



United Church of Christ



Federated Community Church

"A vibrant community of seekers!"



United Methodist Church

Volume 71 4

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April 2018

From the Deacon's Desk

EASTER REFLECTIONS

I love the Easter season. It seems the Christian calendar of renewal and hope and anticipation and rebirth blends so wonderfully with the world's calendar. Just the other day while looking out the window, I noticed several birds harvesting dead flower stalks from last year's garden for their nest building. The geese and ducks on the ponds down near the river are pairing up too. And in the garden, rhubarb leaves, mostly yellowish still are pushing through the wilted remnants from last fall's crop. Such is life's renewal in the making.

Rita and I had dinner with an old friend recently who mentioned that she had "given something up for Lent". Surprised, I asked her if she was attending Church again. "No," she replied. "I just like the idea of committing myself to something new and better." Perhaps this was just a happenstance merger of the Christian and world calendars. But then, perhaps not. Renewal and rebirth is happening everywhere. I see hopeful and exciting visions for our community church. Several Sundays ago before service, I reflected on the wonderful sense of peace in our recently refurbished sanctuary.....the sun was streaming in those big windows on the east, splashing light and shadows all about. Thought can drift to those departed saints 238 years ago who had a vision and acted on it and left this Sanctuary behind in trust for our use. I see a renewed commitment in our faith, a rebirth of our service to one another and our community, an emotional embracing of Jesus' living example and a joyful anticipation of an exciting future. Come and join us and be a part of that future.

Peace.....Dave Spencer, Deacon.

Your Deacons: Dave Anable, Karen Anable, Linda Hornig, David Spencer, Hayden Tibbetts, Steven Elliot, Beverly Burnell, Frank Watson, Karen Gatchell.

Congregational Meeting of Reconciliation April 7

Margaret Keyser, our Conflict Transformation consultant, will lead us again in a congregational meeting on Saturday April 7, 3-5 pm. Attendance at prior meetings is not required: just come with hope and an open heart!

***P*ARISH NOTES**



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

Elizabeth Nelson	04/02	Brittany Fisher	04/19
Steven Elliot	04/02	Karen Leger	04/19
Judith Hatch	04/04	David Anable	04/20
Matthew Fisher	04/06	Hayden Tibbetts Jr	04/21
Richard Patullo	04/07	Marcia Willey	04/22
Gretchen Warner	04/10	Melanie Bliss	04/23
Joyce Burt	04/12	Sarah Blain	04/25
Jane Wyman	04/16	Jeanne Westcott	04/27
Richard Regnier	04/17	Alice Wilcox	04/28
Cindy Desrosiers	04/17	Mason Kennedy	04/28
David Quill	04/18	Audrey Burger	04/29
Matthew Doyle	04/19	Anne Collins	04/30



Sunday School Birthdays

Tulloch, Abigail	04/08
Tulloch, Annabelle	04/29

SERVERS FOR THE MONTH

Ushers

4/1/18	Bill Cunningham & Walter Bliss
4/8/18	Amy & Dale Varney
4/15/18	Karen & Dave Anable
4/22/18	Bill & Lynn Cunningham
4/29/18	Elaine DeGray & Ellie Green

THANK YOU

I want everyone to know I am now done with all my treatments and am feeling fine...back to myself...with HAIR!! It is so amazing how our church family just goes into compassionate mode when you are going through something so traumatic. Prayers alone do wonders, as well as well wishes and warm hearted hugs. The cards where endless, as the meals sent where delicious! Can't thank you All enough for the continuous support. GOD BLESS YOU ALL!!! *Regina Germain*

UPDATES

New Pastor Announcement

On Wednesday evening March 14, FCC leadership representatives met with our United Methodist District Superintendent Rev. Dr. David Calhoun, and our prospective pastor. We spent four hours together and, as a result of that meeting, we had the honor of announcing on Sunday morning, March 18:

It is the intention of New England Conference Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar to appoint the Rev. Patricia A. Miller Fernandes to the Federated Community Church effective July 1.

The NE Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and our District Superintendent the Rev. Dr. David V. Calhoun have been working together, and with our church leadership, since early December to help make this appointment possible. We celebrate and thank God for their faithful commitment to us. We thank God, too, for your ongoing commitment to sustaining our faith family, even throughout recent difficult and painful times.

We will be talking together over the coming weeks and months, to share information and answer congregational questions. Moving into the next phase of our transition will be exciting-and maybe a little scary, but we know God has guided and walked with us every step of the way, to bring us to this point. He won't abandon us now:

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you." (Jeremiah 29: 11-12)

Serving you in love, Deacons Linda Hornig, Karen Anable, Karen Gatchell, Board of Director representatives Jack Germain, Pamela Rogers and Matt Fisher, Treasurer

Anniversaries

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

April & Joshua Gonce	04/06
John & Barbara Panek	04/11
Mitch & Mary Drozdowski	04/21
Matt & Diane Fisher	04/21

Christian Education

Through the season of Lent, the children have been learning what Jesus taught us. We started with Preparation, as we prepared to come in to the Lenten season, followed by Prayer, sacrifice, kindness, forgiveness, and commitment.

Each week we've enjoyed our lessons and reading the bible. We created a "Lent Bag" so that the children could participate and be reminded at home. Instead of giving up something for Lent, we encouraged the children to be kind and how far a kind word goes. A simple gesture of opening a door with a smile, will go along way.

Palm Sunday, we showcased a short skit featuring "Holy Week". A guided tour of Jesus's last days involving not only our youth, but the congregation as well.

We are looking forward to some warmer weather and continuing on with lessons regarding Jesus's teachings.

Blessings,
Kristi & Laurie

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

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



Thresher Foundation Scholarship

YOLA Guild Scholarship

Memorial Gift Fund Scholarship

Edwin Lombard Memorial Scholarship

Helen and Carl Larson Fund Scholarship

Melba R. & Wesley A. Chapin Scholarship Fund

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

Prayer Corner

Please uphold the following in your prayers:

Evie Meacham	Judy Ingle
Peg Stearns	Don Haraty
Julia Winetrout	Janet Case
Judy Schwabe	Audrey Burger
Gail Banning	Winnie Godek
Tim Green	Wendy Chadwick
Heather Walker	Cindy Desrosiers
Anthony Lopez	Robert Johnston

Missions Moment

For the Lenten season we began with a collection for UMCOR (Formally One Great Hour of Sharing) with our loose change. UMCOR helped with FEMA in Monson during the hurricane, so not only do they help worldwide, but you can see UMCOR's efforts locally. UMCOR's Vision and Mission are as follows:

Vision: As the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, UMCOR strengthens and transforms people and communities.

Mission: Compelled by Christ to be a voice of conscience on behalf of the people called Methodist, UMCOR works globally to alleviate human suffering and advance hope and healing.

UMCOR's work can be categorized into three major areas:

1. Humanitarian Relief / Disaster Response
2. Sustainable Development
3. Global Health (in collaboration with Global Ministries)

Think Spring!!

It's hard to believe but it's almost time to start preparing our gardens for planting. Early hardy crops will be ready to enjoy in just a few months. Have you ever thought about what it's like for others who do not have access to fresh produce?? Or what it's like to subsist on non-perishable food items?? How great would fresh berries or green beans taste to these folks!!

This year, we'd like to help needy people by collecting and delivering food items to area shelters, food pantries and local shut-ins who would enjoy fresh produce. There are several phases to this project. 1. Come up with a better name than "Food Project" 2. Contact local programs to confirm participation 3. Collect containers (those plastic containers for salad mix, berries, etc. that can be reused for packaging) 4. Prepare parsonage garden for Sunday school kids or others to tend 5. Advertise project and invite members of the local community to participate with us 6. Share our own surplus produce - or add a little extra to the garden to increase output 7. Help with drop-off hours and delivering of produce

We are also focusing on efforts to give to the Rescue Mission by asking for toiletry items, such as unused hotel size shampoos, travel size items, tooth brushes and toothpaste. The children of the Sunday School, will decorate boxes for our collections.

Blessings,
Your Missions Committee

Ongoing Ministries

- Food donations for Sunday's coffee hour to support the Fellowship Committee.

Survival Center Food Pantry

The Survival Center is always in need of protein items such as: peanut butter, canned tuna, hearty soups, canned beef stew, corned beef hash, canned chicken. Other great items to round out a healthy diet are: pasta and sauce, cereal (hot or cold), canned fruits, canned vegetables, boxed potatoes.

TV Access

Sunday services are video taped each week and are available on the Wilbraham/Hampden Public Access Channel 191 at 7:00pm Saturday evenings in Monson on channel 15 at 10am and 7pm on Sundays and on East Longmeadow Community Access Television 191 at 10 am on Sundays. If you miss that you can watch it on your computer by going to video on demand at: <http://tinyurl.com/fedtv1>. Go to playlist on the right, scroll down to the bottom, select Religious and look for Hampden Federated Church.

Knit, Stitch, Pray is back! Please join us for an evening of fun and laughter from 6:30- 8:30 the fourth Friday of every month. We will be working on projects such as prayer shawls, baby layettes and any project you care to bring. If you do not knit or sew, don't worry! Lessons will be provided or come along for a chat and a snack. All welcome. Church membership not required. For more information please contact Karen Gatchell at gatchell@charter.net or 413-237-1598.

Something to look forward to!

A wonderful concert featuring Paradise Winds, a five piece wind ensemble led by Kirsten Lipkens. April 29th at 3:00 pm in the Sanctuary.

Fellowship Committee

Your help is needed!! The Fellowship Committee welcomes individuals willing to provide baked goods and other snack items to share on Sundays. Servers are also needed for set-up/clean-up and making coffee. Check the sign-up sheets on the refrigerator door or contact Karen Anable at 267-3377 or Kanable58@yahoo.com to volunteer. THANK YOU!

Message from Margaret

We have had two congregational sessions thus far. During the first session in the fall of 2017, members had the opportunity to share their feelings and perspectives with one another, and to establish a commitment to work on the challenging issues they are facing. We uncovered the first layer of everyone's stories and decided to come together again in the new year. During the second session in February, we continued to share issues and perspectives, going deeper and exploring the pain that some have felt as a result of the conflict. Toward the end of the session, I was about to suggest we sing a hymn, when one member exclaimed, "Can we sing a hymn?". My heart jumped, and I smiled, as I walked toward her and hugged her. Everyone went quiet for a moment, then we sang our hearts out! We all felt the Spirit of God at work, as well as a feeling of oneness. My sense was that everyone in the room felt overcome by the incredible feeling of peace. I left there feeling inspired, hopeful and encouraged that we as human beings can allow our hearts to be softened, for mercy to be born and to give forgiveness and reconciliation a chance. I saw the love of God at work in that room. On April 7th we want to continue building upon what we have experienced, including learning some basic skills on how to communicate with one another during difficult situations. These will involve the following:

- Basic listening skills
- Problem solving skills
- Building new / constructive relationships

At the end of this third session, the consultant will be able to show the congregation some of the core issues that will need to be addressed through a process of creative problem solving. We might be able to start that process during this third session. In John chapter 17, Jesus prayed for His disciples that they would be one, as He and God are One. He then went on to pray for all believers, for you and me, that the world would see this perfect union. Jesus prayed this prayer, because He knew that He would be gone soon, and that His disciples would need inner strength to stay strong, facing the struggles ahead. My prayer is that you will be one as a congregation, experiencing the love of God and the love you have for one another, and that despite the challenges you have been going through, you will feel the renewal of God's work in you and among you.

May God bless you
Margaret Keyser



April 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 6:00 Sunrise Service 7:00 Pancake Bkft. 10:00 Easter Worship No Sunday School	2	3 9:30 Spirit Chat 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speakers	4 12:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Missions Mtg.	5 7:00 Choir	6	7 3-5 pm Reconciliation & Planning Mtg.
8 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery 11:00 Special Church Mtg.	9	10 9:30 Spirit Chat 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speakers	11 12:00 Prayer Group .	12 7:00 Choir	13	14 8:00 Men's Breakfast
15 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	16	17 9:30 Spirit Chat 6:30 AA Step 7:00 BOD mtg. 7:30 AA Speakers	18 12:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Deacons Mtg.	19 7:00 Choir	20	21
22 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	23 .	24 9:30 Spirit Chat 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speakers	25 12:00 Prayer Group.	26 7:00 Choir	27 6:00 Knit, Stitch, Pray	28 8:00 Men's Breakfast
29 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery 3:00 Paradise Winds concert	30					

FEDERATED COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Hampden, MA 01036

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

Church Staff

Pastor

Organist/Choir Director

Administrative Assistant

Christian Ed Directors

Barbara Bennett

Joyce Ogonowski

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, Apr 1st Easter Sunday

Scripture: Acts 10:34-43

I Corinthians 15:1-11

John 20:1-18

Sunday, Apr 8th 2nd Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Acts 4:32-35

John 1:1-2:2

John 20:19-31

Sunday, Apr 15th 3rd Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Acts 3:12-19

I John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

Sunday, Apr 22nd 4th Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Acts 4:5-12

I John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

Sunday, Apr 29th 5th Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Acts 8:26-40

I John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8