



United Church of Christ

The Federated Courier

Federated Community Church
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United Methodist Church

Volume 68 3

March 2015

From the Pastor's Desk



Dear Folks,

I hope this letter finds you warm and safe in the midst of this snowy, blowy season of Lent. Wow. We have been in a rough weather pattern rendering roads near impassable on the weekends. Spring will come. Lent provides us with important work to do while we wait. On Ash Wednesday we gathered in the sanctuary to begin the journey toward Easter. A series of words flashed on the front wall, and we chose from the list one or two words to be our spiritual guides and companions

throughout the season. I suggested we try breathing the words, praying the words, playing with the words, sitting quietly with the words to discover the spiritual truths they had to share with us. For those of you who were unable to attend the service, I include those words below so that you can spend the rest of Lent focused on seeing God through this spiritual lens. May you discover peace in your journey, through Jesus' presence in your midst.

Aloha, Todd

Words for reflection:

PREPARE, RECONCILE, REPENT, MERCY, MORTALITY, KNOW YOURSELF, LOOK OUTSIDE, PRAY, FAST,
REFLECT WITHIN, READ SCRIPTURE, DENY YOURSELF, LISTEN, ENGAGE, FORGIVE, SILENCE, GROW,
DUST, HUMBLE, PLAY, ASHES, LEARN, HEAL

the battles are over. The battles of returning veterans and their families continue.

Lenten Mission: Veterans

The Board of Missions is sponsoring a series of speakers and experiences that will help us better understand issues facing veterans in our community, as well as ways that we can be supportive to military families. The public is invited to all these programs. Refreshments will be served.

March 18, 6:30pm---Rev Todd Farnsworth (author of *Repairing the Soul of a Three Legged Stool*) will speak about how PTSD, Moral Injury, and Complicated Grief effect veterans and their families. Participants will learn ways that they can support those who are living with these issues.

March 22, 10am-- Matt Sterling (Navy) will speak during worship about the challenges of reintegrating into community after serving abroad and ways that people of faith can make that transition easier.

March 22, 2pm-6pm in Framingham, MA-- Connecting With Vets: A Gathering of Congregations Serving Veterans and Military Families. The official end of the wars does not mean



Learn about how you and your congregation can make a difference in the lives of our returning warriors and their families. Keynote speaker Chaplain Paul Minor —“The Balm In Gilead” — is an 18-year veteran and Army Guard chaplain. Minor will explore some of the dimensions of the trauma of wartime service and how communities of faith are uniquely equipped to bring the healing balm of God’s presence to bear in the lives of veterans, of those currently serving and their families. Whether you are involved in an active ministry with veterans and military families or are looking to develop a ministry, join this gathering of congregations. \$25/person. Contact church office to register.

March 25, 6:30pm--Project New Hope will present a Q and A about the retreat they sponsor help veterans rebuild with honor. Discover how you can connect a veteran to one of these relaxing retreats, or get involved and become a supporter of this important work.

PARISH NOTES

A huge thank you to EVERYONE who so generously donated to Shriners Hospital for Children, in honor of my 104th birthday. The response has been overwhelming. Since it is a bit difficult for me to write, I am sending this note to the persons who can get the word out. Please know that I am so grateful to ALL of you for your love and thoughtfulness. I enjoyed seeing so many of you at my birthday celebration, including representatives from Shriners, who gave me lovable Shriner's bears and a cuddly bunny. We feasted on three birthday cakes and enjoyed a time of laughter and fellowship. Thank you to Lifecare for making this possible. The generosity that you have extended is such a blessing for those beautiful children in need of the special care from the Shriners. The need is ongoing and I encourage anyone reading this to please continue to support this wonderful organization God Bless You.

Love, Peg Stearns

And the Golden Shovel goes to...

A big THANK YOU to Jack and Regina Germain, Dale and Amy Varney, Bruce Libby and Martha Farnsworth for clearing snow from the church properties during the past month. We are grateful for the ways in which you have made it possible for us to gather for worship and other church events despite the copious snowfall.

Anniversaries

We send congratulations to the following members who celebrate wedding anniversaries in March:

Don & Jocelyn Smith	03/07
Carol & George Quinlivan	03/18
James & Laurie Bliss	03/21

REMEMBER
to set your Clocks



Ahead one hour on Sunday, March 8th

FROM THE DEACONS' BENCH

A Prayer:

Dear Lord, we pray for the needs of our people today. We have all come with individual and very personal needs. We are all busy with the business of living in the here and now. We have jobs, we have families, we have responsibilities, we get involved in all kinds of things, and some of vital importance and some people think are trivial. We pray for many different kinds of physical needs, financial needs, and those with emotional needs. Some need healing of relationships. Maybe nobody on earth knows about the struggles and burdens they are facing, but you Lord know and invite us to bring everything to you in prayer. Whatever they are Lord; we bring them to you, because you can do something about them. But help us Lord put first things first, help us keep our priorities straight, make the right choices, help us to seek your kingdom, may we experience a revival of godliness, righteousness, and holiness in our country. So Lord, we each reach out to you, and we know that you are already reaching out to us. We ask you to meet our needs, and give us the assurance that you are answering our prayers.

Rick DeSanti, Board of Deacons

Birthdays

Birthday Greetings to the following adult members of our church who celebrate birthdays in March:

Elizabeth Phillips	03/01	Joan Little	03/20
Bonnie Watson	03/02	Colin Mercure	03/20
Robert Green	03/02	Mary Drozdowski	03/20
Elizabeth Taylor	03/02	Pamela Rogers	03/20
William Gatchell	03/04	Anne Collins Jr	03/22
Carol Darnley	03/08	Elizabeth Warner	03/23
Robert Powers	03/09	Emily Warner	03/23
Kellie Hummel	03/11	Lawrence Smith	03/23
Beverly Brant	03/11	Lauren Hummel	03/23
Judith Jones	03/13	Kyle Mercure	03/24
Tanya Orr	03/14	Ronald Richter	03/24
Geoffrey Sterling	03/15	Sandra Richter	03/24
Dennis Chaffee Jr	03/15	Jarrold Smith	03/26
Martha Farnsworth	03/15	Jolette Germain	03/28
Nancy Quill	03/17	Glenn Olesuk	03/28
Virginia Richter	03/17	Patricia Ritz	03/30
Barbara Tobin	03/17	Dale Varney	03/31
Jesse Lee	03/17	Barbara Panek	03/31



The Federated Community Church (590 Main St in Hampden) presents: Top O' The Murder To You: a Murder Mystery Dinner on March 13 and 14 at 7pm in Libby Hall. Tickets are \$20/person and include: Hors D'Oeuvres from 6-7.

Dinner includes choice of traditional Corned Beef and Cabbage or Shepherds Pie, fresh baked soda bread, vegetables, salad, dessert, and beverages.

The show happens while you dine: Dr. Paddy McFaddey, an expert on "All Things Irish," is ready to unveil some highly-publicized Irish artifacts during tonight's lecture on Ireland. His assistant, Patches McButterpants, is ready, willing, and able, to help him with anything he needs - on and off the job! An unexpected guest disrupts her plans, and the journalist and museum curator who traveled all the way to the United States to cover this event are also in for a surprise. The luck of the Irish doesn't seem to be present at this hilarious event... and what is that hidden underneath the Shamrock? Follow the rainbow to discover the pot of laughter waiting for you!

Call 566-3711 to reserve tickets, or online at <http://tinyurl.com/topomurder>.

Christian Education

We would like to thank everyone for participating in our Souper Bowl of Caring and the Super Bowl Sub sales. We were able to raise over \$100 in funds for the Community Survival Center, as well as many pounds of food that have been donated. This time of year is the most critical for the Survival Center and we are proud to have been able to donate.

During this Lenten time, our Sunday School is learning about Moses, leading up to Jesus and Easter. There's a lot to learn in the next few weeks. These children are eager and are enjoying the stories.

March 29th is our Palm Sunday/ Easter program. The Sunday School children will be participating with the Choir. March 22nd, we will be practicing during Sunday School and do a quick rehearsal after service in the Sanctuary.

Blessings,

Kristi & Laurie



Sunday School Birthdays

Stewart, Andrew	03/15
Soto, David R	03/18

STEWARDSHIP MUSINGS ...

What do these things have in common?

- eating reasonably healthy and keeping active
- recycling papers, plastic, batteries, glass, cardboard, electronics, etc.
- donating clothes, household goods to charity
- driving safely, including letting "the jerk" in the other car go first
- picking up poop when we walk our dogs
- bringing our best self to work as often as we are able
- reading a book, the Bible or taking a class
- choosing to say something to brighten someone's day, and choosing NOT to say something which would darken it
- living within our means
- supporting church activities and missions through prayer, volunteering, donating goods, and monetary commitments

Did you find the connection? They are all aspects of Christian stewardship, which has been defined as *everything we think, say and do after we say "I believe"*. Yeah, that's all - just *everything* we think, say and do. Every moment. All day. Every day.

It's how we invest God's "stuff", for God's mission, in God's world. Key concept here: it's all God's stuff.

We are the "stewards" (caretakers) of the abundant gifts God has entrusted to us: time, individual talents, our miraculous human bodies, our minds, material goods, our natural world, relationships (both within and beyond our faith community).

Most of us are not used to thinking about our lives in this way; we usually assume that all the stuff in our lives is OURS, and we have ultimate control over everything.

We, the members of the FCC Stewardship Ministry, are committed to walking with you and with one another as we explore together the life of abundance which God intends for us to share.

*A Message from Your Stewardship Ministry Team,
Carol Darnley, Linda Hornig, Jocelyn Smith*

MACUCC SPONSORS SUPER SATURDAY 10!

Super Saturdays are a great opportunity to network with other people of faith while being exposed to new ideas and creative ministries. Through speakers, workshops and open lunch gatherings, participants will have their spirit's tended to in exciting ways as we grow together in faith.

SUPER SATURDAY 10 will take place at Ludlow High School on Saturday, March 21, 8am-3:45pm. Cost is \$54/person or \$44/person in groups of 5 or more. Registration Deadline is March 6. Call church office to reserve your space at this event. 566-3711.

CONFIRMATION NEWS

Weather and other unanticipated factors have impacted the meeting schedule for Confirmation. Please note the changes below:

March 22, 12-1:30pm--Meeting to discuss the role of Holy Spirit in our lives at FCC

April 5, 6am--Easter Sunrise service (location to be announced)

April 12, 12-1:30pm--Meeting to discuss church membership and responsibilities at WUC.

April 19, 12-1:30pm--Final meeting and discussion of Statements of Faith at FCC

May (TBD)--Confirmation

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Scholarship applications for church members planning on attending college beginning in September are available in the church office.

The scholarships available are:



Thresher Foundation Scholarship

YOLA Guild Scholarship

Memorial Gift Fund Scholarship

Edwin Lombard Memorial Scholarship

Helen and Carl Larson Fund Scholarship

Melba R. & Wesley A. Chapin Scholarship Fund

Applications must be completed and filed in the church office by April 15. All information is kept confidential.

Lenten Schedule

PALM SUNDAY, March 29, 2015

Cantata. The "OGHS Offering" will be received during the service.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 2, 2015

6:00 PM Maundy Thursday Potluck supper and Tenebrae. Please bring a dish to share as we gather around tables in Libby Hall to experience the story of Maundy Thursday and then move upstairs into the sanctuary to witness the passion of Tenebrae.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE, April 3, 2015

12:00 noon Service at Wilbraham United Church

6:30 pm Service at Federated Community Church

EASTER SUNDAY, April 5, 2015

6:00 AM (EST) Sunrise Service Location to be announced closer to date.

7:00 AM Easter Breakfast – in Libby Hall, Federated Community Church, 590 Main Street, Hampden. The cost will be \$4/person.

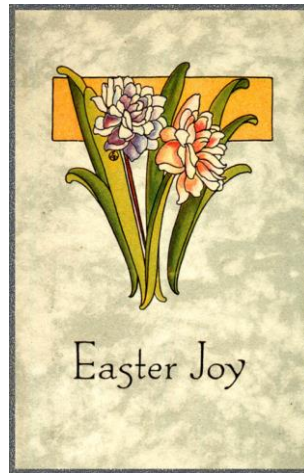
10:00 AM Worship Service –There will be no Sunday School or Nursery on Easter. Children are encouraged to attend church with their parents

Falcons Hockey Game

Last chance to order your Springfield Falcons Hockey game tickets for Sunday March 8th @ 3:00 PM . Call the church office to order your tickets 556 3711 by March 4th. Tickets will be available for pickup by Friday March 6th or you can pick them up on Sunday Morning after the morning service. At this point we have 20+ people attending and the Falcons have reserved our own section at the Mass Mutual Center. Looks to be a good time. Lets make a big hit on the wide screen at center ice.



FLOWERS FOR EASTER



The Flower Committee will be ordering plants for Easter. The deadline for ordering plants is March 29. Orders may be sent to Mary Howell, 22 Oak Knoll Dr., Hampden, MA 01036. Please enclose with your order form, your check made out to "Federated Community Church."

Detach Here and Mail

I would like to order: *Prices subject to change.

<u>Quantity</u>		<u>Cost</u>	<u>Quantity</u>		<u>Cost</u>
_____ Lily	@ \$9.75 = \$	_____	_____ Tulip	@ \$9.75 = \$	_____
_____ Hyacinth	@ \$9.75 = \$	_____	_____ Daffodil	@ \$9.75 = \$	_____
CHECK TOTAL = \$ _____					

I wish to give my plant in memory/honor of _____
(circle one)

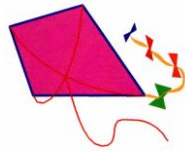
YOUR NAME _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS _____

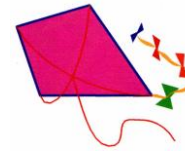
Please deliver my plant to a shut-in. _____

I will pick up my plant after the 10:00 service on Easter Sunday _____

If you want your plant but are unable to pick it up after the 10:00 service, please let someone on the Flower Committee know and we will save it for you. Plants that are not picked up will be delivered to shut-ins



MARCH 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 Communion Sunday School, Nursery	2 6:30 Bible Study	3 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	4 11:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Mission Mtg.	5 7:00 Choir	6	7
8 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery 3:00 Falcons Game	9 6:30 Bible Study	10 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	11 11:00 Prayer Group 6:30 CE Meeting	12 7:00 Choir	13 6:00 Murder Mystery Dinner	14 8:00 Men's Breakfast 6:00 Murder Mystery Dinner
15 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery, Veterans Speaker	16 6:30 Bible Study	17 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	18 11:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Veterans Speaker	19 7:00 Choir	20	21
22 10:00 Worship, Sunday School or Nursery, 12:00 Confirmation 6:30 Knit, Stitch, Pray	23 6:30 Bible Study	24 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	25 11:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Veterans Speaker	26 7:00 Choir	27	28 8:00 Men's Breakfast
29 10:00 Palm Sunday, Cantata/Pageant	30 6:30 Bible Study	31 9:30 Bible Study				

FEDERATED COMMUNITY CHURCH
590 Main St.
PO Box 246
Hampden, MA 01036

Church Staff

<u>Pastor</u>	Rev. Todd Farnsworth
<u>Organist/Choir Director</u>	Barbara Bennett
<u>Administrative Assistant</u>	Joyce Ogonowski
<u>Christian Ed Directors</u>	Laurie Schoolcraft Kristi Tessier

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Federated Community Church of Hampden is to unite as one body the followers of Jesus Christ in the worship of God and to make God's will dominant in the lives of all people. This will be done by following our church covenant, and through this mission build a firm foundation that will morally support not only this generation but generations yet to come.

Worship Schedule

Worship: 10 am - Sunday School: 10 am

Sunday, Mar 1st 2nd Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-1
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38

Sunday, Mar 8th 3rd Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Exodus 20:1-17
I Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

Sunday, Mar 15th 4th Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Numbers 21:4-9
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

Sunday, Mar 22nd 5th Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Jerimiah 31:31-34
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:2-23

Sunday, Mar 29th Palm Sunday

Scripture: Mark 11:1-11
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Mark 14:1-15:47