



United Church of Christ



**Federated Community Church**

*"A vibrant community of seekers!"*



United Methodist Church

Volume 69 2

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February 2016

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## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Folks,

It feels like we just put the last of the Christmas decorations away and Lent is upon us! *What's up with that?* The beginning of Lent depends on the date of Easter. Easter follows a lunar, rather than a solar calendar and is celebrated on the Sunday that follows the first full moon after March 21, the vernal (spring) equinox. Therefore Easter cannot fall earlier than March 22 or later than April 25. Lent lasts for 40 days (not counting Sundays) and in many traditions (including ours!) starts with the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday is an opportunity for the community to come together, recognize that we are at the beginning of a journey together, and start out toward Easter with the assurance of Jesus' forgiveness and presence in our lives. We use ashes made from last year's Palm Sunday celebration to mark us as fellow sojourners. The brittle palms burned up remind us of the ways in which our spirituality can dry up throughout the year when we neglect to follow in the footsteps of our Lord and "act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God." Fortunately, our Board of Deacons and Board of Missions have plans to help us rekindle that Spirit this season. Pay attention to what they have to offer, and try to check in on some of their opportunities.

This year we will gather for Ash Wednesday on February 10 at 6:30pm in the sanctuary. I hope you will join me in becoming marked for a remarkable time of discovery.

Peace, Todd

## **SERVERS FOR THE MONTH**

### Ushers

1/7/16 Frank Watson & Mary Howell  
1/14/16 Bill Cunningham & Walter Bliss  
1/21/16 Dave & Karen Anable  
1/28/16 Amy & Dale Varney

### Fellowship

2/7/16 Mary Drozdowski  
2/14/16 Pamela Rogers  
2/21/16 Matt Fisher  
2/28/16 Walter Bliss & Amy Sutcliffe

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.

### Women's Fellowship

What does Women's Fellowship look like in 2016? Come and help us plan it out! All women of the church, friends of the church, neighbors and the curious are invited to join the discussion February 20th at 10 a.m. in Libby Hall. For more information or transportation call Pamela Rogers at 566-8081

### **Interested in Becoming a Member of FCC?**

The Board of Deacons will meet with interested people following worship on Sunday, February 21 in the Isham Room. Meet leaders of the church, ask questions, discover what it means to be a member of FCC. No strings attached. Those wishing to join FCC after attending this meeting, will do so on February 28 during morning worship.

## **FROM THE DEACONS' BENCH**

A Prayer: Dear Lord, we pray for the needs of our people today. We have all come with individual and very personal needs. We are all busy with the business of living in the here and now. We have jobs, we have families, we have responsibilities, we get involved in all kinds of things, and some of vital importance and some people think are trivial. We pray for many different kinds of physical needs, financial needs, and those with emotional needs. Some need healing of relationships. . Maybe nobody on earth knows about the struggles and burdens they are facing, but you Lord know and invite us to bring everything to you in prayer. Whatever they are Lord; we bring them to you, because you can do something about them. But help us Lord put first things first, help us keep our priorities straight, make the right choices, help us to seek your kingdom, may we experience a revival of godliness, righteousness, and holiness in our country. So Lord, we each reach out to you, and we know that you are already reaching out to us. We ask you to meet our needs, and give us the assurance that you are answering our prayers.

Matthew 25:35 "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me." We as a congregation are very good at a number of things, one of them being food. We have church suppers and picnics. We have helped families who are struggling with illness by feeding that family. This takes some of the pressure off those who are caring for the ill person. We have been strong givers of food for the Survival Center in Indian Orchard. We support the Heifer Project. One of the Global Goals of 2030 is to make sure that everyone on this wonderful planet of ours has enough to eat at all times. We'll be hearing more about this and "food security" for all. Here are a few statistics that has made me think "one in nine people today are undernourished." "Poor nutrition causes nearly half (45 per cent) of deaths in children under five – 3.1 million children each year." Have a look at the Global Goals and see what you can do to help. <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/hunger/>  
Your sister in Christ, Karen Gatchell

# Anniversaries

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

Earl & Barbara Schofield 02/04



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

Karen Gatchell	02/06	Kathleen Lee	02/19
Amy Gernux	02/09	Kyle DuBois	02/21
Irene Cutting	02/10	Mary Black	02/22
Katrina Safford	02/10	Wendi Obuchowski	02/23
Richard Harris	02/12	Peter Bokulic	02/25
Matt Brodeur	02/16	Bruce Stewart	02/26
Donald Safford	02/16	David Kruger	02/27
Clara Kern	02/18	Jeff Sias	02/29
Ashley Richter	02/18		

## STEWARDSHIP MUSINGS ...

Drumroll, please! \$105,000! -the current total of pledges for 2016.

Add to that \$5,600 in advance giving ( lump sum donations made at the beginning of the year), and \$2,000 collected in the Blue Envelope Head Start Challenge last fall, for a total of \$112,600, which is about \$6,000 over 2015 pledging.

We did this, together: each dollar pledged represents a prayer, a hope that each of us holds for making Jesus' love visible and active, in our lives and in our world. That's over 112,000 prayers!

In the coming months, we will explore together how we may best serve as stewards of Christ's ever-flowing love, and keep it freely "running over".

With grateful hearts,  
Linda Hornig, Carol Darnley, Jocelyn Smith  
Stewardship Ministry Team

## Christian Education

Welcome to the new year. The children have started off the new year learning about John the Baptist, Jesus's cousin and why he is called John the Baptist.

We have followed up with the Beatitudes. It's important that the children learn the basics, and those teaching from Jesus. We start the Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus taught everyone the eight Beatitudes. We encourage you to engage with the Children, and help them to understand what it is to be Blessed everyday.

Blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
Blessed are they who mourn,  
for they shall be comforted.  
Blessed are the meek,  
for they shall inherit the earth.  
Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for  
righteousness,  
for they shall be satisfied.  
Blessed are the merciful,  
for they shall obtain mercy.  
Blessed are the pure of heart,  
for they shall see God.  
Blessed are the peacemakers,  
for they shall be called children of God.  
Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake  
of righteousness,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

[Matthew](#) 5:3-10

Blessings, Kristi & Laurie

## Staff Changes

It is with gratitude in our hearts that we thank Joyce Ogonowski for her 15+ years of service as Administrative Assistant at FCC. Joyce began her tenure with us working with Rev. Tom Howells and grew in a position that calls for wit, wisdom, patience, humor and a whole lot of faith! Through the years Joyce produced over 1000 bulletins for worship services, Baptisms and funerals. Her ability to bring in a newsletter or annual report, despite our best efforts to resist getting articles in on time, was remarkable.

In the fall of 2015 Joyce announced her intention to retire and asked the Board of Directors to conduct a search to fill her high heeled (and oh so fashionable) shoes. With heaviness of heart, the Board took on that task and conducted a search.

We were blessed with 8 very gifted applicants and after interviewing and much prayer, the Board decided upon hiring Mr. Elliott Burke to fill the position. Elliott hails from Belchertown and began training with Joyce on Wednesday, January 6. His interests include writing (about food, cooking, and theater) and he teaches stage management and production at UMASS Fine Arts Center in Amherst.

Please take time to thank Joyce and wish her well on the next chapter of her journey (Joyce will continue helping with Finances at FCC, so she'll be around in the office, every so often) and say "hello" to Elliott on Monday, Wednesday or Friday morning



*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.

The Board of Deacons would like to announce that on the first Sunday of each month at 7pm (beginning in March) we will explore an episode of the *Twilight Zone* in the context of Faith. Music, Readings from the Bible, Reflection Questions, Discussion and Prayer. Each of these gifts of community will guide our journey, and Jesus will be by our side as we make the trip.

Musicians and leaders will be needed to facilitate this exciting experience. Please contact Todd at [hampdenfederated.pastor@gmail.com](mailto:hampdenfederated.pastor@gmail.com) if you would like to be part of a monthly team.

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



## *February 2016*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:30 Bible Study Foolish Galatians	2	3 11:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Missions Mtg	4	5	6
7 10:00 Worship, Communion Sunday School, Nursery	8 6:30 Bible Study Foolish Galatians	9 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speakers	10 11:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Ash Wednesday Service	11 7:00 Choir	12	13 8:00 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Dress A Girl
14 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	15 6:30 Bible Study Foolish Galatians	16 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speakers	17 11:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Deacon's Mtg	18 7:00 Choir	19	20 10:00 Women's Fellowship
21 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	22 6:30 Bible Study Foolish Galatians	23 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speakers	24 11:00 Prayer Group	25 7:00 Choir	26	27 8:00 Men's Breakfast
28 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	29 6:30 Bible Study Trial of Jesus					

**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, Feb 7<sup>th</sup>** Last Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture: Exodus 34:29-35

II Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Luke 9:28-36 (37-43)

**Sunday, Feb 14<sup>th</sup>** First Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

**Sunday, Feb 21<sup>st</sup>** Second Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35

**Sunday, Feb 28<sup>th</sup>** Third Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Isaiah 55:1-9

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Luke 13:1-9