Parlor B if interested.



Birthday Wishes

8/28 — Ann Keogh

9/12 — Lynda Overlock

9/17 — Karin Luce

9/28 — Paula Thouin

Bell Choir Ringers Needed



Are you interested in joining Bell Choir? Practice is once a week on Tuesdays, from 5:30 pm —6:30 pm. It’s easy and fun! We perform for Sunday Worship a few times a year. So come ring those bells with us!