

The Village Steeple

From the Pastor's Desk:

Bible Studies, Book Groups, and Other Chances to Meet God.



We may be at the height of summer, but class is about to be in session. Actually, that's not entire true. Class isn't going to be in session so much as chances to deepen your spiritual life are about to come your way.

One of the most enduring commitments of the Congregational Church (our forerunner to the UCC) is to education. We believe that our relationship to God is only enhanced by our intellectual pursuits. It's that commitment that caused early Congregationalist to found schools like Harvard, Yale, Smith and a host of others.

This Week's Lectionary Texts

12th Sunday after
Pentecost

Hosea 11:1-11

Psalm 107

Colossians 3:1-11

Luke 12:13-21

That's also why UCC churches generally have strong Christian education offerings. We make sure that our children and youth are raised in the faith and allowed to explore their beliefs. When kids go downstairs during worship they are engaging God with their hearts and minds.

But Christian education doesn't stop when we turn 18. Indeed, then it has only just begun. Sometimes we forget that even adults continue to need spiritual and intellectual nurture. Sometimes even churches with the strongest youth programs offer nothing after high school. (continued)

THIS MONTH'S BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Aug. 2 – Jill Gentilin

Aug. 8 – Kathy Lorenz

Aug. 11 – Jeff Novy

Aug. 12 - Merrill Mundell

Aug. 20 – Martha Schoonmaker

Aug. 20 - Nelson Bond

Aug. 30 – Carson Fillion

Aug 1 - Barbara Willenbrock & Janet Kierys

August 2, 1988 - Mindy & Andy Childs

August 6, 2000 - Andy & Chris McLean

Aug 6, 1994 – Randy & Robin Johnson

August 29 - George & Laurie Newton

Pastor's Note (continued)

But the great thing is, we are not one of those churches. In fact, we have a very rich fall planned when it comes to Christian education.

For starters, at West Dover Congregational our Sunday morning Bible study will continue after worship. This continues to be a great opportunity for fellowship and study.

Then, at Wilmington Congregational, we will be joining together with St. Mary's Episcopal in order to offer a Bible study on the book of Exodus. This will be open to all who want to join us, including member of West Dover.

Exodus is a great book for many reasons. It's a testament to the faith of our forerunners, and a reminder that we can put our faith in God, even when we don't know where we are heading. If you are going through a transition in your

life, or you just want to re-read this classic story of our faith with new eyes, this could be the Bible study for you.

Finally, at West Dover, we will be reading Parker Palmer's Let Your Life Speak: Listening for the Voice of Vocation. We will begin on Tuesdays at 7pm from August 17th through September 28th. Books are available for purchase at a low cost.

Have you ever asked yourself, "What is God calling me to do?" Maybe you are in a new phase of your life and are asking this question again. Palmer asserts that we all have a calling, and he writes with clarity and creativity. Again, this book study is open to all, including Wilmington Congregational.

I hope you all take advantage of at least one Christian education offering this fall. I promise you; it's worth it!

Calendar**Sunday, August 1**

Worship, 9am
Coffee Hour, 10am
Bible Study, following

Tuesday, August 3

LKG, 4pm

Saturday, August 7

AA, 8pm

A Reminder:

The Deerfield Valley Food Pantry needs donations in order to supply the growing need in our area. We have designated the first Sunday of the month, Communion Sunday, as a canned food drive day. Please bring soup or tuna if you are able.

This Week's Link:

Liturgical Colors at UCC.com

Have you ever wondered why certain colors are worn at certain times in the church? This page will explain all about the origins of this practice. It will also deepen your understanding of the church year and how our worship journey reflects the life of Christ.

<http://www.ucc.org/worship/liturgies/liturgical-colors.html>

STAYING CONNECTED

If you or a loved one are sick, hospitalized or in crisis please call the Rev. Emily Heath at (802) 258-1143 at any time.

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