

# **Surviving the Storm: Spiritual Healing**

Rev. Ian Lynch  
First Congregational Church  
Brimfield, Massachusetts

Rev. Ian Lynch has been pastor of First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Brimfield, MA. That is where he took cover on June 1, 2011. The tornado's path passed less than a mile south of the church leaving this historic building unscathed. Beginning June 2nd, the church has been the center of the community's response. Meals were served, donations were collected, volunteers were organized and emotional and spiritual care was offered. Support has come from both professionals and neighbors. The church steeple, now visible in more locations throughout town has become a beacon of hope and a symbol of a community united in caring.

## **PRESENTER'S BIO**

**Rev. Ian Lynch** is the pastor of First Congregational Church United Church of Christ, Brimfield, MA. He graduated from Andover Newton Theological School in 2002. Prior to that he spent 15 years in ministry to homeless individuals at the Salem, MA Mission. He is also Fire Chaplain in the Brimfield Fire Department, having sought that appointment directly as a result of his experience during the tornado aftermath.