



United Church of Christ

The Federated Courier

Federated Community Church
Hampden, MA 01036

www.hampdenfederatedchurch.org

E-mail: hampdenfederated@gmail.com

Tel. (413) 566-3711 Fax (413) 566-5324



United Methodist Church

Volume 71 5

May 2018

from the Deacons Bench...

"Praise be to you, my Lord, through our Sister, Mother Earth, who sustains and governs us, and who produces various fruit with colored flowers and herbs". In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us.

I believe that Saint Francis is the example par excellence of care for the vulnerable and of an integral ecology lived out joyfully and authentically... He shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace.

His response to the world around him was so much more than intellectual appreciation or economic calculus, for to him each and every creature was a sister united to him by bonds of affection. That is why he felt called to care for all that exists... Such a conviction cannot be written off as naive romanticism, for it affects the choices which determine our behavior.

If we approach nature and the environment without this openness to awe and wonder, if we no longer speak the language of fraternity and beauty in our relationship with the world, our attitude will be that of masters, consumers, ruthless exploiters, unable to set limits on their immediate needs. By contrast, if we feel intimately united with all that exists, then sobriety and care will well up spontaneously. The poverty and austerity of Saint Francis were no mere veneer of asceticism, but something much more radical: a refusal to turn reality into an object simply to be used and controlled.

What is more, Saint Francis, faithful to Scripture, invites us to see nature as a magnificent book in which God speaks to us and grants us a glimpse of his infinite beauty and goodness. For this reason, Francis asked that part of the friary garden always be left untouched, so that wild flowers and herbs could grow there, and those who saw them could raise their minds to God, the Creator of such beauty.

(from *Joint Message of Pope Francis and the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew for the World Day of Prayer for Creation, 9/1/2017*)

A Prayer of Healing

We join with the earth and with each other.
To bring new life to the land
To restore the waters
To refresh the air
We join with the earth and with each other.
To renew the forests
To care for the plants
To protect the creatures
We join with the earth and with each other.
To celebrate the seas
To rejoice in the sunlight
To sing the song of the stars

We join with the earth and with each other.
To recall our destiny
To renew our spirits
To reinvigorate our bodies
We join with the earth and with each other.
To create the human community
To promote justice and peace
To remember our children
We are full of the grace of creation
We are grace-full
We are grateful
We rejoice in all life.
Amen

***P*ARISH NOTES**

SERVERS FOR THE MONTH

Ushers

May 6	Jack & Regina Germain
May 13	Don & Shirley Facey
May 20	Bill & Lynn Cunningham
May 27	Joyce Ogonowski & Mary Howell

Ongoing Ministries

- Food Drive to benefit the Survival Center
- Men's Breakfast "Open to the Public" every 2nd & 4th Saturday morning at 8am. (Do not meet in summer)
- Food donations for Sunday's coffee hour to support the Fellowship Committee
- Opportunity to read scripture during worship – Please speak to a Deacon if you would like to volunteer.
- Tuesday Morning Spirit Chat – 9:30 am
- Wednesday Morning Prayer Group – 11:00am. Meet all year round.

Prayer Corner

Please uphold the following in your prayers:

Evie Meacham	Don Haraty	Audrey Burger
Peg Stearns	Walter Black Jr..	Gail Banning
Judy Ingle	Janet Case	Cindy Desrosiers
Julia Winetrout	Judy Schwabe	Tim Green
Wendy Chadwick	Joyce Libby	Winnie Godek
Heather Walker	Robert Johnston	Peter Bokulic



Sunday School Birthdays

Philip Castellano 05/02

NOTE to all Committees:

Please put all meeting dates on the calendar in the church office so that their will not be scheduling conflicts and Joyce can update the weekly calendar in the bulletin and also the calendar in the newsletter. If a meeting date changes please let all affected parties know in advance.

Anniversary

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
Donald & Linda Schmidt	05/15
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	Joyce Ogonowski	05/17
Jodi Brodeur	05/03	Cheryl Patterson	05/18
Myron Stone	05/03	Scott Olesuk	05/18
Robert Fisher	05/03	James Bliss	05/20
Gail Romano	05/04	Lori-Beth	05/20
Paul Olesuk	05/05	Ryan Doyle	05/23
Donald Ogonowski	05/05	Stephen Libby	05/24
Sandra Howell	05/05	Ruth Haley	05/26
Geraldine Kruger	05/08	Amy Bliss	05/28
Beverly Burnell	05/08	Kylie Walulak	05/29
Sandra Dodd	05/09	Rita Spencer	05/29
Carroll Willey	05/11	Bonnie Howell	05/30
Beatrice Moriarty	05/12		

A Thought For Mother's Day

I looked on child rearing not only as a work of love and duty but as a profession that was fully as interesting and challenging as any honorable profession in the world and one that demanded the best that I could bring to it.

Rose Kennedy

Missions

Harvest Gifts

Our garden project has a nameHarvest Gifts! Lots of progress has been made in the past month. Area centers have been contacted and all would welcome donations of fresh produce. We will be working with the following sites: • Springfield Rescue Mission - Serving Greater Springfield • Community Survival Center - serving Hampden, Wilbraham, Ludlow, Indian Orchard, Sixteen Acres, Pine Point • Palmer Food Pantry • Monson Open Pantry • Monson Senior Center - Meals on Wheels Program • Hampden Senior Center

Pastor Pat has graciously agreed to allow us to use the parsonage garden this year for Harvest Gifts. Preparation of the parsonage garden, fencing, lighting and a banner is targeted for completion by May 15th. The parsonage garden has been named the Prayer Patch.

The next step is to rally gardeners from the church and the local community to participate in Harvests Gifts and regularly donate produce. If you are a gardener or have friends and neighbors who are, please talk to them about Harvest Gifts and how they can help. Flyers briefly explaining Harvest Gifts and asking for volunteers are available for your use. They will also be on display at local garden centers.

The next phase is scheduling drop off times for donations, packaging and distribution of food to area centers. There will be many opportunities for you to volunteer. With your help and the blessings of our Lord, we can accomplish great things!

The Missions Committee - Kristi Tessier, Joyce Libby, Karen Gatchell, Nancy Nelson, Karen Anable and Janet Modlish



UMCOR - Lenten Charity

The Missions Committee chose as our Lenten project collecting donations for UMCOR, a disaster relief organization that is active throughout the world. Collections ended April 7th. The FCC raised \$ 248.40 for this organization. Thanks to all who contributed!



Little Angel Pet Treats News

As part of our March sales activities, Beverly Burnell and I spent two blustery hours outside the Village Mart peddling pet treats. It was the Saturday before Palm Sunday and we had a display asking "What's in your pet's Easter basket??" It got some laughs and definitely brought people to the table for a closer look. We had four customers, two who had no pets, give donations because their mothers or grandparents had been members of the church and it had enriched their lives. Overall it was a heart-warming and productive two hours.

Since mid-January the pet treats have raised a little over \$600 for the Missions Committee which will help fund future charitable activities.

Karen Anable Member Missions Committee

Memorial Gathering

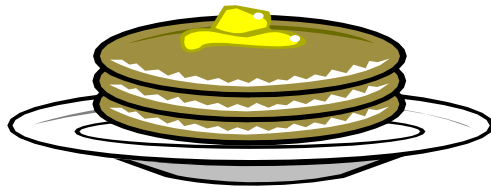
A service of Praise in song and music in memory of Paul Brooks, beloved husband of Lana Brooks, will be held **Sunday May 6, at 3pm** in the FCC Sanctuary. All are invited to share in this loving celebration of a faithful life. Light refreshments to follow.



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
MEMORIAL DAY
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

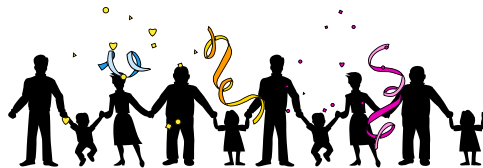
PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST
AT
FEDERATED COMMUNITY CHURCH
590 MAIN STREET
Hampden, MA

MONDAY, MAY 28, 2018
7-10 AM



ADULTS \$4.00
CHILDREN UNDER 10 free

COME AND HAVE BREAKFAST WITH US
AND STAY AND ENJOY THE PARADE!



Craft Fair

Monday, May 28

The event will be held on our
beautiful grounds
on the banks of the Scantic River.

Come join us for a day of fun and shopping!

Crafters; including handmade items, candy, jewelry,
and much more.

Hours: 8am - 2pm

Soda & water and lunch will
be available for purchase.

Questions about Booth Space and Table Rental
Please contact

Laurie at 364-8322 or Kristi 374-8742

e-mail: fairsatfcc@gmail.com



May 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:30 Spirit Chat	2 6:30 Missions	3	4	5
6 10:00 Worship, Communion Sunday School, Nursery	7	8 9:30 Spirit Chat 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speakers	9 12:00 Prayer Group .	10 7:00 Choir	11	12 8:00 Men's Breakfast
13 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	14	15 9:30 Spirit Chat 6:30 AA Step 7:00 BOD 7:30 AA Speakers	16 12:00 Prayer Group 7:00 Deacons	17 7:00 Choir	18	19 10:00 Dress a Girl
20 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	21 .	22 9:30 Spirit Chat 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speakers	23 12:00 Prayer Group .	24 7:00 Choir	25 6:00 Knit, Stitch, Pray	26 8:00 Men's Breakfast
27 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	28 Pancake Breakfast Craft Fair 	29 9:30 Spirit Chat 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speakers	30 12:00 Prayer Group	31 7:00 Choir		

FEDERATED COMMUNITY CHURCH
590 Main St.
PO Box 246
Hampden, MA 01036

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

Church Staff

<u>Pastor</u>	
<u>Organist/Choir Director</u>	Barbara Bennett
<u>Administrative Assistant</u>	Joyce Ogonowski
<u>Christian Ed Directors</u>	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, May 6th 6th Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Acts 10:44-48
I John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

Sunday, May 13th 7th Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
I John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19

Sunday, May 20th Pentecost Sunday

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21
Romans 8:22-27
John 15:26-27;16:4b-15

Sunday, May 27th 1st Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-8
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17