

Lipka Family Fund



On May 19, Mitch underwent surgery for removal of a painless mass on his abdominal wall that was presumed to be benign. He subsequently broke his fibula the next day. The pathology of the tumor proved malignant and Mitch was diagnosed with a rare cancer, soft tissue sarcoma. On June 30, Mitch had a biopsy of a lung mass that confirmed the sarcoma had already spread. Doctors told Mitch and Christi the disease was incurable and so their focus turned to prolonging the time he had with 11-year-old Sam and Lily. On July 6, at a consult at Dana Farber, an MRI revealed a tumor pressing against his spinal cord. The physicians felt it needed to be removed immediately to prevent pain, loss of functions of the legs and neurological deficits. Mitch was immediately admitted to Brigham and Women's in Boston and had this risky surgery on July 9. Mitch continued his fight with chemo and radiation.

Mitch was self-employed as a very successful freelance writer and had been the primary breadwinner for his family. Throughout his illness, Mitch continued to write his weekly consumer column for the Boston Globe, his last column appearing the day he died. He was also a contributor to Reuters and CBS News. He was the 2010 recipient of the New York Press Club award for best consumer reporting online.

On Sunday, January 17, 2016 Mitch Lipka died. His funeral, officiated by Rev. Sarah Stewart was held here on January 22. He is survived by his wife Christi and their now 12 year old twin children, Sam and Lily.

It's My Heart



It's My Heart, N.E. provides support, awareness, education & advocacy for those affected by Congenital Heart Defects in the New England area. ♥ They are the local branch of The Children's Heart Foundation. Through mid 2015, The Children's Heart Foundation has contributed an astounding \$7.4 million toward 62 revolutionary congenital heart defect (CHD) research studies. As the country's leading organization solely committed to CHD research funding, CHF dedicates itself to bringing health, hope and happiness to children and families impacted by a CHD.

James Ricardi, who turns 15 this April, grew up in this church. He is a student in our D'oh! Simpsons class, a member of our BYKOTA youth group, and a WindHorse House scholar in our Hogwarts Themed Wiogora programs. James has critical heart defects including the four that make up Tetralogy of Fallot. He has endured several cardiac catheterizations, two open-heart surgeries and countless procedures. James has also had eye, nose, oral, GI and bronchial surgeries. He will have his third open-heart surgery in the near future, but in the meantime he is just enjoying life.

Diamond is the Sky



Diamond Is the Sky is a 501c3 charitable organization founded in 2014 by Sean and Jennifer Daly in honor of their daughter Skylar (a.k.a. "Sky"), a young lady diagnosed with autism.

Since launching programming in September of 2014, Diamond Is the Sky has provided social opportunities, scholarships, resources, and special circumstances grants to hundreds of people throughout the state of Massachusetts.

Skylar is a long time First Unitarian attender, who is currently a member of the Holidays and Holy Days class.