

The Village Steeple

From the Pastor's Desk:

What are we installing, exactly?



This Week's Lectionary Texts

14th Sunday after
Pentecost

Jeremiah 2:4-13

Psalm 81

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Luke 14:1, 7-14

"It sounds like you're a washing machine."

So said a friend of mine when I explained that I was being "installed" next month. She's right, the words "installed" and "installation" sound more appropriate for heavy appliances than people. Yet they are the words our tradition uses for an important event in the life of churches.

On September 26th I will be installed as the pastor of both West Dover Congregational and Wilmington Congregational Churches. This service will be held in the early afternoon so that members from both churches, as well as from churches around our

Association and Conference, will be able to attend. The Rev. Lynn Bujnak, our Conference Minister, will also be with us and will be preaching that afternoon.

This service is both a joyful and a solemn one. It is solemn because we are officially covenanting to be in ministry with one another. This is a serious occasion. Both you, the members of the church, and I are committing to work together to make our churches faithful to God's will for us. We commit to support one another, be honest with one another, and journey with one another for the duration of my ministry here. We are together affirming the call which you (continued)

THIS MONTH'S BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Aug. 30 – Carson Fillion

Sept. 2 - Mindy Childs

Sept. 2 - Emily Heath

Sept. 6 - Eric Kurucz

Sept. 7 – Louise Severance

Sept. 9 - Riley Childs

Sept. 9 - Alex Kurucz

Sept. 9 – Dick Severance

Sept. 10 – Frank Smith

Sept. 13 – Mary Schoonmaker

Sept. 29 - George Newton

Sept. 6, 1952 – Dick & Louise Severance

Sept. 24 – Kelly & Mike Murphy

Sept. 30 – Mitch & Laurel Cashman

Pastor's Note (continued)

voted to extend to me back in April. We are essentially saying to God, our community and one another, "yes, this is the right fit."

But it's also a joyful time. This is a time to celebrate what God has done with all of us. God has matched us together in ministry. God has called to us in our separate journeys to join together. God has led us to this point, and will continue to lead us forward.

On the day of the installation you will see representatives from other local UCC churches in our sanctuary. You will, hopefully, also see members of our broader community. This is a community event and all are welcome.

That being said, I sincerely hope that all of you who are reading this will also attend that day. As your pastor it would be a blessing to me to have you there joining in the

covenant of ministry with me. No pastor is in ministry alone. Their ministry is always done in conjunction with those whom they serve.

On that note, I want to sincerely thank you all for your support and affirmation during these first four months of ministry together. I feel like some great things are happening at both churches, and I truly feel like God is working in our midst. I'm excited for where this journey will take us all.

The installation will be held on Sunday, September 26th, at 2:30 in the afternoon. There will be a brief Ecclesiastical Council beforehand where I will introduce myself to the Association and members of the community. I would love to see you all at both.

Blessings.

Emily

Calendar**Sunday, August 29**

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

Tuesday, August 31

Spiritual Book Group, 7pm

Wednesday, September 1

Coffee Hour, 8-10am

Thursday, September 2

VT Welcome Center, all day

Saturday, August 28

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:**AIDS Project of Southern Vermont**

The AIDS Project of Southern Vermont provides services to our neighbors who are living with HIV and AIDS throughout our region. Several members of our congregations have been involved throughout the years, and have volunteered extensively.

<http://www.aidsprojectsouthernvermont.org/>

**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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