



Good News

North Prospect Union UCC

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Dear Friends,

I'm writing this letter after only our first week of Sunday School. While we have only just begun the semester, I would like to share with you some of what we are planning to do this year. As we enter the last half of the Season after Pentecost, the children will be learning what it means to be Christian and a child of God. We will explore how the congregations of the early church were encouraged and cared for by church leaders. We will also go to the Hebrew Scriptures, particularly Jeremiah, Isaiah, and Psalm 137 to discover how God has been with God's people from the beginning and is still with us today.

Several of our classes this season will be about prayer. The children will be encouraged to pray to God when they are upset, when they are happy, and whenever they feel like it. If you are a parent, I would ask that you

encourage your child to keep a regular habit of prayer. Praying with your child at bedtime or when your family sits to eat together is an easy way to work prayer into both your and your child's daily routine. Even if you are not a parent, you are invited and encouraged to keep up your prayer habits as well! A recent study of mainline churches in the northern U.S. has shown that daily prayer is a marker of vibrant and flourishing church communities. We will be praying for the children, their parents, and everyone in the church throughout the year. We hope that you will also pray for us, that we might nurture the children in faith as we continue trying to build the Sunday School program.

In the coming weeks we will also begin our acolyte program. Each week children in our Sunday School will be invited to light the candles in the sanctuary at the beginning of the

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Elder Spirit Resumes ~ October 6, 11:30

NPU's midday program plus lunch is back with more interactive events this fall. The first is a natural outgrowth of other groups that meet over knitting, crafts or probably any other get-together: We'll share what we've been reading lately! If you send titles and a few sentences about your favorites to the office by Tuesday night, they will be compiled for a take-home list.

Upcoming Events

October 10

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

October

2 Saturday

10:00 AM Craft Making

3 Sunday

9:30 Choir Rehearsal
11:00 Worship - Rev. Rose
Carvelli Coffee Group

6 Wednesday

11:30 AM ElderSpirit

9 Saturday

10:00 AM Craft Making

10 Sunday

9:30 Choir Rehearsal
Sandwiches for Outdoor Church
11:00 Worship - Rev. Rose
Beyerman/Bodwell/McKeown Coffee Group

11 Monday

Columbus Day (Observed)

13 Wednesday

7:00 PM Worship with a Twist

16 Saturday

10:00 AM Craft Making

17 Sunday

9:30 Choir Rehearsal
Hymn Sing Before Service, 10:45
11:00 Worship - Rev. Rose
Ramsay/Parsons/Weinstein/Kelley Coffee Group

18 Monday

Newsletter Deadline

21 Thursday

7:00 PM Trustees
7:30 PM Executive Council

23 Saturday

10:00 AM Craft Making
*Pizza and Movie Night. Pizza at 6:00;
Movie at 6:30*

24 Sunday

9:30 Choir Rehearsal
11:00 Worship - Rev. Rose
Addison Coffee Group
12:30 Revelation Study Group

30 Saturday

10:00 AM Craft Making

31 Sunday

9:30 Choir Rehearsal
11:00 Worship - Rev. Rose
Halloween

November 10

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November

3 Wednesday

11:30 AM ElderSpirit

6 Saturday

10:00 AM Craft Making

7 Sunday

9:30 Choir Rehearsal
Bring a Friend
11:00 Worship - Rev. O'Brien
Carvelli Coffee Group
Daylight Savings Ends--set back 1 hour

10 Wednesday

7:00 PM Worship with a Twist

11 Thursday

Veterans Day

13 Saturday

10:00 AM Craft Making

14 Sunday

9:30 Choir Rehearsal
Sandwiches for Outdoor Church
11:00 Worship - Rev. Rose
Beyerman/Bodwell/McKeown Coffee Group

15 Monday

Newsletter Deadline

18 Thursday

7:00 PM Trustees
7:30 PM Executive Council

20 Saturday

10:00 AM Craft Making

21 Sunday

9:30 Choir Rehearsal
11:00 Worship - Rev. Rose
Ramsay/Parsons/Weinstein/Kelley Coffee Group
Bake Sale after worship

25 Thursday

Thanksgiving

27 Saturday

10:00 AM Craft Making

28 Sunday

Advent begins
9:30 Choir Rehearsal
11:00 Worship - Thomas Hathaway
Addison Coffee Group

April 11

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May 11

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June 11

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July 11

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December 10

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February 11

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March 11

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August 11

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September 11

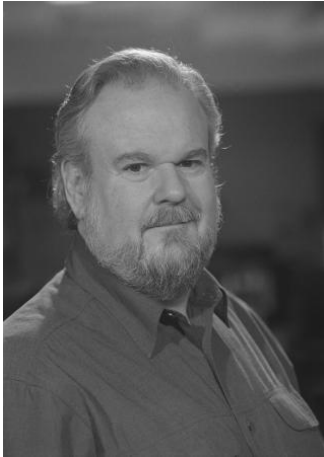
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December

1 Wednesday

11:30 AM ElderSpirit

Worship with a Twist ~ Wednesday, October 13



Music for our special “knock your socks off” worship this month will be provided by Scott Alarik, well-known performer and writer. Garrison Keillor said of him, "I have rarely seen an audience in such a good mood as when he's just been there." With his rich bass voice and fluid, finger-picked guitar, Alarik mixes original songs with folk classics, lacing them together with what the Boston Globe's Jeff McLaughlin called "delightfully wry, backbeat wit." The Boston Herald's Daniel Gewertz dubbed him simply, "the complete folk entertainer." Our own local talent, the ministerial staff, will provide a thoughtful, original liturgy for October's *Worship with a Twist*.



God in America

The U.S. has been described as the most religious nation in the world, and indeed, the history of the nation is tightly interwoven with the stories of religious people and movements. And yet mostly we know the stories in bits and pieces. PBS is producing a six-hour series, *God in America*, which looks at the whole picture. The press release says,

Since the days when the Puritan "city on a hill" beckoned on the horizon of the New World, religious faith and belief have forged America's ideals, molded its identity and shaped its sense of mission at home and abroad.

For the first time on television, *God in America* explores the tumultuous 400-year history of the intersection of religion and public life in America, from the first European settlements to the 2008 presidential election. A co-production of AMERICAN EXPERIENCE and FRONTLINE, this six-hour series examines how religious dissidents helped shape the American concept of religious liberty and the controversial evolution of that ideal in the nation's courts and political arena; how religious freedom and waves of new immigrants and religious revivals fueled competition in the religious marketplace; how movements for social reform--from abolition to civil rights--galvanized men and women to put their faith into political action; and how religious faith influenced conflicts from the American Revolution to the Cold War.

The series airs on PBS October 11-13, 2010, 9-11PM ET. Also, the church is purchasing the DVD, and we will have a Lenten study group in which we will view the series over a six sessions.

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worship service. We feel that this a crucial piece of the new Sunday School curriculum. As we seek to integrate the Sunday School into the worship life of the church, this will give children the opportunity to participate in and contribute to the worship service in a very special way.

As the year progresses, you are warmly invited to stop by our learning space to see our the various posters and projects we are using to learn about God. Or, better yet, ask one of the children to give you a tour and tell you about them! All the best to you in these coming months.

Blessings,

Tom Hathaway

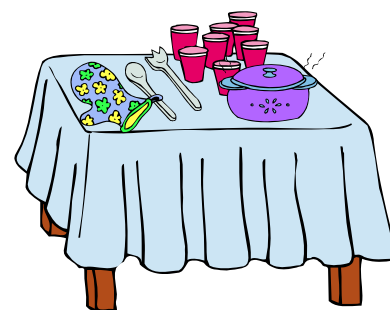
Minister of Christian Education

Hymn Sing ~ October 17, 10:45

Please show up by 10:40 so we're ready to sing as soon as the choir rehearsal ends. We'll warm up our own voices for worship singing all those old favorites you can't get enough of.

Pot Luck ~ October 31

A great chance to eat great food and catch up! Some of us even table-hop between dinner and dessert so we can visit with more people. Let Sally Addison or Florence Carvelli know what you're planning to bring for the pot luck, so we end up with a balanced meal.



*F*nd-Raising ~ November 5-7*

No, not Fund-Raising, but *Friend*-Raising. The UCC is releasing another ad this fall, and they are urging us to go to ucc.org to view it, and then send it to every one of our Facebook friends. On Friday, November 5, share the ad, perhaps with an offer to accompany anyone who wishes to attend church on Sunday, the 7th. If you aren't on FB, check out the ad and then email the connection to ten people you know. Not on-line? Do it the old-fashioned way and invite a friend in person or by phone. This can feel awkward, but keep in mind all the things you love about coming to church on Sundays. Some of those things your friends will love, too! Go ahead - you'll be doing someone a favor!

Study Group

Apocalypse and Allegiance: Worship, Politics, and Devotion in the Book of Revelation

by J. Nelson Kraybill

The *Revelation* study group is about to start. We will use Kraybill's book as our guide. The promo material describes the book this way:

In this lively introduction, J. Nelson Kraybill shows how the book of Revelation was understood by its original readers and what it means for Christians today. Kraybill places Revelation in its first-century context, opening a window into the political, economic, and social realities of the early church. His fresh interpretation highlights Revelation's liturgical structure and directs readers' attentions to twenty-first-century issues of empire, worship, and allegiance, showing how John's apocalypse is relevant to the spiritual life of believers today. The book includes maps, timelines, photos, a glossary, discussion questions, and stories of modern Christians who live out John's vision of a New Jerusalem.

Our plan is to read a chapter of Kraybill's book a week. We'll use a combination of meeting after church for discussion once a month and weekly on-line discussion.



Proposed Beginning Schedule

- Read through *Revelation* by **October 17**. Post questions and thoughts on-line as you read.
- **Oct 17-24** read Kraybill, introduction, pp. 13-26.
- **Oct 24** meet after coffee hour for 30-45 minute discussion
- **Oct 24-31** read Kraybill, chapter 1, pp. 27-40 and re-read *Revelation 1:1-20*

Prime the Pump

Preaching Series

Do you have a scripture passage that just bugs you? How about a theological question that you'd like to know more about? We are announcing a series of sermons this fall to be preached on topics, themes or scripture passages of your choosing. We'll accept suggestions through email, notes in the offering plates, notes mailed to the church, notes handed to ministers in the hall, or just about any way at all. Just let us know what you would like to hear.

From Dudley's Blog

Let's Burn the Bible!

By Dudley Rose, on September 8th, 2010

I think it's time we burned the Bible. Fred Phelps uses the Bible to say that God hates fags and that the US war casualties are God's revenge for our country's permissive culture. The Rev. Terry Jones in Gainesville, FL plans to burn the Quran because. He says that the God of the Bible tells him that Islam is the Devil. For nearly two millennia there have arisen groups of Christians, many of them mainstream, which have found in the Gospels warrant to eradicate Jews. It's time to call a stop to it. It's time to recognize the evil contained in this book. I say, it's time to burn the Bible!



Now, of course, I have no intentions of burning the Bible. I have a deep, abiding love for the scriptures. To this day, when I hold the Bible in my hands, its sacredness makes me tremble. I can never think of the Bible except I think that through it God is calling me to be more than I am. The Bible coaxes me to forgive, to love my neighbor and even my enemy, to do unto others as I would have them do unto me, to trust in the loving presence of God through whom all things are possible and through whom I may live and move and have my being. None of these things come naturally. Be I alone, they are beyond me. The sacred scriptures are one instrument by which God intends to make more of me than I am. Burning the Bible would incinerate my soul, for it would be to deny God's claim on me.

The scriptures of every religious tradition create such responses. The Quran of Islam, the Torah of Judaism, the Sutras of Buddhism—and all the others, too—are holy. To burn any of them is an unthinkable atrocity. Nonetheless, the scriptures of most traditions have been marshaled for terrible purposes; certainly the Bible and the Quran have. The scriptures of every tradition call their followers beyond themselves, beyond their own possibilities, beyond and their own greed and self-centeredness, beyond their fear and prejudice. But these human failings are nothing if they are not enduring, inventive and seductive. Our most egregious human instincts, given half a chance, will trick us into believing that our scriptures call us to hatred, condemnation and vengeance. It's enough to make you want to burn the books—until you remember that the books would call us to be better than we are. It is our sin, if you will, that gives voice to our worst selves.

So, let's not burn the Bible, or the Quran, or any other holy book. Indeed, let us remind ourselves that, as the Bible would say it, the very idea comes from that within us which is corrupt, not from God.

Library Acquires New Books

The church library, at the foot of the front stairs, has grown by a couple dozen books and a stack of current periodicals. New titles include Garry Wills's *What Jesus Meant*, Bruce Feiler's *Walking the Bible*, Maya Angelou's *Letters to My Daughter* and George Valliant's *Spiritual Evolution: A Scientific Defense of Faith*. There are also some novels by Jan Karon. The unfamiliar titles were taken at random and may or may not be what one expects to find in a progressive church. (Perhaps borrowers could leave a 3x5 card with their opinions in returned books.) Thanks to all who have made donations.



Joys & Concerns

A memorial service was held September 29th for Peter Dougenik, nephew of Sally Addison, brother of Mark and Tricia Dougenik, and son of Lillian. While not a recent church-goer, Pete grew up in Prospect Church and was known to our members who trace their roots to that congregation.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

10/4 Debbie Nevers

Sherry Galante

10/6 Bruce MacKinnon

10/8 Penny Light

10/12 Deb Bears

10/15 Chrystal Lavallee

10/16 Neldy MacKinnon

10/17 Michael Mitchell

10/22 Agnes MacDonald

10/23 Bryce Sady

Don Polley is recovering from recent abdominal surgery in addition to cataract surgery. At least all this happened after his trip to South America this summer!

Several folks are undergoing diagnostic testing at present; please keep them in your prayers.

Congratulations to Tom Hathaway, who has been taken in-care by the Metropolitan Boston Association, which means the organization which will ultimately ordain him sees him a candidate worthy of their nurture and guidance!

Is your birthday here? If not, please contact the office.