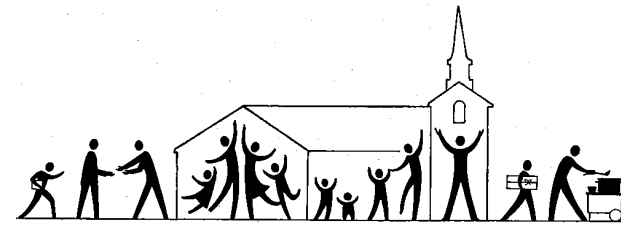


The United Church Of Christ in Medfield
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THE BEACON

FREEFALL

After the first of the year, I always notice a brief uptick in the number of people working out at Planet Fitness. It's a little bit annoying because I can't park as close to the door as I would like (I don't like my brief trek to and from the car in the cold winter months in my workout gear) but I know that within a couple of weeks things will be back to normal once again. New Year's resolutions don't have much staying power for the most part. I haven't made New Year's resolutions in many, many years, having realized early on that I wasn't very good at keeping them: "the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak!"

I approached my faith in the "will power" mode when I was younger, and discovered that will power can't take one very far on the journey of discipleship. I could only muster brief episodic attempts at following Jesus closer but they lasted about as long as the New Year's resolution people last at Planet Fitness.

Slowly I learned over time and many failures, that will power isn't a major player on the journey as Jesus' apprentices. It is surrender into God's great love that carries us on the path of discipleship. An analogy that comes to mind is learning how to swim and becoming a good swimmer. Initially we tend to fight the water, try to stay afloat by working hard to

stay on top. Of course, this actually is only good for exhaustion and sinking. We have to surrender to the water and learn how to stay afloat and propel the body through its generous support.

The poet Denise Levertov became a Christian in mid-life and wrote some moving poems about God and faith, one of which takes up this theme of surrender which I want to share with you.

The Avowal

As swimmers dare
to lie face to the sky
and water bears them,
as hawks rest upon air
and air sustains them,
so would I learn to attain
freefall, and float
into Creator Spirit's deep embrace,
knowing no effort earns
that all-surrounding grace.

My New Year's prayer for all of us for 2012 is that we would "learn to attain freefall, and float into Creator Spirit's deep embrace, knowing no effort earns that all-surrounding grace."

Pastor Phil

ANNUAL MEETING WARRANT

To the Members of The United Church of Christ in Medfield, Massachusetts:

The Annual Meeting of The United Church of Christ in Medfield, Massachusetts will be held following the morning Service of Worship on Sunday, **January 8, 2012**.

At this time, the ANNUAL REPORTS from OFFICERS, TEAM CHAIRPERSONS and AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS of the CHURCH shall be presented, a proposed BUDGET for **January, 2012 through December, 2012** shall be adopted, and Officers, Deacons, and at-large congregational members of the of the Church Board shall be elected or ratified.

We shall also act upon a MOTION to be made by the Administration and Operations Team:

to accept the 2012 proposed Budget as printed in the Annual Report with the understanding that, if the pledges exceed the Budget or fail to meet the Budget, the Administration and Operations Team has the authority to appropriate the funds as necessary.

Any other business, which may be brought before this legally called meeting, may be presented for action.

This WARRANT conforms to Article X, Section A of the 2009 Revised Bylaws.

Steven Bushnell
Moderator

UCC Women's Retreat
Registration Form
March 9-11, 2012

EXPLORING YOUR PATHWAY TO GOD

"You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy."
Psalm 16, verse 11a

Together, we will discover and share new ways of connecting with God and our faith.

Leaders: Pastor Karen Munn and Heidi Willson
Sacred Heart Retreat Center – Wareham, MA

Name _____

Home phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Email address _____

Emergency contact name and number _____

Roommate request (if any) _____

Food allergies (if any) _____

Information will be sent to you via email. If you prefer regular mail, please provide your address below:

Fees

The fee for the weekend is \$145.00 per person and includes Friday and Saturday night lodging, Friday pizza and salad supper, Saturday breakfast, lunch, and dinner and Sunday morning breakfast. In order to have private use of the retreat center, our group reservation is for the weekend. We cannot provide a discount for an early departure. **Please note that all meals will be at the retreat center.**

Please make \$145.00 check payable to: UCC Medfield (memo – Women's Retreat). Return this form with payment by Sunday, February 12 to the church office or to:

Wendy Cohen
5 Stonybrook Road
Medfield MA 02052

CHURCH STAFF	
Senior Pastor	Rev. Dr. Philip Bauman pbauman@uccmedfield.org
Associate Pastor	Rev. Karen Munn kmunn@uccmedfield.org
Church Administrator	Laury Hunt lhunt@uccmedfield.org
Director of Youth Ministries	Wendy Ludwig wludwig@uccmedfield.org
Director of Children's Ministries	Susan Holbrook sholbrook@uccmedfield.org
Minister of Music Choral & Handbells	Michael Olbash molbash@uccmedfield.org
Minister of Music Praise & Youth	Heidi Willson hwillson@uccmedfield.org

CHURCH CONTACT
Church Office: Phone — 508-359-2351 Fax — 508-359-2352
Office Hours: Monday thru Thursday 8:30—4:30 Friday 8:30—12:30
Church Website: www.uccmedfield.org
<i>BEACON</i> Editor: Laury Hunt Layout: Donna Matson

UCC WOMEN

On Tuesday, December 6, thirty-six women gathered for our traditional Advent Supper of soup and service. After a meal of nurturing (and delicious!) soups, Pastor Karen led us in a blessing for the Advent season. Thanks to the generous donations of many bakers, we packaged 132 boxes of holiday cookies to be delivered to those in need of Christmas cheer.

Our next event is the annual women's retreat. This year's topic, "Exploring Your Pathway to God", will be led by Pastor Karen and Heidi Willson. It promises to be a learning experience and an opportunity to grow and share our faithful pathways with each other. Retreat starts at 6:00 PM, Friday, March 9 and concludes with morning worship on Sunday, March 11. We are returning to the Sacred Heart Retreat Center in Wareham, MA and will once again have private use of the center. Contact any member of the planning team if you have questions: Pastor Karen, Heidi Willson, Donna Matson or Wendy Cohen. Please return the reservation form on the next page soon to reserve your spot. We hope to see YOU there!

**Calling All Women
to the
Women's Retreat**

**Exploring Your
Pathway to God**

March 9-11, 2012



MISSIONS TEAM

Our team would like to thank the congregation for all the Christmas gifts and generous contributions that were donated throughout December. The holidays were most certainly a bit brighter for some families this holiday season as a result of your donations!

**Mission of
UCC Medfield**

***To love and worship
God, and to love and
serve others as
Spirit-filled
disciples of
Jesus Christ.***

day there, and returned quite moved by the extent of the damage still present six months after tornadoes ravaged the area.

Approximately 38 members and friends of UCC Medfield have traveled to Brimfield to serve over the last few months, and there is evidence of new construction in some of the hardest hit areas. Mission Possible 3 will provide another opportunity for helping our western neighbors.

We will continue to keep you posted of opportunities to serve throughout the New Year!

Happy New Year from the Missions Team, and all the best for a spirit-filled 2012!

DO YOU FEEL GOD'S CALL TO SERVE?

The church board is searching for a qualified, dedicated person to serve as a congregational representative. Our new model allows for up to four people to act in this capacity; current congregational members include Margi Goetz, Carol Cassoli, Christi Barney and Tayne Quinn. With Carol's term nearing completion, we are asking that you prayerfully consider whether God may be calling you to serve in this meaningful way. Work on this board will include helping to establish policies and standards; evaluating initiatives such as "Taking the Pulse" to measure success in achieving our church vision; and developing a long-term strategic planning process.

- Persons interested in serving should:
- Be an active member of the church
 - Be committed to the church vision and mission
 - Demonstrate leadership qualities
 - Show receptivity to new ideas
 - Be willing to make decisions when presented with information
 - Have an authentic call
 - Have participated in the church's ministry
 - Commit to living the Six Marks of Discipleship as best as you are able

Serving on the board entails a three-year commitment and regular attendance at monthly meetings. If you are interested in serving in this role and representing the church as a whole, please contact the church office to request an application. We thank you for opening your hearts and minds in listening for God's call. As always, we welcome your questions or concerns as we serve in Christ's name.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Steve Bushnell (508) 359-1345 | Carol Cassoli (508) 520-3488 |
| Steve Groff (508) 359-5651 | Margi Goetz (508) 359-4096 |
| Tayne Quinn (508) 359-1822 | Mike Polagye (508) 520-0865 |
| Christi Barney (508) 359-5623 | Newton Thompson (508) 359-4899 |
| | Rev. Phil Bauman (508) 359-2351 |

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

We need you! Please consider joining us for prayer, fellowship and interesting conversation. Your finished shawl provides great comfort, hope, and warmth to the recipient. We always have the supplies, an instructor and smiles even if you think you don't have a talent for handiwork.

We meet on the third Thursday of the month (1/19) from 1 to 3:30 and the second and fourth Tuesday (1/10, 1/24) of the month from 7:30 to 9 in the parlor. Not interested in completing a whole shawl? We are starting a community shawl where whoever wants to come and knit can work on the community shawl and just sit and knit a few rows. You don't have to carry a knitting bag around and you don't experience the frustration of a project that you started and just can't seem to finish.

For additional information, or to request a shawl, please contact either Michelle Luhrmann 359-1586 or Donna Luft 359-4420 for daytime meetings, and Sally Harris 359-4203 for evening meetings. If you prefer email please contact Carol LaFreniere at cladedah@aol.com.



MEMBER NEWS

SPECIAL OFFICE HOURS BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND JANUARY 3:

The office will be closed on December 26 and January 2. December 27-30, we will be open from 8:30-12:30.

QUIET SERVANTS OF THE MONTH:

We want to thank Kathe Farris for faithfully organizing the coffee hour teams at both services.

MEDFIELD FOOD CUPBOARD:

For January they have asked for **cookies, Kleenex, 4-packs of toilet paper, pasta sauce, juice in boxes and bottles, canned chicken, raisins in both big and little sizes, and applesauce in little cups**, but will gladly accept other non-perishable items. Please place your donations in the baskets located in the corner of the Narthex marked for the Food Cupboard. Thank you.

CHEER PACKAGES FOR THE MILITARY:

As part of the cheer packages being assembled for the military on MP3 we are asking for donations of recent/current sports magazines like "Sports Illustrated", Valentine cards (homemade is great), gently used Matchbox cars or equivalents, and no-longer-needed volleyballs (these last two are great outreach items to the Afghani children) to add to the boxes. Please drop items off in the specially marked boxes in the narthex.

WORSHIP SERVICES IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY

On Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24, worship services will be held at the following times in the Sanctuary:

5:30* PM – Candlelight service with Cherub, Training, and Treble choirs

7:30* PM – Candlelight service with Sanctuary Choir, Chapel Bells Ensemble and brass ensemble

10:00 PM – Candlelight service with Communion

**Because the use of folding chairs in aisles and hallways is unsafe and unlawful, we are again offering overflow seating in our parlor. If you arrive on Christmas Eve after the sanctuary reaches its capacity (our records show that the 5:30 service exceeds capacity shortly after 5:00 p.m.), then the ushers will direct you to the parlor, where you may participate in the service via a direct feed on the TV.*

On December 25 one Service of Lessons and Carols will be held in the Sanctuary at **9:30AM**. There is no Sunday School, nursery coverage, or Praise Service that day.

On January 1 there will be one service (praise) at **11:00 AM** in the Great Room. There is no Sunday School that day.

ANNUAL MEETING 2012

The Annual Meeting of The United Church of Christ will be held in the Great Room on Sunday, **January 9, 2012** immediately following the **9:30 combined service**. The Annual Report and the Warrant (see page 2) will be available by January 1st in compliance with the Bylaws.

CALL TO FAMILIES, COUPLES AND SINGLES

Join us in **The Great Home Group Lenten Experiment!**

What is a home group? A home group is a small group of people who usually meet in each other's homes with the intention of developing spiritual friendships and growing together spiritually.

Why do I need a home group? Everybody needs close friendships in the church to experience belonging and genuine support for the ups and downs of life. Jesus showed us that "small group life" is necessary for personal spiritual growth. That's how he formed disciples.

How do I express interest? If you are interested, email or call Pastor Karen, kmunn@uccmedfield.org, and let her know the types of people you would like to be in a group with (other young families, families with teenagers, empty nesters, mixed life stages, etc.), and she will work to form groups for Lent (February 22 - April 8)

Frequently Asked Questions on Home Groups...

What happens in a typical group meeting? There are 3 important elements:

SHARE: Getting to know one another (often through a sharing question).

This also happens casually over snacks.

STUDY: Discuss a portion of the Bible and apply it to our lives (sometimes this involves a video).

PRAY: Praying with and for each other.

Where do groups meet? Groups can choose to meet anywhere, but we recommend that groups meet in each other's homes.

Who are in Small Groups? Mostly adults—young and old, men and women, couples and singles. We encourage couples to participate in a group together.

How do you handle childcare? Small groups are very good at creatively addressing this important need. It should not be a barrier to participation.

How often do groups meet? We urge groups to meet weekly if possible (especially if new) but some groups meet every other week.

How long a commitment do I have to make? You may test drive an open small group for 2-3 meetings. After this we ask for a commitment which lasts the length of a study (typically 6-12 meetings). When the study has ended members evaluate together. You can decide to continue to a new study or transition out.

Is there homework? Groups decide this together.

What do groups study? Most of our groups study the Bible, either by book or by topic, using small group study guides, according to your interest and our guidance.

What if I am already in a small group? If you are already in a small group that is helping you grow in your faith and form spiritual friendships, stay in it! Home groups are not meant to divert you from the groups you are already growing with.

CRADLES TO CRAYONS

Several members of the congregation attended C2C's 6th Annual Un-Gala on December 3rd at the Brighton warehouse. With hundreds of volunteers in attendance, we were collectively able to make a difference in the lives of over 3,056 local children. During our delicious lunch that was generously catered by Bertucci's, we had the pleasure of hearing from Raiza, a recipient of C2C backpacks and kid paks.

"The coat, the backpack, and the clothes mean so much...probably more than you think: three coats from Cradles to Crayons equals 2 weeks of groceries. Backpacks and school supplies for my siblings equals a tank of gas for my car so I can get to work. Outfits for all 3 children means I can pay our electric bill for the month."

Cradles to Crayons was founded with a vision that all children deserve the basic things they need to thrive. At UCC Medfield, we are blessed by the work we do for Cradles--on-site in the Brighton and in your homes where you prayerfully and lovingly pack socks, underwear, tights and newborn caps. Your ongoing support of the C2C vision makes a huge difference in the lives of children and their families around the Commonwealth.

MP3 - Cradles to Crayons will be one of the many serving options on our third annual UCC service day on January 28th. There will be a morning and afternoon time slot that you can sign up for. Children, five years old and accompanied by a parent, are welcome to come and serve!! Sign-ups begin on January 1st in the narthex.

Volunteer workdays - Our monthly workdays for the balance of this school year are noted below. You can sign up for any OR all of the upcoming dates on the C2C clipboard in the narthex. Feel free to serve with a friend.

Wednesday, January 11th, Friday, February 10th, Tuesday, March 13th,
Wednesday, April 11th Friday, May 18th

We meet at the church at 9:10 and the carpool to the warehouse for a 10-12:30 work shift. We are back in Medfield by 1:15 pm.

Urgent Needs

7/8 -18/20 boys clothing
2T/3T girls clothing
winter hats and mittens

Local Donation Site

Kathy Mills' house
6 Wild Holly Lane, Medfield, MA 02052
No need to call ahead-donations may be left on Kathy's covered front porch.

Off-site Sorting Bags-Stop by the Cradles to Crayons shelving unit in the main stairwell (right off the narthex) to pick up a bag or two or socks, underwear, tights or newborn caps that need to be packaged into Ziploc bags. Detailed instructions are included with each bag including a suggested prayer before you start!.

MISSION POSSIBLE 3

Serving to the Tune of God's Love

No musical talent required! Anyone can join the "chorus" of volunteers on Saturday, January 28 as we serve others in the third annual, all-church workday. Signup sheets will be available in the Narthex beginning Sunday, January 1st. Service opportunities include some "oldies" as well as some "new hits":

Tornado recovery efforts in Brimfield, MA
Habitat workday in Norton, MA
Cradles to Crayons
Soup To Go (delivery to South Station area)
City Mission Society
The Boston Food Bank
City of Boston Homeless Shelter
Woods Mullen Shelter (serve lunch)

Activities taking place in Medfield:

Help with breakfast
Medfield Food Cupboard
Cheer packages for the military
Craft projects to benefit local groups
Soup To Go (food prep or toiletry kits)
Church cleanup
Set up for volunteer dinner at MHS



There really is something for everyone to "sing" and many are multi-age activities. Be sure to also order your t-shirt and reserve your spot for dinner. Together we can share the tune of God's love with others who need to hear it – loud and clear!

MEMBER NEWS (CONTINUED)

STORM CLOSINGS:

As we enter into the winter season, please remember that there are no youth events such as Focus on Youth or children's choirs held on days that schools have been cancelled or closed early because of weather conditions. We are making arrangements with the local television and radio stations to be included in their storm closing announcements. We will also try to get the information on our web site, Facebook page, and answering machine if time permits.



February Beacon
Deadline:
Thursday, January 19

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

<p>January 1 January 8</p>	<p>11:00 9:30 10:30 No 11:00 Service</p>	<p>Praise Service only; No SS Children's Church & Sunday School Annual Meeting/childcare provided No 11:00 Service</p>
<p>January 15 January 22 January 28 January 29</p>	<p>9:30 & 11:00 Regular SS 9:30 & 11:00 Regular SS MP3-All Church Service Day 9:30 & 11:00 Regular SS</p>	

PEEKING THROUGH THE SUNDAY SCHOOL WINDOWS YOU WOULD HAVE SEEN:

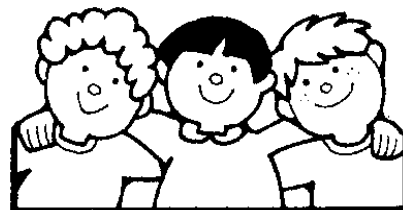
- The children in the **pre-k class** coloring a large nativity scene poster together and then listening to the story, "Where is Christmas?"
- The **kindergarten students** talking about the angel who visited Mary and then making two different angel ornaments to bring home to their families.
- the **first graders** lighting the second Advent candle and then discussing the angel's visit to Mary.
- The **second graders** making angels and Advent candles to pin on their giant wrapped present (Jesus!) from God.
- The **third graders** learning about the prophet Micah and the prophecy he told of Jesus' birth 700 years before Jesus was born!
- The **fourth grade students** discussing who King Solomon was and how he prayed for wisdom.
- Our **fifth grade students** acting out the stories of the angel appearing to Mary and Joseph and then making a "Jesus is the Reason for the Season" poster for the classroom.
- The **multi-age class** reading the story of Micah and then making a timeline to show that it was 700 years before the birth of Jesus.

January Stewardship Focus

During the month of January, our Children's Ministry stewardship focus will be on using our time and talents as we prepare for our third annual, all church service day on January 28th. For more details on **MP3 (Mission Possible 3)**, check out the bulletin board and sign-ups sheets in the narthex for a family-friendly venue to serve that day. We hope everyone will come to the celebration dinner in the high school cafeteria at the end of our service day on the 28th to celebrate our efforts and enjoy fellowship and fun with our church family.

Children's Church on January 8th

Our monthly Children's church service will be held on January 8th (note change to the SECOND Sunday for January only) during the first part of the 9:30 worship service. All pre-k through 5th grade students and their teachers gather in the Great Room at 9:30 am for this 20 minute worship service. Our focus this month will be on serving others.



YOUTH NEWS

Happy 2012! SHF and 9th grade confirmation students are welcomed back on Sunday, January 8th. Focus on Youth for 6th and 7th graders and 8th grade confirmation begins on Monday, January 9th.

MISSION POSSIBLE 3! Sign up begins **January 1st** in the Narthex. Don't miss the chance to serve with our whole church family!

Thanks to students in FOY, 8th and 9th grade confirmation and Senior High Fellowship for helping to make the City Mission Society Christmas Shop a blessing to so many families this Christmas! Gifts that students brought in were taken to the Christmas Shop in Winchester for sorting and distribution. Thanks so much for your generosity!

9th Grade Confirmation students and Senior High Fellowship members went to the City Mission Society's Christmas Shop on December 18th to help sort, wrap and pack gifts for families all over the greater Boston metropolitan area! Thanks to leaders and parent drivers! Great work students!

The third annual **SHF Winter Trip (10th-12th graders only)** is planned for Saturday January 7th - Sunday January 8th. We will meet in the Bank of America parking lot at 6AM (sharp) to travel to Mt. Sunapee (non-skiers will snowshoe, cross country ski or peruse the shopping in the downtown area on Saturday. Adults will accompany.) In the late afternoon we will head over to the Horan's New Hampshire house for dinner, games and a good night sleep before traveling back home on Sunday. If you are interested in helping with food, please contact Heather at doubleh123@gmail.com or 359-6086. We will return home on Sunday early afternoon. Only one or two spots are still open for this adventure; please contact Heather Horan to sign up. UCC permission forms are on the uccmedfield.org website. This form is required for all participants. A Sunapee equipment rental form will be distributed at the December 18th SHF meeting for all skiers needing to rent gear. (This form MUST be signed by parents before we leave!)

A Delicious Riddle: How can you help to support a meal at Woods Mullen Shelter AND celebrate the Super Bowl AND help to support the 2012 Senior High Fellowship mission trip all at once? This year, senior high fellowship mission trip participants will be selling **Super Bowl subs** to support our June mission trip, but there's a new twist! You are invited to buy subs for your own party and/or buy a sub (or two, or more) to support a lunch that Senior High Fellowship will make and serve at Woods Mullen Shelter on Saturday, February 4th. You get dinner, guests at the Woods Mullen Shelter get lunch, and we earn money for our trip. What a SUPER idea! Stay tuned for order forms and pick-up info! YUM!

Mission trip participants – On Friday-Saturday **February 3-4 there will be an overnight mission trip-prep meeting. All mission trip participants are required to attend.** We will begin learning about the area and population that we will be serving, we'll make sub sandwiches, and some of us will travel to Woods Mullen Shelter to serve lunch. Bring overnight gear and don't miss this meeting!

THE FAMINE IS COMING – 30 HOURS. NO FOOD. Children around the world are counting on you. **DO THE FAMINE. March 23-24th, 2012.** Save the date!

STEPHEN MINISTRY

“Happy New Year? But I don’t feel happy.”

While friends, family and indeed the whole world celebrates and strides into the new year with cheers and resolutions for good things to come, does it seem as though you’re a spectator, alone on the sidelines?

In the midst of the celebrations and hopes for a grand new year, many people feel lost or separated because they experience shadows of sadness or depression while everyone else seems to be so happy. This is not unusual, especially if you are ill or have lost a loved one or life’s every day difficulties are weighing heavily on you.

There Is No Need to Feel Alone!

Everyone goes through difficult times. Having someone to care, to listen, to share God’s love with you can help you get through the confusion, stress, or loneliness you may be experiencing. God does not intend for you to struggle alone.

STEPHEN
MINISTRY



Stephen Ministers provide emotional and spiritual support and care to people who are going through a difficult time, such as divorce, grief, hospitalization, unemployment, terminal, relocation, chronic illness, or loneliness.

For more information, speak to one of the Stephen Leaders—Pastor Phil, Pastor Karen, Heidi Groff, Gayle Edgar or Rick Cram—or call the church office at 508-359-2351 and ask for Pastor Phil.

YOUTH CONCERT

The 2nd annual UCC Youth Concert is on Sunday, February 12 at 4:00 PM. (It’s not too late to sign up!) Please come and enjoy hearing our talented young musicians play their favorites. The concert will be held in the Great Room.

MOVIE NIGHT



The next scheduled Movie Night is Friday, **February 10**. We will be showing “Evan Almighty”, which is appropriate for all ages. Bring your family and enjoy the movie, popcorn and fellowship with friends!

FOY age and above need not be accompanied by an adult.

PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Come join the fun!

Saturday, **February 11**, 2012 at 6:00 PM. All adults are invited! – singles or couples. There are several ways you can sign-up: 1) Sign-up sheet in the lobby, 2) E-mail Margi Goetz at mgoetz2@comcast.net, or 3) phone Margi at: 359-4096.

Please mark your calendar and look for more details to follow!

WELCOMING AND FRIENDSHIP MINISTRY

Happy New Year! We look forward to continuing our ministry of welcoming guests to UCC Medfield. We hope our efforts to let them know we are glad they have chosen this church in which to worship will encourage them to come again, and maybe be a part of our congregation on a regular basis. We hope they will find a closer relationship with God while they are with us. We are very grateful to those volunteers who stand behind our Welcome Table each Sunday and help us accomplish this goal. We would like to expand our Welcome Table staff, and if you would be interested in serving, please email Gayle Edgar, gnedgar@verizon.net, or call her at 508-651-1464. Our staff works on a rotation basis, and each person serves about one Sunday a month. It only requires meeting people with a warm smile, answering any questions they might have about our church, and providing them with a packet of information to take home.

As the New Year begins, we are planning some new family oriented activities to fulfill the “friendship” part of our ministry. Potluck suppers, a progressive dinner, movie nights - all opportunities to establish and encourage spiritual friendships.

KEEP WRITING! We truly appreciate everyone’s continued use of the Communication Cards at Sunday services. Our return rate has increased significantly, and important information from guests, members and regular attendees is so helpful in being sure we are meeting the needs of our congregation. **Remember, if you are a member or a regular attendee, it is not necessary to fill in the address, phone, etc.;** just put your name. For you, the important part is the “Next Step” and Prayer Requests. Many people have reported that the “Next Step” list helps them to participate in a more focused way on the life of our church, and to enjoy a more personal experience. The Prayer Request segment is being used much more often now as another source of prayer for loved ones and friends in need of spiritual support.

COFFEE HOURS - Kathe Farris continues to coordinate the coffee times for both services, and **WE STILL NEED PEOPLE TO SIGN UP!** For those who may not know, it is no longer necessary to provide the snacks; just set up, serve coffee, and help clean up. With enough people volunteering, our rotating schedule means that you only have to do it a few times a year. You can sign up in the Narthex, or contact Kathe Farris at kathe@thanktank.com.

Classroom Volunteers - January: As part of our Safe Church initiative at UCC Medfield, two adults are required each week in every Sunday School classroom. Each month several Sundays will be staffed by teacher aides and the other weeks will be staffed by parent volunteers. If you are unable to attend your scheduled date, please try to switch with another parent or call Susan Holbrook at church (359-2351) or at home (359-8378).

	<u>1/8</u>	<u>1/15</u>	<u>1/22</u>	<u>1/29</u>
Pre-k	Boyd	Whelan	Schneider	Gobin
Kindergarten	Van der Linden	Ruud	Tucker	Miller-Klugman
1st Grade	Malmquist	OPEN	Hong	Fuqua
2nd Grade	Pease	OPEN	Douglas	Lynch
3rd Grade	Shea	OPEN	Sullivan	Southwick
4th Grade	Colleran	OPEN	Murray	Langton
5th Grade	Terry	OPEN	Walsh	Caro

At our December 3rd outing to Woods Mullen, Senior High Fellowship leaders and students served our wonderful home-made soup and chili at the Shelter. It is great to see the high schoolers in service to this mission! We have consistently had a great crew in the kitchen all year – the homeless shelter guests really appreciate your culinary skills, including the chocolate chip cookies freshly baked in the morning. This hearty meal is welcomed and now much anticipated. So many homeless have asked us to thank the congregation for your caring and generosity. We also consistently continue to have a following at South Station for personal care items, clothing and Subway gift cards. A big “thank you” to everyone who has volunteered in this ministry! What you do provides comfort and a small oasis of joy to those who have little. They notice and they appreciate the fact that you care.

Please consider joining as a cook or a deliverer for Soup To Go. Upcoming dates are:

*January 7 (Woods Mullen lunch),
14 (South Station evening),
28 (Mission Possible – multiple events)
February 4 (Woods Mullen Lunch),
11 (South Station evening),
5 (Woods Mullen lunch).*

Look for these dates and others through the spring on sign-up sheets in the narthex.

The Coordinating Team
Sarah Hamilton Art Davies
Cathy Shires Amy Marshall
Wendy Ludwig Dick Whelan
Rick Abecunas Pam Campisano
Joan Sethi