



United Church of Christ



Federated Community Church

"A vibrant community of seekers!"



United Methodist Church

Volume 69 1

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January 2016

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Folks,

Cold weather has finally commenced! The nights have been down below 30...or 10 and the shiver of the season is upon us. I know that when I am cold my shoulders tense, my body has to work harder to maintain core temperature and the desire to climb between the sheets and snuggle down grows in inverse proportion to the number on my thermometer.

For many people, it is a time to attend to hunker down and turn up the heat. A little bump of the thermometer can take off the chill and bring us comfort.

For people living in extreme poverty, this is not always an option.

In October the United Nations launched a campaign to eliminate extreme poverty by 2030. It is an issue they have been working on for some time now with great results. Now, with more people connected by the internet and more efficient telecommunications, the United Nations believes that together (that includes you and me) we can eradicate this life threatening condition.

The clergy of Wilbraham/Hampden have agreed to bring the global goals for sustainable development to our congregations in 2016. Some of the issues included in the 17 areas of sustainability are concerns we are presently working on: feeding the hungry, clothing those who do not have weather appropriate attire, supporting shelters that can provide a bed to sleep in and a roof for protection to our sisters and brothers in need, to name a few.

I believe that the Christian community can and does play an active role in putting an end to poverty. Together, we can track our successes, overcome our challenges, and let Christ's light of hope and justice burn more brightly in our part of the world.

I hope you will join in these conversations between Christian communities in 2016. Who knows, by working together we may achieve the goal Jesus set before us when he prayed: *"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one— 23 I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me."* --John 17: 20-23
Peace, Todd

FROM THE DEACONS' BENCH

John 1:38 "What do you want?"

In the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, we see and hear Jesus "up close and personal", throughout his baptism, temptation in the wilderness, preaching, and healing. In John, Jesus is there, but moving silently in the background while John does a "voice-over" narration. One day, the camera begins to move in on two of John's disciples who are following him, and bam! the three come into close focus when Jesus turns and asks them, "What do you want?". And they answer, "...where are you staying?"

What?! Jesus, proclaimed by John as "the Messiah", asks what they want, and all they want to know is where he's staying?? That was my first reaction on reading this passage. But now I see a Jesus who turned around and spoke first - making it easier for them to speak to him. How long would they have followed him, silent, had he not reached out to them?

Now I see their answer, "Where are you staying?" as a desire to just be with Jesus - they didn't know enough about him yet to even ask for more than that.

And Jesus says, "Come and see." - inviting them into a relationship with him, which lasted throughout their lives.

As a new year dawns, we may be wondering (again) what we want out of life, what are our hopes, our dreams - just accepting Jesus' invitation to be with him seems like a good place to start.

In His loving service,
Linda Hornig

Anniversaries

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

Albert & Judith Jones	01/20
Richard & Elizabeth Taylor	01/24

If you made a pledge in 2016, envelopes (monthly & weekly) are in Libby Hall

PARISH NOTES

HAPPY Birthday!

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

Catherine Gardner	01/02	Scott Wyman	01/18
Gail Banning	01/03	Marilyn Connor	01/18
Richard Ritz	01/03	Nicholas Hummel	01/19
Dennis Chaffee Sr	01/04	Edith Casey	01/20
Peg Stearns	01/05	Susan Quill	01/20
Dave Obuchowski	01/05	John Panek	01/20
Albert Jones	01/06	Sarah Gernux	01/23
Geraldine Spear	01/06	Jordan McEwan	01/24
Donald Ryan	01/07	Joan Harris	01/24
Lisa Wyman	01/10	Richard Nelson	01/24
Kathryn Jobbins	01/13	Shirley Fuller	01/26
Steven Safford	01/13	Richard Taylor	01/27
Joseph Kellner	01/17	Paul Willoughby	01/30
		Rosemary DiSimoni	01/31

SERVERS FOR THE MONTH

Ushers

1/3/16	Regina & Jack Germain
1/10/16	Amy & Dale Varney
1/17/16	Bill & Lynn Cunningham
1/24/16	Joyce Ogonowski & Ellie Green
1/31/16	Ellen & Bill Gatchell

CTW/Scripture Readers

1/3/16	KK Walulak	Darcey Walulak
1/10/16	Matt Fisher	Jen Fisher
1/17/16	Bruce Westcott	Jeanne Westcott
1/24/16	Ellen Gatchell	Bill Gatchell
1/31/16	Bill Cunningham	Karen Gatchell

Fellowship

1/3/16	Pamela & Tony Rogers
1/10/16	Ellen Gatchell
1/17/16	Walter Bliss & Amy Sutcliff
1/24/16	Joyce Ogonowski & Mary Drozdowski

Christian Education

We've had a wonderful Children's pageant. Big thanks goes out to Antonio for being the head shepherd in this year's play. All our friends were excited to sing "Go Tell it on the Mountain". They had been practicing for weeks. Thank you to all the parents who helped with practices.

We are going to start the new year with John the Baptist.

Holiday Bazaar

Thank you to everyone who came out to support us at our annual holiday bazaar. We had over 20 vendors take part in our day. We had an amazing time. Thank you for everyone's help with the bake sale, breakfast, lunch and our clean-up crew.

Kristi & Laurie

Super Bowl Subs

The youth group will be collecting grinder orders for Super Bowl Sunday! This is an annual fundraiser that benefits the Youth Group, so that we may go on trips and participate in outreach projects. Please help support our youth and place a grinder order between Jan 24th and 31st. Order forms will be available after worship and online in the near future. Grinders will be available to pick up after church on the Feb 7th.

STEWARDSHIP MUSINGS ...

Our total pledged giving is over \$99,000 and pledges are still coming in, so we can all give thanks for the spirit of generous love which is at work in the FCC community, in financial matters, and in the overall mission of the church.

As we cross the threshold of a new year, the members of the Stewardship Ministry would like to share with you this prayer of gratitude from Joyce Rupp:

We are grateful for eyes that can see and ponder, for taste buds that know the sensuous pleasures of eating and drinking, for hands that hold and touch and feel, for ears that can delight in music and the voice of a friend, for a nose that can smell the aroma of newly mown grass or delicious food, and can also breathe the air that gives us life.

We are grateful for the treasure of loved ones ... for being there when we were most in need and for delighting with us in our good days and our joyful seasons.

We are grateful for the messengers of God—people, events, written or spoken words—that came to us at just the right time and helped us to grow.

We are grateful for God calling us to work with our gifts, grateful that we can be of service and use our talents in a responsible and just way.

We are grateful that we have the basic necessities of life, that we have the means and the ability to hear the cries of the poor and to respond with our abundance.

Faithful God, you have lavished us with love... Help us to share your graciousness with all those who need a touch of generous love. Amen.

With Jesus' love,

Linda Hornig, Carol Darnley, Jocelyn Smith



Start the New Year by Losing Emotional Weight

Do you carry around excess emotional baggage?

Is the weight of your past keeping you from lifting off?

Does it sometimes feel like you are trapped in a box that someone is sitting on?

Betsy Gray (M.S. LMHC) can help you

shed the poundage of the past

and move out into a healthier future

January 20 and 27 at the Federated Community Church in Hampden

6:30-8 pm

Betsy will teach you:

- How to identify the bullies that burden you
 - How the bullies get into your system and weigh you down
 - How to send those inner bullies packing
- so that you can shed the pressure of their persecution.

In two sessions you will:

- gain new understanding
- acquire new skills
- create your own “weight loss” plan to set you free!

Betsy Gray has worked with individuals, families, couples and children over the past 20 years. She has practiced in Springfield, Worcester, and in the Psychiatric Crisis department at Baystate Medical. Betsy currently works in private practice in Wilbraham where she counsels people about overcoming issues of addiction. She is a member of the Federated Community Church in Hampden, MA

Suggested Donation of \$10/session

(you are welcome to donate more or less as you are able)

Start your new year off by shedding that excess weight and setting yourself free.

Reserve your space by calling Betsy at 413-657-3356 or

nicolegrayschildren@hotmail.com

This event is sponsored by The Federated Community Church of Hampden. It is our hope that this program will bring God's peace and healing to those who attend and participate.



January 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 10:00 Worship, Communion Sunday School, Nursery	4	5 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speakers	6 11:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Missions Mtg.	7 7:00 Choir	8	9 8:00 Men's Breakfast
10 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	11	12 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speakers	13 11:00 Prayer Group 6:30 CE Meeting	14 7:00 Choir	15	16 10:00 Dress A Girl
17 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	18 7:00 BOD Mtg.	19 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speakers	20 11:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Deacons Mtg.	21 7:00 Choir	22	23 8:00 Men's Breakfast
24 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	25 6:30 Bible Study	26 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speakers	27 11:00 Prayer Group	28 7:00 Choir	29	30
31 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery						

FEDERATED COMMUNITY CHURCH

PO Box 246

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Hampden, MA 01036

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

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, Jan 3rd 2nd Sunday after Christmas
 Scripture: Jerimiah 31:7-14
 Ephesians 1:3-14
 John 1:1-18

Sunday, Jan 10th 1st Sunday after Epiphany
 Scripture: Isaiah 1:3-14
 Acts 8:14-17
 Luke 3:15-17, 22:1-22

Sunday, Jan 17th 2nd Sunday after Epiphany
 Scripture: Isaiah 62:1-5
 I Corinthians 12:1-11
 John 2:1-11

Sunday, Jan 24th 3rd Sunday after Epiphany
 Scripture: Nehemiah 8:1-3,5-6,8-10
 I Corinthians 12:12-31a
 Luke 4:14-21

Sunday, Jan 31st 4th Sunday after Epiphany
 Scripture: Jerimiah 1:4-10
 I Corinthians 13:1-13
 Luke 4:21-30