

THE SPIRE

EDWARDS CHURCH *of* NORTHAMPTON

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Vol. 26 No. 6 June 2016

Dear Edwards Church Community,

My late father-in-law was a very organized and productive person. (My own father was less meticulous but also very productive. That's a different letter.) Arthur was systematic even about rest. A scientist and engineer by training, he admired the work ethic of people like Edison. A keen appreciator of all the good things in life, he also liked to nap. Tales of his early years in my mother-in-law's family include the teasing Arthur took for maintaining his practice of a short nap after lunch, whenever possible on weekdays and always on the weekend.

Arthur was not afraid to take a little teasing, because he knew how beneficial those naps were. What his brothers-in-law probably did not know, and what I learned only by sleeping in the same house during visits, was that Arthur was attuned to his own sleep needs. He knew the circadian rhythm of his body. He would go to bed an hour or two after dinner, wake in the middle of the night, work for an hour or two, and return to bed until shortly after sunrise. He said that time in the middle of the night was extremely productive. The quiet allowed for sustained concentration, and the proximity to dreams allowed for inspiration.

Just as he built regular rests into a busy work life, Arthur believed in longer rests built into longer recurring time periods. He called this "time to let the fields lay fallow," an allusion to the Biblical concept of Sabbath. In Genesis, we read that God did the work of initiating creation over six days, and on the seventh day rested. In his popular book *The Sabbath*, the theologian, philosopher and professor of Jewish mysticism, Rabbi Abraham Josuah Heschel writes movingly about God giving us, in the commandment to rest and worship on the seventh day, a way to imitate our maker and reconnect with that part of our own nature that is most connected to God. Observing a Sabbath of rest and reflection is needed to remember who and whose we are. It is a "time to let the fields lay fallow."

Like many of us in modern life, my father-in-law's daily, weekly, and monthly rhythms were more agrarian than industrial: work rarely stopped completely. It just paused for sleep, meals and a little socializing. No 40 hour week. Mostly, he just worked until he couldn't work any longer. His work earned him a living and gave him a sense of meaning and satisfaction. But the deepest meaning and satisfaction (I know from slow conversations woven around long quiet pauses) was only realized by making time for the less obviously "productive" pursuits, like taking vacations of a week or longer, traveling to new places or to old haunts to visit friends and family not seen in years.

This summer, I hope you have and take the opportunity for some real Sabbath time. I hope it includes church on Sunday and a deepening sense between Sundays of where God is (everywhere). Let the fields lay fallow. Wait in the quiet and see if you can sense where and how the Spirit is moving. Read a novel, or some poetry, or both. Read a whole book of the Bible. (Start with Ruth, maybe. A great story: short, poignant, and satisfying.) Visit old friends and family. Get used to eating outside. Savor the fresh produce and short sleeves of summer. Let it all remind you of who and whose we really are, and share that sense with anyone who needs to know.

Blessings, Michael

Edwards Church is an Open and Affirming Congregation:

*We embrace Christ's command to love God with all our hearts and our neighbors as ourselves. Therefore, we welcome **everyone** regardless of ethnic background, economic circumstance, sexual orientation, family configuration, or difference in ability.*

All who seek the love of Christ are welcome to Edwards Church and to share fully in its life and ministry. In response to the Spirit of Christ in our midst, we glorify God and rejoice in the inherent worth, dignity, and gifts of every person as a child of God.

From the Minister of Faith Formation

Dear Members and Friends,

Seems hard to believe that June is upon us. It brings with it a season full of beginnings and endings: graduations, recitals, weddings, and for some retirement. All of these offer a circle of begin-endings and end-beginnings in which one gives way to another. And in the midst of each, the Divine travels with us as we maneuver our way. Summer vacations will offer a time to relax with family and friends; travel to new or familiar places; participate in summer camp; go on retreat - and in the midst of each the Divine will be present. Farmers markets and road side stands will offer an array of freshly harvested spring and summer crops – and the Divine will have been in the midst of all that brought the crops to us. Spring gardens will give way to the flowers and colors of summer – and the Divine will be in the midst of that. I give thanks for the many ways we can experience the Divine!

Last summer, members and friends were encouraged, if possible, to capture their experience of the Divine with a photograph and submit it for posting on a bulletin board. So many members and friends commented on and appreciated the ways in which others experienced the Divine that I would like to extend that invitation again this summer. Wherever your summer takes you, have your camera handy and either bring the picture in or forward it, along with a caption of where it was taken, to me. Let's create another beautiful bulletin board... and perhaps an experience of Visio Divina (check out the Spiritual Practices page on our new website for more information about Visio Divina).

Wherever your summer plans take you, I pray you will experience the presence of the Holy, enjoy Sabbath rest, laugh, play, be well and safe!

Blessings,

Deb

Summer Church School

Summer Church School will be held on June 12, 19, and 26. The theme for this one-room school house is Holy Health and will be based on scripture from Genesis 1:27, 28 & 31:

“God created humankind in God’s image, male and female God created them... and God saw everything God made as very good,”

and from 1 Corinthians 6:19:

“...do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God..”

The following sessions will be led by Melissa Mattison and assistants:

June 12 ~ **Feed Your Soul** (build a nutritional plate)

June 19 ~ **Stretch Your Spirit** (engage in gentle yoga)

June 26 ~ **Sal-a-va-tion!** (celebration of another church school year)

Save the Date – Church School resumes September 11!



YOUTH GROUP

Edwards Church Youth Group's ministry is open to those in Grades 6 -12.

We generally meet on the second and fourth Sunday of the month from 11:30-1:00, with a few exceptions. Youth are always welcome to bring a friend!



Our final two gatherings before the summer:

June 12 ~ 11:30 Mission trip planning for 2017!!!
Edwards Room

June 26 ~ 11:30 Year End Celebration!
(Location to be determined)

*All are welcome
at the labyrinth.*

Labyrinth walks will continue
on 4th Mondays this summer:

June 27, July 25, and August 22
from 7-8:30 p.m.
in Addis Hall.

Help Syrian children become a New Generation...

Sunday, June 5

5-8 p.m.

Benefit Dinner & Silent Auction

to build a school in a Syrian Internal
Displacement Camp

The Cedars Banquet Hall, 419 Island Pond Rd., Springfield, MA

Featured Speakers:

Nadia Alawa, Founder of NuDay Syria
Steve Abdow, Episcopal Diocese of Western Mass

Order tickets at <http://syrianschool.eventbrite.com>



*One Person at a Time,
One Humanity Closer*



CONGRATULATIONS

to our 2016 graduates!



Ben Cheung is graduating from the Smith Campus School and going to JFK Middle School.

Max Schneider is graduating from the Smith Campus School and going to JFK Middle School.

Jake Young is graduating from the Jackson Street School and going to JFK Middle School.

Jett DuVal is graduating from JFK Middle School and going to Northampton High School.

Rachel Frogameni is graduating from Northampton High School and is going to Westfield State (social work).

Cynthia Masai graduated from Smith College.

Kristin Rivers graduated from Smith College.

SAVE THE DATE:

**SUMMER
KICK-OFF!**



SUNDAY, JUNE 19

**GAMES
PICK-UP SOCCER
BOUNCE HOUSE
BUBBLES**



**WATCH FOR MORE INFORMATION
COMING SOON.**

“...the fruit of the Spirit is love joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things.”
Galatians 5:22, 23

The Pentecost Chancel-scape was appreciated by many in attendance on May 15th. Its effectiveness was added to by those present who reflected on the fruit of the Spirit they were either grateful for or prayed for more of and wrote that fruit on a paper flame. The flames were collected and placed on the Chancel-scape.



Listed below are fruits that were offered (along with the frequency). Prayers and/or statements are also printed.

Love (14)
Joy (8)
Patience (7)
Peace (6)
Kindness (4)
Generosity (2)
Gentleness (2)
Faithfulness (1)
Self-control (1)
Spirit (1)
Grace (1)
Self-awareness (1)

I see the Spirit in the LOVE people show me that helps me to access and show the gifts of the Spirit such as joy, kindness and self-control.

I'm glad you granted me peace.

Kindness and generosity and the gift of teaching... So grateful.

Thank you for the gifts of peace, joy and love. Help me to grow in the gifts of patience, self-control and loyalty.

Please grant me patience.

I need to follow peace.

Hope, faith, acceptance, love.

Grateful for generosity. Praying for self control.

Please grant me patience with one of my friends.

Generosity flows easily. Faithfulness grows slowly — not as a prison, rather as a freeing choice.

A willingness to try again where needed to offer love, generosity, and kindness.

Thankful for joy and love as appreciated by the new addition to our family — Ben.

More peace and humor.

Faith, kindness, spiritual growth, trust, love, patience, peace, friendship, guidance, understanding, joy and patience, generosity, forgiveness and self-control.

Kindness, love, patience and gentleness creates my peace.

I am grateful for the love in my life; for music; for dogs; for table tennis; for writing; for the generosity and open heartedness of my parents; for sufficient/abundant wherewithal to pursue my path comfortably; for good health.

Teaching me how to make the most of today.

Thank You To Our Choir



The Edwards Church Choir will sing through Father's Day (June 19) before taking a break for the summer. This dedicated and talented group of singers provides us with such strong and effective musical leadership throughout the church year.

When you see a choir member, please thank them for sharing their gifts with us.

SUMMER MUSIC

Our Minister of Music David Kidwell is busy lining up an exciting array of vocal and instrumental soloists for our summer worship services.



Please check the [Edwards Church Facebook page](#) each week for more information.

SUMMER FLOWERS

During the summer months, June to September, we welcome your donation of garden flowers and plants to grace our communion table.

Offerings from your garden or local farmers' market are gratefully accepted throughout the summer, but please call or email Janet Hemminger ahead of time with the dates you have selected.

(413) 584-1635

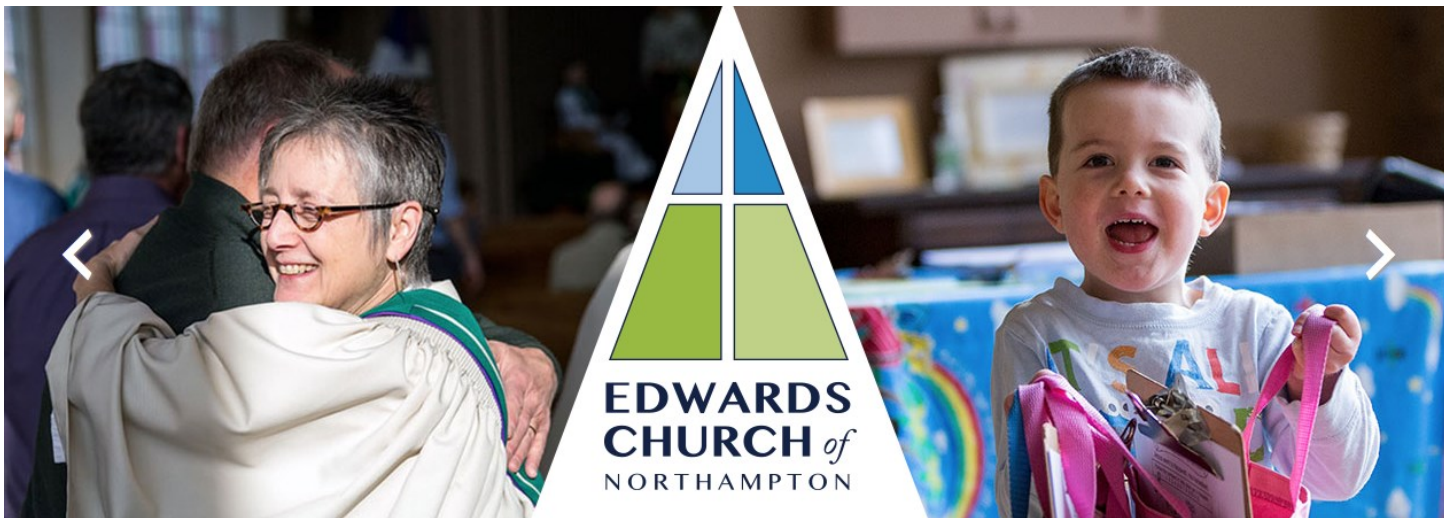
chuck.hemminger@gmail.com.

Many thanks!



"Earth laughs in flowers."

— Ralph Waldo Emerson



The New Website Has Launched!

www.edwardschurchnorthampton.org

After many months of hard work and collaboration, Edwards Church proudly launched its new website on May 10. Enjoy taking a stroll through it by visiting www.edwardschurchnorthampton.org

The Website Sub Committee, which the Church Trustees asked to form in the fall 2015, has been working together since October 2015 on the development of the new website. Ruth Griggs, David Kidwell, Michael McSherry, Deb Moore, Amelia Riggs and Betsy Young conducted a formal search for a website developer, issuing an RFP (Request For Proposals) and reviewed four proposals in November. Ryan Askew was chosen to develop the website, and he partnered with graphic designer Meghan Dewar and photographer Ryan Williams to put the website together. Each member of the sub committee contributed to the content by writing one (or more) sections, and Floyd Cheung was our expert editor - reading and suggesting edits to the entire website once the content was completed.

We are also deeply appreciative of the reviewers who took a “sneak peek” at the website before it went live on May 10 and gave us very helpful feedback. They are:

Grace DelVecchio
Carl Erickson

Elena Frogameni
Doris Holden

Sarah Pease
Max Schneider
Connelly Stokes-Buckles

We hope you will be as excited and proud of the new website as we all are. We have heard from members that:

“The look and feel of it balances freshness and tradition.”

“It's much more modern-looking, active, and colorful.”

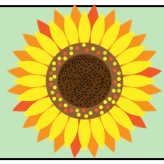
“The website conveys the joy of Edwards.”

“It seems happy and welcoming.”

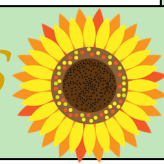
“The site communicates the sense that our church is full of vitality. It helps that this is the truth.”

Please visit the website www.edwardschurchnorthampton.org often, share it with newcomers and friends alike, and let us know what you think!

P.S. A members-only section accessible with a password will be populated with content soon. Stay tuned for more information.



SUMMER BIRTHDAYS



JUNE

Doris Holden
Linda Vincent
Judith Cardell
Mark Smith
Brian Hendery
Jonathan Tucker
Matthew Teague
Maryann Novajosky Bankman
Tom Derr
Robert Daniels
Jennifer Korza
David Kidwell
Mary Lyons
Sarah McCullagh

JULY

Beth Firmin
Melissa Mattison
Carol Higgins
Chris Schmidt

JULY, Continued

Jon Dietrich
Daryl Hendery
Phyllis Taylor
Annie Bissett
Lyle Phipps
Ellyn McAllister Schmidt
Andrew Guswa
Carl Erickson

AUGUST

Glenn Gulotta
Pauline Berube
Ruth Yeh
Florence Semb
Alexandra Webb
Mark Dion
Carolyn Dion
Daphne Lamothe
Dianna Masamitsu
Jeff Prince

Happy Birthday

A Word About Fellowship Time

We often say, and experience, that Edwards church is a community, even a family, that one of its strengths is the friendship we celebrate each Sunday (and at other times, too) when we gather for worship. Many of us enjoy extending that friendly community in the fellowship time after worship, when the coffee is hot, the snacks are abundant (mostly), and the conversation relaxed.

Of course it doesn't happen automatically. The deacons set things up, our sexton Dave Jenkins readies the coffee, and ... YOU do the rest. The snack department depends entirely on your contributions. We try to spread this appeal out, so that only one quarter of the congregation gets it each Sunday; but when your part of the alphabet comes around, we hope that some of you (a few will do nicely) will bring a little something to share.

Grateful as always,

Tom Derr,
for the Diaconate

June 5th - Last names with A-D

June 12th - Last names with E-K

June 19th - Last names with L-S

June 26th - Last names with T-Z



SEVEN REFUGEE FAMILIES ARRIVING THIS MONTH

During May and June, the following seven refugee families are scheduled to arrive in our area:

May 23 **Family of three from Nepal**
May 31 **Family of three from Nepal**
May 31 **Family of six from Russia**
June 6 **Family of three from Iraq**
June 6 **Family of six from Syria**
June 6 **Family of four from Iraq**
June 7 **Family of five from Nepal**

The Pioneer Valley Interfaith Refugee Action Group (PVIRAG) has scheduled a pick-up of household goods from donors' homes on **Saturday, June 25**. All donations will be used to help provide a welcoming home for these and other refugee families entering our area.

The household items listed below are especially needed. If you have items that you would like to have picked up on June 25, please contact:

Harriet Smith (Edwards Church): hatkat23@gmail.com; 413- 341- 3329 *or*
Lynne Imre (St. John's Episcopal Church): Lynne.Imre@gmail.com.

Furniture:

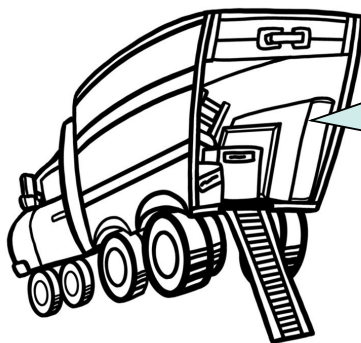
Kitchen tables & chairs
Sofas & easy chairs (in good condition)
Bureaus & dressers
End tables
Lamps
Night stands
Bed frames (no mattresses)

Kitchen:

Plates, bowls, cups & utensils
Pots & pans
Mixing bowls
Baking dishes
Cooking utensils

Other:

Clean bedding/sheets/blankets. ONLY NEW pillows
Alarm clocks
Paper/Pencils/Pens



**SAVE THE DATE:
JUNE 25 PICK-UP**

DRAFT – Edward Church Council Minutes

May 11, 2016

Voting Members in Attendance: Leon Drzewianowski (Moderator), Nancy Flickinger (Vice-Moderator), Scott Anderson (Trustees), Carolyn Dion (Outreach), Heather Bell (Stewardship), Tom Derr (Deacons), Alan Schneider (Music), Mary Ann Bankman (Member-at-large)

Staff in Attendance: Michael McSherry, Deb Moore

Meeting opened at 7:03 with opening prayer from Leon.

Minutes of April meeting unanimously approved.

Joys and Concerns of Staff and Committees:

- Joy: Website is live! Great job by the Sub Committee. Informative, colorful, communicates energy of the community. Will be a good resource for members with committee reports, etc., available in members area.
- Joy: MANNA concert did very well, packed house, lots of press. Appreciation for Art Steele who provided lighting at a discount. Bob is interested in doing a concert every year.
- Joy: Betsy and Ruth will continue to work on vision promotional materials (pew cards, tri-fold brochure).
- Joy: Use of the church for outside concerts and other events and trainings is far greater this year. Bringing people in to see what we're about, "softening barriers" between surrounding community and congregation.
- Concern: Server problems since last week. IT has been called in several times, problem persists. Option to go wireless, storage in the cloud in lieu of replacing server?
- Concern: Ongoing lighting situation in the sanctuary. Two estimates, one low and one high. The higher estimate seems to be the appropriate one based on instruments.
- Sound update: The committee has decided what instruments are needed. Two companies are bidding.

Questions on committee reports:

- What do we want to have in the Members Only area of the website? Annual reports, directory, boards and committee reports. Spire: Birthdays will be acknowledged by month only, not by date.

Vision Implementation:

- Idea: Vision statement on walls of the sanctuary in vinyl letters. Can be removed without stripping paint.
- This is the time (May-June) for committees and boards to think about things to do that require an increase in budget, especially if connected to vision implementation. Also helpful to develop programmatic ideas in advance for stewardship to use in their materials. Budget numbers need to be in after the first meeting in September.

New Business:

- Set up a group to look at social investment. Goal is to have more work done over the summer; have it ready for annual meeting if there is a viable concept.
- Someone from Trustees needs to represent on Stewardship Committee.
- Trustees are one member short. Suggestion for new member?

Meeting adjourned at 7:56. Closing prayer from Michael.

Next meeting: June 8, 2016

Respectfully submitted,
Amelia Riggs, Administrative Assistant

Meeting to investigate benefits of investing a portion of the Edwards Church Endowment in Socially Responsible Investments

At the Annual meeting last January we discussed that there is interest in the congregation to do some investigating into using a small portion of our endowment to invest in socially responsible investments that would benefit our local community. As discussed at the Annual Meeting, this group would do some exploration of what types of investments are available that involve acceptable risk, but also aim to provide a benefit to our community. We are NOT looking to donate endowment funds, but continue to invest those dollars where some of the return may not be as strong but will have a positive effect locally.

We are looking for individuals that would assist in this analysis along with representatives of the Trustees, the Investment Committee and the Outreach Committee. All information would be compiled and presented at the next annual meeting for discussion by the entire congregation. NO Decisions would be made without the full support and vote of the congregation.

I would like to schedule a meeting for **Sunday June 12th at 11:30** (after church). From this initial meeting we will look as to how we will proceed to do this investigation.

Thank You,

Leon Drzewianowski, Moderator

Learn About Natural Gas Leaks on June 2nd at the Unitarian Universalist Society

In 2014 natural gas distributors in Massachusetts were required, for the first time, to report leaks from their pipes. That information became public and was applied by a group of environmentalists in Boston, the Home Energy Efficiency Team (HEETMA) to maps that were posted on the website <http://www.heetma.org/squeaky-leak/natural-gas-leaks-maps/> so that people all across the state could learn whether their neighborhoods and towns had unrepaired gas pipe leaks. This is important for health, safety, environmental, and economic reasons.

Using the information provided by HEETMA, a Northampton neighborhood climate action group, 2DegreesatGreenNeighbors.Earth, wrote to Columbia Gas asking it to quantify the volume of the 91 leaks in Northampton and to provide a plan to fix the leaks, beginning with the largest and most dangerous. That local group heard back from Columbia Gas and is in the process of arranging a meeting with their representatives.

This issue is one that affects the whole community.

To learn more, come to the Unitarian Universalist Society on Main Street, June 2 at 7:30 p.m.

Garden Club

Summer Saturdays @ 9 a.m.

Fumiko Brown & Karen Pedersen will lead volunteers in a series of projects in our church gardens on the following Saturdays this summer:

- **June 11**
- **July 2**
- **July 23**
- **August 13**

Each project is planned in advance and can be completed in one hour by 5-6 people.

Rain or shine! Bring your trowels! Be prepared for fun!



Edwards Church Courtyard

You're Invited!



Hampshire Association of the Massachusetts Conference, U. C. C.

Dear Friends in the Hampshire Association,

We are happy to follow up on your suggestions from Annual Meeting that we organize more educational, social and informational gatherings throughout the year to “get together and share with one another.” So, here’s the first get-together and we welcome your ideas for others!

Our incoming Associate Conference Minister, Rev. Jill Graham, elicited rapt attention at Annual Meeting by presenting the issue of a possible merger of the Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island Conferences of the U.C.C. All three Boards and Conference Ministers are requesting that the members of each Conference gather together in local church and Association groups during the next 12 months for a Season of Discernment (Pentecost to Pentecost 2016-2017) to discuss the possible merger of the three Southern New England Conferences, in hopes of fostering a closer working relationship with greater capacity to expand our ministries and maximize their impact.

Rev. Kelly Gallagher, our present Associate Conference Minister, will address the multiple questions and issues raised by this proposed initiative at a **Special Meeting of the Association on Tuesday, June 14th at 6 p.m. at Edwards Church, Northampton**. Refreshments will be served!

To learn in detail how this initiative for a possible merger came about, and what it could mean for us and for our churches in the MACUCC, log on to www.macucc.org/rimact where a plethora of information is available on both the substance of issues under discussion as well as the process of discernment suggested for discussing and praying about these issues.

We look forward to seeing members and clergy from each of our churches at this lively meeting!

pace e bene ~

Hampshire Association Executive Committee

Bruce Brewer, North Hadley
Carl Erickson, Treasurer, Edwards Church
Lance Humphrey, Vice-Moderator, Granby
Rev. Clare Overlander, Moderator, First Churches
Judy Stone, Scribe, First Hadley

Ivy Tillman, First Amherst
Jan Varnon, Haydenville
Nancy Webb, Norwich Hill (Huntington)
Rev. Ton Whiteside, Plainfield
Rev. Christina Williams, First Hadley

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			6pm MANNA 7pm FF Committee	7pm MANNA Board of Directors Mtg. 7pm Choir Rehearsal 7pm Diaconate Mtg.	6:30pm AA	11:30am MANNA
JUNE 2016						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:45 Bible Study 9:00 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 Communion 11:15 Fellowship (A-D) 11:15 Music Committee	12 noon Wisdom of Faith: Christianity & Judaism 6pm RVS 7pm VMSG	7pm AF 7pm Trustees Mtg. 7pm Wisdom of Faith: Islam	5pm Board of Friends of the Homeless Mtg. 6pm MANNA 7pm Council Mtg.	7pm Choir Rehearsal	6:30pm AA	9am Garden Club 11:30am MANNA 2pm Prindle Music School Concert
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:45 Bible Study 9:00 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 Worship/Summer Church School 11:15 Fellowship (E-K) 11:30 Youth Group 11:30 Responsible Investment Mtg.	12 noon Wisdom of Faith: Islam 2pm PVIRAG 6pm RVS 7pm VMSG	4pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 6pm Hamp. Assoc. Meeting 7pm AF 7pm VMSG 7pm Wisdom of Faith: Houston Smith	6pm MANNA	6pm Members in Discernment 7pm Choir Rehearsal	6:30pm AA	11:30am MANNA
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:45 Bible Study 9:00 Choir Rehearsal 9:30 Hymn Sing 10:00 Worship/Summer Church School 11:15 Fellowship (L-S) Summer Kick-off Celebration	12 noon Wisdom of Faith: Houston Smith 2pm PVIRAG 6pm RVS 7pm VMSG	7pm AF 7pm CE Community of Practice	6pm MANNA 7pm Outreach Committee Mtg.	7pm Choir Rehearsal	6:30pm AA	11:30am MANNA
26	27	28	29	30		
8:45 Bible Study 9:00 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 Worship/Summer Church School 11:15 Fellowship (T-Z) 11:30 Youth Group Year-end Party	6pm RVS 7pm VMSG 7pm Labyrinth Walk	4pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm AF 7pm VMSG	6pm MANNA	7pm Choir Rehearsal		
Abbreviations: AA = Alcoholics Anonymous AF = Augustine Fellowship CHG = Coming Home to Grief Support Group NPC= Northampton Parents Center PVIRAG= Pioneer Valley Interfaith Refugee Action Group RVS= River Valley Sangha VMSG = Valley Men's Support Group						