

# **This Week at Tabernacle Congregational Church**

## **June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

### **PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT MEETING TONIGHT, Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>**

**CEAG and the Missions Action Group** are planning a mission trip with Partners in Development for teens age 14 and up, and adults in 2018 . **James Hull**, director of education and social justice with Partners in Development is coming to speak tonight , **7-8pm in the Sanctuary**. **Come hear** about the work PID does in Mississippi, Haiti and Guatemala. Learn more about the mission trips. Enjoy some light refreshments

### **NORTH SHORE PRIDE WEEKEND, JUNE 22 – 24, 2017**

Tabernacle Church is again hosting the interfaith service on Thursday evening, 7:00p.m. Join us for the service and show your support for the LGBTQ community of the North Shore. Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> is the North Shore Pride Parade and Festival. Tabernacle's community will gather at the church at 11:15 am on Saturday morning to walk together. For more information contact Brenda Lewis. (phone: 978-744-1778 , e-mail: [blewis649@comcast.net](mailto:blewis649@comcast.net).)

### **SUMMER WORSHIP**

Starting Sunday July 2<sup>rd</sup> our Sunday Service will begin at 9:30 a.m. service will be in the Bigelow Room. We will resume our 10:00 a.m. starting time on September 10<sup>th</sup>.

### ***A Message from the Pastor***

Dear Members and Friends,

I am honored and humbled to have been invited by the Salem Award Foundation to give one of the prestigious Tent Talks this Thursday (June 29). I have appreciated these 16 minute 92 second (get it?) talks by community leaders, historians, and academicians. Because the talks draw upon the lesions of the Salem witch trials and because the church was the center of these atrocities, I have chosen to talk about the changing role of the church in society.

In 1692 there was no separation of church and state. That didn't happen until the 1800's. In the annals of the last church I served in VT, the third church established in VT, townspeople were taxed to pay the pastor's salary! The role of the "meeting house" was to serve both as a worship space and for town meetings and business. There is still one UCC church I know in

NH where the meeting house is both the town hall and the worship space! Historically, I chuckle when folks say there's no place for politics in religion because, as the descendents of the pilgrims, the two went together as one! They came here for religious freedom but only if you believed in their religion! Ironic. The separation of church and state came about because there were "free thinkers" who argued their tax dollars shouldn't have to go for a religion they didn't want to support. The times, they are constantly changing, aren't they?

Clergy have certainly been viewed differently in our society over these last three centuries as well. Back in the 1600's churches were packed for funerals because it was the pastor's role to preach the deceased into heaven or hell! Everyone showed up to hear where the pastor was sending their neighbor! When I started out in the 1970's, I got clergy discounts at stores, and if I wore a clerical collar, I could get excused from traffic tickets, have people pay my bills, let me go ahead of them in line, and all kinds special treatment. Not true anymore.

I hear our members decry our declining memberships and attendance. Could it be we've lost our way as a church that leads the way in society? Once we were the cutting edge of society. Over this past century I fear the church has remained silent or complacent for fear of upsetting the proverbial apple cart. The UCC has a long tradition of speaking out on behalf of the poor, oppressed and downtrodden. We are the church of the Armistad trials after all; raising the money for their defense and helping those rebellious ship's cargo get back to their homeland from which they were plucked. We marched with Martin Luther King, Jr. and fought for equal rights and same sex marriage.

Our faith is the faith of the Old Testament God who insists that justice rolls down like water and righteousness like an ever flowing stream. Our faith is the faith of Jesus whose anger overturned the money changers in the temple and sided with those in prison, the poor, the hungry, the dejected, the meek and lowly.

At Annual Meeting this past week in Hartford I heard our General Minister and President, John Dorhauer, speak about how we need to stop saying "the UCC is the best kept secret." It's time to let the world know who we are what we do in the world. As I reflected on this I thought about how Tabernacle is now known as the church of the rainbow doors. I get stopped all over town by folks saying how much they love our doors, and now the lights on the steeple, making our declaration to the community where we stand on LGBT issues, Hispanic Heritage Month, Autism, honoring other faiths (through the Multi-Faith Festival) etc. We are no longer a secret in Salem about where we stand on certain issues.

Keep up the good work, people of God. God is not silent. God is not a secret. God is still speaking and Tabernacle needs to continue our long tradition of speaking to society!

See you in church,  
Rev Joe

**Reverend Joe's Office Hours for the Week of June the 25<sup>th</sup>:**

**Monday, June 26<sup>th</sup> : 12:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.**

**Tuesday, June 27<sup>th</sup> : 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday, June 28<sup>th</sup> : 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

**Thursday, June 29<sup>th</sup> : 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup> the Third Sunday after Pentecost**

**Reverend Joe's Sermon for Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup> is titled:  
"Sticks and Stones, Harsh Words and Families of Choice"**

**Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-13**

**New Testament reading: Matthew 10:24-39**

## **Church Calendar for the Week of June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**10:00 a.m. Worship Service and the Baptism of Shea Elizabeth Leonard**

**11:00 a.m. Fellowship Time in the Bigelow Room**

**Monday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**5:30 p.m. Serving dinner at Lifebridge**

**7:00 p.m. Visioning Task Force Meeting at Disciples Church in danvers**

**Tuesday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**7:30 p.m. Multi Faith Follow-up Meeting**

**Wednesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**7:00 p.m. AA Meeting**

**7:00 p.m. Bible Study**

**8:00 p.m. Music Committee meeting**

**Thursday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

**6:30 p.m. AA Meeting**

**Sunday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017**

**9:30 a.m. Worship Service in the Bigelow Room**

**10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time in the Bigelow Room**

## **Information, Invitations and Announcements**

**The Lighting of the Steeple** for the month of June is provided by Chloe and Ed Burge in loving memory of Judy Burge.

**The Deacons** for the month of June are Sarah Davin and Jen Vlasuk.

**The Deacon** for the weeks of July 2<sup>nd</sup> and July 9<sup>th</sup> is Jack MacLean.

**The summer meals program will begin on July 10th**, and we are looking for donations of **granola bars, bottles of water and apples or pears** for the adults who attend the program. Please leave donations in the office during the week of July 3rd. Thank you in advance for your help and support.

**Visioning Task Force Meeting Monday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. at the Disciples, UCC Church in Danvers, 41 Centre Street, Danvers All welcome.**

**Volunteers Needed.** We are looking for **Ushers, Coffee Pourers and Readers for our Sunday services.** Also, we welcome any one who may want to share their musical talents with us during the Offertory. **Sign-up sheets are in the Bigelow, or you may call the office.**

**Sign up sheets for volunteers** for the **Life bridge dinners** are in the Bigelow room. We cook and serve dinner on the **4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month.** **We need** cooks and servers. If you are able to volunteer, or if you have any questions please call Jean Karam ( 978 741 2179).

## FAMILY PROMISE NEWS

In August a group of people of all ages, will be raising awareness about Family Homelessness. We will be gathering donations to help Family Promise continue the mission of "ending homelessness, one family at a time." Will you help? There are many ways: Go to their website page at: <https://www.classy.org/campaign/1st-Annual-Family-Promise-Cardboard-Box-City/c133869>



# CARDBOARD BOX CITY



## WHY would you sleep in a cardboard box?

Maybe because...

- \* It will be an evening of fun for the community!
- \* It will help raise awareness about family homelessness!
- \* It will support the beautiful work of Family Promise North Shore Boston!

### WHEN:

**Friday, August 11 at 6:00pm -  
Saturday, August 12 at 8:00am**

### WHERE:

**Patton Park, Route 1A  
Hamilton, MA**



### HOW:

**Participants collect  
\$100 in pledges and  
sleep in a cardboard  
box for one night.**

### JOIN US

**for a night of fun  
with food, live music,  
prizes and more!**

**ALL AGES WELCOME**

For more information  
and to register, visit  
[www.familypromisensb.org/  
events/cardboard-city](http://www.familypromisensb.org/events/cardboard-city)