

# The Congregator

Monthly Newsletter Of The Congregational Church Of Huntington [www.lichurch.org](http://www.lichurch.org)

*A Progressive Protestant Church*

## Clergy Corner *by Rev. Mark Bigelow, Pastor*

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I have probably changed more than the congregation, but we have all grown.

Twenty years ago on New Year's Eve I arrived with my family to move into the church parsonage and begin my pastorate at The Congregational Church of Huntington. We left Denver, Colorado on the day after Christmas and drove across country with two kids, a dog, two cats, and a rabbit. I was behind the wheel of the biggest U-Haul truck pulling a car on a trailer and my wife drove our mini-van. Our children alternated between riding with me and her. The dog was in the van, the rest of the animals rode in the trailered car.

After six days of travel it was such a joy to arrive at the parsonage to see a big group of church members waiting to greet us and help us unload on New Year's Eve. It took them almost no time to put all our possessions into the home and then we all went to the home of Dave and Monica Willard for supper and to welcome in the New Year in Centerport, New York. This great welcome was but a taste of the hospitality and love that has been present for me and my family over the past twenty years.

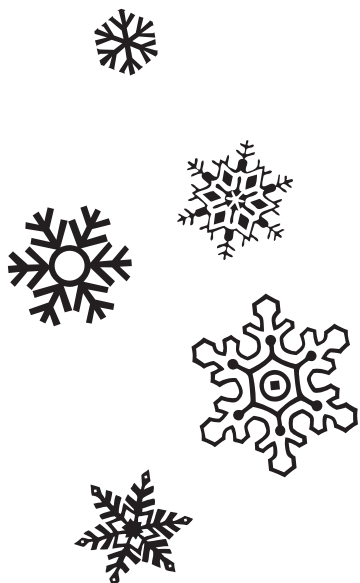
The only thought that is more astounding than the fact that I actually did all that, is that it was twenty years ago. I am astounded not only because it does not seem like such a long time, but also because, to be perfectly honest, I never imagined I would stay here this long. The opportunity to serve this church was attractive enough to make me want to move my family across country, but I

felt that after a few years I would move back west to be closer to my extended family.

The story of how I came to stay and what it has meant for me and this church is much too long for this column. In fact, there is enough material here for three sermons. And you can hear them at CCH in January. The first will be a personal reflection on twenty years of ministry, then some thoughts on how the church has changed, and finally a look at what is still to come.

We have come a long way. I have probably changed more than the congregation, but we have all grown. And we have a long way to go. It is a different sort of pastorate to be in one place so long. I am very aware that this requires intentional efforts on my part, and the part of the congregation, to stay fresh and interesting. The last thing I want is to become too complacent and stale. There are a lot of benefits from longevity. Particularly the deep, even multi-generational, relationships. These relationships help lead to a strong congregation, and that strength is best shown by opening our arms to help others come in and feel welcome.

For now let me say that my ministry has had all the satisfaction, challenges, joys and pains that I could imagine in my life. I have, and still am, enjoying the relationships that come with staying in one place. We continue to make a difference in the Huntington community with the message of God's radical love for all people.



## Worship Opportunities

### January 2: Communion Service

On this New Year's communion service Pastor Mark's sermon, "Twenty Years," will be a personal reflection on his ministry at The Congregational Church of Huntington.

### January 9: First Sunday after Epiphany

On this Sunday Pastor Mark will continue his series on twenty years of ministry,

focusing this week on the changes that have occurred at the church since 1991.

### January 16: Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday

A tradition for Pastor Mark is to turn to the writings of Dr. King in celebration of his birthday. This year he will look at King's writings as to the nature of the church and its role in society.

### January 23: Annual Meeting Sunday

The annual meeting of the church is the most important business meeting of the year. The meeting, with lunch, will follow worship. Pastor Mark's sermon will conclude his series on "Twenty Years of Ministry" with some thoughts on where his pastorate and the church are headed.

## CCH Annual Meeting On January 23

The annual meeting of **The Congregational Church of Huntington, UCC**, will be held on Sunday, January 23, 2011, at 11:30 AM in the church fellowship hall. This will be a very important meeting as the congregation will consider a proposal to sell the parsonage and switch to a housing allowance for the Pastor, as well as constitutional changes concerning the number and terms of Trustees. The Trustees will also present the annual budget for approval and we will vote on our officers and committee members.

## Pastor's Book Club

The next book for the **Pastor's Book Group** is *The Art of Racing in the Rain*, by **Garth Stein**. This is a fun book for our winter reading that looks at the world from the viewpoint of Enzo, the lab terrier narrator. The group will meet January 26, 7:30 PM at the home of Bonnie Dawkins and Kristin Harper.

## Men's Breakfast Group

The **Men's Breakfast Group** will meet on Saturday, January 8, 2011 (8:30-10:00 AM) in the fellowship hall. **John Leary** will lead a discussion on social networking on the web for business and pleasure.

## Fall Cleanup Thank Yous, Part 2

There were many wonderful people who helped our church immensely by their efforts during the Fall Clean-up. Their efforts helped to save our church the expense of paying for some services and at the same time provided collegiality amongst our members. I would like to thank all those who helped us on November 13th, taking time out of their busy schedules to be with us. Some members who weren't mentioned in the December Congregator are: **Tom Buckley, Bill Tyska, Dario Peragallo** and his two sons **Dominick and DJ, Chris Fives, Eileen and Bruce Rosenzweig, Liz North, Susan Pummill, Mark Bigelow, Wayne Ebanks** (during the Trustees Work Party in Sept.) and children **Peter Ciccone Jr., Carter Mooers, and Daniella** (Gail & Fred Engelking's granddaughter).

—Neila Werner, Trustee Chairperson for Buildings and Grounds

Thank you for remembering the church in your will.



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A Progressive Protestant Church

30 Washington Drive  
Centerport, NY 11721  
(631) 423-4004

[www.ucchuntington.lichurch.org](http://www.ucchuntington.lichurch.org)  
Church Office e-mail: [cchcpt@optonline.net](mailto:cchcpt@optonline.net)

**Rev. Mark Bigelow**, Pastor  
**Sheri Fallacaro**, Church School Director  
**David Broome**, Music Director  
**Laura Unkel**, Church Secretary

Please forward all comments and correspondence, including material for publication, to:

**The Congregator**  
**Congregational Church of Huntington**  
PO Box 134  
Centerport, NY 11721 or  
[mckennabausch@optonline.net](mailto:mckennabausch@optonline.net)

**Do you know that Pastor Mark emails a weekly church update?**

If you would like to be included send him a note at [mbigelow@optonline.net](mailto:mbigelow@optonline.net).

## SAVE THE DATE

## Pastor Mark's Twentieth Anniversary Party

On April 2, 2011 we will be celebrating Pastor Mark's twentieth anniversary at our church with a party at the Northport Yacht Club. This will include dinner, music, some possible roasting, and a modified service auction. Mark your calendars now and tell your church friends.

## Meet Our New Members!



**Eileen Rosenzweig**



**Brenda Miller**

We extend a warm welcome to our newest members!

## Joys and Concerns

We are saddened to share that long-time member **Eleanor Marugo** passed away on November 28.

Congratulations to **Carrie Short** and **Gretchen Eigenbrod** who were married on December 4 in Weston, VT. Pastor Mark performed the service at The Church on the Hill.

Thank you to everyone who worked to make our Advent party such a huge success! Special thanks to **Nancy Bartow** for organizing the centerpiece making, to the **PF** and their leaders for the spaghetti dinner, for the **Children's ministry** for the ornament making, the **Diaconate** for the decorating and the bell choir and adult choir for their music. It was a wonderful start to the holiday season.

We hold **Marc Dattoma** and family in our prayers on the passing of Marc's father on December 22. **Michael Dattoma** was 88 years old and had a long career at Newsday.

**Pastor Mark** and **Ronnie** wish to thank the entire congregation for their generous Christmas gift. It is much appreciated. It is such a joy to be part of this church.

## Women's Discussion Group

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month, rotating amongst the homes of those attending. Refreshments are served during a social hour from 7:00 - 8:00 PM with the program being conducted between the hours of 8:00 and 10:00 PM. All women attending our church are more than welcome to attend any or all of the meetings. Feel free to call Neila Werner at 757-7646 if you have any questions.

**Tuesday, January 11th:** At our January meeting, we will be viewing an episode of the HBO TV series, *The Number One Ladies' Detective Agency*, based on the book of the same name by **Alexander McCall Smith**. This series, a favorite with our Women's Discussion Group, chronicles the adventures of Precious Ramotswe (played by Jill Scott), the cheerful, eminently sensible pro-

prietor of Botswana's first and only female-owned detective agency. Aided by her highly-efficient yet rather peculiar secretary Grace Makutsi (played by Anika Noni Rose), Mama Ramotswe investigates a variety of cases, helping townspeople solve mysteries in their lives, and begins a special friendship with a highly respectable garage owner (played by Lucian Msamati) along the way. During our refreshment hour from 7:00-8:00 PM, Neila will share a slideshow and some adventures from her recent, unorthodox RV and bike travels around the two Irelands and Scotland with her husband Pete Werner. The meeting will be held at **Neila Werner's** home at 4 Dublin Court, East Northport. Please call Neila at 757-7646 if you can attend. Again, you don't need to be a participant in the Women's Discussion Group in order to attend this meeting.

**Tuesday, February 8th:** We will meet at **Nancy Bartow's** house to discuss *The Constant Princess* by **Philippa Gregory**. Set in the rich beauty of Moorish Spain and the glamour of the Tudor court, *The Constant Princess* presents a woman (Katherine of Aragon) whose constancy helps her endure betrayal, poverty, and despair, until the inevitable moment when she steps into the role she has rehearsed all her life: Henry VIII's Queen, Regent, and commander of the English army in their greatest victory against Scotland. After a refreshment hour from 7:00-8:00 PM, this intriguing book will be discussed from 8:00-10:00 PM. Nancy lives at 623 7th Avenue, East Northport. Please give her a call at 757-5263 if you can join us.

## 2011 Adult Bible Study *by Susan Pummill*

Sunday, January 9, will be the beginning of a new season for our **Adult Bible Study**. We will be studying The Old Testament, using a 24-session course of lectures by **Professor Amy Jill Levine**, recorded by The Teaching Company. Dr. Levine's lectures are very informative, and also entertaining and fun; she is well versed in her subject matter and quite gifted in her delivery. Each of our Sunday morning sessions will include watching a half hour DVD presentation, with time for discussion and sharing. We will have course guidebooks available, which outline the material covered in each session. You'll want to read the Bible passages to be covered prior to each

lecture. Study with an annotated edition such as the *New Oxford Annotated Bible* or the *Harper Collins Study Bible* will help put the scripture into its context.

Our study group has chosen this Old Testament Study from among many possibilities. We have spent much time reading about Jesus and studying the Gospels. We have decided that we would like to understand more about the scripture that Jesus used during his life. Jesus was, after all, a Jew. The Torah was primary for him. The Prophets and other writings, such as the Psalms were also important in shaping his relationship with God. The 24 lectures will

give us at least an overview of the Bible of Jesus' time.

The first lecture on January 9 will cover the first chapter of Genesis. Our group will not meet on January 16, but will continue on January 23 with chapters two and three of Genesis. We meet in the conference room at 8:30, before Sunday worship. We share a breakfast of bagels and coffee as we study. We would be delighted to welcome new members. If you would like to try our study group, without making a commitment as a regular, we will still welcome you. The Bible is a rich library, and your study will reward you with enriched faith.

## All-Church Advent Party, December 6th, 2010



Greenery was snipped...



Christmas cards were crafted...



goodies were decorated...



centerpiece masterpieces were created...



halls were decked...



bells were rung...



Advent wreaths were prepared...



Christmas trees were decorated...



and spaghetti dinners were cooked!

# January 2011 *At-A-Glance*

						1
2 10AM: Worship & Church School 6 PM: Confirmation Class	3 7 PM: Peace & Plenty Lunchmaking 8 PM: Board of Trustees	4 7:30PM: Church Council	5	6 7:30 PM: Choir Rehearsal	7	8 8:30 AM: Men's Breakfast 10 AM: Deacon's Christmas Decoration
9 8:30AM: Bible Study 10AM: Worship & Church School 2:30 PM: Confirmation Class	10 7 PM: Peace & Plenty Lunchmaking	11 7PM: Women's Discussion Group 7:30 PM: Noah's Ark Board 8PM: 20th Anniv Committee	12 8 PM: Outreach Committee	13 1 PM: Membership Committee 6:15 PM: Bell Choir Rehearsal 7 PM: Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM: Diaconate	14	15
16 10 AM: Intergenerational Worship	17 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY	18 7 PM: Peace & Plenty Lunchmaking	19	20 6:15 PM: Bell Choir Rehearsal 7 PM: Choir Rehearsal	21 Feb. Congregator Deadline	22 CCH Hosting HIHI @OLQM
23 8:30AM: Bible Study 10AM: Worship & School 11:30AM: Annual Mtg 6 PM: Confirmation Class	24 7 PM: Peace & Plenty Lunchmaking	25	26 7:30 PM: Pastor's Book Group	27 6:15 PM: Bell Choir Rehearsal 7 PM: Choir Rehearsal	28	29
30 8:30AM: Bible Study 10AM: Worship & School 11:30AM: Outreach Comm. 6 PM: Confirmation Class	31 7 PM: Peace & Plenty Lunchmaking					

# February 2011 *At-A-Glance*

		1 7:30 PM: Church Council	2	3 6:15 PM: Bell Choir Rehearsal 7 PM: Choir Rehearsal	4	5
6 8:30AM: Bible Study 10 AM: Worship with Communion & Church School	7 7 PM: Peace & Plenty Lunchmaking 8 PM: Board of Trustees	8 7PM: Women's Discussion Group	9	10 6:15 PM: Bell Choir Rehearsal 7 PM: Choir Rehearsal	11	12
13 8:30AM: Bible Study 10AM: Worship & Church School 6 PM: Confirmation Class	14 7 PM: Peace & Plenty Lunchmaking	15	16	17 6:15 PM: Bell Choir Rehearsal 7 PM: Choir Rehearsal	18	19 CCH hosts HIHI@ St. Pat's
20 10AM: Intergenerational Worship	21 PRESIDENT'S DAY	22 7 PM: Peace & Plenty Lunchmaking	23 7:30 PM: Pastor's Book Group	24 6:15 PM: Bell Choir Rehearsal 7 PM: Choir Rehearsal	25	26
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30 Washington Drive  
PO Box 134  
Centerport, NY 11721

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### Church School Update

Hear ye, Hear ye...The Spring teaching calendar is being finalized, so if there is anyone who would like to begin teaching, please either email or call Sheri Fallacaro by Jan. 16th.

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### Church School Calendar Reminders:

**January 16th-** Intergenerational Sunday, no Sunday school classes, but Angel's Nest is available if you stay with your child(ren)

## Season Of Service

The **Outreach Ministry** challenges everyone in the congregation to make this winter a “**Season of Service.**” Try to volunteer in an outreach program at least once a month this winter. Keep track of your volunteer hours and add them to our total at the church.

You may, of course, volunteer anyplace you wish, but we always need help at our service projects:

**HIHI, Peace and Plenty Lunch Making,**  
and the **Reading Circle literacy outreach.**