



United Church of Christ

The Federated Courier

Federated Community Church
Hampden, MA 01036



United Methodist Church

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February 2019

From the Pastor's Desk

Read Psalm 8

*When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars, which you have set in place,
what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them? Psalm 8:3-4*

Mary Oliver is one of my favorite poets. Her poems capture nature and spirituality easily and beautifully. Oliver is not afraid to ask a question and leave the readers to ponder the answer for themselves. Her asking questions without trying to find a correct answer is probably why I like her poems so much. It is similar in my faith. I have faith questions for which there are no definitive answers. I like to ponder them and it is definitely okay with me not to have an answer. Since modernity, a time when we became “*Enlightened*,” many of us seem to think we have to have an answer scientifically proven or we can't believe it. We have taken away for many people the ability to believe in God because they cannot prove God's existence scientifically. How sad. At the right time, God's time, we will understand, but for now: we ponder and we see evidence of a wonderful Creator who has left his/her mark all around and in us.

Our church congregation has been looking at spiritual gifts that we have been given by God. All of us are blessed with at least one gift. Each gift(s) is necessary to function smoothly or efficiently as the body of Christ. When someone withholds their gift(s), it either makes implementing a plan doomed or makes another person cover for the missing gift. If the person covering is not gifted in that area, it often takes more energy (since it is not a natural gift) and may cause burnout if it occurs too many times or for too long a duration. I pray you will ponder what your gift(s) is and how you will use it among our FCC body so another does not have to cover for you. Mary Oliver, who died January 17, 2019, asks a great question in the last line of *The Summer Day*. As members of FCC, how will you use your spiritual gifts as we build up each other and strive for God's kin-dom here on earth? What is your dream for our church? How can we assist one another in this precious life we have been given?

The Summer Day

Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean-
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down-
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life? —Mary Oliver

Blessed Pondering,
Pastor Pat

From the Deacons' Bench

From *The Upper Room* devotional, by Narda Vargas:

"I recently read an article about a tribe in northern Natal in South Africa. According to tribal custom, when someone does something wrong or detrimental to others, the members of the tribe take the offender to the center of the village and surround him or her. During two days, the tribe members tell the offender the good things he or she has accomplished. The purpose of the ritual is to restore the person and to affirm that he or she is essentially a good person...."

Thought for the Day: Surrounding people with love can bring healing and restore community."

I couldn't find confirmation of this practice but, "So what?"; I see this story as a model for what **could be reality** for our "tribe"- Christians.

- What would my life look like if I consistently committed to transforming my heart to align with Jesus' heart?
- If I consistently looked for ways to uplift others, replacing criticism and judgment with encouragement and gratitude?
- If this actually became our tribal practice, how different would life in our churches, homes, workplaces, and communities be?

Jesus gives many guidelines for actually changing my behavior and transforming my relationships, including these: *Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Colossians 3:12-14 (NIV)*

Shared in love,

Deacon Linda Hornig

SERVERS FOR THE MONTH

Ushers

2/3 Bill & Lynn Cunningham
2/10 Dave & Karen Anable
2/17 Bill & Lynn Cunningham
2/24 Amy & Dale Varney

Deacons

February Karen Anable
March Dave Spencer
April Frank Watson

Children in Church – Part 1

Sharing worship with the children requires us to seek a balance of the children's experience and the adults' experience on Sunday morning. We have a young group of children, some very young; defining realistic expectations for the different ages can be challenging.

The Deacons and Pastor Pat are working with our Christian Education directors, actively exploring effective ways to:

- show parents and their children that they are loved and welcome here
- create a spiritually meaningful space for all of our community, children and adults

The people brought children to Jesus, hoping he might touch them. The disciples shooed them off. But Jesus was irate and let them know it: "Don't push these children away. Don't ever get between them and me. These children are at the very center of life in the kingdom. Mark this: Unless you accept God's kingdom in the simplicity of a child, you'll never get in."

Then, gathering the children up in his arms, he laid his hands of blessing on them. Mark 10:13-16

We thank you for your prayers, compassion, and patience during this time. Please share your constructive input with Laurie and Kristi, Linda Hornig (or any Deacon), or Pastor Pat, and watch this space for updates as we work together in love to "Let the little children come" to Jesus.

Christian Education

As the colder weather engulfs us, we are entering this year with the beginning. "In the beginning God created the Heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1

God created each of us, and we all have our own special gifts. The children are exploring what their gifts might be and how God made each one of them special in their own way.

We look forward to the exploring what the Bible says and its inspiring words. God made us and God made our families. Our families are different and they are all special. "The Lord God. It is He who has made us." Psalm 100:3

Blessings,
Kristi & Laurie

STEWARDSHIP MUSINGS ...

Legacy Gifts ~ A Blessing for All!

Our church has been so blessed over the years with amazing generous endowments and bequests from our members who have passed on. Recently, we have received two major gifts—one from Leonard & Helen Dickinson and another from Judith Gerrish. Even those smaller gifts, bequeathed to us with love, have made a big difference in our ability to enhance our missions and ministries and spread God's love even further into the world.

Some of these gifts have been left as **endowments**, providing income to the church over the years while leaving the original gift amount invested to earn more income. Others have been made as **outright gifts**, allowing the church to determine how and when these monies may be best used. Either way, they are all a blessing to help us carry on with God's work.

So, have you ever thought of what you might be able to do to follow in the footsteps of those generous saints who have gone before?

Sometimes a very simple step you can take is to **include the church in your will**—either by leaving a dollar amount or a percentage of your estate. Similarly, naming the church as a beneficiary-or partial **beneficiary in a life insurance policy** that you no longer need to protect your family can help to continue your generosity to the church beyond your life time.

There are other more complex ways of bequeathing money to the church that will also provide income to you while you are still living, as well as provide some beneficial tax treatments. Some of these include: **Gift annuities, Pooled Income Funds, and Charitable Remainder Trusts**. These various instruments can be set up through your denomination, either the United Church of Christ or the United Methodist Church.

Any of these gifts to the church may be designated in a way that they will benefit a specific ministry of your choice, such as missions, buildings, or scholarships, or any other ministry you choose. They may also be given with no restrictions which will help with the general operations and ministries as the church needs. Either way, your gift will continue your generosity into the future to help **FCC**, our church, grow in its work for Christ.

If any of these thoughts appeal to your sense of generosity and you would like to explore them further, you may contact Pastor Pat or Carol Darnley at (413) 267-3718 or cdarnley@yahoo.com.

In Loving Service to Christ,
Carol Darnley (on behalf of the Stewardship Ministry Team and the Finance Committee)

FCC PRAYER:

LORD, BLESS OUR CHURCH AND HELP US TO BE FAITHFUL WITNESSES OF YOUR LOVE. AMEN.

Missions Moment

This month we would like to highlight the Community Survival Center. You may have seen them visiting us at one of our craft fairs. We have been supporting the Survival Center for year. During the colder months there is a greater need for donations. You can drop off any non-perishable items, or clothing in the narthex.

“The Community Survival Center is a 34 year old non-profit agency that helps families struggling to provide the basics: food, clothing and household items. Our emergency food pantry serves Ludlow, Wilbraham, and Hampden as well as the 16 Acres, Pine Point, and Indian Orchard neighborhoods in Springfield.

“The Bridge of Hope Thrift Shop is open to the public and sells quality clothing and accessories, most at just \$4 per item. Shirts and blouses are \$3 per item. Also, our Clothing and Household Goods Program offers sales at just \$4/bag (with a limit of one bag of children's clothing) or \$6/bag for the larger bag, and is also open to the general public. All proceeds help to fund our pantry.

“We are supported by donations from our neighbors: individuals, churches, businesses, schools and various groups and organizations within the above mentioned communities. And we are extremely grateful to be able to support the center primarily with their help.”

Blessings,
Your Missions Team

Worship Schedule

Worship: 10 am - Sunday School: 10 am



Sunday, Feb 3rd Scripture	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany Jeremiah 1:4-10 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 Luke 4:21-30
Sunday, Feb 10th Scripture	Fifth Sunday after Epiphany Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13) 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11
Sunday, Feb 17th Scripture	Sixth Sunday after Epiphany Jeremiah 17:5-10 1 Corinthians 15:12-20 Luke 6:17-26
Sunday, Feb 24th Scripture	Seventh Sunday after Epiphany Genesis 45:3-11, 15 1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50 Luke 6:27-38

Happy Birthday

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

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

If you would like your birthday added to our newsletter, please contact the office at 413-566-3711 or email us at hampdenfederated@gmail.com.

 **On January 5, 2019, Peg Stearns**
had a birthday 😊
Happy 108th Birthday Peg !! 



Prayer Corner



Evie Meacham	Jack Bennett	Audrey Burger
Peg Stearns	Walter Black Jr.	Gail Banning
Julia Winetrout	Judy Schwabe	Tim Green
Judy Ingle	Janet Case	John & Nenita
Wendy Chadwick	Debbie Doyle & Family	Judy Hatch
Heather Walker	Barbara Bennett	Peter Bokulic
Dennis Connor	David Blanchard	Christopher
Donald Ogonowski	Joyce Brooks	Branden

If you would like to be added to our Prayer Corner, please contact the office at 413-566-3711 or email us at hampdenfederated@gmail.com. Also, please notify us if a name needs to be removed from the list.

Prayer Room

The prayer room is open and available for use Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings from 9:15- 1:00 PM. Feel free to come and sit in and with the Holy Spirit, pray, or read. Pastor Pat has put some books on prayer and healing in the room which can be borrowed. (A sign out sheet is provided) Upper Room daily devotionals are also available.

Spirit Chat – Tuesday Mornings- 9:30 – 11:00 AM

Come and join our time. It is filled with the Holy Spirit. There is no homework, you just have to attend. We read devotions from the Upper Room and discuss. The Holy Spirit leads us in truths, discoveries, laughter, and friendship. Those who do not like to read aloud can just listen. All are invited.



Anniversary



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

Earl & Barbara Schofield 02/04

If you would like your anniversary added to our newsletter, please contact the office at 413-566-3711 or email us at hampdenfederated@gmail.com.



Parish Notes

Pledging Update...



As of this writing, our pledges for 2019 have not kept pace with those of previous years.

A few years ago, the total pledging of our church was almost \$110,000. This year, however, it has dropped to \$86,500, lower than last year's total of about \$90,000.

This could certainly have an unfavorable impact on the funding for our church's ministries and missions. But, our hope is that with the income from our two recent bequests (*see "Stewardship Musings"*) added to our budget, we will be able to at least maintain the level of the work we do through our church for God's mission in our communities—**here ~ there ~ and everywhere.**

If you haven't yet offered your pledge for 2019, or if you would like to increase the pledge you've already made, you may notify the church office or Janet Libby, chair of the Finance Committee. This would be very helpful in supporting our ministries this year and into the future, as well as providing an amazing blessing in your own life.

GREAT things are happening at FCC! With your generous support and the gifts of those who have gone before, we will continue to grow Christ's mission of love—here in Hampden and beyond.

With Hope and Prayers,
Your Finance Committee



MEN'S BREAKFAST

2nd & 4th Saturdays every month. All men are invited and encouraged to join in. Cooking and other preparations begin at 7:00 am with sharing of breakfast at 8:00 am. Come to help cook or just to eat.

Announcements



Women's Fellowship

Saturday, 2/9/19

11:00 AM-1:00 PM Libby Hall
Potluck Luncheon

Invitation to Women for Faith, Fellowship, and Fun (and food)

All women who are connected to FCC, whether members or not, are invited to participate in any or all **Women's Fellowship** activities. (Meetings 2nd Saturday of the Month---**Weather cancellation - reschedule day 4th Saturday**)

This month, instead of 10 a.m., we are having a **Potluck Luncheon Sat. Feb. 9, from 11-1**, and you're invited! If you are able, bring a favorite family dish to share. Come anyway, even if you can't bring a dish: we always have plenty to go around, and we just want to spend good fellowship time together.

In addition, bring a picture of yourself as a baby or small child, but don't put your name on it- we're going to post them, and try to guess who is in the picture. Let's have a rousing game of "Guess Who". Any questions, call or text Pamela Rogers (413-313-1857) or Karen Anable (413-636-6021).

(Psalm 139, v. 13-14 For you formed my inward parts, you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.)

We hope you will join us for this very special luncheon!

Thank You!

Dear "Fellowship Ladies",



I want to thank you so much for the "yummy" cookies. What a nice surprise that was! Also enjoyed a nice visit with Karen & Dave Anable. Happy New Year to all!

Love & blessings,
Shirley Fuller

Feedback/Discussion About the Holiday Bazaar

Please join us on **Sunday, 2/10/19 at 11:30am** to have a feedback discussion about the Holiday Bazaar we held in December, 2018. This would be very helpful for the planning of the Memorial Day Craft Fair on Monday, May 27, 2019. Thank you for your support.

Charity Pillow Case Making Event

It has been five years since my daughter, Ellen Gourlay, died by suicide. She was diagnosed with depression which eventually took her life. I miss her every day. She was a loving and generous person who enjoyed sewing. She made quilts and pillowcases for her family. In honor of her memory and her kindness to others I would like to invite everyone to a pillowcase making day. It will be on **Saturday, February 23 from 11-4 in Libby Hall** here at church. There are lots of pillowcase kits so you do not need to bring any fabric. If you have a sewing machine that you can bring to sew up the pillowcases that would be great. If not, that is ok too. There will be a job for everyone. They will then be donated to children and adults in the Springfield area at Shriners Hospital for Children, Ronald McDonald House, the Open Pantry Homeless Shelter and Springfield Rescue Mission. Come and enjoy the day of working to make a child's life a little bit brighter.

For more information contact:

Karen at [413-237-1598](tel:413-237-1598) or gatchell@charter.net.

Your sister in Christ, Karen Gatchell

Go Conference

Do Justice-Love Mercy-Walk Humbly-Make Disciples
February 15-16, 2019

Mass Mutual Center, Springfield, MA

\$49 Group Rates for Churches

For more information see website: www.goconf.org

Music News

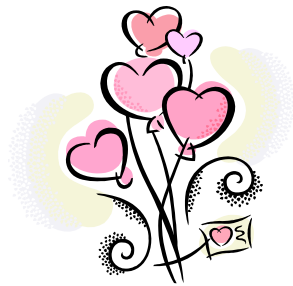


The church choir is planning to perform a Cantata, a musical extravaganza, on the Sunday following Easter. We will be practicing for the Cantata on Sundays immediately following Youth Choir Rehearsal. Our first rehearsals will be on February 10th and February 24th.

Anyone interested in singing with the choir but is unable to attend Wednesday night rehearsals may stay after our Cantata practice to work on the Sunday choir anthem for the next week.

Men's Choir To Sing!

Responding to a ground swell from music enthusiasts, the Church Men's Choir will perform again during the **Valentine's Day services scheduled for Sunday, February 10**. Under the able leadership of Music Director Faith Thompson, the popular singing group will rehearse briefly after services on Sunday, 2/3/19. All men are encouraged to join in! Mark your calendars!



MEAT PIE SUPPER
AT
FEDERATED COMMUNITY CHURCH
590 Main Street
Hampden, MA
Saturday, February 16, 2019
6:00 PM

Menu

Meat Pies

Tossed Salad
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Vegetables
Dessert
Beverages



Adults--\$10 – Children under 12--\$5

Bring a Friend!

Great Way to Meet the Church Family

(Takeout available after 6:00pm)

Please Sign up in Libby Hall or call Church Office

For reservations by February 13th

at 413-566-3711



February 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 10:00 am-Private Event
3 10:00-Worship, Communion, Sunday School 11:15-Youth Choir	4 1:00-3:00 Deacons	5 9:30-Spirit Chat 6:30-AA Step 7:00-Missions 7:30-AA	6 10:00-Fellowship 10:30-12:00 Bible Study 7:15-Chancel Choir	7	8	9 8:00-Men's Breakfast 11:00-1:00 Women's Fellowship— Potluck Luncheon 
10 10:00-Worship, Sunday School 11:15-Youth Choir 11:30-Holiday Bazaar Feedback/Discussion	11 .	12 9:30-Spirit Chat 6:30-AA Step 7:30-AA	13 10:00-Fellowship 10:30-12:00 Bible Study 12:30-Afternoon Worship 7:15-Chancel Choir	14 Valentine's Day  5:00-6:30—Girl Scouts	15 6:30-Technology	16 10:00-Dress A Girl 6:00-French Meat Pie Supper 
17 10:00-Worship, Sunday School 11:15-Youth Choir 2:00 Private Event	18 1:00-3:00 Deacons	19 9:30-Spirit Chat 11:00-Staff Meeting 6:30-AA Step 7:00-BOD 7:30-AA	20 10:00-Fellowship 10:30-12:00 Bible Study 7:15 Chancel Choir	21	22	23 8:00-Men's Breakfast 11:00-4:00 Pillowcase Making
24 10:00-Worship, Sunday School 11:15-Youth Choir	25	26 9:30-Spirit Chat 6:30-AA Step 7:30-AA	27 10:00-Fellowship 10:30-12:00 Bible Study 12:30-Afternoon Worship 7:15 Chancel Choir	28 5:00-6:30—Girl Scouts		

FEDERATED COMMUNITY CHURCH
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Women's Fellowship Potluck Luncheon

***Date:* Saturday, February 9, 2019**

***Time:* 11:00 am - 1:00 pm**

Bring baby picture...see inside for details



Meat Pie Supper

***Date:* Saturday, February 16, 2019**

***Time:* 6:00 PM**

***Price:* Adults--\$10 & Children under 12--\$5**