



United Church of Christ



**Federated Community Church**

*"A vibrant community of seekers!"*



United Methodist Church

Volume 71 3

[www.hampdenfederatedchurch.org](http://www.hampdenfederatedchurch.org)

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## From the Deacon's Bench

*Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner. I believe you died for my sins. Right now, I turn from my sins and open the door of my heart and life. I receive you as my personal Lord and Savior. Thank you for saving me now. Amen.*

*-Billy Graham*

Faith – Hope – and – Love but The Greatest of these is **LOVE**

We have all heard these words on many occasions. Since this is the month that we should all express our love for one another, we also need to express our love and concerns for our church and its family. I am sure we all have faith that we will move forward in a positive way and on a path with brother and sisterly love. We all hope that we will find the right leader for our church, when we find a Settled Pastor. In the mean time we should thank those that are putting their best foot forward for the church. I pray that we will see the light that God will shine down on our church community to lead us all in the direction that will heal the wounds and feelings of the past. I remember our Deacon Emeritus, Ralph Miller and how he shared his love with everyone as he greeted everyone with a friendly a warm welcome. I pray that we will do just that, as we reach out to those that have always been there for each other, as the church is not just a building but its people.

I pray that we will continue our faith, express our hope, and continue to show and express our charity, but most of all show our **LOVE** for one another at all times.

Deacon, Frank Watson

## Blessings Abound!

We are honored to announce that Rev. Eleanor Kraner, who has been in the pulpit since January, has willingly and joyfully agreed to shepherd us until we have a settled pastor. This unlooked-for blessing affirms yet again that God continually surrounds us and is working for our good, even when we may find it hard to feel Him close to us. We have been anxious, not knowing who would walk with us through this most holy time of our Christian calendar: Lent, Holy Week, and Easter and the many weeks beyond, until Summer. In the midst of our anxiety, the Holy Spirit was at work in Rev. Ellie's heart (and her husband Dave's) revealing that with us is where He intends her to be. Her loving and faithful preaching and presence are a healing balm to our bruised spirits. We encourage you to come to worship and join us in welcoming Rev. Ellie Kraner, with renewed love and thanksgiving for God's abundant blessings on us!

Pastor Ellie Kraner is a semi-retired pastor and marriage and family therapist. She has been married to Dave for 53 years, and they have four daughters, six grandchildren and two great grands. Ellie's passions are little people, big people, dogs of all kinds, books, traveling and history.

# ***P***ARISH NOTES

## HAPPY Birthday!

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

Bonnie Watson	03/02	Mary Drozdowski	03/20
Robert Green	03/02	Pamela Rogers	03/20
Elizabeth Taylor	03/02	Anne Collins Jr	03/22
William Gatchell	03/04	Elizabeth Warner	03/23
Carol Darnley	03/08	Emily Warner	03/23
Robert Powers	03/09	Lauren Hummel	03/23
Kellie Hummel	03/11	Kyle Mercure	03/24
Beverly Brant	03/11	Ronald Richter	03/24
Brett Castellano	03/12	Sandra Richter	03/24
Judith Jones	03/13	Jarrold Smith	03/26
Geoffrey Sterling	03/15	Erik McKeone	03/27
Dennis Chaffee Jr	03/15	Jolette Germain	03/28
Nancy Quill	03/15	Glenn Olesuk	03/28
Virginia Richter	03/17	Patricia Ritz	03/30
Jesse Lee	03/17	Dale Varney	03/31
Colin Mercure	03/20	Barbara Panek	03/31

## Prayer Corner

Please uphold the following in your prayers:

Evie Meacham	Don Haraty
Peg Stearns	Janet Case
Judy Ingle	Judy Schwabe
Julia Winetrout	Tim Green
Wendy Chadwick	Winnie Godek
Audrey Burger	Anthony Lopez
Gail Banning	Cindy Desrosiers
Joyce Libby	Cheryl Fonda
Walter Black Jr.	

If you know someone in need of prayers please contact a Deacon or the church office. And if someone can be removed please let us know that also.

*1 Peter 4:8-11 Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling. Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.*

## Christian Education

We have entered the season of Lent. Lent came from the Latin word meaning "springtime" or the lengthening of days. It's a period of 40 days (excluding Sundays) prior to Easter. 40 Days because Moses, Jesus and other Biblical characters went into the wilderness for 40 Days to prepare for various tasks!

Our lessons started out with our Mardi Gras party in Preparation for Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. As we go through each week of Lent, we will learn the Story of Jesus and prep for Holy Week.

Lent is the handing down of information, beliefs, and customs by word of mouth or example from one generation to another. A tradition is a way of learning by doing. Each week of lent we will be talking about what Lent means and something we can do to help grow as a Christian.

We can encourage you to talk to the children and ask them what lessons they have been learning and to share your traditions.

Blessings, Kristi and Laurie

**Where are we going? It seems kind of an endless search. Surprise, surprise... we are not alone.**

I am a charter member of the Windward United Church in Kailua, Oahu, Hawaii. I was there in the exciting building years. All kinds of church things and outreach. Average attendance 100 to 125.

Fast forward and we here at Federated and Windward share the same fate. And a recent Windward Message asks:

1. Why doesn't the usual way of church work now, it always did.
2. How do we serve and how do we survive?
3. What is God up to and how do we get on board?
4. What is the primary goal of a church?

Sound familiar? We of the Deaconate welcome your ideas and comments. We are on a journey of renewal and with the help of God we will succeed. Please be part of the renewal. Talk to us, we need your help.

Deacon Hayden Tibbetts

## Anniversaries

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

David & Susan Quill	03/05
Carol & George Quinlivan	03/18
James & Laurie Bliss	03/21

## **Announcements**

### **Drivers Needed**

It is a blessing to be able to hop in our cars and gather for church events like worship, suppers, or field trips. Unfortunately, not all of our members and friends have access to transportation. If you are available to drive folks as far flung as East Longmeadow, Monson, and Boston Road, please contact the church office (566-3711) and we will put you in touch with a neighbor in need. Who knows, you may reconnect with an old friend, or make a new partner in ministry. What a great way to let your light shine!

### **Fellowship Committee**

Thanks to all of you who have helped with fellowship in January and February - it could not have happened without your generous donation of time and food items to be shared in fellowship.

There are still a few open slots in March and April for both servers and bakers. Please take a look at the sign-up sheets and see what you can do. Or you can contact Karen Anable at 267-3377 or at Kanable58@yahoo.com.

### **Choir Opportunities**

You can sing in the choir! Yes - YOU! Contact Barbara at 531-2182 to be part of the awesome choir that makes Sunday morning service the wonderful experience it is!

### **Ongoing Ministries**

- Food Drive to benefit the Survival Center
- Men's Breakfast "Open to the Public" every 2nd & 4th Saturday morning at 8am.
- Food donations for Sunday's coffee hour to support the Fellowship Committee
- Opportunity to read scripture during worship – Please speak to a Deacon if you would like to volunteer.
- Tuesday Morning Bible Study – 9:30am
- Wednesday Morning Prayer Group – 11:30am.

### **Spirit Chat**

Tuesday mornings at 9:30am. Come share reflections on weekly readings from The Upper Room devotional. Also, catch the chat online at Facebook ([www.facebook.com/HampdenFederatedChurch](http://www.facebook.com/HampdenFederatedChurch)) or [www.hampdenfederatedchurch.org](http://www.hampdenfederatedchurch.org)

### **Scholarship Applications**

Scholarship applications for church members planning on attending college beginning in September are available in Libby Hall and 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.

Applications will be available in the office.

### **Lenten Schedule**

Palm Sunday, **March 25, 2018**

Maundy Thursday, **March 29, 2018, 6:00 pm**  
(tentative) Service of Tenebrae

Good Friday, **March 30, 2018**

**12:00 noon** Service at Wilbraham United Church

Easter Sunday, **April 1, 2018**

**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

## Pastoral Search Update

A great deal of progress has been made in securing a settled pastor for our church. The Rev. Dr. David Calhoun, UMC District Superintendent, has been helping us understand the process of appointment of a UMC pastor and what to expect as we move forward. We have shared the qualities desired in our pastor as well as our financial concerns. Key points are bulleted below. • The UMC discernment process occurs over a period of several months. District Superintendents and the Bishop pray together and begin the process of matching pastors seeking a new appointment with churches seeking a new pastor. • The pastor chosen for us will meet with leadership from the Board of Directors and Board of Deacons prior to taking up residence in the parsonage. • Pastors are appointed annually - meaning no long term contracts. The congregation is given the opportunity to evaluate the pastor annually and identify concerns with his/her pastoral leadership. The UMC District Superintendent provides oversight and will work to resolve concerns, but if unresolved will begin the process to find another pastor for our flock. • All pastors within the UMC fold move to their new appointments by July 1st. We have been blessed by the presence of Pastor Ellie Kraner who challenges and uplifts us every Sunday. She has graciously agreed to stay with us until the arrival of our new pastor in July. God is truly looking out for us! • We were able to achieve some savings through the UMC. It is a much larger organization than the UCC and group insurance plans were considerably lower than we have paid in the past. Also, the UMC worked with us to set a salary limit that would allow us to have an full-time, ordained, experienced pastor at a more affordable level. • Financial concerns remain - although many have come forward with pledges, we still need help from those of you out there waiting to see what is going to happen. Please be part of bringing our church back to life! • Finally, the UMC is not unfamiliar with the quirks of Federated Churches and are currently providing pastors to other Federated Churches in the New England region. We have asked for a pastor willing and able to work with a congregation with diverse backgrounds. I'm confident this will work out for us. Finally, I want to share my personal excitement at this venture with UMC. In particular, I am impressed by the programs available to youth - summer camps that mix fun with spiritual growth and opportunities to travel with Christian groups in third world countries. We don't need a gazillion kids to access these programs - they will happily accept just one.

Submitted by, Karen Anable FCC Deacon

### **Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner**

Come one, Come all to enjoy a traditional St. Patrick's Day dinner prepared by our fabulous Chef Jack and his entourage.

Saturday, March 17, 2018 6PM

Look for sign-up sheets in Libby Hall or call the office to reserve your spot 566-3711. Take-out meals available.

### **Paradise Winds**

Save the date – April 29 @3PM

A 5 piece ensemble led by Kirsten Lipkins will be performing for our Spring Riverside Music Series.

### **Junior Choir**

The children meet briefly after church on Sundays in the Choir Room. They will be singing a medley in church on Easter Sunday.

(Jesus Loves the Little Children, The B-I-B-L-E, This Little Light of Mine)

## STEWARDSHIP MUSINGS ...

### MINDSET: SCARCITY OR ABUNDANCE?

Do you look at your glass and see it half empty or half full? Do you feel you have enough or never enough—time, happiness, money, friends, property...?

People who see their glass as half full tend to feel more content, healthier, friendlier, and even more prosperous—knowing they are rich in life's blessings of time, relationships, happiness and much more.

Listening to the messages of our culture, our news media, corporate advertising, politics, and the like, can lead us to a sense of “not enough”, of “needing more” to be better, bigger, faster, sleeker, younger, prettier...and the list goes on. Anxiety can take over, and it's hard to turn a deaf ear to the cacophony that surrounds us.

Here's a trick we recommend: make a list of all the blessings in your life. Keep it available and add to it as a thought pops into your mind. Look at the list frequently and focus on those good things—repeatedly. Eventually, you will find yourself feeling more blessed, happier, more relaxed, and yes, even more generous, and less anxious and more faith-filled in your life. As you look over your list, you're reminded that God has always been with you and taken care of your needs—and always will!

*“You prepare a table before me in the  
presence of my enemies. You anoint my  
head with oil; my cup overflows.”  
(Psalm 23: 5)*

Blessings and Peace,  
Your Stewardship Ministry Team (Carol Darnley, Linda  
Hornig)

### Pillowcase Making Event

Thank you to all those who contributed to this very successful event. We have over 50 colorful pillowcases made going to Shriners hospital for Children, Ronald McDonald House and the Open Pantry Homeless shelter. This is an ongoing ministry. If you would like to make a pillowcase contact Karen Gatchell at:  
[gatchell@charter.net](mailto:gatchell@charter.net) orb413-237-1598.

### MEN'S CHOIR TO SING!

Music Director Barbara Bennett, having heard the groundswell of enthusiastic voices calling for another performance from our own Men's Choir, has booked the group for a Sunday service Lenten engagement on the 18th of March. Rehearsal is scheduled for Thursday evening at 6:30pm on March 15th. Mark your calendars because you won't want to miss it!

### Little Angel Pet Treats Update

Interest in the pet treats is definitely picking up. Diana's Pawfessional Groomers has joined the Bagel Nook and Hampden Professional Cleaners in putting our treats on display. Next time you have an opportunity, thank them for supporting our church!!

The next step in this project is to develop a photo album with pictures of church pets preferably with their owners. I'm kind of camera shy so I plan to use my grandkids in the picture - you can cheat too if you want to. There will also be a memorial section for pictures of beloved pets who are no longer with us. The album will be on display at our pet treat booth on Memorial Day.

I've heard a rumor that the album can actually be done on computer, and the process expedited by sending photos by email or from your phones. I'm seeking a volunteer from the congregation who knows how to do this and is willing to take this on. HELP! I HAVE NO SKILLS IN THIS AREA.

Contact Karen Anable at 267-3377 or  
[Kanable58@yahoo.com](mailto:Kanable58@yahoo.com) if you can help.

## Moving Toward Peace

Last Fall it became evident that the nature of the conflict we had been struggling with required outside intervention, leading FCC leadership to engage the support of Margaret Keyser, whose calling and life work has been in the area of Conflict Transformation for 24 years.

Following a series of meetings with the leadership Boards, Margaret has facilitated two congregational meetings: the first meeting in November allowed individuals to share their experiences, perspectives, and feelings about what was happening. Back in November our feelings were very new and raw- we were just beginning to allow ourselves to acknowledge and examine them. We were naturally still at the stage of needing to affix blame for the conflict which was dividing us and causing us so much pain. Somehow, our human tendency to assign blame helps us to feel we can understand and control our conflicts. Deciding who is "at fault" gives us the illusion that we have defined and resolved the problem, and we want to maintain that illusion, place the conflict in the past, and "move on". Unfortunately, blaming tends to maintain negative feelings within us, which then maintain divisions among us. Back in November, we were not yet willing or able to let go of the blame stage.

During our meeting on February 24 we were able to look at where each of us is now: some of us discovered that we are ready to commit to engaging in the ongoing process of forgiveness which leads to repaired relationships, reconciliation, and a sense of peace. Some of us discovered that we have been a bit stuck in a cycle of negative feelings. With the leading of the Holy Spirit, working in our hearts through Margaret's spiritual gifts and training, we rediscovered and recommitted to the foundation of affection and connectedness among us, the love which allows us to recognize God's presence among us- in one another. Acknowledging that love allowed us to see a pathway to embracing healing for ourselves and for one another. That love allowed us to identify feelings of hopefulness, and to nurture a seedling of trust that God is always with us, working to bring us ever closer into his tender care.

There will be another meeting this month; the date is yet to be determined, but we will let you know as soon as it is scheduled. We encourage all to come and lay down your burdens of confusion, anger, betrayal, and hurt. You may not choose to speak, but we are confident that being present with your brothers and sisters will provide an opportunity to receive the blessings of love which can bring each of us into that place of peace where we walk into Jesus' embrace.

Serving you in love, Your Board of Deacons:

Karen Anable, Beverly Burnell, Steve Elliot, Karen Gatchell, Linda Hornig, Hayden Tibbetts, Dave Spencer, Frank Watson, Dave Anable (also a Director) and your

Board of Directors:

Jack Germain, Pamela Rogers, Mark Casey, Mary Drozdowski, Karen Kielb, Josh Sterling, Matt Fisher

Anyone remember One Great Hour of Sharing??

Well, things have changed! One Great Hour of Sharing has morphed into UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). UMCOR Sunday, last Sunday in March, is a day dedicated to raising funds for disaster relief. Donations assure that UMCOR remains ready to respond instantly to disasters here in the USA and across the globe. Responses are organized and focused on meeting most urgent needs.

Support of this program allows UMCOR to act as the arms and legs of Christ's church, moving toward the most vulnerable in their darkest days. Convinced that all people have God-given worth and dignity—without regard to race, religion or gender—together we (Yes, that includes us at FCC) ) are assisting those impacted by crisis or chronic need.

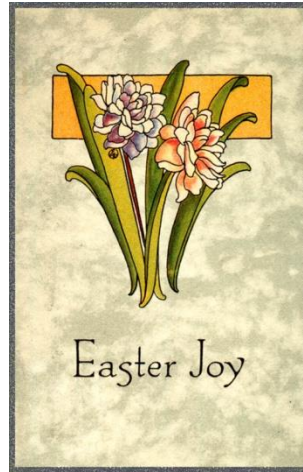
UMCOR's compassionate response to human suffering continues today. Here are a few examples of UMCOR in action.

When tornadoes ripped through Oklahoma, UMCOR responded • When children in Zimbabwe lost parents to AIDS, UMCOR responded • When a massive tsunami devastated lives in Japan, UMCOR responded • And when the next mass crisis occurs, UMCOR will be prepared - with our help - to respond

The Missions Committee has selected UMCOR as the focus of our Lenten giving campaign. Donation cups will be at the end of each pew through the Lenten season for all of us to drop our cash donations. Members may also send checks (be sure to write UMCOR donation in the legend) to the office: Hampden Federated Community Church PO BOX 246 Hampden, MA 01036

Thank you for supporting this important organization.

# FLOWERS FOR EASTER



The Flower Committee will be ordering plants for Easter. The deadline for ordering plants is March 18. Orders may be sent to Federated Community Church, PO Box 246, 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	@ \$10.00 = \$	_____	_____ Tulip	@ \$10.00 = \$	_____
_____ Hyacinth	@ \$10.00 = \$	_____	_____ Daffodil	@ \$10.00 = \$	_____
					CHECK TOTAL = \$ _____

I wish to give my plant in memory/honor of \_\_\_\_\_

(circle one)

\_\_\_\_\_

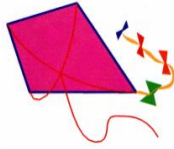
YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

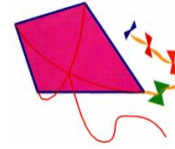
Please deliver my plant to a shut-in. \_\_\_\_\_

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 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	12:00 Prayer Group	1 7:00 Choir	2	3
4 <b>Communion</b> 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship	5	6 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	7 12:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Missions Meeting	8 7:00 Choir	9	10 8:00 Men's Breakfast
11 <b>Daylight Savings</b> 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship	12	13 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	14 12:00 Prayer Group 6:30 CE Meeting	15 7:00 Choir	16	17 10:00 Dress A Girl
18 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship	19	20 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:00 Board of Directors 7:30 AA	21 12:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Deacons Meeting	22 7:00 Choir	23 6:30 Knit, Stitch, Pray	24 8:00 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Dress A Girl
25 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship	26	27 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	28 12:00 Prayer Group	29	30	31



# FEDERATED COMMUNITY CHURCH

PO Box 246

590 Main St.

Hampden, MA 01036

Nonprofit  
organization  
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Springfield, MA  
Permit no. 2702

## Church Staff

<u>Pastor</u>	Pastor Ellie Kraner
<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. 4<sup>th</sup> Third Sunday in Lent  
Scripture: Ex. 20:1-17  
Ps 19  
1 Cor. 1:18-25  
Jn 2:13-22  
Sunday, Mar. 11<sup>th</sup> Fourth Sunday in Lent  
Scripture: Num 21:4-9  
Ps 107:1-3, 17-22  
Eph 2:1-10  
Jn 3:14-21  
Sunday, Mar. 18<sup>th</sup> Fifth Sunday in Lent  
Scripture: Jer 31:31-34  
Ps 51:1-12/ Ps 119:9-16  
Heb 5:5-10  
Jn 12:20-33  
Sunday, Mar. 25<sup>th</sup> Sixth Sunday in Lent  
Scripture: Mk 11:1-11  
Ps 118:1-2, 19-29  
Isa 50:4-9  
Mk 14:1-15:47