



**FEDERATED COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
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# *The Federated Courier*

Federated Community Church  
Hampden, MA 01036

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## *From the Pastor's Desk*

Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

*“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,  
you may now dismiss your servant in peace.*

*For my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,  
and the glory of your people Israel.” Luke 2: 28-32*

Greetings in the Name of Christ!

February: We celebrate the month with the theme of Love, especially on Valentine's Day. The holiday has its origins from the Romans, which celebrated the coming of Spring and fertility mid-month. By the 5<sup>th</sup> century, Pope Gelasius appropriated the Roman holiday with Candlemas; the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple and the Feast of Purification for Mary. It is among the oldest Christian holidays celebrated. Candlemas officially ends the Christmas season. Many churches invite parishioners to bring in the candles they will use at home during the year to be blessed in honor of Jesus being the light of the world and brought into the Temple.

We have a full and exciting month planned for the church community. We continue in the worship series of SAD: Spiritual Affective Disorder. It has been helpful and joyous to

remember some of the ways which might breathe new life or inflame that which is already in our spiritual lives. We have been called to “Flip the Switch” and stay in the light of Christ. We enjoyed upbeat music in worship and recalled how often Jesus must have laughed by the phrases he spoke and all the parties he was invited too. We learned that both music and laughter have a profound affect on the body for healing and well-being and were encouraged to enjoy both more often. Upcoming themes will be: Creating Altars, Serving and Exercise, Leave Room for Dessert, and end the series with the celebration of Transfiguration Sunday. On this Sunday we will baptize three disciples in our congregation.

On Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will open Libby Fellowship Hall to the community with a Mardi Gras celebration, complete with music (Thank you Steve), crafts, dance, refreshments, and fun. This celebration is also tied to the pagan Roman holiday of celebrating Spring and fertility, which we mention above. Mardi Gras means Fat Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday. It is a time when we use up all the fats and sugars in our house prior to heading into Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday. What will you give up or take up this Lent to draw you deeper into your spirit and closer to Christ?

Wonderful Wednesday Worship will begin again on Ash Wednesday with a light meal at 12:30 PM followed by a worship service at 1:00 PM ish. Please feel free to come and join us.

As we head into the Lenten Season, we will use “Frames” as our theme. We will try to picture ourselves in the various scriptures we use during the season. I invite you to take photos of others or yourself in service to another and e-mail the picture to the office. We will use some of the pictures in our Lenten worship.

It is a full month. I hope you will be part of it! It is just not the same without you.

Stay in the Light,

*Pastor Pat*

## *From the Deacons' Bench*

### FRUITS OF THE VINE



It seems to happen every year just about this time when the world seems darkest, cold and

brown. My mind begins to drift off to greener times.....and warmer times....when the stirrings of renewal begin to show. Admittedly, it helps too to remember that each new week brings with it 15 minutes of additional daylight from the week before. These are moments when garden planning begins anew. What seeds to order....what worked well last year...what didn't.....shall we try something new.....and let's not forget the lessons learned from previous years. Don't forget crop rotation....and what plants are compatible alongside others. (Tomatoes and raspberries are not happy neighbors.).

We'll do tomatoes again (of course) and pickling cucumbers planted amongst the flowers. They were a huge success last year. Oh.....acorn squash....yes! That keeps well in cool, dark places. I love fresh beets and carrots, but so do the chipmunks....yuk! **And my choice once again this year is not to net the blueberry bushes.....we'll share with the birds. After all, they help to keep the garden insect free.....no chemicals!**

Like previous years, we'll plant enough to share with others through the Church food ministry. In so doing, we too become the Christian fruit of the vine.

Dave Spencer, Deacon

# *Servers for the Month*

## Deacons

February

Karen Anable

March

Dave Anable

April

Frank Watson



## Ushers

02/02

Amy & Dale Varney

02/09

Bill & Lynn Cunningham

02/16

Joyce Ogonowski & Mary Howell

02/23

Dave & Karen Anable



Please note that Pastor Pat and family have a new telephone number for their home phone. It is 413-566-1074, effective immediately.

Thank you to Bruce Libby & the Property Committee for refurbishing the front hall (narthex) of the church.



## *February Birthdays*

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



Karen Gatchell	02/06
Samantha Quill	02/07
Irene Cutting	02/10
Katrina Safford	02/10
Richard Harris	02/12
Clara Kern	02/18
Ashley Richter	02/18
Sarah Willoughby	02/18
Weston Willoughby	02/18
Kathleen Lee	02/19
Mary Black	02/22
Joshua Sterling	02/26
David Kruger	02/27

## *Anniversaries*

Earl & Barbara Schofield 02/04



## *Welcome!*

On Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, we welcomed four new members to Federated Community Church: Beth Algie, Kim Cummins, Maurice Dezan, and Ellie Soucy.

## *Sympathy Extended To...*

Carmel Grant's father- in- law, Robert Grant, passed away on January 15th. Please continue to hold the family in prayers



### *Prayer Corner*



Evie Meacham

Peg Stearns

Julia Winetrout

Judy Ingle

Audrey Burger

Barbara Bennett

Maggie Waugh

Sarah

Kayla

Winn

Pat Safford

Bob Green

Frank Watson

Janet Brehaut

Dave Cummins

Rita Smith

Joyce Libby

Walter Black Jr.

Gail Banning

Ethel

Christopher

Carol Darnley

Gwen Wills

Lelum

Winnie

Jackie Prior

Beverly Pease

Dennis

Beverly Brant

Jim

Emerson Miller

Otto Kern

If you have an announcement to share of a birth, death, long time anniversary or want to add a name to the prayer list, please contact the office.

## ***From the Finance Committee***

The finance committee has committed to having an article in the newsletter each month. This month is the written copy which Pamela Rogers shared during this year's stewardship campaign. We believe that it is well said and important that all have an opportunity to be inspired by it.

### **Offering Witness – 2020 Stewardship Campaign** **“It’s a Wonder-full Life”**

I have a sense of WONDER and awe to several “giving” events that have happened over the past few years. Our church has always been fortunate in that many congregants have left endowments in their Wills in order to continue their monetary contributions to our mission of spreading the good news and love of Christ. These past years have been difficult to budget but during this uncertainty we received two major bequests from the Gerrish and Dickenson Families. These gifts were a reminder that the Federated Church and the work of spreading God’s Word are forever in the hearts of our Christian family. These generous members had been unable to regularly attend services or functions due to circumstances of age, location or ability, yet they remembered the Church in their Will. Each gift was different; while one bequest had no specific directives as to how the money could be used; the other earmarked the funds for both scholarships and capital building. Both are blessings and demonstrate these individual’s commitment as Christians.

The third gift the church received was from the United Methodist Church. During our restructuring we reached out to the UMC to learn about their process of assigning a Pastor to our congregation; the Federated Church hasn’t had a Methodist Pastor in at least 40 years. To many of us



on the Search Committee this was uncharted territory but a worthy venture to embark on and one that quickly felt we were being led to. The local district was supportive in advising us on their process all the while taking into consideration and working with us and our process as a Federated Church with three distinct religious groups. If you recall, a big concern we had at the time and one I was personally worried about, was whether we could realistically afford to pay a full-time pastor or if we would need to reduce our costs and go to part time or even share a Pastor with another congregation. A church meeting was held, and the congregation was advised of our budget deficit and the overall financial health of the church. The congregation voted overwhelmingly in favor of a full-time pastor, believing that is what is needed in Hampden to fulfill FCC's missions and believing that God would provide. And he did!!! Not only did God call Pastor Pat to our flock but he filled the heart of the United Methodist Conference to provide us with the financial support to make it possible to have her full time. The UMC pledged five years of financial support to our congregation; our first year beginning at \$13,000.00 and each year this support will drop by 10%. We are now in our second year.

What I wonder is...what if the congregation took up the challenge to make up this 10%? Could each of us take another look at our budget...come up with that figure that works and that you're comfortable giving and then take that leap of faith, follow your hearts and know that God will provide and then increase that pledge 10% as a sheer act of faith and witness firsthand what God provides.

I am forever grateful the Federated Church is part of my wonder-full life.

Submitted by Pamela Rogers,  
Finance Committee Member

If you have not already had the opportunity to fill out a pledge card for 2020, please do so soon. Cards are found in each pew and in the front hall of the sanctuary.

Please note that there are giving envelopes available in the Fellowship Hall

### *Christian Education*

This past month in Sunday School, we talked about what Jesus was like a child, after the Wise Men visited him. There isn't much in the Bible that talks about Jesus's youth. We talked about what traits he might have had and if we thought he was a normal child. Everyone thought that they might be his friend if they were around when he was younger.



We talked about Martin Luther King Jr. and kindness and unity and how he was a very special man who loved Jesus and everyone. What do you think it means to be kind and having a grateful heart? The children wrote on their hearts what it means to them. We also talked about "my own two hands," that each one of us can change the world with our own two hands and make it a better place. Please check out the children's artwork in the hall to see what they are grateful for.

Blessings,  
Kristi and Laurie

## *Missions*

It's hard to believe that Lent and Easter are just around the corner. The sky is slowly getting brighter and soon the warmer weather will be upon us.

This spring we have great missions to look forward too. This year we will start off with a Family Mardi Gras party to welcome in the Lenten season. This will be a night of music, crafts, and family gathering. We encourage everyone to spread the word and invite all families you may know. We would like to encourage those with younger children to come out and enjoy a safe environment to have fun with those similar in age. There will be additional information available soon.

As we move forward to the Lenten season, this year's Lenten project will be the focus on men, who may not have the basic's necessities in their life. Our "Undie Sunday" will be "White Out Sunday" as we will encourage a gathering of all "white" items a male in a less than perfect situation may need. These items include, underwear, undershirts, socks, toothpaste, deodorant, soap, shampoo, etc. We will be collecting items throughout Easter, then donating to the Rescue Mission in downtown Springfield. The Rescue Mission serves over 4,000 homeless people each year. Very often spiritual healing begins with physical needs being met. "White Out Sunday" allows you to make a meaningful difference in the life of someone who is going without basic needs. The need is growing greatly throughout the community to help others.

We may be a small church, but we are mighty. We are always looking for new members for the thriving Missions Committee.

Blessings,  
The Missions Committee

## *Wonderful Wednesday Worship*

Services will begin on February 26<sup>th</sup> with an Ash Wednesday Service. Come and join us for a light lunch and worship. Start off the Lenten season right. Lunch will be served at 12:30 pm followed by worship at 1:00 pm-ish. If you need transportation please call the office.

## *Two Opportunities to Worship on Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020*

**12:30 pm**—light lunch followed by worship

Or

**6:30 pm**—worship in sanctuary

## *Fellowship Hour*

Please sign up in the kitchen to assist with items for coffee hours following worship. While many folks enjoy this time together, it is not fair that only a few members host repeatedly. Please take your turn.

## *Game Night*

**Last Friday Night** of each Month  
6-8:30ish PM in the Fellowship Hall



We will be having inter-generational game nights on the last Friday of each month. You are invited to bring your favorite game or to join in with others. Please bring a snack to share with

others and a non-perishable item for the local food bank. Non-church members are invited. This is a wonderful way to have others meet some of your church community.

## *Saturday Watercolor Classes*

**12:30 -3:30 pm in Libby Hall**



**February 22<sup>nd</sup>**

**February 29<sup>th</sup>**

**March 7<sup>th</sup>**

**March 14<sup>th</sup>**

**March 21<sup>st</sup>**

**March 28<sup>th</sup>**

The classes with instruction by David Spencer, will be held in Libby Hall for members of the Church and the community as well. Class size will be limited to around 10 to 12 attendees. There will be a cost of \$10 per session to cover class material and some watercolor paint supplies. Contact David Spencer to reserve your spot.

## *Children's/Youth Bell Choir*

Following Sunday worship, a 10-15 minute rehearsal is held in the choir room for our newly formed bell choir. A few adults are needed to play with and assist. Any person interested, please speak with Faith Thompson, Music Director.



## *Community Mardi Gras Family Party*

Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Music, Dance, Crafts, Snacks, Beads & FUN!

Join us for this last Alleluia before we begin the Lenten Season on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

If you are interested in being on the Planning Committee, please speak with Pastor Pat or Kristi Tessier.

## *Super Saturday*

March 14, 2020

Minnechaug Regional High School  
Wilbraham, MA

**Register at:**

[www.sneucc.org/supersatreg](http://www.sneucc.org/supersatreg)

Super Saturday is a collaborative effort of the Southern New England Conference, UCC, with presenters and attendees from different states and denominations.

At our Spring Super Saturday, we are welcoming Rabbi Elan Babchuck, Founding Director of GLEAN Network, an incubator and network for faith leaders who seek to reimagine the role of religion in an ever-changing world yearning for meaning, belonging, and justice. He serves as the Director of Innovation at CLAL, a think-tank focused on the future of faith in America.

We invite all Super Saturday participants to bring Food Donations to Super Saturday.

**Food Donations -no expired items - that are especially needed are:**

**Peanut Butter, Instant Potatoes, Cereal (hot and/or cold), Pasta and Sauce, Tuna, Hearty Soups, Beef Stew, Corned Beef Hash, Chicken, and Fruit.**

Please bring a food donation and/or a check for a monetary donation to the **Community Survival Center** (payable to "Community Survival Center").





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
www= Wonderful Wednesday Worship						1
2 10:00am Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	3	4 9:30 am Spirit Chat 6:30/7:30 pm AA	5 10:30 am Bible Study	6	7	8 8:00 am Men's Breakfast 10:00 am Women's Fellowship 11:00 am Women's Retreat, <i>Simple Faith</i>
9 10:00am Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	10	11 9:30 am Spirit Chat 6:30/7:30 pm AA	12 10:30 am Bible Study 6:30 pm Women's Retreat, <i>Simple Faith</i>	13	14	15 10:00 am Dress a Girl
16	17	18 9:30 am Spirit Chat 6:30/7:30 pm AA 7:00 pm BOD	19 10:30 am Bible Study 7:00 Finance Committee	20	21	22 8:00 am Men's Breakfast 12:30 pm Watercolor Class 6:00 pm Mardi Gras Party
23 10:00am Worship, Sunday School, Nursery Tennis Event Following Worship	24	25 9:30 am Spirit Chat 6:30/7:30 pm AA	26 Ash Wednesday 10:30 am Bible Study 12:30 Lunch/WW 6:30 pm Worship	27	28 6:00 pm Game Night	29 12:30 pm Watercolor Class



# Community Mardi Gras

## Family Party

@ Federated Community Church,  
590 Main St. Hampden, MA

Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>

6:00 - 8:30 pm

Music, Dance, Crafts, Snacks, Beads & FUN!

Join us for this last Alleluia before we begin  
the Lenten Season on February 26<sup>th</sup>.



Community members welcome!

