

The Federated Courier



United Church of Christ



Federated Community Church
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United Methodist Church

October 2018

Volume 71 9

From the Pastor's Desk

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10 NIV

Greetings of Grace and Peace!

Fall is here! The trees' leaves are beginning to lose their chlorophyll and hidden pigments of orange and yellow are coming forward. As the colors come forth, we are blessed with a gorgeous cascade of fall foliage. I love to see the beauty of the colored leaves. They can turn the humdrum driving of the highway into a pleasant adventure. The leaves, as we walk in the neighborhood, call our attention away from mindless chatter and worries to the beauty the leaves offer. Fall foliage is a splendid gift.

This year, perhaps because I am in the fall of my life, has me thinking about the beauty that lies hidden within so many of us. We create masks or personalities we want others to see and believe about ourselves, much like the chlorophyll. We are fearful if others truly knew what we are like, the thoughts we have, they wouldn't like us. We cover ourselves with chlorophyll and try hard to keep the colorful side of ourselves hidden. The truth is that we are all more alike than we know or want to admit.

In a recent church small group conversation, we reflected on the honesty and integrity that is shared within AA groups. It creates community because folks can resonate with one another and be vulnerable. There is a trust and a truthfulness that we are all broken and in need of grace. It seems to me that is what the Bible is calling us to. Paul, in the above reference scripture, is certainly writing about his weaknesses and that in Christ we are made strong (and I add "beautiful" as the fall foliage). As we seek to build a deeper community within our church, I hope you will join a small group: a Bible study, Spirit Chat, men or women's group, etc. and become vulnerable and honest so God can continue to help you grow into the beautiful human you were created to be.

Questions for reflection:

What "chlorophyll" or old lie are you holding onto that you need to let go of?

What is a hidden desire that you have longed to do, but have told yourself you could never accomplish that?

Who are two or three other people in the church community you could be honest and truthful with and begin a small group?

I look forward to seeing what beauty God will reveal in each of us as we journey together.

In Christ's Light and Love,

Pastor Pat

Thank You

Thank you for your prayers, cards, and support for my family in the death of my mother, Marjorie Miller., on August 26th. It is a blessing to know one is being held by so many at such a difficult time.

—Pastor Pat

Welcoming

The Federated Community Church sure knows how to throw a party! What a wonderful welcome for me and my family on August 26th. The food was bountiful and delicious, the fellowship was fun and friendly, the music upbeat and enjoyable, and the weather superb. It made my heart overflow with warmth and love to know all the time, energy, and expense given to welcome us to the church and community.

I have been awed by the gifts of welcome since the very beginning: Folks giving of their time to physically move furniture and boxes: (oh, the boxes!!) , others to watch my grandchildren and provide entertaining toys and food especially for them, meals ready for our family to eat, help unpacking, and more. We are extremely grateful for all that has been done to make us feel welcome and supported. We are happy to be among you. I feel very blessed to be appointed to FCC in Hampden. While all churches have struggles (after all, we are human), I feel the Spirit moving among us and I am excited to move into the future with you.

When I received word from the District Superintendent that the Bishop had appointed me to FCC, the words from Jeremiah 29:11 came to me: *For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.* These words seem even more prevalent now that I am with you. I feel very, very blessed and am excited to see those plans for FCC as we journey together.

—Pastor Pat

From the Deacons' Bench

Pastor Pat had a lovely Sunday message in September about our Christian Calling as servants in the world. The New Testament reading that day (Mark 9:35) records Jesus as saying "If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all". Reading on, he picks up a child as a symbol of the frail amongst us and says "Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me.....welcomes.....the one who sent me."

I love our Sunday Sanctuary as a place for repair, refuge, spiritual refreshment, reconciliation and for reflections on renewed commitments. There are other sanctuaries too. Recently, we learn of Sanctuary Cities for the revitalization of modern day wayfarers..... or our Sanctuary Home where every day can become a mission of service. I've heard folks proclaim a better understanding of God and the Divine Spirit that resides within each of us through their service roles as parents and care givers.

How about a Wildlife Sanctuary? I visit one most every day and even there we can be reminded of our Calling. Earlier this summer when the goslings began to fill out, I noticed a Canada goose nearly full size then, had a broken left wing.....the feathers stuck out and the wing was distorted. The injured one seemed alone and remote from the rest of the pack. Geese like people are communal and this could be a problem when the weather gets cold and their fly-aways occur. This goose wouldn't be able to fly with the others. Well, the story is still unfolding, but recently the disabled one has joined a community of mallards. Mallards winter over here in waters that don't freeze so perhaps there is a happy ending for this tale and possibly a reminder too that even in this Sanctuary the Call goes out to those with missing feathers and undeveloped wings.

Mother Theresa wrote as a closing line in one of her poems "The fruit of Service is Peace."

Wishing all the Blessings of Peace,
Dave Spencer, Deacon.

October Deacon of the Month: Frank Watson

Building Community in Christ

Our fall stewardship pledging program will soon be underway, with letters, articles, posters, and speakers—all encouraging us to generously share the goodness we have received with others who are in need of God's love throughout the world.

Our theme this year will be focused on how we, individually and together, can **share God's love—here, there, and everywhere**, in order to build the community of Christ—in our own church, our town, our nation and our world.

Commitment Sunday, this year, will happen on **November 18th**, Thanksgiving Sunday. Following our service of commitment, we will all have the opportunity to share in our traditional delicious turkey soup lunch prepared and served up by our beloved Joyce Libby and “associates”.

This will be a wonderful day of both giving and receiving for all—just as God gives such wonderful blessings to us and we gratefully receive those blessings.

We hope to see you all at this very special day of praise and promise and togetherness!

Walking with you in Community,

Your Stewardship Ministry Team



Happy Birthday



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

Robert Patterson	10/01	Gerald Robinson	10/18
Barbara Dunwoody	10/03	Casey DeGray	10/20
Jacene Germain	10/05	Donald Facey	10/20
Joseph Eagan	10/05	Rebecca DeSanti	10/20
Neal Sleeper	10/05	Rebekah Doyle	10/23
Jennifer Jernigan	10/05	Justin Jernigan	10/24
Cameron Walulak	10/14	Julia Wyman	10/27
Joyce Brooks	10/14	Bruce Westcott	10/29
Ellen Gatchell	10/16	Beatrice Officer	10/30
Laurie Schoolcraft	10/17	Gillian Smith	10/30

If you would like your birthday added to our newsletter, please contact the office at 413-566-3711 or email us at hampdenfederated@gmail.com.

Parish Notes

FCC Office Hours Mon, Wed, Fri 9:00am-1:00pm

Pastoral Hours

--Monday 10:00am-12:00pm

--Tuesday & Wednesday 12:00pm-1:30pm

--By appointment (413) 566-3711

Please feel free to stop by the office with a question, comment, or other need..

Pastor Pat

Email Address: FCC.PastorPat@gmail.com

Office Phone: 413-566-3711

Address: 2 Riverside Drive

Hampden, MA 01036

Feedback

We would love to hear from you! If you have any comments, compliments or if you just want to say hello, please fill out a form in the Narthex and put in the blue Blessings Box on the wall by the entryway.

Thank you so much! We appreciate your input!

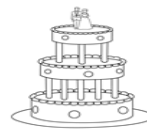
Prayer Box

If you have any prayer requests, you can write them on a note card and put them in the Prayer Box in the Prayer Room across from the Christian Ed office. Prayers will be lifted up weekly.

Soup Needed

Six pots of soup are needed (any kind) for October 20, Soup Share & FCC History Lunch. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex (front hall).

Anniversary



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

John & Beatrice Moriarty	10/01
Allen & Laurie Schoolcraft	10/04
Paul & Elizabeth Cilley	10/09
Nancy & Richard Nelson	10/09
Robert & Ellie Green	10/13
Robert & Cheryl Patterson	10/14
Bruce & Jeanne Westcott	10/15
Michael & Karen Kielb	10/18
Joshua & Sarah Blain	10/24
Erik & Dawn McKeone	10/27
Donald & Shirley Facey	10/30

If you would like your anniversary added to our newsletter, please contact the office at 413-566-3711 or email us at hampdenfederated@gmail.com.

Christian Education

We have had a great start to the new year in Sunday School. We are very excited to see all the children return.

This year our focus is on Community and what it means, with lessons from the bible. We started out with Proverbs 17:17 "A friend loves at all times and a brother is born for adversity". Our discussions lead to what a friend is and how we can be a friend to everyone. The Sunday School will be working with how we can be better friends in our Community.

We are looking for Sunday School helpers to assist with the children. No experience necessary, just a love for having fun!

Blessings,
Kristi & Laurie

Parents, Grandparents, Guardians

Just a reminder to please pick up your child/children from Sunday school classrooms immediately after service so we all can enjoy fellowship together.



Sunday School Birthdays

Madison Cadieux	10/08
Olivia McKeone	10/31

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Evie Meacham		Audrey Burger
Peg Stearns	Walter Black Jr..	Gail Banning
Julia Winetrout	Judy Schwabe	Tim Green
Judy Ingle	Janet Case	Cindy Desrosiers
Wendy Chadwick	Janet Brehaut	Winnie Godek
Heather Walker	Robert Johnston	Peter Bokulic
Dennis Connor	Barbara Bennett	Otto Kern
Penny Witcher	Jack Bennett	John & Nenita

If would like to be added to our Prayer Corner, please contact the office at 413-566-3711 or email us at hampdenfederated@gmail.com. Also, please notify us if a name needs to be removed from the list.

Announcements

October 7th is World Communion Sunday-

All over the world Christians will celebrate Holy Communion. It is wonderful to think about the greatness of the Lord's Table and how many people are at the table. We invite you to bring bread to adorn the altar for October 7th worship service **(please bring breads in by 9:45 AM so that they can be placed on the altar)** The breads can represent your ethnicity (Portuguese sweet bread, Irish soda bread, Syrian pita bread, American apple or banana, etc.) or they can simple be your favorite baked good. (Cookies or other baked products are welcome.) They will be a visual reminder of our connection to others all over the world. Following the service, the breads will be auctioned off during coffee hour. Monies raise will be split between the FCC Missions Committee and the UMC World Communion Special Sunday which provides an Ethnic Scholarship Program and the Ethnic In-Service Training Program, administered by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. Hope you will join us as we have some fun, share some good bread, and make a difference in the life of another.



Advent Booklet

It is Pastor Pat's hope that the community of FCC will create their own Advent booklet, similar to the Upper Room Daily Devotional to be shared by the entire church during this time. The reflections can take many forms. They can be a poem or be short s reflection on a time when you were touched by God or saw God working through another person. It can be a time in nature which took your breath away or about someone who made a difference in your life. If you are comfortable finding a supportive scripture and adding a prayer, that is fine. If you only want to submit the short reflection (no more than a half typed page), Pastor Pat will add scripture and a prayer. The booklet becomes our gift to one another. Please submit by **November 11, 2018** (in time for Advent) to:



FCC.PastorPat@gmail.com (preferred method) or leave in church office marked, "Advent Booklet."

Poetry Corner

On the kitchen wall of Saint Benedict's Monastery

I was regretting the past and fearing the future.
Suddenly God was speaking, "My name is 'I AM'."
I waited. God continued, "When you live in the
past, with its mistakes and regrets, it is hard. I am
not there. My name is not 'I was'. When you live in
the future, as I'm not there, My name is not 'I will
be'. When you live in the moment, it is not hard. I
am here. My name is 'I AM'."

Submitted by Karen Anable

Embrace the Day

"For to be free is not merely to cast off one's
chains, but to live in a way that respects and
enhances the freedom of others."

~Nelson Mandela

May God grant you always...

A sunbeam to warm you,

A moonshine to charm you,



A sheltering angel

So nothing can harm you...

Laughter to cheer you,

Faithful friends near you,

And whenever you pray,

Heaven to hear you.

**Happiness lies in the journey not in the
destination.**

SERVERS FOR THE MONTH

Ushers

10/7 Joyce Ogonowski & Mary Howell

10/14 Don & Shirley Facey

10/21 Bill & Lynn Cunningham

10/28 Amy & Dale Varney

Deacons

October Frank Watson

November

December Hayden Tibbetts

Important Dates:

10/12/18-Fri-Public Safety Night Out

Location: Thornton W. Burgess Middle School

Time: 4:00pm-7:00pm

Spend a fun-filled night with your local police department!
Great food & engaging demonstrations will include MSP
Helicopter & AMR Ambulance.

10/18/18-Thu--United Methodist All Church

Conference with District Superintendent David Calhoun.

Deacons and Co-Chairs of BOD will meet at 6:00 PM.

Church Conference will follow at 7:00 PM.

10/20/18-Sat- noon to 3:00 pm. Soup Share followed

by FCC History Sharing

Reviewing significant people, missions, events: church,
community and world events through
the eyes and hearts of the congregation
will allow Pastor Pat to know our
history. We will review the churches
strengths, challenges, and share God's
dream for our church. You are important to our community!
Please join us!



10/20/18-Sat—UCC Super Saturday

A day of worship, workshops and networking for clergy &
lay people. Featuring David Csinos, Assistant Professor of
Partical Theology, Atlantic School of Theology in Halifax
Location: Keefe Regional Technical High School,
Framingham

10/27/18-Sat—Women's Fellowship

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m

Description: Fall planning Meeting.

Drop in for light refreshments, catch up with friends after
this past years hot and rainy summer and help plan activities
for this coming year. Hope to see you there!

Upcoming Important Dates--Mark Your Calendar

11/18/18-Sun -Commitment Sunday

-Turkey Soup Sunday

11/11/18-Sun Veterans Day Breakfast (7:30am-9:45am)

Open to all (church & community) who have served &
their families. Breakfast followed by special service
acknowledging the courage & dedication of our military.

Annual Holiday Bazaar

Date: December 1, 2018 (Saturday)

Time: 8:00am to 2:00pm

Contact: Kristi- phone: (413) 374-8742
email: fairsatfcc@gmail.com





OCTOBER 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 9:30-Spirit Chat 6:30-AA 7:00-Missions 7:30-AA Step	3 10:00-Fellowship 10:30-12:00 Bible Study 6:00-Fellowship 6:30-8:00 Bible Study	4	5	6
7 World Communion Sunday (Please bring bread to adorn the altar) 10:00-Worship, Sunday School, Nursery 11:15-Bread Auction	8	9 9:30-Spirit Chat 6:30-AA 7:30-AA Step	10 10:00-Fellowship 10:30-12:00 Bible Study 6:00-Fellowship 6:30-8:00 Bible Study	11 5:00-6:30-Girl Scouts 7:00-Stewardship	12 4:00pm-7:00pm Public Safety Night Out-@ Thornton Burgess Middle School	13 8:00-Men's Breakfast
14 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery Crop Walk: 1:00-Registration 2:00-Walk	15 6:30-Deacons	16 9:30 Spirit Chat 6:30 AA 7:00-BOD 7:30 AA Step	17 10:00-Fellowship 10:30-12:00 Bible Study 6:00-Fellowship 6:30-8:00 Bible Study .	18 7:00-UMC All Church Conference	19	20 UCC Super Saturday 10:00-Dress A Girl 12:00-3:00 Soup Share & FCC History Share
21 10:00-Laity Sunday Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	22	23 9:30-Spirit Chat 6:30-AA 7:30-AA Step	24 10:00-Fellowship 10:30-12:00 Bible Study 6:00-Fellowship 6:30-8:00 Bible Study	25 5:00-6:30-Girl Scouts	26	27 8:00-Men's Breakfast 10:00-Women's Fellowship
28 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	29	30 9:30-Spirit Chat 6:30-AA 7:30-AA Step	31			

FEDERATED COMMUNITY CHURCH
590 Main St.
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Hampden, MA 01036

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Church Staff

<u>Pastor</u>	Rev. Patricia Miller Fernandes
<u>Organist/Choir Director</u>	
<u>Administrative Assistant</u>	Jocelyn Smith
<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, Oct 7th 20th Sunday After Pentecost
Scripture: Job 1:1; 2:1-10
Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12
Mark 10:2-16

Sunday, Oct 14th 21st Sunday After Pentecost
Scripture: Job 23:1-9, 16-17
Hebrews 4:12-16
Mark 10:17-31

Sunday, Oct 21st 22nd Sunday After Pentecost
Scripture: Job 38:1-7, (34-41)
Hebrews 5:1-10
Mark 10:35-45

Sunday, Oct 28th 23rd Sunday After Pentecost
Scripture: Job 42:1-6, 10-17
Hebrews 7:23-28
Mark 10:46-52