



November 2011

Volume 34 No. 10

Pastor: Rev. Shayna Appel
Pastor's Line: 978-597-0157
cell # 802-579-6066

TCC Administrative Asst.:
John Mims
Office Line: 978-597-8925

**Village Common Children's
Center Line:** 978-597-0834

Editor: Catherine Hill
978-337-0638

TOWNSEND
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH, UCC
PO BOX 487
TOWNSEND MA 01469

E-MAIL ADDRESSES:

Pastor:
kshaynaappel@gmail.com
Church Secretary:
secretary@tccucc.org
Newsletter:
newsletter@tccucc.org
**Village Common Children's
Center:** vccc@tccucc.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:

Tuesday - Friday
9:00am - 12:00pm.

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS:

Wed. 10am-noon; Thurs.
4-6pm; or by appointment

**Visit our web page at
www.tccucc.org**

**NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21 - NOON**

THE VISITOR

TOWNSEND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

275 Years at the Heart of the Community - With the Community in Our Hearts

HOLIDAY FAIR

There are so many ways that you can help with one of our largest fund raisers of the year – the Holiday Fair – small ways and large ways. As of October 29, we have 3 weeks until November 19. Some of our needs are covered on page 4 of this newsletter. Take a look. You might be surprised at what calls to you.

- * Raffle Baskets
- * Apple Pies
- * Baked Goods
- * Greens Baskets
- * Books
- * Children's Activities

Cathy Hill

Saturdays at 7

November 5 is the next first Saturday of the month - and this is the day our First Saturday of the Month Team gets together to do odd jobs around the inside and outside of church. We appreciate everyone's help and look forward to growing the team.

Start time is 7 am.

Paul Martineau, Minister for Property

In this Newsletter . . .

- * Turkey Hunting
- * Advent Wreath Making
- * Crop Walk News
- * Mission 1
- * Holiday Fair Update
- * Our Blessings and Concerns
- * Community News
- * Our Council Members
- * November Calendar
- * Council Update



on
November 6





Why We Practice ... by Pastor Shayna

Every year, when Holy Week rolls around, I find myself on the same soapbox. Whether in sermon or newsletter or announcement format, the message is the same and can be synthesized into three simple words. "Practice, practice, practice!"

(I know, we are a LONG way from Holy week right now ... keep reading!)

Each and every year the seasons of Lent, and then Holy Week, bring us to a very difficult place - the death by crucifixion of our beloved savior and friend, Jesus our Christ. Anxiety builds throughout Lent as we read from scriptures that put us on the road with Jesus and his disciples, heading closer and closer to Jerusalem. To the untrained eye, Palm Sunday LOOKS like a joyful parade, but those of us who have been around for a while know that this mockery of the Roman Empire will have dire consequences. Maundy Thursday drives this point home at a gut level, and I do not mind confessing that I find it incredibly difficult not to cry out loud during Good Friday services. Of course, Easter morning and God's victory over death are what give us the courage and the reason to embark on this journey in the first place, for without these, the rest of it WOULD be unbearable!

Every year, we make this same, excruciating journey with Jesus our Christ from the fields and cities of his ministry of hope to that foreboding hill called Golgotha, and beyond. And I have to be honest with you ... before I was a Christian I really thought y'all were just gluttons for punishment! I mean, why on God's earth would a people make that pilgrimage each and every year of their lives? Why put yourselves through all that?

Well, that seems like many years ago. For the past 10 years now I have taken an active part in this Christian pilgrimage - not just from Lent to Easter, but from Advent to Easter and throughout Ordinary Time! And, while I was practicing being a Christian, life has continued to unfold. I have lost both of my parents, my mother-in-law, my dog Mojo, and, most recently, my beloved brother Michael ... not to mention a whole bunch of deeply loved congregants who are too numerous to name here. There have also been celebrations: my ordination, our children's graduations from high school and our daughter's graduation from college, Robin's graduation from seminary, my niece's Bat Mitzvah, Robin's and my (legal!) Civil Union, and most recently, Robin's ordination, (let the people say, AMEN!) just to name a few.

For the past 10 years I have journeyed from Advent to Easter and throughout Ordinary Time with three different congregations and this is the big lesson I have learned. Sunday mornings are set aside for worshipping the LORD our God. The practice of our faith is what takes place the rest

of the week when we live the stories of our lives out against the backdrop of the stories of scripture, history and tradition! There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that with practice we can all learn to swim in this wonderful and glorious faith tradition. And that's a beautiful thing, when the waters in life become turbulent, AND when the sailing is divine.

November 27th will mark the start of our annual journey of faith as we celebrate again the beginning of Advent. Throughout this season we will learn how God's ideas of 'preparation' differ from our own.

Pastor Shayna



From Turkey Hunting to Advent Wreath Making ...

Submitted by Meg Genoter

TCC's Annual Turkey Hunt: November 13, following worship in Fellowship Hall

Calling all families to TCC's annual Turkey Hunt, Sunday Nov 13. Not to worry, this is a no ammunitions Hunt. On November 13 following worship, starting in Fellowship Hall, all youth are invited to join in our annual church scavenger hunt throughout our church to find the turkey. The first team to collect all the clues and get back with the turkey are the winners. (Note: winners get to come up with the clues for the turkey hunt in 2012.) The winning team receives a \$25 gift certificate to donate to a local food bank or to purchase a turkey. Rachael Baker helped Samantha Miller and Rosie Snaith find the turkey last year. This is a wonderful, spirited, event for all youth of the church and we hope to see you there!

Advent Wreath Worship: November 27, following worship in the Vestry after coffee hour. Come one, come All!

One of our traditions at TCC for the Advent season is lighting the Advent Wreath each Sunday during advent. During worship on Sundays, TCC celebrates this season and its meaning with song, prayer and the lighting of the Advent Wreath. One of the ways we can bring a bit more Christ into the 'Santa' season back to our homes is by making an advent wreath with your family to bring home and light. The wreath helps reminds us every day that the season is about Christ's joy, hope, peace and love. So bring your plant clippers and materials fee of no more than \$10, and we will provide the materials and expertise to help your family make a wreath for your own home. It is a lot of fun and fellowship. The Advent Wreath workshop is a wonderful way to commemorate the beginning of the Advent Season with your family and TCC. Thank you to Lisa Hunt and her family for organizing the Advent Wreath Workshop again!



OUTREACH & MISSION HAPPENINGS

Submitted by Carole Gustafson, Minister for Outreach

CROP WALK HELPS FEED THE HUNGRY

On a beautiful Sunday afternoon in October, 422 people from 11 communities walked 5 miles around historic Concord and raised over \$52,000 to help feed the hungry in MA and support the work of Church World Service. Melanie Ouellette walked to support Townsend Ecumenical Outreach and raised close to \$500, of which 25% will go to TEO and the remaining amount will help support the work of Church World Service. Thank you Melanie for stepping out to support TEO and our local and global communities. Crop Walk is a great family event that brings groups from many different religious and non-profit organizations. Please consider joining this walk next year as another way to put food on the tables of those less fortunate and to get exercise on a crisp Autumn day in New England around the historic sites of Concord.

MISSION 1 - THE UCC CAMPAIGN TO FEED THE HUNGRY HAS BEGUN!

Mission 1 has launched, and food to support TEO has been arriving to fill our grocery cart with 1,111 items (or more) to help feed those who are hungry in Townsend. United Churches of Christ and affiliated organizations are on a combined mission for 11 days in November to address the increasing issue of hunger within our communities, our borders and around the world. We need to reach out in compassion and justice and practice what Jesus taught us – “that they all may be one.” The statistics continue to climb during these unsettled times and TEO has seen an increase in the number of families seeking assistance. The statistics are indicating:

- 925 MILLION people are suffering from chronic hunger worldwide--up 90 MILLION from 2000.
- In the United States 50.2 MILLION people do not have enough food to eat. That statistic includes 17.2 MILLION children in the U.S. alone.
- Since 2006 the numbers of people going hungry in the U.S. has risen 14.8 MILLION! We need to come together as one and stop this upward climb. Hunger affects learning, human growth and development, health and family dynamics.
- Poverty-focused development assistance accounted for only 0.6 % of the entire U.S. budget in fiscal year 2010!
- 1.5 BILLION people are in extreme poverty, living on less than \$1.25 a day.



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE! HERE ARE SOME SUGGESTIONS:

- Bring in food items for our grocery cart between now and Nov. 11 (bring 1 item or 11 items or 11 bags or whatever you are able to donate).
- Tell your friends, neighbors and relatives to join in.
- Learn more about hunger and Mission 1 at: www.ucc.org/mission1 and www.bread.org.
- Send e-mails to your congressmen. There will be computers in Fellowship Hall on Oct. 30 and Nov. 6 to send them electronically. Sample letters will also be available if you would like to mail them.
- Make an online donation to the Neighbors in Need special campaign offering. Let us know you have made an electronic donation so we can update the daily tote board at the national UCC office in Cleveland. Give to the Neighbors in Need special offering being taken at the same time in church.
- Consider giving at least \$1 to \$11 more to your Outreach pledge this year.
 - Join us at Bailey's Restaurant (across from the high school) after church or any time of the day on Sunday, Nov. 6. They will be donating 10% of the day's profits to TEO for our MISSION 1 campaign.
 - Donate your time at TEO. Help prepare food and serve it at homeless shelters in the area. Consider being on a task team to do this at TCC.
 - Bring in food all year long to be given to TEO. Take advantage of the sales, especially the buy 1, get 1 or 2 free sales and share the extras.
- Discuss hunger issues with your children and ways in which they can help.

Food items particularly needed include peanut butter, nutella, tuna fish, pasta, cereal, baking supplies, canned ham and soup. Consider putting together the ingredients to make homemade meals, minus the fresh items. Include the recipes.

Pastor Shayna has sent out a challenge to the other local churches to raise at least 1,111 food items. This is our special campaign – let's donate more than our goal!

Bring in your food items by Nov. 6, as it is the last Sunday of the campaign. If you forget, you may still bring them in to the office by Nov. 11. We will have a final tally and prayer of thanksgiving on Sunday, November 13. Let's help the UCC reach it's goals of local congregations collecting more than 1 million items of food for local foodbanks; sending 11,111 letters to Congress and raising \$111,111 in online donations to the Neighbors in Need offering and another \$111,111 for East Africa Famine relief where the need is urgent right now.

Thank you for caring and lending your support.



HOLIDAY FAIR

Submitted by Cathy Hill

RAFFLE BASKETS FOR THE HOLIDAY CRAFT & GREENS FAIR

Once again, the fair will be having the popular raffle baskets. This has been a very successful part of the fair, thanks to all the wonderful baskets donated by the congregation. Whether you are an “old hand” at this or want to jump in for the first time, please participate by picking a theme and filling a basket with items related to that theme. These baskets will be raffled in a traditional “Chinese Auction” way. If you would like to participate, look for the sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall after church.



Holiday Fair Bake Table

So, what’s your baking specialty? Cookies, brownies, breads, muffins, coffee cakes? Whatever it is, please consider making something for the bake table at our Holiday Fair. We have many fabulous bakers in our church and last year we had a table full of yummy treats. Let’s do it again. Questions? Call Karen Baer 978-597-2192.

BOOKS!

Don’t forget to go through your book shelves and bring us all those gems that you’re ready to pass on to another avid reader!

PIE TABLE TALK

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! IT’S PIE TIME!

Apple Pie Night will be on **November 11** starting at 5:30. No matter what baking skills you have, you are welcome to join this high-spirited evening filled with fun and fellowship. Expert bakers and novices gather together and work side-by-side with our apples, corers, bowls and peelers to mix and form more than fifty pies that will be frozen and sold at the Fair.



Whether or not you can come on **NOVEMBER 11** there are a variety of ways to participate: Make pie dough, donate pie tins or mixings (i.e., cinnamon, flour, sugar, butter...), provide freezer space until the Fair on November 19 or plan to help run the table at the fair for the morning or afternoon shift. There may also be last minute prep opportunities if you would just like to be on call. **MOST IMPORTANTLY, ORDER YOUR APPLE OR PECAN PIES EARLY!** We often sell out, so put a pie on hold for you and your family to enjoy!

Whether for supplies contributions or pie purchases, please sign up at coffee hour after service or by contacting Karin Canfield at 978-597-9171.



IF YOU LIVE WHERE THERE ARE LOTS OF EVERGREENS,

WE COULD USE YOUR HELP!! The Greens Table Committee needs a large amount of greens (balsam, laurel, cedar, winter berries, etc.) to make the arrangements and sprays for the Greens Table at the Church Craft and Greens Sale to be held on Saturday, November 19. We will be collecting greens through Saturday, November 12, and storing them at Wanda Wilson’s home until we make the arrangements on November 17. We need people to help cut greens or who are willing to drop off their greens on Nov. 17. Please call Wanda at 597-6803 if you can help in either way.

Wanda Wilson

**THE GREENS TABLE IS SEEKING
BASKETS OF ALL SHAPES AND SIZES!
If you have any, bring them to the church or
contact Wanda Wilson or Dianne Lowe.**

**If you have any questions, please don’t
hesitate to contact Cathy Hill at
ce.hill@verizon.net or leave a message
at 978-597-5864.**





OUR BLESSINGS:

Prayers of joy and thanksgiving for Judy C who has finished with her chemotherapy and there is no sign of cancer; and for a friend who safely delivered a baby girl at the end of September. Robin L's ordination

was an "amazing" event, praise be to God! The joy of Grant B's baptism. Emily B's family is delighted at the home we have given to Emily and her family. Thanksgiving for the care Beulah S is receiving from a small group of hired caregivers. Kathy D gives thanks for the blessing of being able to share her passion for healthcare with the world. Thanks be to God also that no one was injured in the recent house explosion in Townsend; thanks also to the emergency volunteers for their rapid response to this crisis. It was such a joy to have Lorrie W join us in worship and to share with us the beautiful song she and Shayna created. The Wilson family has a wonderful new addition to it, his name is Andrew Daly Wilson. Praise be to God for all miracles - Glenda H's tumor is one that can be treated with a new medicine that was just released for use in August. Jodi R has recently heard from both her children who have moved far from home; they are both finding blessings and fulfillment in their new careers. We give thanks to God for having Pastor Shayna with us for the last two years. We also give thanks for Gary H who has healed enough to no longer need his shoulder brace. Congratulations to Kim W (Cathy H's daughter) who gave birth to a baby boy on 10/23/11.

CONCERNS:

Prayers of hope for all those who are unemployed or underemployed. Prayers of comfort and peace for Deb S's father who is not dealing well with the loss of his wife. Prayers of healing and hope for all those suffering with mental illness. Prayers for all children who are at risk every day. Prayers that a cure may be found for all those who struggle with cancer. Prayers of strength for Carole G's sister whose car started flaming when she was just 20 minutes from her home in Florida. Although she was not injured (thanks be to God), she did lose all her possessions in the fire. Prayers of comfort for the Mulrenan family - Don's dad is nearing the end of his life. Prayers of strength for Lee D and his many coworkers whose jobs with State Street Bank will be ending early next year. Prayers of peace for all those affected by Alzheimer's disease, we also pray specifically for Mariana who is the mother of Esme B's son-in-law. Kathy D asks for prayers for traveling mercies as she travels to PA to help a friend move and then to Cleveland for work. Prayers for a niece, Mary Joy, who is pregnant and not prepared; for Sarah O who is on a medication that she can't get right now due to a shortage, and for all people who struggle with health care issues; for Tammy and Michele who are looking for a new home; for all the hungry people around the world.

Prayers of healing

Prayers of healing for a grandmother with health problems; and for all those dealing with chronic health issues; for the Moralis family that has been torn apart by violence; for Glenda Homoliski who is undergoing chemotherapy treatments; for Paul Martineau as he seeks medical attention for his sight; for Chris Genoter's dad who is recovering from throat cancer; for Alice Kay who has been experiencing headaches for over a month, and for all those who suffer from mystery ailments; for an Aunt in Germany who is struggling with cancer; for Judy Hancewicz who is receiving chemotherapy in AZ; for Ken Gerken who is recovering from surgery; for Bob Foote who has been diagnosed with coronary heart disease, aka Angina - he will be treated for this with stents inserted into his heart and medication.



Dear Church Family and Friends,

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to all of you for your support with the 7th Annual Gregory E. Reeves Memorial Scholarship Run. There were 495 participants this year in the 4.6 mile run/walk and the Kiddy Race brought much joy with 23 beautiful children! The figures are not final yet, however, our hopes are that we will be awarding at least \$10,000 in scholarships in May, 2012 to North Middlesex seniors.

Greg's Run would never be possible without all the special volunteers, the sponsors, the town departments, and participants. Fellowship Hall and Townsend Common were filled with laughter, love and joy! Thanks be to God! We are very blessed to be part of such a wonderful church and community!

Thank you for your prayers, support, delicious goodies and donations.

God Bless You!

*Love and Peace,
Deb and Bill Reeves*





BLESSINGS ON YOUR BIRTHDAY

November:

1-MaryBeth Collins and Andy Gustafson; 2-Lindsay Klein; 5-Gary Homoliski; 8-Kimberly Hill; 11-Danielle Beauchesne and 11-Beth Klein; 15-Jackson Bailey; 20-Denny Lane and Dick Lee; 21-Pam Guba; 23-Bailey Mulrenan; 24-Jennifer Davidson; 29-Holly Gustafson



MINISTERS AT TOWNSEND UCC

You may contact a minister if you would like to volunteer to help with the ministry or if you have questions.

Moderator: Kathy Duckett (978) 597-0028
llduckett@comcast.net

Associate Moderator: Andy Gustafson (978) 597-6364
gustafsona@macucc.org

Finance: Carrie Davidson (978) 758-1961
carrie@davidsonanddavidson.com

Outreach: Carole Gustafson (978) 597-6364
carolegus@gmail.com

Christian Education: Linda Ireland (978) 870-7730
lindai2263@yahoo.com

Property: Paul Martineau (978) 300-5048
pjmcjm@comcast.net

Worship: Michelle Enright (978) 597-8012
miche@net1plus.com

Unfilled minister positions:

- * Congregational Care
- * Discipleship
- * Gifts
- * Income

THE PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS TEAM (PPRT) seeks to foster open and healthy communication between the Pastor and the congregation to enhance the effectiveness of the church's mission. The PPRT is available to anyone in the congregation, regardless of membership status. Please feel free to contact any member of this team: Lee Duckett, Eric Gruber, Nancy Lee or Pam Snaith.

COMMUNITY NEWS

In

From Your Library to Your Home Computer:

The Townsend Public Library Endowment is sponsoring a new language learning database called MANGO LANGUAGES. It can be accessed through the Townsend Public Library Website.

- Go to www.townsendlibrary.org.
- You will see an icon that says MANGO LANGUAGES. Click on the image.
- Create an account using your 14 digit Townsend Library Card Number
- Pick a language and you will be ready to learn!



Over 30 languages to choose from! Spanish, German, Chinese, Italian, Hebrew, Japanese and many, many more!

There are also 15 ESL languages including: Spanish to English, Portuguese to English, Russian to English and more.

The program can be accessed from home or at the library. The only thing you need is your 14 digit Townsend Library Card number. If you have any questions please e-mail Stacy at sschuttler@cwmar.org.

DID YOU KNOW our church serves **Fair Trade Coffee** during fellowship time after worship on Sundays and at other church gatherings?



This means the growers, laborers and distributors of our coffee receive a living wage for their products and services . . . and the coffee tastes great!

There are many coffee, tea and chocolate choices to be had – just go to www.equalexchange.com online to find out more and to place your own order.

A great idea for Holiday Gifts!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>November 2011</h1>					GOD IS STILL SPEAKING 	
		1	2 6:30pm Handbells 7:30pm Snr Choir	3	4 7pm Book discussion group	5 7am Saturday at 7 team
6 Worship/SS COMMUNION All Saints Sunday Mission: 1	7	8	9 6:30pm Handbells 7:30pm Snr Choir	10 7pm Council rm 4	11 5:30 Pie-making in Fellowship Hall	12
13 Worship/SS 11:30 New Members class	14	15	16 6:30pm Handbells 7:30pm Snr Choir	17	18	19 HOLIDAY FAIR 10-4 
20 Worship/SS 11:30 Turkey hunt	21 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - NOON -	22	23 6:30pm Handbells 7:30pm Snr Choir	24 	25 Office closed	26 
27 Worship/SS 11:30 Advent Wreath workshop	28	29	30 6:30pm Handbells 7:30pm Snr Choir	TO CONTACT THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR, CATHY HILL: email: newsletter@tccucc.org or call 978-337-0638		



Highlights of the October Council Meeting

Submitted by Cathy Hill

Although there were many subjects discussed at the meeting on October 6, some things have already been presented in this newsletter as separate articles, so this is a summary of the rest of it.

There was quite a lot of discussion about bringing back the small group events that we did some years back, I think we called them “mini-flocks”. We would like to build on our existing sense of community. This discussion caused Shayna to remember an old Seinfeld episode where he exclaimed “Festivus - for the rest of us” which are basically spontaneously called fellowship gatherings. For example, during coffee hour after worship, someone could call a “festivus” at the local bowling alley for next Friday at 7pm. Whoever shows up, shows up and all have a good time together. Or someone could have our church administrative secretary send out an email to everyone to invite them to a potluck “festivus” in their back yard on Saturday afternoon.

The Council thought this might be a fun and informal way to bring different people together.

There may be short “events” during worship to introduce the Council members to the congregation in order to improve recognition and awareness of the Council.

With the new Sunday School Superintendent, there are new people involved in task groups with Christian Education, both for youth and adults. There are many ideas in the pot so keep your eyes open for opportunities to participate.

The church has received an anonymous gift to replace all the windows in the old vestry.

There was discussion and resolution regarding the supervisory policy of the VCCC. Carrie Davidson reminded all that the VCCC Board meetings are open to the community.

TCC is still seeking a new bookkeeper.

There was quite a lot of discussion regarding our property in general, and specifically that Paul Martineau is forming a task team to review, including rewriting our rental policy.

Townsend Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
3 Brookline St., PO Box 487
Townsend MA 01469-0487

Worship, Sunday School & Nursery at 9:50am



SHARING OUR SPACE WITH THE COMMUNITY AND FRIENDS

Weddings, Child Dedications, Holiday Parties, Baby and Wedding Showers, Family Reunions, Organization Meetings



We are blessed with a beautiful sanctuary and great space within our building for use that we are able to share with others. If you or someone you know is looking for a location for an event, contact our church secretary at 978-597-8925. This use of our building helps support the maintenance of our facility.



OUR OPEN & AFFIRMING STATEMENT

Townsend Congregational Church, UCC is an Open And Affirming congregation. God loves you. Christ invites you. We embrace you. People of all sexual orientations and gender identities are unconditionally welcomed into the full life and ministry of our congregation.

We are committed to ministering through the use of our gifts, learning to live the Christian way of life, and being together in Christ by seeking to fulfill these three commandments of Christ:

To love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength (Mark 12:30)

To love our neighbor as ourselves (Mark 12:31)

To love one another as Christ has loved us (John 13:34)

