



United Church of Christ



Federated Community Church

"A vibrant community of seekers!"



United Methodist Church

Volume 69 3

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March 2016

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Folks,

According to the US Naval Observatory, calculating the date of Easter is as easy as using the following table:

The rule is that Easter is the first Sunday after the first ecclesiastical full moon that occurs on or after March 21. The lunar cycles used by the ecclesiastical system are simple to program. The following algorithm will compute the date of Easter in the Gregorian Calendar system.

The algorithm uses the year, y , to give the month, m , and day, d , of Easter. The symbol $*$ means multiply.

Please note the following: This is an integer calculation. All variables are integers and all remainders from division are dropped. For example, 7 divided by 3 is equal to 2 in integer arithmetic.

$$\begin{aligned} c &= y / 100 \\ n &= y - 19 * (y / 19) \\ k &= (c - 17) / 25 \\ i &= c - c / 4 - (c - k) / 3 + 19 * n + 15 \\ i &= i - 30 * (i / 30) \\ i &= i - (i / 28) * (1 - (i / 28) * (29 / (i + 1))) \\ &\quad * ((21 - n) / 11) \\ j &= y + y / 4 + i + 2 - c + c / 4 \\ j &= j - 7 * (j / 7) \\ l &= i - j \\ m &= 3 + (1 + 40) / 44 \\ d &= 1 + 28 - 31 * (m / 4) \end{aligned}$$

For example, using the year 2016,

$y=2016$,

$c=2016/100=20$,

$n=2016 - 19 \times (2016/19) = 2016 - 19 \times (106) = 2$, [see note above regarding integer calculations]

etc., resulting in Easter on March 27, 2016

The Good News is, whether you do the math correctly or not, the resurrection occurs.

Jesus lives.

Our lives are filled with a newfound hope.

We are saved from despair and death itself.

Love is the final solution, and in Jesus, it goes on ad infinitum.

I look forward to celebrating Easter with you on March 27. Either at 6am or 10am. The numbers add up to Alleluia!

Peace, Todd

Missions Committee

“Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.” - Matthew 5:15-17

The Missions committee are researching the UNs Global Goals with churches from Hampden and Wilbraham with the aim of being a witness to change as Jesus instructed us to.

1. **No Poverty** - End poverty in all its forms everywhere
2. **Zero Hunger** - End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
3. **Good Health and Well Being** - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
4. **Quality Education** - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
5. **Gender Equality** - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
6. **Clean Water and Sanitation**- Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
7. **Affordable and Clean Energy** - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
8. **Decent Work and Economic Growth**- Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
9. **Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure** - Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
10. **Reduced Inequalities** - Reduce inequality within and among countries
11. **Sustainable Cities and Communities**- Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
12. **Responsible Consumption and Production** - Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
13. **Climate Action** - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
14. **Life Below Water** - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
15. **Life On Land** - Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
16. **Peace and Justice, Strong Institutions** - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
17. **Partnerships for the Goals** - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

***P**ARISH NOTES*

SERVERS FOR THE MONTH

Ushers

3/6/16 Regina and Jack Germain
3/13/16 Ellen and Bill Gatchell
3/20/16 Frank Watson and Mary Howell
3/27/16 Joyce Ogonowski and Ellie Green

Fellowship

3/6/16 Walter and Amy
3/13/16 Beverly Burnell
3/20/16 Dave Spencer
3/27/16 Easter

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.

STEWARDSHIP **MUSINGS ...**

Christian Education

As we move towards Easter, the children will be learning about the season of lent. Just as the advent wreath with its four candles. We are using the Lenten Cross with its six candles, to help us remember and understand the meaning of lent.

Originally the Lenten cross was made from the wood of the Christmas tree to remind us that the same Jesus, whose birth we celebrate at Christmas, was later crucified on the cross as a man.

Thank you everyone who supported our annual Super Bowl Subs. We hope that you enjoyed them.

We are also looking to fill March and April with nursery volunteers. Please contact us if you would love to share an hour with the littlest church members.

Blessings
Kristi & Laurie

FROM THE DEACONS' BENCH

1 John 4:7-8

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love.

This past month we witnessed God's love working among us. The Laird family in Hampden lost all they had in a fire. The first responders showed their love for this family and our community by putting the fire out. It took 6 hours straight then 3 more visits to the families now destroyed home to make sure that the fire was completely gone. Then the community rallied around to try and help the family in any way they could. Facebook was buzzing with concern, people were talking in town. A Go Fund Me account was set up. <https://www.gofundme.com/vcqp3hpm> There was talk about where to bring and store items for the family. Our church offered a room and drop off times. Happily the family are now settling into a temporary home back in Hampden. Please continue to pray for this family in their time of need. Let them know how much they continue to be loved.

A prayer: Dear Lord, thank you for all those who have come forward to support the Laids. Help us to continue to listen to their needs and supply love, hope and understanding. May they find comfort from you and this loving community. Amen.

Yours in His name, Karen Gatchell

Please - remember to turn off the lights when locking up and leaving the church.

Anniversaries

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

Don & Jocelyn Smith	03/07
Carol & George Quinlivan	03/18
James & Laurie Bliss	03/21



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

Elizabeth Phillips	03/01	Joan Little	03/20
Bonnie Watson	03/02	Colin Mercure	03/20
Robert Green	03/02	Mary Drozdowski	03/20
Elizabeth Taylor	03/02	Pamela Rogers	03/20
William Gatchell	03/04	Anne Collins Jr	03/22
Carol Darnley	03/08	Elizabeth Warner	03/23
Robert Powers	03/09	Emily Warner	03/23
Kellie Hummel	03/11	Lawrence Smith	03/23
Beverly Brant	03/11	Lauren Hummel	03/23
Judith Jones	03/13	Kyle Mercure	03/24
Tanya Orr	03/14	Ronald Richter	03/24
Geoffrey Sterling	03/15	Sandra Richter	03/24
Dennis Chaffee Jr	03/15	Jarrold Smith	03/26
Martha Farnsworth	03/15	Jolette Germain	03/28
Nancy Quill	03/17	Glenn Olesuk	03/28
Virginia Richter	03/17	Patricia Ritz	03/30
Barbara Tobin	03/17	Dale Varney	03/31
Jesse Lee	03/17	Barbara Panek	03/31

Women's Fellowship

Fun, Friends & Fellowship! Our kick-off planning meeting for the new Woman's Fellowship group met Saturday, February 20th in Libby Hall to brain storm ideas of "what" this group could be about. It was well attended and a variety of ideas were shared!

So far we've discussed the following:

A desire to become a multigenerational nonexclusive group - meaning we'd love to have woman and girls of all ages involved and are welcoming of non-church members. So bring your friends and neighbors!

We'd like to do activities together that appeal to a broad range of hobbies and interest. Gardening, cooking and all sorts of crafting were some of the thoughts tossed about. Members who have talents in a particular area can share those with members who are interested in learning or merely watching and cheering from the sidelines.

We'd like to venture out in the community and enjoy the companionship of each other beyond the walls of this beautiful church. Walking/hiking groups, Lunch outings and movie dates were enthusiastically discussed as well as bigger plans for bus trips to New York or Boston and possibly a Woman's Retreat!

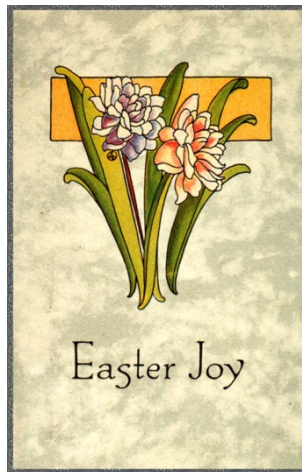
Our next meeting is Saturday, March 5 @ 10:00 a.m. in Libby Hall. We will be continuing the discussion of where we go from here and making tomato can basil planters for the upcoming Murder Mystery Dinner. Come join us for coffee and light refreshments and share your ideas of how to make this Woman's Fellowship your own! For more information or transportation please call Pamela Rogers @ 566-8081

Thank You!

I want to thank everyone, near and far who helped make my "Special Day" happen. To say I was surprised is an understatement. Those of you who know me know that I don't like to be the center of attention, but this one time it was well worth it. All the work that obviously went into the planning and preparation is heartwarming. Donald and I have made so many wonderful friends since I first walked through those doors 15 years ago, who from day one made me feel welcomed and loved. All the people who would pop in the office to say "thanks for all you do" always made my day. Not only did I get a wonderful job that I loved but I came back to my religion that I had gotten away from for so many years. Again, thank you for the love and support you have all given me over the years and I'll still see everyone, just in a different role.

Love to all, Joyce

FLOWERS FOR EASTER



The Flower Committee will be ordering plants for Easter. The deadline for ordering plants is March 20th. Orders may be sent to Mary Howell, 22 Oak Knoll Dr., Hampden, MA 01036. Please enclose with your order form, your check made out to "Federated Community Church."

Detach Here and Mail



I would like to order: *Prices subject to change.

<u>Quantity</u>		<u>Cost</u>	<u>Quantity</u>		<u>Cost</u>
_____ Lily	@ \$10.00 = \$	_____	_____ Tulip	@ \$10.00 = \$	_____
_____ Hyacinth	@ \$10.00 = \$	_____	_____ Daffodil	@ \$10.00 = \$	_____

CHECK TOTAL = \$ _____

I wish to give my plant in memory/honor of _____

(circle one)

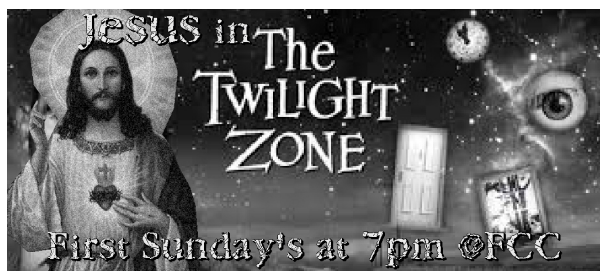
YOUR NAME _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS _____

Please deliver my plant to a shut-in. _____

I will pick up my plant after the 10:00 service on Easter Sunday _____

If you want your plant but are unable to pick it up after the 10:00 service, please let someone on the Flower Committee know and we will save it for you. Plants that are not picked up will be delivered to shut-ins



You're traveling through another dimension, a dimension not only of sight and sound but of mind. A journey into a wondrous land whose boundaries are that of imagination. That's the signpost up ahead, and Jesus is by your side—your next stop, the Twilight Zone!

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 **(beginning in March 6)** we will explore an episode of the Twilight Zone in the context of faith.

Music, Readings from the Bible, Reflection Questions, Discussion and Prayer will guide our journey, and Jesus will be by our side as we make the trip.

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

It's 1928 and Don "Smokey" Provolone has invited you to a local Italian restaurant for an important meeting of the families that make up his territory. Prohibition has been cutting in on the profits of his "businesses" and Smokey has an offer to make that you should not refuse. Capiche?



MOBBED UP FOR MURDER

Mobbed Up for Murder by Paula Hilton is a Who Dun'It Mystery that puts you in the middle of the action, and requires you to solve Who Dun'It? before the tables are cleared. Actors perform around tables as you eat your meal and try to collect clues. Is Smokey on the up and up? Will Olive get to sing for her supper? Do Noodles and Toni have what it takes to be husband and moll? And who really wears the pants in Marisa and Frudy's relationship? Find out on either March 11 or 12 at The Federated Community Church.

Tickets for dinner and the show (Hors D'oeuvres, soup, baked pasta, dessert and beverages) are \$20/person and reservations may be made by calling the church office at 566-3711.

Guests are encouraged to arrive early (and in costume) if they desire. Each night a savvy sleuth will win a basket of prizes that will make you weep like you work in an onion factory.



Holy Week Opportunities

Each year during Holy Week we are given a glimpse of what it may have been like to live at the time Jesus was living, loving, and wrestling with the people of his day. This year we offer you:

March 21, Palm Sunday Cantata: The Easter Story presented by the FCC Choir at 10am.

March 24, Table Talk and Tenebrae: Experience the Last Supper with Jesus and his friends as we participate in a pot luck supper that leads to the drama of the Tenebrae. Dinner will begin at 6pm in Libby Hall. Please bring a dish to share.

March 25, Were You There on Good Friday? Follow the path that Jesus took on that fateful day 2000+ years ago. **NOTE:** We will meet in Libby Hall for this service at 11am or 6pm. The 11am service will conclude with a potluck lunch. Please bring a light dish to share.

March 27, 6am Easter Sunrise service (location TBA)

March 27, 6:45-9am Easter breakfast at FCC

March 27, 10am Easter celebration at FCC

Other Opportunities

Super Saturday Mar. 12, 2016 8:00 am

The Reverend Traci Blackmon - Community Leader, Civil Rights Activist and Pastor of Christ the King UCC in Florissant, Missouri - is the Keynote Speaker for this day of worship, workshops, and networking for lay and clergy leaders from across Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. Join us for a great day of learning and leadership.

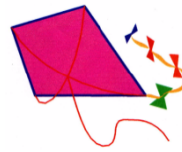
Location: Killingly High School, 226 Putnam Pike, Killingly

\$54.00 Per Person or \$44.00 Per Person in Groups of 5 or more from a church.

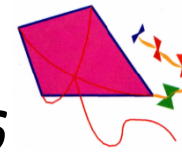
For more information or to register, please contact Karen E. Ziel at 860.761.7104 or karenz@ctuucc.org

Lenten Lunches at Trinity United Methodist Church in Springfield

Every Friday during the Season of Lent from February 12th through March 25th (Good Friday), Trinity Church hosts a wonderful luncheon...including homemade clam chowder, our famous lobster rolls, soup du jour and delicious homemade pies...from 11:30 AM to 1:15 PM and all are welcome. For take-out orders, call (413) 221-5399 on Fridays through Lent from 9:30 to 11:30 AM. There is a 50-cent charge on all take-out orders to help defray the cost of packaging. Proceeds from the luncheons go to support local and global mission projects.



March 2016



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speakers	2 11:30 Prayer Group 6:30 Missions Mtg	3 7:00 Choir	4	5 10:00 Women's Fellowship
6 10:00 Worship, Communion Sunday School, Nursery 7:00 Jesus in the Twilight Zone	7	8 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speakers	9 11:30 Prayer Group	10 7:00 Choir	11 6:00 Who Done It Mystery Dinner	12 8:00 Men's Breakfast 6:00 Who Done It Mystery Dinner
13 Daylight Savings 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	14	15 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speakers	16 11:30 Prayer Group 6:30 Deacon's Mtg	17 St. Patrick's Day 7:00 Choir	18	19 10:00 Dress A Girl
20 Palm Sunday 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	21	22 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speakers	23 11:30 Prayer Group	24 Maundy Thursday 6:00 Maundy Thursday Service 7:00 Choir	25 Good Friday 6:00 Good Friday Service	26 8:00 Men's Breakfast
27 Easter 6:00 Sunrise Service 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	28	29 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speakers	30 11:30 Prayer Group	31 7:00 Choir		

FEDERATED COMMUNITY CHURCH

PO Box 246

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Hampden, MA 01036

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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, Mar 6th Fourth Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Joshua 5:9-12
Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Sunday, Mar 13th Fifth Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Isa 43:16-21
Phil 3:4b-14
John 12:1-8

Sunday, Mar 20th Sixth Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Ps 118:1-2, 19-29
Phil 2:5-11

Sunday, Mar 27th Easter

Scripture: Acts 10:34
1 Cor 15:19-26
John 20:1-18

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