

UCCH UPDATE

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

NOVEMBER 2024

Upcoming Worship Services

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

Sunday, Nov. 3rd 10am Worship

Sermon title: The Election

Sunday, Nov. 10th

Sermon title: Giving it All

Sunday, Nov. 17th 10am Worship

Sermon title: The Weight of Faith

Sunday, Nov. 24th 10am Worship

Sermon title: TDB By Guest Preacher



**Friday, November 8th
Free Thanksgiving
Community Dinner**



**5pm Meal 6pm Family Movie Night
Everyone is Welcome**

THANKSGIVING Pie Fundraiser



Don't feel like baking? Homemade Apple Crumb, Double Crust Apple and Pumpkin Pies will be available to purchase for your Thanksgiving dessert table for only \$12.00 each. You can pick them up at the church or they can be delivered to your home on Wed. Nov. 27th. To place an order, call the church office or use the sign-up sheet in Parlor B. All proceeds benefit the PB & J Lunch Bag program for Kate's Kitchen.

The last day to order pies is Monday, Nov. 25th.

Devotional: Standing Firm in Life's Seasons

Life is unpredictable. There will always be moments of joy and fulfillment, but there will also be times when we face hardship, doubt, and pain. However, no matter who we are—our background, struggles, or how we identify—we all can endure, flourish, and thrive, even in the most challenging seasons of life.

Think about a tree standing tall in the middle of a desert. It seems almost impossible that such a thing could happen. But the tree is planted by the water, rooted deeply in a source of nourishment

that allows it to grow despite its surroundings. Like that tree, we can stand firm through life's trials, regardless of the storms that come our way. It doesn't matter where we've been, what we've done, what our bodies look like, or what labels we carry. What matters is that we are planted and connected to something greater than ourselves, something that nourishes our spirit.

We might not always bear fruit immediately. Life has its seasons, and some of those seasons require us to prepare, heal, and nurture ourselves before we see growth. But when our time comes, we will bear fruit—whether that fruit is the success of a personal goal, the achievement of something meaningful, or simply the ability to stand strong in the face of adversity.

The key is to remain planted, keep nurturing your spirit, and remember that true growth doesn't happen overnight. It's about resilience, about the quiet confidence that even when the winds blow, you are rooted and will not be shaken.

We all have access to a life where we are embraced and celebrated for exactly who we are—no exceptions. The beauty of this truth is that it requires nothing from us except the willingness to accept love, grace, and hope. When we stand firm in this, we prosper, not just in success but in a sense of wholeness and peace that cannot be taken away.

In a world that can be harsh, be like the tree planted by the water. No matter the season, stay rooted. You will not wither.

Faithfully yours,
Pastor Nathan Gonzalez