



United Church of Christ

# *The Federated Courier*

Federated Community Church  
Hampden, MA 01036

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United Methodist Church

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March 2019

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted<sup>[a]</sup> by the devil. Luke 4:1-2a

Greetings of Grace and Peace!

Lent begins March 6<sup>th</sup>. At Federated Community Church we will have two options in attending service: 12:30 PM, where we begin with a light meal followed by a service or at 6:30 PM in the sanctuary. Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.

As a United Methodist, I will have much to reflect on as we enter Lent this year. On February 25-26, the UMC held a special 2 year General Conference (we normally meet every four years comprised of equal number of clergy and laity to vote on polity) to address the contentious issue of homosexuality. There are two main issues: Pastors may not marry same sex couples and practicing homosexuals cannot be ordained. Rules are already in place which gives discretion to the pastor as to where a homosexual can serve (or not) in the church. The vote passed 436 to 386 to maintain a more traditional interpretation of the Bible which results in the previous stated issues of marriage and ordination being affirmed. This vote will probably result in a schism (division) within the UMC. This will not be the first schism in the UMC history as there was a divide over the slavery issue in 1844 which created a Methodist Episcopal North and Methodist Episcopal South. These divides are far from the united inclusive church I believe Christ calls us to. My heart is heavy.

The UMC has debated the homosexual issue at conferences since 1972. I have always maintained hope for an inclusive church. During my time in seminary, I did some intense reflection on staying with UMC or transferring to the Congregational Church in order to find more inclusivity. My reflections led me to understand I was a UM at my core and that I would stay and be a voice to work towards inclusion. This vote has rocked my core by distressing one of my defining attributes: being United Methodist. This will be my main Lenten reflection this year.

On March 9<sup>th</sup>, The Connecticut/ Western MA UMC District will meet with DS David Calhoun at Trinity UMC in Springfield to have a "Courageous Conversation" regarding this General Conference vote. It is welcome to all interested in how this decision will impact us, our church, and our denomination. Please let me know if you are interested in attending so that we may possibly carpool.

What will you reflect on this Lent or take up to mark the 40 days before Easter?

Blessed Pondering,  
*Pastor Pat*



### **DON'T FORGET:**

Daylight savings begins Sunday, 3/10/19. Turn your clocks **forward one hour** Saturday night!

## **A message from Bishop Devadhar:** **General Conference 2019**

(Feb. 26, 2019)

God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;  
though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with tumult.  
Psalm 46:1-3

Dear Beloved in Christ,

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Savior  
Jesus Christ.

We have just concluded the special session of the General Conference in St Louis. During this gathering of the global church, we worshiped and prayed together and spent time in Christian conferencing, but much remains unresolved and unknown.

Though the actions of the General Conference are still subject to review by the Judicial Council, we return with a *Book of Discipline* that moves us further from full inclusion. This is disheartening at best and despairing at worst.

While our call as United Methodists is to do good, do no harm, and stay in love with God ... I suspect we have fallen far shorter on the first two than the last. I ask that we spend time in prayerful confession of the ways our church has caused deep pain to beloved children of God, particularly LGBTQIA and their allies. No matter what plan you supported for the way forward, remember that when one part of the body suffers, so do we all - and so now we are all in need of healing.

My prayers continue for our church and for each of you in this covenantal community, for all LGBTQIA children of God and their allies, as well as for those who are listening to our words and watching our actions.

I continue to pray for a day when we can live together in the unified Spirit in a fully inclusive church. I celebrate the beauty and rich variety of gifts that God has created, and I have faith that God will create, in and through us, a beautiful incarnation of the Body of Christ for the transformation of the whole world.

As you gather with your congregations this Sunday, I pray you will build up one another in love, caring for each other's needs, and praying for God's spirit to inspire you to witness to Christ's love in your communities.

In the next two weeks, your superintendents, in coordination with our delegation to this special session of General Conference, have scheduled opportunities for you to gather for support, prayer, and "[Courageous Conversations](#)" with one another as we process the actions - and inactions - of the general church and seek a faithful response. I hope and pray these will be opportunities for us to do good and begin to heal while we stay in love with God and each other.

May our faithful God hold us in strength as we witness to the powerful love of Christ, filled with the Holy Spirit, for such a time as this.

In Christ's Love,

Bishop Devadhar

## **From the Deacons' Bench**

We come together with many expressions of how to worship and how best to carry out the will of God as revealed by his son, Jesus. We are, after all, one church and one congregation. We are dedicated to further the reality of God and His mission. We strive to be one church with the resolve that God's love is for all. We must heed Jesus' invitation to "come follow me". We are told in 1 Thessalonians 5: 11..."So speak with encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you will be together, no one left out, no one left behind."

Remember that each of us should remember and think "I am the church, You are the church, WE are the church together." Let us therefore work together to do the will of God.

Hayden Tibbetts, Deacon

## **SERVERS FOR THE MONTH**

### Ushers

3/3	Regina & Jack Germain
3/10	Elaine DeGray & Ellie Green
3/17	Bill & Lynne Cunningham
3/24	Joyce Ogonowski & Mary Howell
3/31	Karen & Dave Anable

### Deacons

March	Dave Spencer
April	Frank Watson
May	Beverly Burnell

## Christian Education

February was the month of love. We learned that God loves us. He knows who we are and He knows all about us. God loves us just the way we are right now. And of course, as stated in 1Corinthians 13:4-7: Love is patient. Love is kind. For Valentine's Day the children made homemade valentine cards for the whole congregation, we hope that they brightened your day!

Luke 6:27-36: Love your enemies. A lesson Jesus taught us that is very hard even for grownups to learn. Why should we be nice to someone who is mean to us? Have you ever done anything wrong before? Even though you have made mistakes, you are still loved and Jesus still loves you, too. So when someone makes a mistake we should still love them.

Blessings,  
Laurie & Kristi



### **Sunday School Birthdays**

Joseph      Brown      03/06

#### **Worship Schedule**

Worship: 10 am - Sunday School: 10 am

<b>Sunday, Mar 3<sup>rd</sup></b> Scripture	Last Sunday after Epiphany/Transfiguration Exodus 34:29-35 2Corinthians 3:12-4:2 Luke 9:28-36
<b>Sunday, Mar 10<sup>th</sup></b> Scripture	First Sunday of Lent Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Romans 10:8b-13 Luke 4:1-13
<b>Sunday, Mar 17<sup>th</sup></b> Scripture	Second Sunday of Lent Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 Philippians 3:17-4:1 Luke 13:31-35
<b>Sunday, Mar 24<sup>th</sup></b> Scripture	Third Sunday of Lent Isaiah 55:1-9 1Corinthians 10:1-13 Luke 13:1-9
<b>Sunday, Mar 31<sup>st</sup></b> Scripture	Fourth Sunday of Lent Joshua 5:9-12 2Corinthians 5:16-21 Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

#### **FCC PRAYER:**

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

## Missions Moment

**Mathew 7:7 says "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."**

We have been called upon as a church, to help Christina's house this spring and help them receive the means to witness God's glory in the beauty of outdoors. Lawn mower, gardening tools, and other like items are needed so that the Women and Children in the home can harvest God's bounty. This Lenten season we encourage everyone to participate in our "Quarters for Christina's House" drive. You can attain a Lenten envelope down stairs in Libby hall if you have not received one. 40 quarters is all that is needed to fill it. A Reminder of the 40 days Jesus fasted.

**You're Invited to Join us on  
Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup> after church service  
for a Pot Luck Lunch and speakers from Christina's House. Everyone is encouraged to bring a favorite dish to share.**

**~ Your Missions Committee  
Any questions; Please contact  
Kristi Tessier 413-374-8742,  
Mysticalamour@gmail.com**



**Christina's House**  
Hope and Healing for Women and Children

Christina's house is an amazing organization, it was designed to provide transitional housing for women and their children. More importantly to offer and proved emotional, spiritual, physical support, and education as they transition from homelessness to permeant, stable living environments. We hope you can join us and learn more.

## **Thank You!**

To my extended church family, FCC,

Kenny and I wish to thank you all for your prayers regarding David's recent diagnosis of Parkinson's. I can report to you that we are already the benefactors of your prayers in amazing ways. Please know how much we love and appreciate you all.

You are always in my heart and prayers.

Blessings and love,  
Meri Blanchard

## **Happy Birthday**

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

Bonnie Watson	03/02	Pamela Rogers	03/20
Robert Green	03/02	Anne Collins Jr	03/22
Elizabeth Taylor	03/02	Elizabeth Warner	03/23
William Gatchell	03/04	Emily Warner	03/23
Carol Darnley	03/08	Lauren Hummel	03/23
Robert Powers	03/09	Ronald Richter	03/24
Kellie Hummel	03/11	Sandra Richter	03/24
Beverly Brant	03/11	Jarrod Smith	03/26
Judith Jones	03/13	Erik McKeone	03/27
Geoffrey Sterling	03/15	Jolette Germain	03/28
Dennis Chaffee Jr	03/15	Glenn Olesuk	03/28
Nancy Quill	03/17	Patricia Ritz	03/30
Virginia Richter	03/17	Dale Varney	03/31
Jesse Lee	03/17	Barbara Panek	03/31
Mary Drozdowski	03/20		

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](mailto:hampdenfederated@gmail.com).

## **Happy Belated Birthday to the Following:**

Peter Bokulic	02/25
Joshua Sterling	02/26
David Kruger	02/27

## **Anniversary**

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

David & Susan Quill	03/05
Don & Jocelyn Smith	03/07
Carol & George Quinlivan	03/18
James & Laurie Bliss	03/21

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](mailto:hampdenfederated@gmail.com).



## **Prayer Corner**



Evie Meacham	Jack Bennett	Audrey Burger
Peg Stearns	Walter Black Jr.	Gail Banning
Julia Winetrou	Judy Schwabe	Tim Green
Judy Ingle	Janet Case	John & Nenita
Wendy Chadwick	Debbie Doyle & Family	Judy Hatch
Don Smith	Barbara Bennett	Peter Bokulic
Sheila	David Blanchard	Christopher
Donald Ogonowski	Joyce Brooks	Branden
Hal	Friends & Family of Bob	Sharon

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](mailto:hampdenfederated@gmail.com). Also, please notify us if a name needs to be removed from the list.

## **Sympathy**

Please uphold Mitch & Mary Drozdowski in our prayers in the death of Mitch's mother, Elaine Drozdowski who died February 12, 2019.

### **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.

### **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 devotion from the Upper Room and discuss. The Holy Spirit leads us in truths, discoveries, laughter, and friendship. Those uncomfortable about speaking in a group can simply listen. All are invited.

### **Pastor Pat**

Email Address:	<a href="mailto:FCC.PastorPat@gmail.com">FCC.PastorPat@gmail.com</a>
Office Phone:	413-566-3711
Address:	2 Riverside Drive Hampden, MA 01036

**NOTE:** FCC Office Hours for the month of March will fluctuate as we transition to our new Administrative Assistant. Please call the office before you stop by. (413) 566-3711



## Parish Notes



### Ash Wednesday Services

March 6, 2019



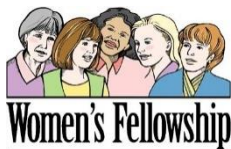
Two opportunities to worship  
on Ash Wednesday, 3/6/19:

- 1) **12:30 pm**—light lunch  
followed by worship
- 2) **6:30 pm**—worship in sanctuary

### MEN'S & WOMEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday, 3/9/19

8:00am



Following a scrumptious breakfast, Dave Spencer will give a demonstration of watercolor painting. Women's Fellowship will have a brief business meeting in the Prayer Room following the demonstration. Please sign up in Libby Hall or call the office if you're planning on attending so breakfast items can be planned accordingly.

### Free: CPR & Stop the Bleed

**Date & Time:** Sunday, 3/17/19 at 12:00-2:00pm

**Place:** FCC Libby Hall

**Description:** Matt & Josh Sterling will be conducting a free CPR & Stop the Bleed class. Please sign up in Libby Hall or call 413-566-3711

### Annual Meeting

Sunday, 3/31/19

(following Worship)

Please make sure your reports are in the office ASAP to be included in the Annual Report Booklet.

### Ride Request

Someone who lives in Indian Orchard is in need of a ride to Sunday services. If anyone is available to help out please contact Pastor Pat.

## Scholarship Applications

Scholarship applications for church members planning on attending college beginning in September are available in the church office.

The scholarships available are:



*Thresher Foundation Scholarship*

*YOLA Guild Scholarship*

*Memorial Gift Fund Scholarship*

*Edwin Lombard Memorial Scholarship*

*Helen and Carl Larson Fund Scholarship*

*Iba R. & Wesley A. Chapin Scholarship Fund*

Applications must be completed and filed in the church office by April 15. All information is kept confidential.

## Camp Scholarships Available

We are encouraging our children/youth to attend Christian camp this summer. Both UMC & UCC have many different offerings. Please speak with Pastor Pat if you are interest.

## Spotlight On....

### *Music News*



Thank you for the Children's Choir debut on February 24. We look forward to having them share in worship monthly. All children

are welcome and encouraged to join. Rehearsals are held following every Sunday service. Thank you to Faith Thompson, our new musical Director for leading this ministry.

The chancel choir is planning to perform a Cantata, a musical extravaganza, on the Sunday, 4/28, following Easter. We will be practicing for the Cantata on Sundays immediately following Youth Choir Rehearsal. Our next rehearsal will be on March 10.

## Mark Your Calendars

Women's Fellowship is planning a retreat to:

St. Scholastica Priory, Petersham, MA – May 18<sup>th</sup>

Extended option: May 17-19.

Contacts: Pamela Rogers, Karen Anable or Linda Hornig

# Save the Date

## Question, Persuade, and Refer (QPR) Suicide Prevention Training

**Date & Time:** Thursday, 3/14/19, 6:30-8 pm  
(sign-in from 6-6:30 pm)  
**Place:** FCC Libby Hall at 590 Main Street, Hampden, MA  
**Who Should Attend?** All members of the general public who are interested in increasing their understanding of mental health and substance abuse issues and how they relate to suicidal thoughts or feelings. Youth under 18 are welcome at this training but must be in the company of a parent/guardian. This is a free training.

## CWM (Conn/Western Mass) District Calendar 2019

The following events will all be held at:

Trinity United Methodist Church  
361 Sumner Ave., Springfield, MA

### ***"Courageous Conversation Session"***

Sat., March 9<sup>th</sup> 10AM-Noon

### ***Principles for Easy Audits Exp. – Bonnie Marden***

Sat., March 9<sup>th</sup> 1PM-3PM

### ***Stewardship Local Church – Rev. Dr. Ken Sloane***

Sat., March 30<sup>th</sup> 9AM-2PM

### ***Resource Day: Jeff Campbell***

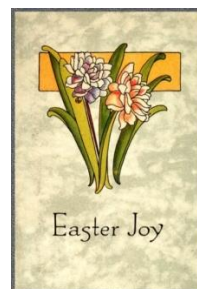
Sat., May 18<sup>th</sup> 9AM-2PM

Check out our website [www.neumc.org/ctwma](http://www.neumc.org/ctwma) for all of the latest information on each of these great events.

## Jews and Allies Standing Together Against Anti-Semitism

**Date:** Two Sundays: March 17 & 24  
**Time:** 2:30pm - 5:00pm  
**Place:** Community Music School of Springfield  
127 State Street, Springfield, MA  
**Trainers:** Amy Leos-Urbel is co-author of a small book, *Anti-Semitism: Why Is It Everyone's Concern?*  
Betsy L. Ames is an ally in the work on ending anti-Semitism. This is a Free Workshop - All are welcome. Please note: participants are expected to attend both sessions

## FLOWERS FOR EASTER



The Flower Committee will be ordering plants for Easter. The deadline for ordering plants is **April 7**. Orders may be sent to: Federated Community Church  
PO Box 246, Hampden, MA 01036  
**Please enclose with your order form, your check made out to "Federated Community Church."**

**Detach Here and Mail**

The Flower Committee will be ordering plants for Easter. The deadline for ordering plants is **April 7**. Orders may be sent to: Federated Community Church, PO Box 246, Hampden, MA 01036. Please enclose with your order form, your check made out to "**Federated Community Church.**"

I would like to order:

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

I wish to give my plant in memory/honor of \_\_\_\_\_  
(circle one)

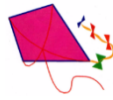
**YOUR NAME** \_\_\_\_\_ **PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

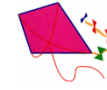
Please deliver my plant to a shut-in. \_\_\_\_\_

I will pick up my plant after the 10:00 am service on Easter Sunday, 4/21/19.

If you want your plant but are unable to pick it up after the 10:00 am service, please let someone on the Flower Committee know (Ellie Green, Janet Libby, Elaine DeGray, Cheryl Fonda, Phyllis Watson, and Regina Germain) and we will save it for you. Plants that are not picked up will be delivered to shut-ins.



# March 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
<b>3</b> 10:00-Worship, Communion, Sunday School 11:15-Youth Choir 11:20-Chancel Choir	4	<b>5</b> 9:30-Spirit Chat  6:30-AA Step 7:00-Missions 7:30-AA	<b>6 Ash Wednesday</b> 10:00-Fellowship 10:30-12:00 Bible Study 12:30-light lunch followed by worship 6:30-Ash Wed Service	7	8	<b>9</b> 8:00-Men's Breakfast & Women's Fellowship with Watercolor Presentation-Dave Spencer 10:00-Courageous Conversations @ Trinity
<b>10 Daylight Savings</b> 10:00-Worship, Sunday School 11:15-Youth Choir 11:20-Chancel Choir	<b>11</b> 1:00-3:00 Deacons	<b>12</b> 9:30-Spirit Chat  6:30-AA Step 7:30-AA	<b>13</b> 10:00-Fellowship 10:30-12:00 Bible Study 12:30-Afternoon Worship	<b>14</b> 6:00-QPR sign in 6:30 QPR Begins (Libby Hall) 5:00-6:30—Girl Scouts (Isham Room)	15	<b>16 Super Saturday</b> 10:00-Dress A Girl
<b>17 St Patrick's Day</b> 10:00-Worship, Sunday School 11:15-Youth Choir 11:20-Chancel Choir 12:00-CPR & Stop Bleed 2:30-Jews & Allies Against Anti-Semitism	18	<b>19</b> 9:30-Spirit Chat 11:30-Staff Meeting 6:30-AA Step 7:00-BOD 7:30-AA	<b>20 1<sup>st</sup> Day of Spring</b> 10:00-Fellowship 10:30-12:00 Bible Study	21	22	<b>23</b> 8:00-Men's Breakfast
<b>24</b> 10:00-Worship, Sun. School 11:15-Youth Choir 11:20-Chancel Choir 11:30-Christina's House Speaker w-Potluck 2:30-Jews & Allies Against Anti-Semitism <hr/> <b>31 Annual Meeting</b> 10:00-Worship, Sunday School 11:15-Youth Choir 11:20-Chancel Choir 11:30-Annual Meeting	25	<b>26</b> 9:30-Spirit Chat  6:30-AA Step 7:30-AA	<b>27</b> No 10:30 Bible Study 12:30-Afternoon Worship	28   5:00-6:30—Girl Scouts	29	30   12:00-4:00 Private Event

**FEDERATED COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
590 Main St.  
PO Box 246  
Hampden, MA 01036  
(413) 566-3711



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## **Ash Wednesday Service**

*Date:* Wednesday, 3/6/19  
*Time:* 12:30 & 6:30 PM



## **Men's Breakfast & Women's Fellowship**

*Date:* Saturday, March 9, 2019  
*Time:* 8:00 AM  
*Join us for breakfast!*