



United Church of Christ

The Federated Courier

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United Methodist Church

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From the Pastor's Desk

*See, I am doing a new thing!
Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland. Isaiah 43:19*

Greetings of Grace and Blessings in the New Year!

I love the New Year; not the parties and celebrations but the wide open calendar days, new promises to live healthier; physically, socially, spiritually, and the hope in new beginnings. Hope abounds. In Isaiah 43, The Lord promises to be with us no matter what is going on in our lives or the world around us; God affirms that we are God's beloved children and we are very much loved; then S/He goes on to instructs us to forget the former things and not to dwell on the past as we look to the future, for God will lead us into something new.

I am a dreamer: a visionary, always thinking of something new to do or how to tweak something we already do to make it work so that more people are involved and that it meets more folks needs. I am not afraid to fail (so different from before I meet Christ personally) which frees me to try some of the ideas I dream of. Having so many ideas is also a downfall. If I begin to think I can accomplish all the ideas, taking on too much; it leaves me unable to be effective in anything.

During the Christmas season, I made a list of those who were unable to come to Sunday worship due to the time, transportation, or the upstairs distance to the sanctuary. There were quite a few on the list, more than twenty folks. At a Deacons meeting, we sought a way to make worship possible for these folks while also bringing folks together for fellowship and maybe ease at making a meal. It was decided that we would try a Wednesday afternoon light meal followed by a worship service. Many folks attend Wednesday morning Bible study and would be here to set up and assist in transportation. We have had a few offers to make the first meals, so we are off to a good start. This January we are going to try something new. On the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, we are going to have a light meal and fellowship followed by worship which will be held either in Libby Hall or in the prayer room (that will depend on the number of folks participating, their comfort at moving around, and their desire). I am excited. I hope you are also. It is a new way to meet the worship needs of some of our members and possibly reach new folks. We will need extra help and I hope that you will pray about being part of this new ministry. You do not have to participate every week or even every month, but if you could help with a lunch, set up or transportation even once a quarter, it will make a difference for all of us.

I believe that God has given us the church as a place to come together and put some of God's ideas into action. When we all use our gifts we prevent burnout or ineffectiveness, since we have others to come along beside us and help each other. As we join together in doing for others, we develop new or deepen friendships and often find we are filled more than we expected.

I hope you will pray and consider how you can be part of this exciting new ministry. It is open to all so if you know of someone who needs a light meal and community, please invite them, better yet, offer to bring them. Set up and transportation at noon, the meal and fellowship at 12:30PM, followed by worship. God is doing a new thing. I hope you will be part of it.

Happy New Year.

In Christ's Light and Love,

Pastor Pat

From the Deacons' Bench

Here it is, another year passed into history and, more importantly, another chance for each of us to make a difference. By that doesn't mean that each of us should build a new Washington Monument, but that each of us has the grand opportunity to make a difference.

That difference was that I overheard a frustrated Dad trying to help his 14 year old read the menu at a local MacDonald's. As it happened I knew the family, so I said "Here let me try". So we matched pictures to words and Dick stopped pointing at the picture and spoke the words. We progressed to things other than menus.

Many years later Charlie bumped into me at CVS and said, "I'll never forget how you taught me to read from a menu. I went on to finish and graduate from high school and now work at Strathmore paper."

So there you have it. Listen when God calls you to act; each of us can make a difference.

Hayden Tibbetts, Deacon

Coffee Fellowship Hour

We are in need of host/hostesses for coffee hour. A sign up sheet is located on the refrigerator in the kitchen. The fellowship hour is part of our church time: the body of Christ gathering together. The snacks do not have to be elaborate: store bought cookies and/or a package of cheese and/or fruit is fine. A final cleanup is needed. Someone is needed to make coffee and pour drinks for the children. If you haven't had an opportunity to serve the congregation in this way, please sign up in the kitchen so that the same folks do not have to provide every month. Matthew 20:28: *The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve.* Let us be like him and serve one another.

SERVERS FOR THE MONTH

Ushers

1/6	Regina & Jack Germain
1/13	Elaine DeGray & Ellie Green
1/20	Bill & Lynn Cunningham
1/27	Joyce Ogonowski & Mary Howell

Deacons

January	Linda Hornig
February	Karen Gatchell
March	Dave Spencer

Happy Birthday

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

Catherine Gardner	01/02	Marilyn Connor	01/18
Gail Banning	01/03	Nicholas Hummel	01/19
Richard Ritz	01/03	Edith Casey	01/20
Dennis Chaffee Sr	01/04	Susan Quill	01/20
M Winifred Stearns	01/05	John Panek	01/20
Albert Jones	01/06	Joan Harris	01/24
Geraldine Spear	01/06	Richard Nelson	01/24
Donald Ryan	01/07	Shirley Fuller	01/26
Lisa Wyman	01/10	Richard Taylor	01/27
Steven Safford	01/13	Paul Willoughby	01/30
		Rosemary DiSimoni	01/31

If you would like your birthday added to our newsletter, please contact the office at 413-566-3711 or email us at hampdenfederated@gmail.com.



Anniversary



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 would like your anniversary added to our newsletter, please contact the office at 413-566-3711 or email us at hampdenfederated@gmail.com.



Congratulations!!

Logan Gonce was born on November 29, 2018, son of April (Casey) and Josh Gonce.

Maternal Grandparents: Mark & Linda Casey

Maternal Great Grandparent: Edith Casey

FCC Prayer:

Lord, bless our church and help us to be faithful witnesses of your love. Amen.

Christian Education

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Children's program. The children worked hard on their play. We hope that you enjoyed the Christmas tale as told by the Archangel's point of view.

As we go into the New Year. We are looking forward to a fresh year of many lessons and activities. In Sunday school we will be learning what Jesus taught us and how we can give back to others and lead as he has taught us.

Have a wonderful New Year,

Blessings,
Kristi & Laurie

STEWARDSHIP
MUSINGS ...



***Well Done!
(so far...)***

As of this writing, our total pledges-to-date have exceeded last year's at the same time! We currently have received 56 pledges for a total of \$80,112, an amount equal to 25% over last year at this time,

but 9% lower than 2 years ago for the same time span.

We all know last year was a difficult year in many ways, and that was certainly reflected in the pledging by our church family as well as the deficit in our budget. The increase in the pledges-to-date is a hopeful sign that our church can, once again, serve the mission of God with the same verve and gusto as we have in the past!

If you haven't yet offered your pledge for 2019, it would be helpful to our ministry planning and budgeting process if you could do so fairly soon. If you've already pledged and find your circumstances or your priorities have changed, you may increase or decrease your pledge at any time during the year by notifying the church office or Janet Libby, chair of the Finance Committee.

Our church community is so richly blessed! With your help and generosity, we will be able to share our blessings to bring the word and the love of Christ to all of God's children—*here, there, and everywhere!*

Blessings for the New Year,
Your Stewardship Ministry Team

Missions Moment

We cannot extend our gratitude enough to everyone who helped and bring a little Christmas cheer to the Foster Kids we adopted, as well as to Christina's House. We were able to fulfill the wish lists of 2 Foster Children through Maryanne's Kids. We also welcomed a new outreach into our Missions. For those who have not heard of Christian's, they Provide Transitional Housing for Women and Their Children. Here is an excerpt about what they do:

"Many women and children in the Springfield area go without housing on a daily basis. Children have no place to call home and no place to feel safe. The lives of these little ones are forever changed; their nutrition suffers putting them at risk for health concerns and their psychological health may be damaged. The voices of those little ones called out to us for help.

Christina's House was designed to provide transitional housing for women and their children but more importantly to offer and provide emotional, spiritual, physical support, and education as they transition from homelessness to permanent, stable living environments.

Their Board of Directors is diverse and comprised of a retired Springfield Police Officer, nurses, Licensed Clinical Social Workers, and company presidents. The board facilitates the day to day running of a home large enough to accommodate 4-6 mothers who are homeless (or those at risk of imminent homelessness) and their children. The women who reside in this home are responsible for maintaining the home while working with mentors and volunteers. Cooking, cleaning, shopping, and childcare are shared. An on-site House Mother helps oversee the day-to-day operation of the home and functions as role model in the home. Within the program design, it is anticipated that the families will reside in the home for at least 24 months. In that time, we expect the mothers to obtain the life and job skills needed, which will result in confidence and self-sufficiency. Once the women transition out of Christina's House we will continue to provide long-term support to help ensure continued success."

As a congregation we were able to provide new bedding, kitchen supplies, and many more for these transitioning families. We look forward to working with them throughout the year.

As a missions team, we will be bringing you more information on whom we support as a congregation through the years.

Blessings,
Your Missions Team



Prayer Corner



Evie Meacham	Jack Bennett	Audrey Burger
Peg Stearns	Walter Black Jr..	Gail Banning
Julia Winetrout	Judy Schwabe	Tim Green
Judy Ingle	Janet Case	John & Nenita
Wendy Chadwick	Janet Brehaut	Winnie Godek
Heather Walker	Barbara Bennett	Peter Bokulic
Dennis Connor	Christopher	Liz Taylor
Donald Ogonowski	Branden	Karen Gatchell

If you would like to be added to our Prayer Corner, please contact the office at 413-566-3711 or email us at hampdenfederated@gmail.com. Also, please notify us if a name needs to be removed from the list.

Sympathy

Please uphold Kim Luthgren in our prayers in the sudden death of her niece, Jaimie.

Prayer Room

The prayer room is open and available for use Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 9:15- 1:00 PM. Feel free to come and sit in and with the Holy Spirit, pray, or read. Pastor Pat has put some books on prayer and healing in the room which can be borrowed. (A sign out sheet is provided) Upper Room daily devotionals are also available.

Worship Schedule

Worship: 10 am - Sunday School: 10 am

Sunday, Jan 6th Scripture	Epiphany Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12
Sunday, Jan 13th Scripture	First Sunday after Epiphany Isaiah 43:1-7 Acts 8:14-17 Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
Sunday, Jan 20th Scripture	Second Sunday after Epiphany Isaiah 62:1-5 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11
Sunday, Jan 27th Scripture	Third Sunday after Epiphany Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21

Announcements

New Bible Study

Serious Answers to Hard Questions

Wednesdays, 1/9/19– 2/27/19

Optional Fellowship 10:00 AM and class **10:30 AM**.

Life presents us with a lot of hard questions. In this thought-provoking and inspiring course, leading theologians address issues that are obstacles to faith for many both in and outside of the church. This course encourages the energetic discussion and sustained reflection that are keys to a life of informed discipleship. All are Welcome.

Afternoon Worship

Wednesday Afternoon Worship beginning **January 9th at 12:30 PM** in fellowship hall. Continuing 2nd and 4th Wednesday each month. Light lunch, fellowship, and worship. All welcome. Anyone interested in helping with transportation, set up or meal, please contact to Dave Anable at 413-267-3377.

Bible Dedications

The Memorial Gifts Committee has graciously donated up-front costs for the purchase of new Bibles for the sanctuary pews. Each of us will have an opportunity to dedicate one or more of these Bibles to friends and family, past and present. The cost is \$10 per Bible dedication - with all proceeds being returned to the Memorial Gifts Committee.

Forms for Bible Dedications are available in the Church Office and the on the Missions table in Library Hall. We hope to have all requests in by January 12th, 2019.

Spirit Chat – Tuesday Mornings- 9:30 – 11:00 AM

Come and join our time. It is filled with the Holy Spirit. There is no homework, you just have to attend. We read a devotion from the Upper Room and discuss. The Holy Spirit leads us in truths, discoveries, laughter, and friendship. Those who do not like to read aloud, can just listen. All are invited.

Parish Notes



Laying on of Hands Prayer

Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. James 5: 13-16

Pastor Pat is trained in Healing Energy (the Holy Spirit) and a student of Healing Touch and Reiki. If you are not feeling well or have those January blahs, come and see Pastor Pat. We will pray for healing. Healing is not the same as curing. Healing is being made whole. The prayer of Healing Energy and Healing Touch opens your inner pathway so that the Holy Spirit (energy) can freely flow through your entire body. If we are blocked by an anger, grief, resentment, jealousy or other trauma, we can block the pathway. When we open up the pathway, *the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.* Romans 8:26)

Since this is the beginning of the new year, give something new a try. Pastor Pat will be available on Friday mornings: 10:00 AM-noon in January. The praying normally takes half an hour. Call or stop by the office and sign up. I am reminded of the LIFE cereal commercial: *Try it, you just might like it.*

Preaching in January

For the month of January, Pastor Pat will be preaching on **Greater Gifts**, using the UMC worship and discipleship resources as a guide. The season after Epiphany almost always begins with a transitional Sunday—Baptism of the Lord—in which we encounter the narrative of Jesus' baptism and John's very dramatic description of baptism in Jesus' name. The voice of God rings from heaven at Jesus' baptism: "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased" (Lk. 3:22, NRSV). When we are baptized or gathered at the baptism of others, how do we hear God's voice affirming each new member of God's family? The second week contains Paul's description of spiritual

gifts—how the Spirit works in and through them and how we are gifted for being a part of the body of Christ with one another. A little bit of explanation is needed around the theme for week three, "Being Needy": This phrase has a certain negative connotation that often relates to people who require a little more attention than others (we all likely know people like this). We would like to redeem the meaning by asserting that we all, regardless of our own gifts, need one another in order to be part of the whole body of Christ. The purpose of all these gifts is revealed in week four, in which the whole point of acting together is revealed—"having love," which is the most important of the "marks of the new birth" (faith, hope, and love), as shared by both the apostle Paul and John Wesley.

Since this season takes place at the beginning of a new calendar year, it may be a helpful practice for each of us to assess our spiritual gifts. A spiritual gifts inventory that can help each of us in the congregation realize our potential in ministry, and collectively as a church congregation, you can find resources here:

- <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/new-church-starts/spiritual-gifts>
- <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/diy-tools-for-spiritual-gifts-discernment-and-ministry-deployment>

Please go to the website and take the assessment. Following worship on January 27th, we will have a gathering to discuss the scriptures regarding gifts and our personal assessments. It is part of our discipleship to know what gifts we have and how can we serve the Lord by using them. If you do not have a computer and would like to take the assessment, please speak with Pastor Pat. We can set a time so that you can use the office computer.

January 27th, following worship, a **discussion group** regarding **Gifts 11:15-12:15 AM**.

Grab a cup of coffee and a snack and meet in the prayer room to discuss 1 Corinthians 12:1-31a, Gifts. Bring your assessment with you.

FCC PRAYER:

LORD, BLESS OUR CHURCH AND HELP US TO BE FAITHFUL WITNESSES OF YOUR LOVE. AMEN.

Spotlight On....

Pastor's Membership

Some members of the Federated Community Church congregation have inquired when the new pastor is going to join the church. In the United Methodist Denomination, clergy are members of an Annual Conference, which is a basic body of the United Methodist Church (UMC). For Pastor Pat, (me) I am a member of the New England Annual Conference.

In accepting my call into ministry, I had to be involved in a process which affirmed my call to ministry by members of the UMC and expected to meet the standards set by the UMC in education, training, and provide evidence of productive implementation of call. Clergy are elected into an Annual Conference and ordained by the bishop. Ordination is an act which the Church symbolizes a shared relationship between those ordained for sacramental and functional leadership and the Church community from which the person being ordained has come, but once ordained the clergy is responsible to the UMC doctrines, government and polity.

The Bishop is shepherd over the entire annual conference. The Bishop and his/her Cabinet know the gifts of their clergy and the missional needs of the churches. In UMC, we are appointed by the Bishop and held to standards of and by the larger UMC. The local church has input as to how the church and pastor are doing to meet the needs of the congregation and surrounding community through yearly forms, meetings with the Deacons and Board of Directors, and voice at the yearly church conference; however, we are appointed to the church, not called by them and the clergy cannot retire without approval from the UMC body nor be fired or let go by the local congregation. All of the decisions must be approved by the larger body of ordained UMC members and the Bishop. So, UMC clergy are members of the larger body of UMC and have voice and vote there. In the local church to where clergy are appointed, they have voice but since their membership is with the UMC body, they do not have a vote.

My family can and has become members at various churches where I have been appointed.

For further information, please see me for a one to one conversation or for two useful resources which I used in putting this article together:

1. The UMC Book of Discipline (updated every 4 years after our General Conferences)
2. The Point of Appointments which can be found on the website: <https://www.neumc.org/forms>



Start the New Year with **Women's Fellowship**

Meetings 2nd* Saturday of the Month
10 AM Libby Hall

Weather cancellation - reschedule day 4th Saturday



Thank you to the Women's Fellowship for providing cookies for our shut-ins during the Christmas holidays and for sponsoring the bus trip and children's tickets to Bright Nights. A great time was had by all.



MEN'S BREAKFAST

—2nd & 4th Saturdays every month. All men are invited and encouraged to join in. Cooking and other preparations begin at 7:00 am with sharing of breakfast at 8:00 am. Come to help cook or just to eat.

Thank you to the men's group for all their generous donations to Christina's House and Gobbler's for God.

DRIVERS NEEDED

We are seeking drivers once a month to bring a member to medical appointments. We're aiming for at least 4 drivers to share in this ministry. For more information please contact the office at 566-3711.



January 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Happy New Year 6:30-AA Step 7:30-AA	2 7:15-Chancel Choir	3 5:00-6:30—Girl Scouts	4	5
6 10:00-Worship, Communion, Sunday School 11:15-Youth Choir	7 1:00-3:00 Deacons	8 9:30-Spirit Chat 6:30-AA Step 7:00-Missions 7:30-AA	9 10:00-Fellowship 10:30-12:00 Bible Study 12:30-Afternoon Worship 7:15-Chancel Choir	10	11	12 8:00-Men's Breakfast 10:00-Women's Fellowship
13 10:00-Worship, Sunday School 11:15-Youth Choir	14 .	15 9:30-Spirit Chat 6:30-AA Step 7:00-BOD 7:30-AA	16 10:00-Fellowship 10:30-12:00 Bible Study 7:15-Chancel Choir	17 5:00-6:30—Girl Scouts	18	19 10:00-Dress A Girl 7:00-Technology
20 10:00-Worship, Sunday School 11:15-Youth Choir	21	22 9:30-Spirit Chat 11:00-Staff Meeting 6:30-AA Step 7:30-AA	23 10:00-Fellowship 10:30-12:00 Bible Study 12:30-Afternoon Worship 7:15 Chancel Choir	24	25	26 8:00-Men's Breakfast
27 10:00-Worship, Sunday School 11:15-Youth Choir 11:15-12:15 Gifts Discussion		29 9:30-Spirit Chat 6:30-AA Step 7:30-AA	30 10:00-Fellowship 10:30-12:00 Bible Study 7:15 Chancel Choir	31 5:00-6:30—Girl Scouts		

FEDERATED COMMUNITY CHURCH
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Hampden, MA 01036

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



New Bible Study

*Serious Answers
to Hard Questions*

Wednesdays, 1/9/19– 2/27/19
10:00 am optional fellowship
10:30 am Bible Study begins

Food--Fellowship-- Afternoon Worship

2nd & 4th Wednesdays
in Libby Hall
Beginning January 9th
12:30 PM