



**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>                   | Rev. Patricia Miller Fernandes       |
| <u>Organist/Choir Director</u>  | Faith Thompson                       |
| <u>Administrative Assistant</u> | Kristen Roy                          |
| <u>Christian Ed Directors</u>   | Laurie Schoolcraft<br>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.



United Church of Christ

# *The Federated Courier*



United Methodist Church

**Federated Community Church**

**Hampden, MA 01036**

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## *From the Pastor's Desk*

Greetings in the Name of the Risen Christ!

When I, as Pastor, am assigned to a new church, I try to assess where most of the congregation is theologically, spiritually, and emotionally. This is normally done with Bible studies, prayer groups, and conversations. Sometimes, assumptions are made as to what the congregation has been learning in the years before arrival of the new pastor. Through my years as a disciple, in a number of Bible studies beginning before I even attended theological school, one frequent assignment was to re-write the Lord's Prayer in your own, contemporary language. One goal of the assignment was to help one get away from repeating the Lord's Prayer in rote and assisting a person to really think about what we are praying as we say The Lord's Prayer. I first experienced rewriting the Lord's Prayer this way approximately thirty (30) years ago. It is not something new for me. Unfortunately, I made the assumption that most of you would be familiar with hearing the Lord's Prayer in contemporary language as well. Since Easter and the fifty (50) days that follow are a time of newness and growth as Christians, I thought using the Lord's Prayer in contemporary language might help us to stop and think about what we often say mindlessly as we pray together.

Two thousand years (2000) after Jesus death and resurrection, we tend to become complacent about Easter. We certainly do not experience the events as the early Disciples did: confusion, a longing for what was, sadness, loss of hope. I thought using the Lord's Prayer in contemporary language would help some of us to experience a few of the same feelings the early disciples felt.

From hearing the murmurings among the congregation, I believe that using the contemporary language for the Lord's Prayer has done both: caused some to reflect on the words and meaning (those have mostly been positive comments) and has caused others confusion, sadness, and a longing for the way it has normally been shared. I apologize for not informing the congregation ahead of time that we would be praying the Lord's Prayer in contemporary language during the Easter Season which ends with the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost ( June 9<sup>th</sup>, this year). If it has caused you to reflect on what we say when we pray, I am thankful. If it has caused you confusion, sadness, or other, perhaps you might have a deeper understanding of how the first disciples felt.

While I apologize for not informing the congregation ahead of time, I am not sorry that I have included the contemporary language of the prayer in worship. My role as Pastor is to assist the members to grow as disciples. I believe the use of the updated versions has caused some growth. For that I am grateful. What I have also learned from this experience is that many folks share their murmurings with one another but do not share them directly with the one who has caused the upset and/or has the position to resolve or bring clarity and understanding to the issue. That makes me sad. I am your Pastor. I believe that I have a good listening ear and an understanding heart. If there is an issue, please speak with me directly. I want to know if you are upset. Many times a situation can be resolved by listening to one another and getting a better understanding of what one another thinks or believes. If you tell one another, but never tell me about something that you like or that is upsetting, there cannot be understanding and growth for either of us. Have something on your mind? Call me, I would love to have a cup of coffee and share our thoughts. Shalom.

In the love and light of Christ,

*Pastor Pat*

## *From the Deacons' Bench*

Something has changed. Always a word person, I based my understanding of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit on reading the Bible - the scriptures and Bible studies aimed at interpreting their meaning. I recognized my own need to dig deeper, to spend more time thinking about application of the Lord's wisdom in a complex world. Notice the word choices - being a more spiritual person was based on reading and thinking. A beginning of course, but far from reaching the heart of it - the sense of the Holy Spirit within.

In the past year, I have been challenged to put aside the world of words and engage my emotions and values in ways I would have thought impossible. Sharing through the advent booklet and weekly Spirit Chats has opened my heart. Bible Studies have opened my mind. The twice monthly luncheon and worship services on Wednesdays have brought great joy - we are serving members of our church family unable to manage the Sunday Services. Why didn't we think of this long ago!!

I have been invited to participate in unfamiliar forms of Communion, and new approaches to Advent and Lenten Services. I said yes and put trepidations aside - discovered I could anoint and pray for fellow congregants, find a deeper experience of Holy Week through the addition of the Good Friday Service, and know humility as we washed each others feet. Living Holy Week as it was chronicled in the scriptures was a brand new experience.

Opportunities for growth through fellowship have begun. The Women's Retreat brought us together, to explore ways to enhance spirituality and our sense of the Holy Spirit within. The experience strengthened our relationships with one another and left us wanting more. Look out men, your turn is coming!

I have changed. We are changing in many positive ways. As we approach the anniversary of Pastor Pat's arrival (July 1, 2018), let's take a few minutes to reflect on the many ways it which our hearts and spirits have been lifted. And know, this is just the beginning.

Thank you Pastor Pat for the challenges!

Deacon Karen Anable

## *Servers for the Month*

### Ushers

|      |                               |
|------|-------------------------------|
| 6/02 | Dave & Karen Anable           |
| 6/09 | Amy & Dale Varney             |
| 6/16 | Don & Shirley Facey           |
| 6/2  | Elaine DeGray & Ellie Green   |
| 6/30 | Joyce Ogonowski & Mary Howell |

### Deacons

|        |                 |
|--------|-----------------|
| June   | Hayden Tibbetts |
| July   | Karen Anable    |
| August | Dave Anable     |

## *Anniversaries*

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

|                          |       |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Richard & Sharon DeSanti | 06/02 |
| Joanne & David Gernux    | 06/07 |
| George & Gail Romano     | 06/12 |
| David & Jane Wyman       | 06/12 |
| William & Ellen Gatchell | 06/14 |
| James & Beverly Brant    | 06/21 |
| Donald & Joyce Ogonowski | 06/27 |



## *Gift of New Life*

Congratulations to Pastor Pat and Wayne as they celebrate the birth of a granddaughter, Shirley Jean, born May 22, 2019. Shirley is the second daughter and second child of their middle son Jeffrey and his wife Ashley.

# HAPPY Birthday!

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

|                         |       |                   |       |
|-------------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|
| Pat Miller<br>Fernandes | 06/02 | Alison Castellano | 06/19 |
| Karen Anable            | 06/05 | Alicia Richter    | 06/20 |
| Ross Gardner            | 06/08 | Janet Modlish     | 06/20 |
| Kimberley Mercure       | 06/08 | Paul Cilley       | 06/23 |
| Jacqueline Brusa        | 06/10 | Alexandra Smith   | 06/23 |
| Betty Sutcliffe         | 06/14 | Michael DeSanti   | 06/24 |
| Jennifer Fisher         | 06/15 | Jacob Trevallion  | 06/25 |
| August Fernandes        | 06/18 | Elena Green       | 06/27 |
| Jacqueline Prior        | 06/18 | Nancy Nelson      | 06/27 |
| Jean Carroll            | 06/19 | Elizabeth Cilley  | 06/29 |
| Roberta Grant           | 06/19 | Matthew Sterling  | 06/29 |



## Sunday School Birthdays

|                   |       |
|-------------------|-------|
| Samuel Castellano | 06/11 |
| Miyani Brown      | 06/20 |

## Prayer Corner



|                 |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Evie Meacham    | Jack Bennett          |
| Peg Stearns     | Walter Black Jr.      |
| Julia Winetrout | Debbie Doyle & Family |
| Judy Ingle      | David Blanchard       |
| Wendy Chadwick  | Christopher           |
| Peter Bokulic   | Branden               |
| Sheila          | Audrey Burger         |
| Sharon          | Gail Banning          |
| Phyllis Watson  | John & Nenita         |
| Don Mecure      | Benjamin Blain        |
| Barbara Bennett |                       |

## Wonderful Wednesday Worship

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month we have a wonderful worship service. A lunch is offered at 12:30 PM, followed by a worship service at 1:00 PM. The service is approximately one (1) hour. All events happen on the main floor in the fellowship hall. There is no need to deal with steps. The time is open to anyone. Great community takes place during the sharing of the meal and the service is uplifting and inspiring. It is open to all ages. Last two weeks we have had 16 people attend. Please feel free to join us. If you do not want to partake in the meal, simply attend the service. We are seeking members of the congregation to assist in making and serving of the meals. If you can help, please speak with Karen Anable or Pastor Pat.

## Knit, Stitch, Pray

All are welcome to gather at Karen Gatchell's house for knitting, crocheting, sewing or fellowship and prayer. We will meet from 2-4 on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Bring a project of your own or if you would like to learn how to knit, I would be glad to teach you. My address is 15 Raymond Drive, Wilbraham. My phone number is 413-237-1598.

## Summer Kick Off

## Fellowship Picnic

Come enjoy fellowship with our Church Family as we celebrate the close of the Sunday School program with the start of the Summer Season and our Annual Fellowship Picnic. The event will begin immediately after our 10:00 service on Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, where all are welcome to join us. The Board of Directors will be sponsoring, and serving at the event. As usual, we will have hamburgers, hotdogs, veggie burgers, summer salads, chips, punch, lemonade and desserts. Weather permitting, we'll shoot for a lawn event like last year. Bring your friends and extended family members for another opportunity to meet our Pastor, Reverend Pat. We have a great Congregation and want extend our appreciation for all the support we receive.

-The Board of Directors

## *June 9<sup>th</sup> Pentecost Sunday- Invite you to Wear Red*

Pentecost marks the end of the Easter Season in the church calendar. It is marked by the arrival of the Holy Spirit as described in Acts 2 and celebrated as the birth of the church. Pentecost is symbolized by wind, flames, and the breath of God as a dove. I invite you to wear red (the flame) as we mark this joyful day in our church calendar. The Holy Spirit is the third nature of the Trinity: Creator, Son, and Holy Spirit. We will conclude our Sunday school year on the same day. Scholarships will be awarded to college students who have applied and met criteria. Following worship we will have a cookout. Please come and join us. (They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together Acts 2: 42-44a) Our celebration will not be the same without you!

## *3 Week Bible Study on Forgiveness*

The Bible Study is offered twice - on Wednesday mornings from 10:30-noon and Wednesday evenings 6:30-8:00 pm.

Beginning May 29<sup>th</sup> a Bible study on forgiveness will be held. Forgiveness is a core Christian value, but so hard to achieve. It is one of those issues that comes up constantly in our lives and in many situations. We do not outgrow it. We will watch a documentary *The Power of Forgiveness* in the first two classes: watching half the documentary followed by discussion. In the third class, we will have a short lecture by Gregory Jones (Dean of Duke University Divinity School. He was previously the executive vice president and provost of Baylor University. In addition, he serves as senior fellow for Leadership Education at Duke Divinity, and senior fellow at the Fuqua-Coach K Center on Leadership and Ethics) followed by conversation.. I hope that you will make an effort to join in the class. You can just listen; but being present will say to one another you believe this issue matters to yourself and the church community.

No preparation or enrollment is needed and there is no homework.

## *Camp Scholarships*

FCC is offering camp scholarships for those attending a Christian camp this summer. Camp brochures are on the bulletin board outside the Christian Education office. One camp that Pastor Pat has a lot of experience with is Camp Aldersgate in No. Situate RI. Their website can be Googled. Most week long overnight camps are for those entering 4<sup>th</sup> grade in September or older. An application can be found in the newsletter. Please return your completed application by June 15<sup>th</sup> to the office. Scholarship money will be divided by the number of applicants. FCC will invite each camper to share what their experience of camp was like: what their favorite thing about camp was.

## *Christian Healing Ministries*

Christian Healing Ministries will offer the program,

***Ignite on June 20 at 10 AM to June 22 at 1 PM***

**The focus this year is Worship, Personal Ministry, and Healing!**

Speakers: Judith MacNutt and the CHM Team

Venue: Double Tree by Hilton

870 Williston Road,

Burlington, Vermont, 05403, USA

Cost: \$195 per person (*Meals, transportation and lodging are not included*)

Hotel information:

Special Hotel Room Rate: \$137.00 per night

SPACE IS LIMITED and the cut-off date for the room rate discount is May 28, 2019.

A few FCC members are attending. If interested in attending, carpooling, or sharing a room, please speak with Pastor Pat

### **Prayers Please**

The United Methodist Church Annual Conference is June 13-15. Please hold the conference and attendees in your prayers as we strive to find our way forward in the midst of a non – inclusive vote taken at the last General Conference (See March Newsletter).

### **Men's Group**

Thank you to the men for leading a wonder-filled worship service on Mather's Day. The service included personal witnesses of their families; some biological and some not. The men also shared in the gift of song. It was a wonderful service. Thank you to all who participated to lead such a rich and meaningful worship service.

### **Retreat**

The women held a retreat in May at St. Scholastica Priory What a wonderful experience. Pastor Pat led the structured part of the program: a short reflection and activity on Friday evening and a packed Saturday on ways to engage with God. Good conversation, a bounty of food, and connections among the group were enjoyed by all. We hope to have more times for retreats in the fall which will kick off a 9/10 month commitment (meeting once per month) of using the book *Simple Faith*, as we grow in our relationship with God and with one another. The multiple options for retreats is in hopes that all women will participate. Keep your eyes open for details.

### **Board of Directors June Meeting**

Please note the date for the next Board of Directors meeting has been moved to June 25<sup>th</sup>. Please make every effort to make the meeting if you are on the Board so that we have a quorum.

### **May 30th :Talk Saves Life**

FCC will host continuing talks regarding suicide. The talk will be guided by American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. Program will begin at 6:30 PM., sharing warning signs, risk factors, and how, together, we can prevent it. All are invited to engage in this important matter.



**June 2019**



| Sunday  | Monday             | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday                        | Friday                          | Saturday  |
|---|--------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
|   |                    |  |  |                                 |                                 | 1   |
| 2<br>10:00 Worship, Sunday<br>School, Nursery                                   | 3<br>1:00 Deacons  | 4<br>9:30 Spirit Chat<br>6:30 AA Step<br>7:30 AA Speakers                            | 5<br>10:00 Fellowship<br>10:30 Bible Study<br>6:30 Bible Study                             | 6<br>5:00- 6:30 Girl<br>Scouts  | 7<br>9:00<br>SRCC<br>Graduation | 8<br>8:00 Men's Breakfast<br>10:00 am Women's<br>Fellowship |
| 9<br>10:00 Worship, Sunday<br>School, Nursery<br>Children's Program &<br>Picnic | 10                 | 11<br>9:30 Spirit Chat<br>6:30 AA Step<br>7:00 Finance Committee<br>7:30 AA Speakers | 12 10:00 Fellowship<br>10:30 Bible Study<br>12:30 Afternoon<br>Worship<br>6:30 Bible Study | 13                              | 14                              | 15  |
| 16<br>10:00 Worship, Sunday<br>School, Nursery                                  | 17<br>1:00 Deacons | 18<br>9:30 Spirit Chat<br>6:30 AA Step<br>7:30 AA Speakers                           | 19<br>10:00 Fellowship<br>10:30 – 12:00 Bible<br>Study                                     | 20<br>5:00- 6:30 Girl<br>Scouts | 21                              | 22<br>8:00 Men's Breakfast<br>10:00 am<br>Dress a Girl      |
| 23<br>10:00 Worship, Sunday<br>School, Nursery<br>2:00 Knit, Stitch, Pray       | 24                 | 25<br>9:30 Spirit Chat<br>6:30 AA Step<br>7:00 BOD mtg<br>7:30 AA Speakers           | 26<br>10:00 Fellowship<br>10:30 – 12:00 Bible<br>Study<br>12:30 Afternoon<br>Worship       | 27                              | 28                              | 29  |
| 30<br>10:00 Worship, Sunday<br>School, Nursery                                  |                    |  |  |                                 |                                 |   |

