



United Church of Christ

The Federated Courier

Federated Community Church
Hampden, MA 01036



United Methodist Church

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From the Pastor's Desk

Read Luke 10 *"If you enter a town and it welcomes you, eat whatever is set before you. Heal the sick, and tell them, 'The Kingdom of God is near you now.' Luke 10:8-9*

Greetings of Grace and Peace!

What a joy it is to be among you! Your gracious hospitality in welcoming me and my family to the Federated Community Church and the Town of Hampden has warmed my heart and filled me with joy and hope. While I am still unpacking boxes both in my house and office, I am feeling comfortable, accepted, and supported. Thank you.

I am looking forward to both the August 26th Community Gathering and the Fall church schedule resuming. Both of these opportunities will give me a chance to meet more of you and the community residents. I hope you will join us at the Gathering, activities on the Fall schedule, and in worship. In Luke 10, Jesus sends out his disciples in pairs. This passage speaks to the importance of ministry being done by many and in community. We need each other for a number of reasons. I will be counting on you and your continued support as you are counting on me as your pastor and all of us will be counting on Christ as we announce in both words and actions that the *Kin-dom of God* is near us now.

Two of my passions in ministry are laying on of hands praying and Alternatives to Violence. My heart was converted to Christ while I was in prayer (or what I thought was prayer at the time) and I was healed of panic attacks. This was one reason why I went into ministry. I experienced God as a Healer: I wanted to share my story with others as well as hold space through my presence and prayers for others to be open to the Holy Spirit. I have taken many courses in healing: *Healing Touch*, Reiki, Christian Healing Ministries with the McNutts, and Energy Healing with Rhys Thomas. I love prayer and praying with and for others. My other passion is the *Alternatives to Violence* Project (AVP). The project began in 1975 when inmates at Green Haven Prison in New York State asked local Quakers to help them teach incarcerated youth how to resolve conflicts nonviolently. It is an experiential workshop run by trained facilitators, developing participants' abilities to resolve conflicts without resorting to manipulation, coercion, or violence. It is a spiritual program which never speaks about religion or God. It refers to the Holy Spirit as the *Transforming Power*, which is within each of us. I have witnessed and heard the difference it has made in folks lives. AVP is an all-volunteer international program. While many countries use the program within schools and community at large, unfortunately, the majority of workshops held in the United States are held in prison, after the violence has ruined lives. My prayer is to bring AVP into the community and I hope you will join me.

These are some of my passions and dreams. I look forward to hearing what your hopes and dreams are for your personal lives and for the church community. Hope, excitement, and love fill my heart. I look forward to journeying with you.

In Christ's Light and Love,

Pastor Pat

Welcoming our New Pastor

Pastor Patricia Miller Fernandes is here! Here in our parsonage, here in our Federated church, here in Hampden, here in Western Mass., all of which are new and unfamiliar to her and her family. She and her family are (mostly) moved in, and getting familiar with the town and surroundings. She has found new supermarkets, pharmacies, a new bank, new doctors, and a new school for her grandsons. A deacon has accompanied her to introduce her to local businesses and town institutions. At the same time, Pastor Pat has been developing into her role as our spiritual leader, and trying diligently to understand how all of our parts here at FCC fit together, and why we “do things” the way we do.

We, her congregants, have had varying opportunities to spend time with her in worship, fellowship, meetings, and informal chats.

As we each move forward in the ongoing process of building our individual relationships with Pastor Pat, the following will be helpful to all of us

“Getting off to a good start with a new pastor promotes positive ministry [by all].”

Attitudes to Cultivate

- Expect the best from your pastor. Your positive attitude will help her to meet your expectations.
- Avoid comparing the new pastor with former pastors.
- Be receptive to her ideas. *Change is inevitable.* Welcome your exposure to new ideas, new theological and social views, new practices and new forms of worship.
- Avoid airing the church “dirty linen” [inside and outside of the church]. Speak positively about your fellow parishioners. Forgive their mistakes, and those of the former pastor.
- Constantly inform your pastor and her family of your love and support. Daily hold them in your prayers.”

By Donald G. Sapp

And from “How to Make Your New Pastor Feel Welcome”, by The Reverend Dr. Thomas L. Salsgiver:

“*No matter your feelings, welcome the pastor as though she is the best thing to happen to you and to your congregation.*”

The advice above reflects a spirit of **extravagant welcome and radical hospitality**. In both the UCC and UMC, research shows that vital and growing congregations support and practice these concepts, which have their foundation in what Jesus taught and how he acted toward those around him. They require us to move from being “friendly” to a well-thought-out program of intentional invitation and welcome to all people.

We will be discussing this in our committee and board meetings, and as a congregation, as we explore together useful and practical “tweaking” to our current practices, so that inside and outside our church building everyone will see that we at Federated Community Church believe all people are important to God, and to this church.

Blessings,

Your FCC Board of Deacons

Linda Hornig and Karen Gatchell, co-chairs, Karen and Dave Anable, Beverly Burnell, Dave Spencer, Hayden Tibbetts, and Frank Watson

***P*ARISH NOTES**

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ~

It seems so strange to us to not head to Hampden on Sunday mornings.

We marvel how God created such a deep bond between you and our family in five short months. We will always be grateful for the wonderful season among you. Your hospitality is amazing; we have been blessed.

Your hospitality is a beautiful thing, demonstrated in so many ways. We thank you for it all, including the beautiful chimes, the gift card and money. But most of all, we thank you for making us to feel cherished!

Bless you all in this next season of ministry together with Pastor Pat. Simply remember to “love the Lord your God with heart, mind and soul and your neighbor as yourself.”

In Christ’s Endless Love,
Pastor Ellie, Dave & Josh

REMINDER:

FCC Office Hours: M, W, F 9:00am-1:00pm

Pastor Pat:

Email Address: FCC.PastorPat@gmail.com
Phone: 413-566-1484
Address: 2 Riverside Drive
Hampden, MA 01036

FROM THE DEACONS' BENCH

Welcome Guests

Why do guests come to our church?? Are they seeking meaning in their lives and hope to find it here? Are they burdened by hurt and sadness, in need of solace and acceptance? Are they lonely and seeking friendship in a welcoming place? Or are they simply seeking a church whose message offers spiritual nourishment and whose actions embody the teachings of Jesus Christ.

We are called upon as Christians to welcome all who enter our midst. We fumble sometimes, retreating to the comfort of our friends, unintentionally shifting our focus away from newcomers. This is not a new dilemma. Paul addressed this issue with the Romans two centuries ago when the church turned its focus inward and lost commitment to growing Christ's Church.

Romans 12:10, 12:13

Be devoted to one another in love (vs10) Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

What is our role in welcoming guests to FCC? How can each of us participate in the call to hospitality? Remember that our guests may know no one and feel very out of place in a new church. Greeting starts with the ushers: welcome, offer name tags and take a moment to answer any questions the guest may have.

Introduce yourself to the newcomer.

Offer to sit with them or invite them to join you in your pew.

Chat with the newcomer while waiting for services to begin.

Encourage guests to fill out our Visitors Card and put them into the collection plate. Someone will make a follow-up contact

Invite guests to Fellowship following services and assure they are not left sitting alone

Wear your name tag so newcomers can remember your name

Finally, if you're looking at a guest and wondering why no one is approaching that person, remember - this could be God telling you it's your turn.

God Bless!

Deacon Karen Anable

Anniversary

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

Keith & Stephanie Lemelin-Bliss	09/03
David & Rita Spencer	09/08
Jodi & David Brodeur	09/08
Ronald & Sandra Richter	09/11
Kevin & Elaine DeGray	09/12
Randall & Kimberley Mercure	09/12
Pat & Wayne Miller Fernandes	09/12
Russell & Marilyn Streeter	09/12
Bruce & Janet Libby	09/18
Chris & Cheryl Fonda	09/20
Myron Stone & Rosemary DiSimone	09/22

HAPPY Birthday!

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

Otto Kern Jr	09/06	Leah Howell	09/19
Darcey Walulak	09/09	Phyllis Hultstrom	09/20
Amy Varney	09/15	Jennifer Howell	09/21
Evie Schoolcraft	09/15	Mark Casey	09/24
Patricia Safford	09/16	Rudy Wilk	09/24
Carrie Wescott	09/18	Evie Meacham	09/26
Ken Baillicul	09/18	Elsie Bradway	09/27
		Rollyn Hatch	09/30

SERVERS FOR THE MONTH

Ushers

9/2	Bill Cunningham & Frank Watson
9/9	Regina & Jack Germain
9/16	Dave & Karen Anable
9/23	Elaine DeGray & Ellie Green
9/30	Bill & Lynn Cunningham

Prayer Corner

Please uphold the following in your prayers:

Evie Meacham	Jerry & Laura	Audrey Burger
Peg Stearns	Walter Black Jr.	Gail Banning
Judy Ingle	Janet Case	Cindy Desrosiers
Julia Winetrout	Judy Schwabe	Tim Green
Wendy Chadwick	Joyce Libby	Winnie Godek
Heather Walker	Robert Johnston	Peter Bokulic
Dennis Connor	Barbara Bennett	Otto Kern
Jack Bennett		Dave Anable

Christian Education

Sunday School Kickoff (Rally Sunday): September 9th
.registration begins in fellowship hall at 9:00 am. We will head upstairs for worship before regathering as a class downstairs. Kickoff will end with enjoying "**Orange**" you glad to be back in Sunday school ice cream floats. (Feel free to invite a friend)

Psalms 78: 5b-7

....which he commanded our ancestors to teach their children, so the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands.

We are seeking extra help for our growing Sunday school classes. If this is a ministry you feel called to serve, please speak with Kristi Tessier or Laurie Schoolcraft.

On September 23rd, Pastor Pat will be conducting a training session for any anyone in 3rd grade or older who would like to be an acolyte. An acolyte is a person who lights the candles on the church altar before morning worship (God's Gift of Light in Sunday bulletin). We will meet at 11:15am after worship.

The Summer Sunday School Program was a great success. The children experienced meaningful lessons, fun activities and enjoyed the company of the many volunteers who made the program such a success. Thanks to Karen Gatchell, Nicole Heirsche, Brett and Alison Castellano, Dawn and Erik McKeone, Elaine and Casey DeGray, Bonnie Watson, Jessica and Samantha Quill, Bruce and Janet Libby, Marilyn Connor, Janet Modlish, Josh and Matt Sterling for volunteering. This program could not have been accomplished without the able leadership of Karen Anable and Mary Howell who kept things organized and stepped in when help was needed. Thanks to all for your contribution to this important ministry.

Hope to see everyone on September 9th!

Blessings,

Pastor Pat, Laurie & Kristi



Sunday School Birthdays

Dominick Tessier 09/21

Congratulations!!

Juliette Anne Hiersche was born on June 25, 2018, daughter of Nicole & Brendan Hiersche

Maternal Grandparents: Mary & Robert Howell

Paternal Grandparents: Deb & Michael Hiersche

Hudson Paul Rogers was born on June 30, 2018 son of Colin Rogers and Faith Przybycien.

Paternal Grandparents: Anthony & Pamela Rogers

Maternal Grandparents: Steve & Penny Przybycien

Paternal Great Grandparents: Robertson & Aileen Clark

Don't Forget:

Starting September 2, we go back to worship at 10:00am.

Thank You

FCC Family,

I wanted to thank everyone for this year's Church Scholarship. It will be very helpful. I feel so blessed to have the relationship I have with this church. Thank you again.

With love, Samantha Quill

Dear FCC Family,

Thank you so much for the generous scholarship money. It will be very helpful as I go into my Junior year at Western New England University.

Thank you again, Alexandra Smith

Sympathy

Please hold Pastor Pat & family in our thoughts and prayers. After a long struggle with Alzheimers, Pastor Pat's mother, Marjorie Miller died on 8/26/18.

Announcements:

Crop Hunger Walk

Date: Sunday, October 14, 2018

Time: 1:00 Registration

2:00 Walk Begins

Place: Trinity Church,

361 Sumner Ave, Springfield

Contact: Linda Van Beaver,

Lvanbeaver@charter.net or 413-596-5587

Online Registration:

www.crophungerwalks.org search

"Wilbraham/Hampden MA CROP" you can register as a walker, donate or both.

The walk leaves from Trinity, do a loop through Forest Park and return to Trinity. Water & snacks will be provided.

There will be a designated Wilbraham/Hampden registration table at Trinity Church. Please register under "Wilbraham/Hampden CROP" because 25% stays local. We would like to continue to support the Survival Center in Indian Orchard as our local charity.

Harvest Gifts

The Prayer Patch is aptly named. In the beginning, we prayed the plants would grow. Then that the plants would produce an abundance of vegetables. As white flies, mites and cutworms beset our hardy plants, we prayed for deliverance. Somehow our plants survived and the produce was ready to nourish the many needy at the local food banks and we prayed that it would be enough to make a difference.

With answered prayers, came the desire to do more. We prayed for help from the community and were blessed with three people who bring produce every Tuesday to support Harvest Gifts. Our weekly deliveries are now weighed in pounds - as much as 170 pounds per week - and our gardens have not yet peaked.

The Tuesday Harvest Gifts Team has grown from 2 to 3 to 4, another prayer answered as we share joy and laughter while dealing with a larger workload. We will have perhaps another month or two before the garden is done and there will no longer be fresh produce to share.

Now, we are praying for a next step. How can we continue to help?? Praise God, let us find a way!

Poetry Corner

David Mill -- "Following is the English writer G. K. Chesterton's poem, 'The Donkey.' It appeared in his second book of poetry, *The Wild Knight*, in 1900, as he was moving from the Unitarianism of his youth to Christianity. Rudyard Kipling, given a copy of the book, commented that this poem, 'stuck in my mind.' It proved to be a poem often reprinted and recited."

The Donkey

By G. K. Chesterton

When fishes flew and forests walked
And figs grew upon thorn,
Some moment when the moon was blood
Then surely I was born.
With monstrous head and sickening cry
And ears like errant wings,
The devil's walking parody
On all four-footed things.
The tattered outlaw of the earth,
Of ancient crooked will;
Starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb,
I keep my secret still.
Fools! For I also had my hour;
One far fierce hour and sweet:
There was a shout about my ears,
And palms before my feet.

As submitted by Rev. Eleanor B. Kramer

Important Dates:

9/11/18-Tues: Spirit Chat @ 9:30am

Contact Person: Barb Dunwoody—413-566-3357

9/16/18-Sun: Celebration of those completing 50 years of membership FCC and New Members

9/19/18-Wed: 6-Week Bible Study on the Book of Acts. Two opportunities: (10:00) 10:30 AM & (6:00) 6:30 PM. All are welcome to gather the half hour before each session for fellowship, coffee, etc. Bring your Bible to Libby Hall.

9/28/18-Fri: September 28th --Family Gathering with the Pastor at parsonage-Fun Fellowship and Fire 6-8 pm

Gather for a time of fellowship with some community games. We will then share in gathering around the camp fire and share s'mores. This will be a time for Pastor Pat to know families better and for children, parents, and teachers to build deeper relationships. I hope you will join in. (Feel free to bring a comfortable yard chair for circle time)

Upcoming Important Dates

Hold the date for :

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!

Blessing of the Animals

Pastor Pat and the deacons will be hosting a Blessing of the Animals **9/29/18, Sat-10AM – 12 NOON** (Rain Date October 13th). Tentative Plans for the event are: 10:00-10:30-Memorial Service for Beloved Pets (You are invited to bring a Remembrance of your pet for the altar). 10:45-noon-Blessings. Suggestions from members of the congregation are welcome. One to two volunteers will be needed the day of the event. Please contact Karen Anable 413-636-6021 or Kanable58@yahoo.com if interested.

September 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>Don't Forget:</u> <i>September 2, we go back to worship at 10:00am.</i>						1
2 10:00-Worship,	3 Labor Day	4 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speakers	5	6	7	8 8:00 Men's Breakfast
9 9:00-Rally Sunday 10:00-Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	10	11 9:30-Spirit Chat 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speakers	12	13	14	15
16 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery New Member Sunday 50-yr Recognition	17 6:30-Deacons	18 9:30 Spirit Chat 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speakers 7:00-BOD	19 10:00-Fellowship 10:30-12:00 Bible Study 6:00-Fellowship 6:30-8:00 Bible Study	20	21	22 8:00 Men's Breakfast 10:00-Dress A Girl
23 10:00-Worship, Sunday School, Nursery 11:15-Acolyte Training	24	25 9:30-Spirit Chat 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speakers	26 10:00-Fellowship 10:30-12:00 Bible Study 6:00-Fellowship 6:30-8:00 Bible Study	27	28 6:00-Family, Fellowship & Fun @ Parsonage	29 10:00-12:00-Blessings of the Animals
30 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery						

FEDERATED COMMUNITY CHURCH
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Hampden, MA 01036

**Nonprofit
organization
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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, Sept 2nd	15th Sunday After Pentecost
Scripture:	Song of Solomon 2:8-13 James 1:17-27 Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
Sunday, Sept 9th	16th Sunday After Pentecost
Scripture:	Prov 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17 Mk 7:24-37
Sunday, Sept 16th	17th Sunday After Pentecost
Scripture:	Prov 1:20-33 James 3:1-12 Mk 8:27-38
Sunday, Sept 23rd	18th Sunday After Pentecost
Scripture:	Prov 31:10-31 James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a Mk 9:30-37
Sunday, Sept 30rd	19th Sunday After Pentecost
Scripture:	Est 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 James 5:13-20 Mk 9:38-50