

# UCCH UPDATE

The United Congregational Church of Holyoke  
300 Appleton Street, Holyoke, MA 01040  
413 – 532 – 1483 www.ucch.org

# OCTOBER 2024

## Upcoming Worship Services

**Come join on Sundays 10am Worship followed by Coffee Hour in the Parlors.**

Sermon title: One Night, Many Stories Pt. 2

**Sunday, Oct. 13<sup>th</sup> 10am Worship**

Sermon title: One Night, Many Stories Pt. 3

**Sunday, Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> 10am Worship**

Sermon title: Spiritual, But Not Religious?

**Sunday, Oct. 27<sup>th</sup> 10am Worship**

Sermon title: TBD by Guest Preacher

## Make It Count: Embracing Love, Grace, and Forgiveness

Every one of us carries our own story—some parts we share, others we keep private. Our pasts shape our identity, but they don't have to define our future. Often, we wrestle with the weight of past mistakes, unresolved conflicts, or the consequences of choices that still linger. Feeling trapped by these moments can be easy, yet there's always room for change, healing, and growth.

Take the story of Jacob and Esau. Jacob, known for his cleverness, had wronged his brother Esau more than once. And yet, as they stood ready to meet again after years of estrangement, both had the chance to choose whether to cling to anger, pain, and hurt or to take a step toward reconciliation.

Life is full of those moments. Sometimes, we are Jacob—seeking forgiveness for our past wrongs. Other times, we're Esau—holding the right to be angry but also possessing the power to forgive. In these moments, we must ask ourselves: Will we let the past keep us in chains, or will we embrace the liberating power of forgiveness, healing, and hope?

No matter who you are, what you've done, or what life has thrown at you, love and grace are always within reach. Our value isn't defined by our worst moments, but by the love we receive and, more importantly, the love we give. And in that love, there's no room for judgment, conditions, or exclusions. It's for all—regardless of where we come from, what we look like, or how we identify. You are always welcome in this circle of love and grace.

The world can be harsh, but we have the power to be kind. In a world that's often quick to judge, we can choose to forgive. We can let go of grudges and compassionately embrace each other's humanity, knowing that true strength is found in love, grace, and mercy.

This week let's challenge ourselves to extend love and grace to those around us and, more importantly, ourselves. Remember that no matter how far we've wandered, we all have access to healing. Together, we can create a space where everyone is embraced, valued, and celebrated for who they are.

Faithfully yours,  
Pastor Nathan Gonzalez

Join us on Sunday mornings for Worship, then immediately following for Coffee Hour, goodies and where some lively conversations take place.

**Coffee**  
& Conversation



**Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**5pm Free Community Meal**  
**6:00pm Family Movie Night**

**Chicken Enchiladas, spanish rice, salad, & dessert.**



**Parents must stay with their children.**  
**Donations are always welcome.**



The United Congregational Church of Holyoke

MCS  
in Partnership with  
The United Congregational Church in Holyoke  
300 Appleton Street, Holyoke MA 01040  
presents



**This is a "FREE" fun filled safe environment.**  
**Dress is costume! There will be some interactive fun as well as food trucks.**

**Thursday, Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> 6pm -7pm**  
**Maple Street Parking Lot**  
**Everyone is invited!**

