



United Church of Christ

# *The Federated Courier*

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United Methodist Church

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## *From the Pastor's Desk*

*He (Jesus) asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. Luke 24:17*

Greetings in the Name of the Risen Christ!

For the Lenten Season, our church worship theme was about being shattered. We broke glass vases on Ash Wednesday as we listened to stories of lives which had been shattered. Then, using the symbol of beach glass, we saw how lives are put back together, rough edges sanded and softened, and we highlighted various treasures we find along our life paths and become as we live out our lives. For the Easter season, we are celebrating the freedom we claim and live through Jesus Christ: freedom to follow, rise again, love, heal, open, sing, etc.

Easter Season is a season of hope. When things in our lives go wrong, we often feel crushed and do not know how to move forward. But Easter tells us about a God who can and does lead us on. God moves the stones in our life and shines a light, even if dimly lit, which guides us forward. The issue is that we often are so consumed with the bad news or disturbing event that our faces are downcast or we have our backs turned away from the hope; returning to our old ways, our comfortable chair, or our home (beds) to pout. We are a lot like the disciples headed to Emmaus after witnessing the crucifixion of Jesus, the one they had hoped would redeem Israel. (see Luke 24: 13-35) Jesus is walking along side of them but they are so consumed with disappointment, they miss the light of the world walking and talking with them.

Through the resurrection of Jesus, we are given an eternal hope: not a hope strictly concerned with the end of physical life but a hope that fills our lives with the freedom to choose ways currently, right now, that we can use to see the light of God shining and making a way forward. We are Easter people, people called to hope. Our lives can be resurrected at any time. Don Moen has a wonderful song, *God will Make a Way When There Seems to be No Way*. We will be singing the song in worship on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Come affirm with us that Moen is right: this is the God we worship: A God that walks with us, lights a way forward, and keeps shining, calling our names, and doing whatever needs to be done to get our attention. A God who makes a way when we cannot find one ourselves. What an incredible God we worship! I hope you will join us either Sunday mornings at 10 AM ( 9:30 AM July and August) or the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month in the fellowship hall. We share in a light lunch at 12:30 pm, followed by worship at 1:00 AM.

In Christ's Light and Love,

*Pastor Pat*

## *From the Deacons' Bench*

### **No One Can Do Everything but Everyone Can Do Something**

Since April was Volunteer Recognition Month, we all should review our daily activities to see how we can help through volunteering, whether at our church, our community or our neighborhood. Each one should use whatever gift he or she has received to share with others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various form (1 Peter -4:10).

Start where you are  
Use what you have  
Do what you can  
Give time touching hearts

### **Be the reason someone smiles today**

With April showers comes May flowers and new life is popping up everywhere. So, it is with the church as we see new programs and the return of those that have not been able to take advantage of the service on Sundays, but are now able to join in on the Wednesday lunch and service.

Every person who comes into the circle of this special fellowship was sent by God Himself. So above all else we want to express Christ's love to you with genuine, heartfelt warmth! We're eager to see you, and excited to share with you the marvelous ways God is working in our church. If you've been thinking, praying, searching and hoping for a place to belong we say welcome to the new life. Take time to smell the flowers each day and enjoy life and the beauty around you. Have a bless day.

**Frank Watson, Deacon**

## *Servers for the Month*

### Ushers

5/05 Regina & Jack Germain  
5/12 Don & Shirley Facey  
5/19 Bill & Lynn Cunningham  
4/26 Joyce Ogonowski & Mary Howell

### Deacons

May Beverly Burnell  
June Hayden Tibbetts  
July Karen Anable

## *Anniversaries*

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

Jeremy & Kristi Tessier	05/03
Patricia & David Baker	05/04
Dennis & Sandra Chaffee	05/06
Jesse & Kathleen Lee	05/15
Barbara & John Bennett	05/17
Robert & Mary Howell	05/18
Richard & Jeanne Regnier	05/20
Carl & Karen Gatchell	05/24
Dale & Amy Varney	05/30
Lauren & Keith Hummel	05/31



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

Anne Marie Matzko	05/01	Lois Pixley	05/14
Regina Germain	05/02	Barbara Bennett	05/14
Barbara Schofield	05/03	Robert Fernandes	05/14
Jodi Brodeur	05/03	Joyce Ogonowski	05/17
Myron Stone	05/03	Cheryl Patterson	05/18
Robert Fisher	05/03	Scott Olesuk	05/18
Gail Romano	05/04	James Bliss	05/20
Paul Olesuk	05/05	Lori-Beth Sterling	05/20
Donald Ogonowski	05/05	Ryan Doyle	05/23
Sandra Howell	05/05	Stephen Libby	05/24
Geraldine Kruger	05/08	Ruth Haley	05/26
Beverly Burnell	05/08	Amy Bliss	05/28
Sandra Dodd	05/09	Kylie Walulak	05/29
Carroll Willey	05/11	Rita Spencer	05/29
Beatrice Moriarty	05/12	Bonnie Howell	05/30



### **Sunday School Birthdays**

Philip Castellano 05/02

## *Flower Committee*

There are several dates open in May and June if anyone would like to purchase flowers in memory of someone for the altar. Please contact Janet Libby for more information.

# Announcements



## *New Life*

Congratulations and Blessings upon **Benjamin Alexander**, son Sarah & Josh Blain and grandson of Laurie & Allen Schoolcraft. Benjamin was born on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

## *Baptism*

We welcome **Juliette Anne**, daughter of Brendan & Nicole Hiersche, and granddaughter of Robert & Mary Howell. Juliette was baptized on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>.

## *Celebrating 100 Years*

**Audrey Burger** celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 26<sup>th</sup>! If you didn't have a chance to send her a card, we are sure she would appreciate it - check with the office for her address.

## *New Member*

We welcomed **Carmel Grant** to FCC Congregation. Carmel transferred from Bayside Community Church in Australia on April 14<sup>th</sup>, Palm Sunday. We are glad you are among us!

## Sympathy

We extend our thoughts, prayers and love to the families of:

**Janet Case**, who passed away on April 15<sup>th</sup>

**Timothy Green**, who passed away on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Timothy was the son of Robert and Ellie Green.



## Prayer Corner



Evie Meacham  
Peg Stearns  
Julia Winetrout  
Judy Ingle  
Wendy Chadwick  
Don Smith  
Sheila  
Sharon  
Phyllis Watson  
Don Mecure

Jack Bennett  
Walter Black Jr.  
Judy Schwabe  
Family of Janet Case  
Debbie Doyle & Family  
Barbara Bennett  
David Blanchard  
Joyce Brooks  
Claire Silva  
Gloria

Audrey Burger  
Gail Banning  
Bob & Ellie Green  
John & Nenita  
Hal  
Peter Bokulic  
Christopher  
Branden  
Benjamin Blain

## Women's Spring Retreat 2019: Growth through Spirituality

**It's not too late to sign-up for the Women's Retreat at St. Scholastica Priory, Petersham, MA. on May 17<sup>th</sup>.** Have questions? Speak with Pastor Pat or Karen Anable.

The retreat is structured with the focus on the Saturday program, with shorter offerings Friday evening and Sunday morning. Women can choose to stay 1 (\$60) or 2 (\$120) overnights, or come up for the day program 9AM-4PM on Saturday (\$10). The theme is on Spirituality,

Hope to see you there!

Karen Anable, Pamela Rogers  
Women's Fellowship

**The next meeting of Women's Fellowship group is Saturday, May 11th, 2019 at 10:00AM in Libby Hall.** Meetings are open to all women in our church community. Your participation helps us grow!!

## Wednesday Worship An Opportunity to Serve

On the second & fourth Wednesday of each month, at 12:30 pm, we offer a light meal followed by a worship service. The service was created with our elderly and disabled members in mind. Many folks have shared that it is difficult to get into our second floor Sanctuary. This time also offers an opportunity for community. We are seeking support for our light meal in which approximately 15 people are served. The meal can be anything. We have chowder, soup, pasta & chicken, shepherd's pie and sandwiches. If you are able to assist in this way, please give Karen Anable a call. Anyone is welcome to attend, please join us!

## *Harvest Gifts Update*

It's official - this year the Prayer Patch will relocate to the Hampden Community Gardens, adjacent to Greenmeadow Elementary School. Our garden plot will be available for planting May 15th, weather permitting. The garden plot will be tilled for us, but the church is responsible for putting up temporary fencing to keep our furry friends in check.

If you have been growing plants to donate, please drop them off at the church Sunday May 12th or during church office hours, Monday and Wednesday. Volunteers are needed to assist with planting May 15th, no gardening experience required- just a willing spirit. Planting must be done before school opens or after school ends for the day, so we will have two sessions, early morning and late afternoon on May 15th. If you can help for an hour or two, please contact Karen Anable. Text or Call 413-636-6021.

Let's get planting! We've got mouths to feed!!

## *New Additions to the Memorial Day Craft Fair*

As many of you are aware, the church is operating with a budget deficit again this year. Fundraising activities are more important than ever - and the Memorial Day Craft Fair is our biggest fundraising event of the year. It is very important that we increase the profits associated with this event. In past years, earnings have come primarily from fees paid by vendors and our food offerings - baked sale and meals. This year, there are two additions to the Craft Fair: Art Show and Odds and Ends Table. The Odds and Ends Table is sponsored by Women's Fellowship. We need hand-crafted items to sell at our table. If you make table runners, lap quilts, floral arrangements, door wreaths, pillowcases, water colors, paint slates or anything else creative, you're needed. The idea is to have each participant make 1-2 items for our table - and create an interesting display that shows off our versatility and talent. An Odds and Ends sign-up is on the table in Libby Hall. Text or call Karen Anable 413-636-6021 for more information.

This year, the church will also be sponsoring an Art Show. Artists can exhibit, put items up for sale AND donate items for silent auction to benefit the church. The Scantic Valley and Monson Art Councils are working with us to get information about our show out to their artists. BUT, it is even more important that artists in our

church community step forward and share their talents. This is a way for us to connect with the local community and bring new attendees to our fair. If you paint, sculpt, do woodworking, pottery or fiber arts, you've got a place in our Art Show. Art Show sign-up is on the table in Libby Hall. Contact Karen Anable or Dave Spencer for more information.

Finally, all this activity is going to require more volunteers than ever to have a successful Memorial Day Craft Fair. Think about what you can do to help!! Watch for more information as Memorial Day approaches!! Oh, and by all means, attend the fair!!

## *Christian Education*

What a wonderful month of scripture, learning God's words, and prayer. During Lent we studied the parable of the Good Samaritan, to love your Neighbor. and the parable of the lost sheep. We talked about good deeds and sacrifice. We had a Holy Week walk through to help the children understand what Jesus went through before his crucifixion and that Easter is not only about chocolate Easter bunnies.

Our closing program is June 9th. We will be starting to practice for this event. Please make every effort to be here every week from now on.

Blessings  
Laurie & Kristi

## *Music News*

Thank you to the Children's Choir who blessed us with the gift of song during Worship. What a joy to have them share and see their smiling faces!

## *Focus on Kids/Family Activities for May*

Attention Parents: Are you considering a Christian camping experience for your child this summer? Consider Camp Aldersgate, 1043 Snake Hill Rd., Scituate, MA. Camp Aldersgate is opening for tours and information on May 5th 1-4 PM. This is a wonderful opportunity to see if the camp is a good fit to your child and your family. For more information, speak with Pastor Pat.

## Art Workshop

Thank you to Dave Spencer for leading us through our Lenten Season with watercolor painting. It was a wonderful spiritual discipline to be quiet and allow God to inspire us as co-creators. Keep alert for a regathering in the Fall.



## Thank You

Thank you to Women's Fellowship for organizing Easter Baskets and to all the kids that helped!



## Continuing Conversations

**May 30<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm**

Conversations regarding the high number of suicides in Hampden continue. Conversations and education will be lead by Sarah Gaer of Riverside Trauma Center. All interested in this important conversation are invited to attend.

## Christian Healing Ministries

**June 20-22, 2019**

The focus for Ignite this year is Worship, Personal Ministry, and Healing! Conference begins Thursday, June 20 at 10am and ends Saturday, June 22 by 1pm.

Speakers are Judith MacNutt and the CHM Team  
Judith MacNutt M.A. is a Licensed psychotherapist, author, speaker, and co-founder and president of Christian Healing Ministries (CHM).

Since 1987, CHM is located in Jacksonville, Florida. The ministry offers Schools of Healing Prayer. Anyone interested in attending is encouraged to speak with Pastor Pat. Some folks from the church are attending and we can car pool and share rooms as willing.





# May 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 – 12:00 Bible Study	2	3	4
5 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	6	7 9:30 Spirit Chat 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speakers	8 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 – 12:00 Bible Study 12:30 Afternoon Worship	9 5:00- 6:30 Girl Scouts  7:00 Finance Committee	10	11 8:00 Men's Breakfast 10:00 Women's Fellowship
12 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery Mother's Day	13	14 9:30 Spirit Chat 6:30 AA Step  7:30 AA Speakers	15 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 – 12:00 Bible Study	16	17 Women's Spring Retreat	18 Women's Retreat  10:00 am Dress a Girl
19 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	20 . 1-3 Deacons	21 9:30 Spirit Chat 6:30 AA Step 7:00 BOD mtg 7:30 AA Speakers	22 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 – 12:00 Bible Study 12:30 Afternoon Worship	23 5:00- 6:30 Girl Scouts	24	25 8:00 Men's Breakfast
26 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	27 Memorial Day Fair	28 9:30 Spirit Chat 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speakers	29 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 – 12:00 Bible Study	30 6:30 Continuing Conversations Re. Suicide	31	

## **A message from Bishop Devadhar:** **Judicial Council rulings**

Dear Beloved United Methodists in New England,

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

The United Methodist Judicial Council in its decisions [1378](#) and [1379](#), April 26, 2019, affirmed, for the most part, the decisions made by the 2019 special session of General Conference. The rulings are consistent with its previous decisions regarding parts of the Traditional Plan – upholding some and deeming others unconstitutional. Council of Bishops President Bishop Ken Carter has issued a response to the rulings on behalf of the Council.

Some notable points:

- The Judicial Council reaffirmed that in order for a local church/congregation to leave the UMC, it must meet certain obligations – including a majority vote of the annual conference session; churches that choose to leave the denomination on theological grounds have until Dec 31, 2023 to do so.
  - The legislation deemed constitutional:
    - does NOT require the Board of Ordained Ministry (BOM) members to certify compliance with The Book of Discipline;
    - does NOT require charged clergy to state they will not repeat the offense
    - DOES uphold restrictions on bishops ordaining “self-avowed practicing homosexuals,” despite the recommendation of BOM/DCOM/clergy session
    - DOES uphold restrictions on bishops consecrating of bishops who are “self-avowed practicing homosexuals”
    - DOES add to the definition of “self-avowed practicing homosexual” in ¶ 304.3 to include “or is living in a same-sex marriage, domestic partnership or civil union, or is a person who publicly states she or he is a practicing homosexual.”
    - DOES add new requirements for Just Resolutions and timelines for referral or dismissal of complaints
    - DOES add mandatory penalties for charged clergy
- DOES give Church the right of appeal for egregious errors of law
- The changes to The Book of Discipline go into effect Jan. 1, 2020 in the U.S. and in May of 2021

in the Central Conferences (Philippines, Africa, and Europe).

(New England Conference Chancellor William Hewig III has produced an executive summary of Decisions 1378 and 1379..)

So what does this mean for the New England Conference?

This decision does not change the positions stated by my Cabinet and me and our Board of Ordained Ministry prior to and after the called session of General Conference.

We in New England are not of one mind on several matters of theology and social principle, however, we continue to repent of the ways in which our legislative and judicial process does harm to individual persons and groups – particularly those who identify as LGBTQIA – and fails us in our Christian mandate to love one another after the example of Jesus.

Our churches, camps and retreat centers, food pantries and other meal programs, child care centers, and institutions of higher learning, are and will continue to be open to ALL persons.

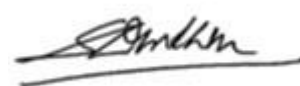
I have been gathering with districts for holy conversations in the past couple of weeks, and will continue to do so in these next few days and weeks. As always, my door is open to any who wish to join with me in further conversation and prayer.

Regardless of where we stand on the decisions before us, my prayer is that we would join hand-in-hand as disciples of Jesus Christ. Will you kindly join me in prayer for all of our churches, clergy and laity, especially those who continue to be hurt by these decisions.

May we follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all we do and say so that we will embody the love of Christ. We know we stand in need of God's grace, and welcome all to participate with us as we continue to seek peace and to live in love with God and one another; and we remain committed to our central mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

In Christ's Love,

Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar





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Nonprofit  
organization  
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Springfield, MA  
Permit no 2702



Seeking Artists and Vendors!  
For our Memorial Day  
Craft Fair!

Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>  
8am – 2pm

Come join us for a day of fun, art, and shopping at our beautiful grounds  
on the bank of the Scantic River! Crafts; handmade items, candy, jewelry, and much more!  
Questions about Booth Space and Table Rental Please email: [fairsatfcc@gmail.com](mailto:fairsatfcc@gmail.com)