



# December Springboard

## ***Hope. Peace. Joy. Love.***

This is what the world needs right now more than ever. Lucky for the world, that is exactly what the church can offer the world right now in this Advent season.

I find Hope in the endless Christian Action projects we undertake, the countless non-profits our Benevolence funds support, and the passion for such a wide array of justice issues our members pursue.

I find Peace in the way we are committed to being a church family, not despite our differences of opinion, but because of our diverse views on the world.

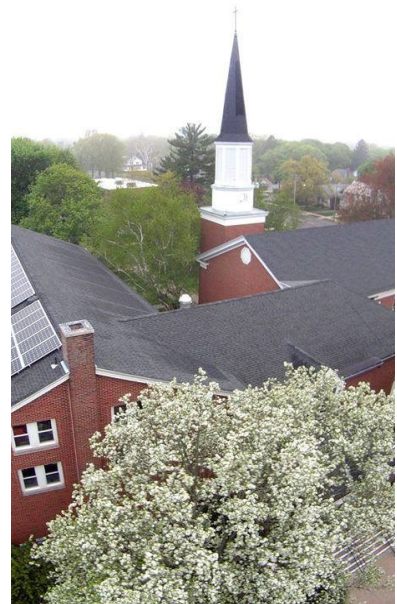
I find Joy in the energy of our Sunday School programming, the buzz of our High School Youth Group, the way we fill the sanctuary with praise each Sunday, and the ceaseless enthusiasm and creativity of our lay leadership.

I find Love in our effusive and unhindered welcome of all peoples as an Open & Affirming congregation of the United Church of Christ.

Someone recently asked what our church was doing to stand against the tides of injustice and hate. This is what our church is doing. We are being the living, breathing, resurrecting Body of Christ. We are striving to offer a glimmer of a more **just** Heaven here on Earth. We are offering Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

So come join us in worship this Sunday and every Sunday as we light another candle on the Advent wreath to make Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love a reality in God's creation.

- Pastor Jack



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## **Sermon**

### **Soundbites**

***“God gives us strength.***

***God gives us ability.***

***So we might be reconciled***

***through Christ.”***

***- JPD, 11/20/16***

***“Sometimes it’s the smallest, most unexpected, most mundane moments enacted by small mundane people that can be the saving of the world.”***

***-JPD, 11/27/16***

## **Update from our Member in Discernment**

*(originally written for the annual meeting of the UCC's New Haven Association)*

My name is **Jennifer McCleery** and I have been a member-in-discernment with the New Haven Association Committee on Ministry for three years. Being a "member-in-discernment" is our denomination's process for discerning whether or not someone is called to ordained ministry. I am in the fall semester of my fourth and final year at Yale Divinity School. Currently, I am enrolled in the CPE program at Yale New Haven Hospital, which runs from the end of August until the middle of February. Additionally, I am taking two courses at YDS this semester: a required history of Christianity and a reading course a few other students and I put together to pursue our particular interest in early American Christianity in relationship to Witchcraft, Magic and the Occult. Next spring I will have one final required course, in Christian Ethics, but will take at least one other course in the area of Reformed Studies. The CPE program is on average 25-30 hours per week, so though I feel I have less time to participate in life at YDS this semester, I have been as busy as ever. I have found that much of my mental and emotional energy has gone into giving myself over to the CPE experience.

I am a member at Spring Glen Church in Hamden, am married to Mike McCleery, and have three sons, ages 16, 14 and 10. Between chauffeuring to sports, overseeing homework, and sympathizing with the vicissitudes of teenage life, my role as a mother feels just as

important as when my children were younger.

I felt blessed to have spent most of June on a study program in Jerusalem. Through YDS I had won a fellowship to study in Israel, and found a program geared toward clergy interested in engaging in the dual narrative Israeli-Palestinian dialogue from a faith-based perspective. Our group of 13 (10 ordained clergy, three of us not) were from all over the world. We attended lectures, traveled throughout the country, visited holy sites and archeological digs, and engaged in rich conversations. It was a privilege to be able to be part of this program.

As I get closer to the end of my academic program and ordination requirements, I continue to engage in an ongoing discernment process. Along the way I have utilized many wonderful resources: professors, spiritual advisors, fellow seminarians and friends, ministry supervisors, and pastors. I feel more than ever a call to ordained ministry in the UCC church, though the focus of my ministry, or whether it might be a bi-vocational call, are still part of the work of my discernment. Please pray for me as I listen to hear where God’s voice is calling me. Thank you.

## New SGC Xmas Eve 5pm Pick Up Band!

### MUSICIANS NEEDED

ALL SKILL LEVELS, ALL INSTRUMENTS, ALL AGES

however you play whatever you play

Beginners, Intermediates,  
Professionals, Dabblers,  
Naturals, Slow-Learners,

Guitar, Trumpet, Drums, Cello,  
Bass, Sax, Ukelele, Keyboard,  
Singers, Kazoo, Harp

Email [Jack@SprngGlenChurch.org](mailto:Jack@SprngGlenChurch.org) for details

### Save the Date

- Our Craft Fair on Sunday, December 11th, after church in Great Hall, will feature local artists, Ruth LeBar, Karlee Etter, Susan Liddell, Dick Smith, Janette Nabors, Hannah Leckman and Nancy Whitney, and the SGC Needle Arts Group. New this year will be Jackie Dinowitz, a friend of Pastor Jack's and a member of The First Church of Christ Congregational in Redding. She will be selling handmade gifts from Bethlehem (ornaments, jewelry, ceramics, textiles and more). Proceeds go directly to the artisans in the Holy Land and gives them the means to provide support for themselves and their families. The crafts are created by students at Dar-al-Kalima University, and adults in the village who take classes to learn a craft. Thank you for your support.
- All Angel Tree donations should be brought to the church by **December 11.**
- The Spring Glen Church Annual Christmas Caroling will be on Sunday, **December 18.** People should dress warmly, and gather at the church by 6:30 PM. Please bring a mug for hot chocolate, and a plate of cookies to share with fellow carolers when we get back to the church!
- The next annual Progressive Dinner will be on Saturday, **February 25, 2017!** More information to follow.
- **REMINDER:** Old glasses are still be collected for donation. However, we NO LONGER recycle batteries. Batteries can be recycled at Batteries Plus on Dixwell Ave. in Hamden

### Singers Needed

*Mark Your Calendars*

The Soul Singers have been invited back to Quinnipiac University to sing the National Anthem at a basketball game at 2PM on Monday, January 16, 2017 (Martin Luther King Day) and ALL CHILDREN are invited to be part of this fun event.

There's only one piece of music to learn and the children are admitted to the game free of charge. This is always a fun event and the more singers we have, the better!! This group is open to all school-aged children so come and bring a friend – rehearsals are on Sunday afternoons from 1:00PM to 1:45PM. If you can't make the rehearsal, you are still welcome to sing with us – we will also rehearse on the day prior to the event. Call or email Sue Wilber (spw0226@gmail.com or 203-288-5847) with any questions.

## **Abraham's Tent**

***Please consider joining us the week of January 23rd, 2017. Sign-up sheets in the Great Hall Sundays in December and January***

Last January Spring Glen Church's Great Hall became a shelter for 12 homeless men and women. In opening our doors, we gained a glimpse of the beloved community God desires. Women and men who were strangers sat together, sharing: sharing a meal, talking about their day, serving one another. We played games and we stayed overnight. This act of Inn-keeping hospitality required the help of over 50 people throughout the course of the week. This would not have been possible if it weren't for the outpouring of support from our Spring Glen Church Family. The experience was transforming, not only for the homeless men and women but also for the church families who volunteered. One volunteer said: "I found the overnight very fulfilling, and stayed up the entire time. I can always sleep, but I can't always help the community... I can only imagine how wonderful it would be to have weeks of experience rather than 12 hours."

Another volunteer's words: "It was a great pleasure to participate with sheltering these soft-spoken and entirely gracious men."

We are once again one of many churches throughout the New Haven area participating to provide overnight shelter for 12 male clients from Columbus House in our Great Hall. Volunteers are needed for the following: to provide, serve, and share meals with guests; to share after dinner activities such as games, movies, and conversation; and (what is most needed) to stay overnight.

***"Service is the very purpose of life. It is the rent we pay for living on the planet." ~Marian Edelman Wright***

## **GYMM**

### ***SGC's NEW Gen Y and Millennial Ministries***

#### **SIGN UP FOR YOUR FIRST GYMM CLASS!!!**

E-mail Jack@SpringGlenChurch.org by December 18 to register for our first GYMM series titled "They Didn't Teach That in Sunday School." We'll meet January 8, 15, and 22 for Dinner and Discussion. 5-6pm Dinner, 6-7pm Group Discussion. Childcare provided during Discussion.

#### **First GYMM Pub Trivia Night**

Meet at Aunt Chilada's on Thursday, December 15 @8pm. ***(See full schedule on page 6)***



## ***The Life of a Homeless Man***

By Joseph White

Sometime I like to pretend  
I'm away from the office  
Or getting a bite to eat  
Or just taking some time  
To cool off a bit.  
But with no place to return to  
Those thoughts fade.  
And soon again,  
It's only you,  
Watching people branch off  
To their different destinations,  
While yet, you are on this journey,  
Hoping to find a home.

***Joseph is a previous Abraham's Tent homeless guest who now has a place to live thanks in part to his involvement with Abraham's Tent***



## Sermon Soundbites

*"And by taking the long view, Jesus brings us right to the present moment of being just where we are, without a guarantee that we can figure out where we are going, but knowing that God is working God's purposes out, through our efforts to be faithful today. God is the God of the living. God is a living God."*

- CR, 11/6/16

*"I want church to be the place where the lamb-in-you feels safe, so that the lion-in-you is willing to try something new."*

- JPD, 11/13/16

## Sunday School Marketplace

Over \$400 was earned to support IRIS and the good work it does for refugees and immigrants. A special thanks to our classes who worked hard creating neat items to sell and were so enthusiastic. But Even more thanks to a generous church family who bought these items.



## Got Bucks!? Spring Glen Bible Bucks (that is)

Our Sunday School kids have been earning "Spring Glen Bucks". On December 18, the "Spring Glen Bible Bucks" store opens. Bucks can be earned in a variety of ways. Teachers, classes, and Rev. Barb have input. Kids earn "A Buck" for just being there. Some of the ways to earn Bucks are: Bring your Bible, bring an offering, remember a verse, return a coloring page, bring a friend, participate in charity events, attend special events, celebrate random acts of kindness. Rev. Barb : "I love attendance and behavior incentives and so I am hoping that our kids, our teachers and our parents will be supportive and have fun with this. I open the Bible Bucks store once a month and let the kids spend their well-earned Bible Bucks on all kinds of neat things. During the rest of the month, kids earn this valuable currency. The bucks aren't just great for attendance, I use them to encourage all kinds of good things."

## In Memorial

*Over the past few months, the Spring Glen community has mourned the passing of Sherry Neiman, Kevin Basmadjian, Janet Hammond, Doris Monson Manette Adams and Lois Sills. We extend our deepest sympathies and prayers to their families*

# Church Calendar

## **Thursday, December 1**

9:00am FR Committee on Ministry (New Haven Assoc)

## **Saturday, December 3**

2:00pm S Adams Memorial

3:00pm GH Adams Memorial Reception

## **Sunday, December 4**

GH, S Advent Fest. 3pm Crafts, 5pm Pageant, 6pm Potluck

9:00am FR Bible Study

10:00am S Worship & S:Communion

11:30am BR Bell Choir Practice

1:00pm CR Soul Singers Rehearsal

3:00pm GH Youth Gr.-Advent Cookie Making

## **Monday, December 5**

7:15pm FR Contemplative Prayer (New Gr.)

## **Tuesday, December 6**

11:00am Staff Meeting

7:00pm CR House Committee

7:00pm FR Trustees Meeting

7:00pm FR Deacon's Meeting (Split w/ Trust)

7:30pm FR Benevolence Meeting

## **Wednesday, December 7**

7:30pm CR Adult Choir

## **Sunday, December 11**

9:00am FR Bible Study

10:00am S Worship

11:00am GH Holiday Craft Fair

11:30am OS Youth Led Lunch

11:30am BR Bell Choir Practice

1:00pm CR Soul Singers Rehearsal

## **Monday, December 12**

7:00pm FR Council Meeting

## **Tuesday, December 13**

11:00am Staff Meeting

7:00pm FR Council Meeting

## **Wednesday, December 14**

7:30pm CR Adult Choir

## **Thursday, December 15**

7:00pm FR Knitting Group

7:30pm GYMM Pub Trivia Group - Aunt Chilada's

## **Saturday, December 17**

1:45pm OC: Ella Scantlebury visit

## **Sunday, December 18**

9:00am FR Bible Study

10:00am S Worship

11:30am BR Bell Choir Practice

1:00pm CR Soul Singers Rehearsal

6:00pm FR Christmas Caroling

6:30pm GH Youth Gr. Ugly Sweater Party

## **Monday, December 19**

7:15pm FR Contemplative Prayer Continuing Gr.

## **Tuesday, December 20**

11:00am Staff Meeting

7:00pm FR CE Meeting 7pm

7:30pm FR CAC Meeting

## **Wednesday, December 21**

7:30pm CR Adult Choir

## **Saturday, December 24**

5:00pm Xmas Eve Worship

11:00pm Xmas Eve Worship

## **Sunday, December 25**

9:00am FR Bible Study

10:00am S Worship

11:30am BR Bell Choir Practice

1:00pm CR Soul Singers Rehearsal

## **Tuesday, December 27**

11:00am Staff Meeting

## **Wednesday, December 28**

7:30pm

CR Adult Choir

## Notes on the Church's Finances

*Submitted By Doug Hawthorne, Treasurer*

In place of the somewhat more detailed financial report that has appeared in the Springboard the past many years, the Trustees and I have decided that it is more appropriate and more in keeping with the spirit of the newsletter to provide in narrative form a brief update. Please know that anyone wishing more information will find the latest Treasurer's Report posted on the committee bulletin board with the minutes from the most recent meeting of the Trustees. Anyone with specific questions or concerns is invited to contact Ron Offutt, Senior Trustee, or me, Doug Hawthorne, Treasurer. Our goal is complete transparency without burdening members and friends with more information than they desire . . . or making the Springboard any longer than it already is. October was another very good month for the church financially. Chuck Paul sent out pledge reminders in September, and that action resulted in overall income for the operating budget that exceeded expenditures by \$13,600. As of the end of

October our operating fund has a positive balance for the year of just over \$58,000. To put this into perspective, if we had had the full staff we currently have for the entire year through October, the operating fund balance would be close to \$0 (i.e., income would just about equal expenses). The end of October balances in the church's combined non-endowment accounts total \$205,000--\$75,000 higher than at the same point last year.

As of the end of September (statements on our endowed funds are always one month behind), the endowed funds (Ministry and Building) are almost exactly where they stood at the beginning of the year, which means they have essentially recovered the amounts taken out of them according to our "spending rule" for current use. Therefore, based on the September 30 balances, the amounts that can be transferred in 2017 will be approximately the same as the amounts transferred this year (2016).

## Fellowship Hour Hosting Schedule

Below is the Fellowship Hour hosting schedule for December 2016. If you are not able to host on your assigned date, we ask that you try to help find a replacement, perhaps swapping with an individual/family scheduled later in the months ahead. Please notify [Debby Jagielow](#) of any changes. She will update the master calendar and the church office. To find the phone numbers or email addresses of other members, be sure to log in as a member on this website, and then you may access a downloadable church directory from the right hand navigation menu.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Host</u>	<u>Family 1</u>	<u>Family 2</u>
12/4/16	Katharine Healy	Amy & Ted Lynn	Alice White
12/11/16	Andri Smith	Emily Smith, Christian & Carly Basmadjian	Ruth Resnick & Roger Johnson
12/18/16	Catie Carrigan	Bev Harrison	Melanie Kregling
12/25/2016 -	Christmas	Christmas Day - Special Worship	

# CHRISTMAS EVE

Saturday December 24

**5pm:** Intergenerational Worship

**11pm:** Midnight Worship

Sunday Mornings at 10:00

**Nov 27:** Hope

**Dec 4:** Peace

**Dec 11:** Joy

**Dec 18:** Love

**Dec 25:** CHRISTMAS!!!

**Jan 1:** New Years Day

## CHRISTIAN ACTION

### Coat Drive

Please place all used/new coats in good condition in the collection box outside the sanctuary. Coats will be donated to IRIS.

### Hat/Mitten Tree

All purchased or homemade hats, mittens, or socks are welcome to be hung on the tree to be donated to local organizations working with populations in need of winter supplies.

### Columbus House

Once a month we cook for our neighbors without a home at Columbus House. Email [Melissa@SpringGlenChurch.org](mailto:Melissa@SpringGlenChurch.org) for details.

### Angel Tree

All 30 families from our "Angel Tree" have already been covered!!!! Thank you to everyone for your generosity!

*"If you want to put the 'Christ' back in 'Christmas,' you can start by clothing the naked, feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, welcoming the refugee, and standing up for the oppressed."*

## ADVENT EVENTS

### INTRODUCING A NEW CHRISTMAS EVE PICK UP BAND!

Calling all musicians middle school through adult, beginner through professional, You are invited to join us for our new Christmas Eve Pick Up Band! Banjo, trumpet, piccolo, sax, kazoo, tuba, clarinet, drums, all instruments! Super low key. Super fun. Playing at the 5pm service. E-mail [Jack@SpringGlenChurch.org](mailto:Jack@SpringGlenChurch.org) for details.

### ADVENT FESTIVAL

DEC 4, 3:30-6:30PM

A beloved tradition for all ages. Part craft fair. Part pageant. Part potluck feast. All fun for all ages! Bring a friend.

Email [Barb@SpringGlenChurch.org](mailto:Barb@SpringGlenChurch.org) for details.



### CRAFT SALE

DEC 11, 11:15AM-12:15PM

Get your Christmas gifts from an impressive array of local artisans. Booths will be open for business in our Great Hall after worship.

Two birds with one stone: buy your Christmas Tree from the Boy Scouts on your way out the parking lot!



### CAROLING, COOKIES, & COCOA

DEC 18, 6-8PM

We'll sing some. We'll socialize some. We'll eat a lot of cookies and drink a lot of hot coco. You can't really go wrong with this one. All ages are welcome. All singing abilities and inabilities are welcome. Email [Melissa@SpringGlenChurch.org](mailto:Melissa@SpringGlenChurch.org) for details.



Spring Glen Church

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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE