

# 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*

It can be  
easy to get  
stuck in our  
spiritual  
journey.

In a recent sermon I explained the ticketing system for stagecoaches in the old west. I am told that there were three classes of tickets—first, second, and third—although a typical stagecoach had only six seats. These did not refer to the seat selection, but to the passenger's responsibilities. A first class ticket entitled the holder to remain in the coach, no matter what happened. Second class meant that the passenger had to get out of the coach and walk whenever the driver had a problem—like a steep grade. And if you had a third class ticket you had to help the driver get out of trouble. Thus, if the stagecoach was stuck in a mudhole, the first class passenger remained seated, the second class rider got out and watched, while the poor third class soul had to get down into the puddle and help push the coach. Next time you are sitting in a cramped coach seat waiting for a plane to take off be glad you do not have to get out and help push the plane down the runway.

As with most good sermon anecdotes this little story can be used to illustrate most anything. It is particularly helpful to describe the theme for our worship services for the next month—"Getting Unstuck."

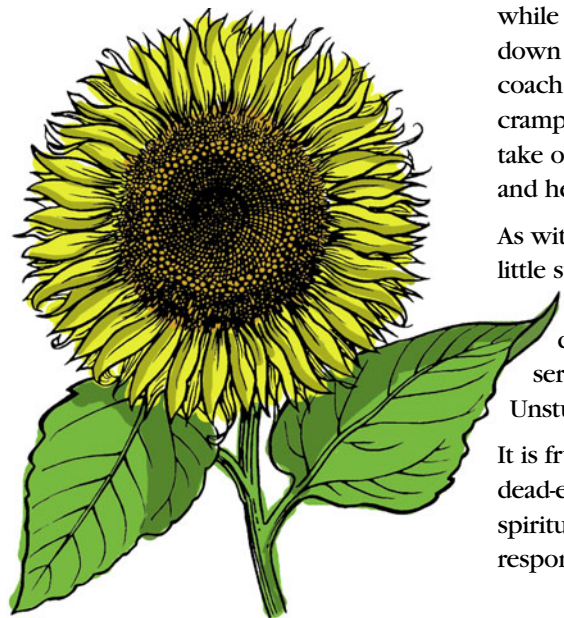
It is frustrating to feel stuck—whether in a dead-end job, stale relationship, or a stalled spiritual life. When we are stuck we often respond in ways that are not unlike the

three classes of stagecoach passengers. Sometimes we remain seated in our malaise, perhaps complaining about the predicament in which we find ourselves. Other times we may move just far enough to point out to other people what they are doing wrong. But it is the third class passenger who is willing to get dirty and make things better for him/herself and others.

It can be easy to get stuck in our spiritual journey. For many of us our primary religious education happened as a child and these early notions of faith remain our only resources for understanding faith. Unfortunately, as we grow up and life becomes more complicated the answers we learned in Sunday School no longer work for us.

Other people become stuck on the path of faith by too many choices. One hits a fork in the road, and instead of moving ahead, we pitch a tent in the intersection. This may be a good spot to see a lot of traffic, but you are liable to be blown away by all the spiritual options that continually drive by. And, you certainly will not move anywhere.

A healthy spiritual life keeps developing throughout life. During September I will be exploring Christian spiritual resources to help us through some of the most vexing of personal and societal issues in which we may be stuck. So get ready to get out and get dirty, it is time to be unstuck.



## Worship Opportunities

### September 12: Welcome Back Breakfast/Outdoor Worship

One of the annual favorites for our church members is the **Welcome Back Breakfast** and **Outdoor Worship Service**. The breakfast is a potluck and begins at 8:45 AM. The worship service as at the usual 10:00 time and will include the dedication of church school teachers and the baptism of Kira Steffens, daughter of Fred and Laura.

### September 19: Invite A Friend Service

God makes all things new. On this first day of the new church school season we will celebrate all that God is making new in our

lives. In addition we will dedicate our choir members as they begin their new fall season. Be sure to invite your friends to discover what God may be speaking in their lives.

### September 26: Faithful Living in Multi-Faith Community

The building of a mosque and community center in lower Manhattan has stirred much debate. In this sermon Pastor Mark explores how our country may become unstuck from the opposing views of living in a multi-faith country.

### October 3 (10 am): World Communion Sunday

On this first Sunday in October Christian churches around the world unite in the sharing of communion. Join us for a unique service that reminds us of our connections with all people.

### October 3 (noon): Blessing of the Animals

Some of the most important relationships of our lives are with our animals. You are invited to bring your pet(s) to church for this animal blessing service in honor of St. Francis. There will be two services this day—the normal 10:00 service in the sanctuary and a animal blessing on the church lawn at 12:00.

## Joys and Concerns

On Sunday, July 11, we celebrated the baptisms of **William** and **Patrick**, twin sons of **Richard** and **Melissa Dolle**.

Our prayers are with **Stan North** who is quite limited in his movements due to heart problems. We pray for his strength and health.

We were saddened to learn that the **Rev. Everitt Sheldon** passed away on Saturday, August 7 in Sunnyvale California. Rev Ev was a founding member of our church and worked in many capacities to build our church and to make the Huntington community a more just and peaceful community. Everitt grew up in Rupert VT, received his Masters of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary in New York City and spent the bulk of his career as

a chaplain at Pilgrim State Psychiatric Center. In his retirement he served our church as a volunteer pastoral associate, focused on pastoral care and outreach efforts. Everitt had been living in a nursing home in Sunnyvale for the past few years where he was close to his daughter **Catherine** and son **David**. He had suffered from Alzheimer's Disease and died following a bout of pneumonia. He would have turned 95 on his birthday on August 22.

A memorial service will be held at our church on October 2, at 1:00 PM, with his ashes to be buried in our memorial garden. Condolences may be sent to: **Catherine Sheldon, 430 Ninth Avenue, Menlo Park CA 94025-1802**. We offer our prayers for God's comfort for his family and friends as we give thanks to God for the ministry of Rev Ev.



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United Church of Christ

A Progressive Protestant Church

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**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).

## Pilgrim Fellowship

The Pilgrim Fellowship Youth Group is open to all 7th-12th graders. The first meeting of the new fall season will be on Sunday, October 3, at 6:00 PM. Parents are invited to attend as we talk about plans for the year. Pastor Mark will also discuss his plans for this year's confirmation class that is open to all 7th-8th graders.

Thank you for  
remembering the church  
in your will.

## Family Bar-b-que

Families with children in pre-school and elementary school are invited to a bar-b-que with Pastor Mark, Ronnie and Allie. Parents with young children are the fastest growing group in our church and we want to get everyone together so that we all can know each other better and to discuss the possibility of future programs. Pastor Mark is going to prepare traditional bar-b-que, smoked, of course, and there will be games for the kids. It will be Sunday, September 26, from 4:00-7:00 PM at 66 Little Neck Road, Centerport. Sign up on the church bulletin board, or call the church office to sign-up. Everyone is asked to bring a side dish to contribute to the meal.

## Pastor's Book Discussion Group

The Pastor's Book Discussion group resumes their meetings on Wednesday, September 22, at 7:30 PM. The group will discuss *"Let the Great World Spin,"* by Colum McCann. This is a marvelous novel that is set in New York in 1974. The book centers on Philippe Petit's tightrope walk between the almost complete towers of the World Trade Center, but it is about the lives of several New Yorkers from different parts of the city and how they intersect. Recipient of the National Book Award, the novel is a vivid depiction of life in a very different time in the city— full of crime, confusion and despair. In this milieu, McCann illuminates beams of hope that resonate into the post 9/11 world. The meeting will be held at the home of Dot Schmitt and Krista Gard.

## WELCOME BACK BREAKFAST

Sunday,  
September 12



One of the favorite yearly events for our church members is the **Welcome Back Breakfast and Outdoor Worship Service** where we kick-off the CCH Fall season.

Join us at **8:45 am** for breakfast in Fellowship Hall (please bring a dish to share) and at **10 am** for worship on the front lawn of the church. Dedication of our 2010-2011 Church School teachers will be at the same service.

## Peace & Plenty Food Outreach

Summer started on a disturbing note for our food outreach. On June 30th the day labor site in S. Huntington was officially closed. This was the delivery spot for most of the food made by our church outreach, and our partners at **St. Hugh**. We made many inquiries, but were unable to find a way to safely distribute food in that community. At first we thought we'd take a summer vacation and figure it all out in September. But we soon found a new group in need - not very hard, since there are a lot of hungry people out there. Our volunteers were happy to get to work again. (We've been running continuously since the summer of 2005 and we didn't want to lose our momentum.)

Meeting on Monday afternoons this summer, volunteers prepared sandwiches, fruit and snacks for children at the **Tri-Community & Youth Agencies Center** and the **Manor Field Family Center**. Most of the children at these centers receive free breakfast and lunch at school during the year and don't have enough to eat during the summer. Our friends at St. Hugh generously donated a professional - somewhat intimidating - slicing machine and many pounds of cheese and turkey baloney to the cause.

The food we sent was greatly appreciated...taken on outings and often eaten as soon as our delivery volunteer walked in the door. Personally, I have never seen a

child get so excited over a peach or a plum. It was really an enlightening sight.

**Peace & Plenty** will resume its usual schedule on Monday September 13, meeting at 7 PM in Fellowship Hall. We will continue sending food to those centers and are presently in need of the following donations: cold cuts for sandwiches, whole wheat bread, fruit and nutritious snacks. Please join us to make food for those in need. All are welcome.

### September/October Schedule:

All meetings on Mondays @ 7 PM

September, 13, 20, 27

October 4, 11, 18, 25



**To order coffee/tea** - please fill out the sheet below and bring to Church and give to Ellen DeOrsay or to Pastor Mark. You can also email it to [ellendeo@optonline.net](mailto:ellendeo@optonline.net).

**Orders are due by March 28th.** You can pay after the order arrives. If you pay by check, please make the check out to "Ellen DeOrsay."

<b>Your Name:</b>	<b>Phone #:</b>		
	<b>Email:</b>		
<b>Coffee/Tea Description</b>	<b># of pkgs</b>	<b>Price/pkg</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>
<b>NEW! Organic Gumutindo - Uganda</b> Multi-dimensional: black pepper and savory brown spices with dark fruit and smoky flavors that highlight the chocolatey, dense mouthfeel. From small farmer co-ops in Uganda. Available in whole bean only.			
<b>Whole Bean Only 1 lb pkg</b>		<b>\$8.00</b>	
<b>Organic Sister's Blend -</b> The coffee in this blend, which is a Full City Roast, is grown by small-scale farmers in Nicaragua and Peru and has a rich, smooth flavor and a sweet finish. Drip grind only.			
<b>Drip Grind Only - 1 lb pkg</b>		<b>\$8.00</b>	
<b>Organic Decaf Columbian -</b> A balanced blend with full body, rich flavor and sweet overtones.			
<b>Drip Grind - 12 oz pkg</b>		<b>\$8.00</b>	
<b>Whole Bean - 12 oz pkg</b>		<b>\$8.00</b>	
<b>Organic English Breakfast Tea</b> A delicious blend of malty Assam and crisp Darjeeling teas. A refreshing cup of tea that can be enjoyed throughout the day.			
<b>25 bags pkg</b>		<b>\$3.50</b>	
<b>Organic Green Tea</b> This 100% small farmer large leaf green tea from Sri Lanka has a smooth flavor with pleasant sweetness and mild astringency. Green teas contain healthy antioxidants.			
<b>25 bags pkg</b>		<b>\$3.50</b>	
<b>Order total</b>			

## September 2010 *At-A-Glance*

			1	2 6:15 PM: Bell Choir Rehearsal	3	4
5 10 AM: Intergenerational Worship with Communion	6	7 8PM: Church Council	8	9 6:15 PM: Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM: Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM: Diaconate	10	11
12 8:45AM: Welcome back Breakfast 10AM: Outdoor Worship	13 7 PM: Peace & Plenty Lunchmaking 8 PM: Board Of Trustees	14 7PM: Women's Discussion Group	15	16 6:15 PM: Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM: Choir Rehearsal	17	18
19 8:30AM: Bible Study 10AM: Worship (Invite A Friend) & Church School	20 7 PM: Peace & Plenty Lunchmaking	21	22 7:30 PM: Pastor's Book Discussion	23 6:15 PM: Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM: Choir Rehearsal	24	25
26 8:30AM: Bible Study 10AM: Worship & Church School 4-7PM: Family Bar-b-que @ Parsonage	27 7 PM: Peace & Plenty Lunchmaking	28	29	30 6:15 PM: Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM: Choir Rehearsal		

## October 2010 *At-A-Glance*

					1	2 1 PM: Everitt Sheldon Memorial
3 8:30AM: Bible Study 10AM: Worship & Church School 12 PM: Blessing of the Animals 6 PM: Pilgrim Fellowship Kick-Off	4 7 PM: Peace & Plenty Lunchmaking 8 PM: Board of Trustees	5 8 PM: Church Council	6	7 6:15 PM: Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM: Choir Rehearsal	8 10AM: Membership Committee	9
10 8:30AM: Bible Study 10AM: Worship & Church School	11 7 PM: Peace & Plenty Lunchmaking	12 7PM: Women's Discussion Group	13	14 6:15 PM: Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM: Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM: Diaconate	15	16 6-10 PM: Preogressive Dinner
17 8:30AM: Bible Study 10AM: Worship & Church School	18 7 PM: Peace & Plenty Lunchmaking	19	20	21 6:15 PM: Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM: Choir Rehearsal	22	23
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# The Congregational Church Of Huntington United Church Of Christ

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## THE CONGREGATOR

### 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, September 14th

For our first meeting of the school year we will be discussing *Shanghai Girls* by **Lisa See**, author of "*Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*." 7:00 PM: Refreshments, 8:00 PM: Book Discussion of two sisters sold by their father to repay his debts. The suitors have traveled from Los Angeles to find Chinese brides. The sisters' journey to America begins as Japanese bombs fall on their beloved city, Shanghai. The meeting will be held at the home of **Rose Munch**, 5 Oakmere Drive, Fort Salonga. Call Rose at 757-7568 if you are able to join us.

### Church School Update

From the Desk of the Church School Director:

I would like to extend my appreciation and thanks to the entire congregation for their kind words and encouragement as I step into my new position. I would also like to thank **Linda Temperino** for helping to make our transition smooth, but now I have very tough shoes to fill. Linda has done an amazing job with our children and I can only hope that I do half the job she has. Thank you!

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Sheri Fallacaro*

#### Church School Calendar Reminders:

**September 12th-** Welcome Back Breakfast, Teacher Dedication and Church School registration

**September 19th-** First Day of Church School

#### LOOKING AHEAD:

**October 17th-** Church School Fall Planting Project