



United Church of Christ



**Federated Community Church**

"A vibrant community of seekers!"



United Methodist Church

Volume 69 4

[www.hampdenfederatedchurch.org](http://www.hampdenfederatedchurch.org)  
E-mail: [hampdenfederated@verizon.net](mailto:hampdenfederated@verizon.net)  
Tel. (413) 566-3711 Fax (413) 566-5324

April 2016

---

## From the Pastor's Desk



A friend of mine sent this cartoon to me during Lent. It took a minute, but I found Jesus. Following the Jesus' resurrection on Easter, his disciples were asking similar questions: *Have you seen him? Where is he? What is he up to today?*

In truth, Jesus was all over the place. In the garden. Walking through doors in upper rooms. Dining with the curious out on Emmaus Road. Eating fish sandwiches with his friends on the beach. Wherever they looked, Jesus was there!

I wonder where you are finding Jesus in this post Easter season?

Is he coming through your door? Has he joined you for dinner...at the house or on the run? Has he visited in the form of a friend's gentle prayer? Or have you experienced him in

an individual's struggle for justice?

I have seen him on the streets of Hampden holding signs to *Save Our School*. His hand has been in the crowds calling their government to a more just process of election. He has brought food to the hungry. He is guiding our conversations with other churches around the Global Goals to end poverty. He is bringing hope and healing to people who are homeless through our new tapping prayer ministry in that community.

The lead up to Easter was pretty exciting, but I believe the work of Easter garners its own adrenaline rush.

We are called to keep watch, to share the story, to point out to one another where and how HE LIVES! In doing so, we nurture our spirit and spark the faith lives of those around us. It is an engaging experience. It is challenging, and sometimes frustrating. It is most often, the stuff that makes our hearts beat a little faster.

If we keep our eyes and beating hearts open, I believe there is no limit to where we can find Jesus. Who knows, he may even be behind the curtains in our living room.

Peace,  
Todd

# ***P*ARISH NOTES**

## **SERVERS FOR THE MONTH**

### **Ushers**

4/3/16 Elaine DeGray and Lynn Cunningham  
4/10/16 Amy and Dale Varney  
4/17/16 Bill Cunningham and Walter Bliss  
4/24/16 Dave and Karen Anable

### **Fellowship**

4/3/16 Sandy Wilk and Fran Brown  
4/10/16 Isabella Donais and Mary Drozdowski  
4/17/16 Walter and Amy  
4/24/16 Joan Harris

**The Fellowship Committee** is looking for volunteers to help with baking and/ or serving during fellowship on Sunday mornings. We all enjoy the homemade goodies but don't always realize the time and work that goes into providing this service. If you are interested in helping out in any capacity please see Mary Drozdowski.

## **Christian Education**



### **Family Dinner**

Saturday April 16, 2016 at 6pm  
Menu: Salad, Baked chicken, Rice, Veggie  
& Dessert

Adults \$10 - Children under 12 \$5  
For reservations, Please call church office  
at 566-3711  
by April 13th

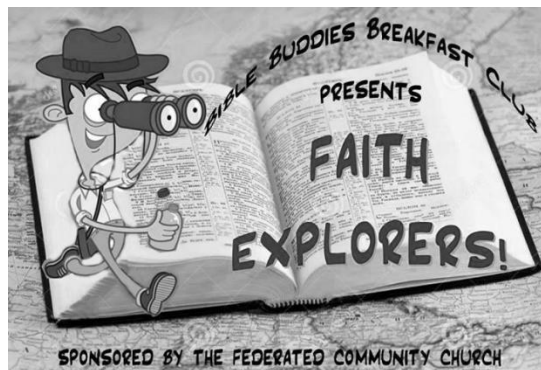
We hope that everyone had a Happy Easter. April brings us the story of through the roof Mark 2: 1-12 in Sunday School.

It is a story of a man who could not walk and wanted to be healed by Jesus. When the man's friends carried him to the house where Jesus was staying, they found the house to be packed with people wanting to hear Jesus and be healed by him. The friends climbed up an outside staircase and dug a hole through the roof. They lowered their friend down to the place where Jesus was. Jesus was impressed by the faith of these men. First, Jesus did what only God can do – he forgave the man's sins. Then, Jesus healed the man so that he could get up and walk.

We encourage the congregation to ask the children questions regarding what lessons are being taught in Sunday School. You may learn something new through the view of a child.

Don't forget to join us for a family dinner on April 16th. All children and families are invited to come. We will have activities for the children.

Blessings, Kristi and Laurie



## **SAVE THE DATES FOR FAITH FOOD AND FUN!**

Bible Buddies Breakfast Club will happen July 11-15, 8am-10am

Ages 4-12, \$10/child with \$25/family maximum  
Breakfast served. Faith nourished.

This year's theme: **Kings and Queens**

**Get your registration form by calling 566-3711 today or register online at: <http://tinyurl.com/faithexplore>.**

*Children 10 and up will serve as Shepherds and assist with the implementation of program.*

*Volunteers are needed to facilitate this program.*

*Please contact the church office if you are available to assist with breakfast, arts and crafts, teaching, or clean up on any of the days. Thanks!*



### Sunday School Birthdays

Tulloch, Abigail 04/08  
Tulloch, Annabelle 04/29

### Anniversaries

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

April & Joshua Gonce 04/06  
John & Barbara Panek 04/11  
Mitch & Mary Drozdowski 04/21  
Matt & Diane Fisher 04/21



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

Elizabeth Nelson	04/02	Brittany Fisher	04/19
Steven Elliott	04/02	Karen Leger	04/19
Judith Hatch	04/04	David Anable	04/20
Alice Willcutt	04/05	Hayden Tibbetts	04/21
Karen Kielb	04/04	Marcia Willey	04/22
Judith Gerrish	04/06	Donald Schmidt	04/23
Matthew Fisher	04/06	Sarah Blain	04/25
Richard Patullo	04/07	Jeanne Westcott	04/27
Gretchen Warner	04/10	Alice Wilcox	04/28
Joyce Burt	04/12	Mason Kennedy	04/28
Jane Wyman	04/16	Audrey Burger	04/29
Richard Regnier	04/17	Teresa DuBois	04/29
David Quill	04/18	Anne Collins	04/30
Matthew Doyle	04/19		



As we walked together through last year's pledge commitment period, we demonstrated our trust that the love of God does, indeed, "runneth over". As we move into Spring, we have new opportunities to discover how God's promise of love and grace continues to be made real in our lives. The Team offers our rendition of an anonymous poem from a sermon titled "Our Older Brother" by Kevin D. Barron:

When we are the neediest,  
God is the most sufficient.

When we are completely helpless,  
Jesus is the most helpful.

When we feel totally dependent,  
Christ is absolutely dependable.

When we are the weakest,  
God is the most able.

When we are the most alone,  
Jesus is intimately present.

When we feel we are the least,  
God is the greatest.

When we feel the most useless,  
Christ is preparing us.

When it is the darkest,  
Jesus is the only Light we need.

When we feel the least secure,  
God is our Rock and Fortress.

When we are the most humble,  
Christ is most gracious.

When we can't, GOD CAN!

May we hold these thoughts in our hearts as we journey  
into a new (but somehow, familiar) pathway to Christian  
stewardship.

*A message of grace from  
Your Stewardship Ministry Team*

### **FROM THE DEACONS' BENCH**

#### **Easter**

*This writing by Jarod Smith is an annual Easter  
reading for the DeSanti family who wish to share this  
reflection with our church body.*

While pondering the immense spiritual significance and symbolism associated with Easter, we can discover the incredible importance of this day in defining the entire religion of Christianity. When congregating earlier last Thursday and Friday we understood the manner in which Jesus died to forgive us for our sins. In looking beyond the superficial, secular meaning of the holiday with the characteristic rabbits and eggs, we can move past the excruciating suffering endured by Jesus and look forward, toward rebirth and a new life.

The notion of resurrection, commemorated today as Easter, distinguishes our religion from all others, while defining all of our individual identities as Christians. Throughout the course of history, innumerable prominent religious figures and leaders have existed. Many of them thrived, influencing and improving the lives of numerous people across the world, yet it is the story of resurrection that separates our savior, Jesus Christ, from all the rest. Jesus died to forgive us of our sins, yet his story wouldn't end with a finite lifespan characteristic of humans such as ourselves or any other religious figure. Powerfully exhibiting that he's not restrained by the physical limitations of this world, Jesus succeeded in defying death itself and proved his transcendence over the physical world as the Son of God.

Jesus claimed in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" – for in addition to Jesus' victory over evil,

Easter also remains symbolic of the hope for eternal life that Jesus instilled in all of humanity. It is this commitment and dedication to achieving eternal life that shapes our faith and we all strive for as Christians.

As Jesus miraculously rose from the dead on this day and irrefutably established himself as the Son of God, he in turn verified all of his teachings and messages presented throughout the course of his life. And as he gave each and every one of us hope that we too may one day attain eternal life, he stressed the incredible faith in God required to achieve this extraordinary feat. As we congregate here once a year, it is important to recognize the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ that transpired so long ago in order for us to reinforce our faith in Him and God so that we may one day join them in the Kingdom of Heaven.

**It took a village to bring our Lenten journey to fruition!**



I would like to thank: The Board of Deacons for assistance with Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter, Barbara Bennett and the Choir for a beautiful Cantata and Easter music, Elliott Burke for producing 1 million-bajillion bulletins, Christian Ed for creating an interactive curriculum that helped the children learn about Easter, the cast and kitchen crew associated with *Mobbed Up for Murder*, Marilyn Connors for keeping our building in fine shape for the many events and services held, and all of our special readers during those services. Your faith, your voice, your spirit made this a very meaningful journey toward Easter.

With Gratitude, Todd



## TWILIGHT ZONE MINISTRY CONTINUES

The Twilight Zone was a remarkable television series filmed in the 1950's-60's over 5 seasons. Rod Serling introduced each episode with an invitation to look at the unique condition of being human and discover within it, possibilities for good and evil. Each episode was a mini morality play, and the actors went on to become some of the most iconic faces in the world.

On the first Sunday of each month at 7pm (**next trip: April 3**) we will explore an episode of the Twilight Zone in the context of faith. Lead by live music from Alex Smith and *On Angel's Wings*, our journey will travel from Scripture to The Old Man in the Cave, to Exploration, to Prayer...all the while with Jesus by our side.

Consider joining this extraordinary journey of sight, sound, imagination and faith, as we discover *Jesus in The Twilight Zone*.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE RIVERSIDE MUSIC SERIES

The Riverside Music Series presents Lawrence Zukof, recorder player and vocalist. Mr. Zukof will be performing with his colleague, Ingeborg Schimmer on the piano and harpsichord, at the Federated Community Church in Hampden, MA on May 15, 2016 at 3:00 pm. Please join us for a wonderful concert. For more information: <http://lawrencezukof.com>





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Communion 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 7:00 Jesus in the Twilight Zone	4 6:30 Bible Study	5 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speak	6 11:30 Prayer	7 7:00 Choir	8	9 8am Men's Breakfast
10 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship 11:30 Women's Fellowship	11	12 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speak	13 11:30 Prayer 6:30 CE Meet	14 7:00 Choir	15	16 6pm Christian Ed Dinner
17 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship	18	19 6:30 AA Step 7:00 BOD Meet 7:30 AA Speak	20 11:30 Prayer 6:30 Deacon's Meeting	21 7:00 Choir	22	23 8am Men's Breakfast 10am Dress A Girl
24 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship	25	26 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speak	27 11:30 Prayer 6:30 Beat the Bullies w/ Betsy Gray	28 7:00 Choir	29	30

Check our online church calendar at:

<http://tinyurl.com/FCCHCalendar>

<http://www.hampdenfederatedchurch.org/calendar.htm>

<http://www.hampdenfederatedchurch.org/weeklyeventscalendar.htm>

**FEDERATED COMMUNITY CHURCH**

**PO Box 246**

**590 Main St.**

**Hampden, MA 01036**

**Nonprofit  
organization  
U.S. postage  
PAID  
Springfield, MA  
Permit no. 2702**

Church Staff

<u>Pastor</u>	Rev. Todd Farnsworth
<u>Organist/Choir Director</u>	Barbara Bennett
<u>Administrative Assistant</u>	Elliott Burke
<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, Apr 3rd      Second Sunday of Easter**

Scripture: Acts 5:27-32  
Rev 1:4-8; John 20:19-31

**Sunday, Apr 10th      Third Sunday of Easter**

Scripture: Acts 9:1-6 (7-20)  
Rev 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

**Sunday, Apr 17th      Fourth Sunday of Easter**

Scripture: Acts 9:36-43  
Rev 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

**Sunday, Apr 24th      Fifth Sunday of Easter**

Scripture: Acts 11:1-18  
Rev 21:1-6; John 13:31-35