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The Federated Courier

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October 2019

From the Pastor's Desk

Greetings in the Name of Christ!

During the month of September, my preaching brought us back to the basics. We looked at “*Who is God anyways?*” and about the third essence of the Trinity, *The Holy Spirit*. The Triune God is difficult to explain, but Oh, how we want to try. In doing so, we are limited by our language and our own imaginations. God is always more than the best and most we can imagine. Exodus includes God speaking to Moses and says to explain God as, “*I AM WHO I AM.*” *I AM* is the ultimate statement of self-sufficiency, self-existence, and immediate presence. God’s existence is not contingent upon anyone else. His plans are not contingent upon any circumstances. He promises that He will be what He will be; that is, He will be the eternally constant God. He stands, ever-present and unchangeable, completely sufficient in God’s self to do what He wills to do and to accomplish what He wills to accomplish. (gotquestions.org)

In October, we will look at John Wesley’s, *Three Simple Rules*, which he called and challenged all those whom he disciplined to live as basic tenets in their daily life. Three

simple rules that if practiced consistently can change your life and the world around you. Beginning September 13th we will look at Rule #1 Do No Harm, the consecutive week, Rule #2 Do Good, and the following week, Rule #3 Stay in Love with God. I am really excited to share these simple, yet profound, rules with you. I hope you will be here to learn and begin using them to see what difference they make in your lives.

Bible Study will resume October 16th. We will look at *Short Stories of Jesus* by Amy Jill Levine. I hope you will consider joining in. The study is another way of fellowship so that we get to know one another better. Don't worry about not knowing enough: we are all still learning. Perhaps you think you know too much: Don't let that stop you either; join us and share your knowledge with me and the rest of the folks. We are always ready to learn more.

I will be traveling for study to Greece for a Biblical Study of Paul's journey beginning September 30 until October 10th. If you need pastoral care, please call Linda Hornig. She will contact the covering pastor. Please hold our travel and study in your prayers as well as my family in my absence. Continue to lift our church in the prayer: *Continue to bless our church and help us to be faithful witnesses of your love.*

In Christ's love and light,

Pastor Pat

From the Deacons' Bench

“WAITING FOR AN OLD FRIEND”

Lately, I find myself waiting for a visit from an old friend. She's not really old.....70ish I'd say....but stalwart yet vibrant and full blossomed. Her visit is expected soon, but, of course, there is always the chance that something might have happened like last year. You see, my friend is the sugar maple tree tucked into the tree line between the woods and the garden. That year her visit.....or better described as a "performance".....was only tentative due to an overly warm season, lack of rain and the rumor of leaf blight.

But she surprised us. One evening when the sun was low in the west in a troubled and gray sky, the clouds parted just long enough for beams of horizontal sunlight to burst upon my friend with such theatrical precision it was as if she was on stage within the spot. What a show stopper! Glorious! Thrilling in full costume.....vibrant reds and oranges, dazzling yellows! Color set to music.

How fulfilling old friends can be.

Thanks be to God.....Dave Spencer, Deacon.



Servers for the Month

Deacons

October	Frank Watson
November	Beverly Burnell
December	Hayden Tibbetts

Ushers

10/6	Bill & Lynne Cunningham
10/13	Don & Shirley Facey
10/20	Amy & Dale Varney
10/27	Dave & Karen Anable

Update on Pastoral Schedule

Pastor Pat will be away from September 30th through October 9th. If there is an issue or emergency, please call Linda Hornig. She will provide guidance and contact covering pastor if needed.

Enquiring Souls Want to Know

Do you have questions about The Federated Community Church? What do we believe? What missions we are involved in? Where you can serve within our community? Others? If so, please joins us in the Prayer Room on October 20th, following worship. A few members will share what the church means to them, why they joined and/or continue to be members, and answer questions you may have. The pastor will share about the sacraments. Grab a cup of coffee or a snack and join us for some conversation.



October Birthdays

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

Robert Patterson	10/01
Barbara Dunwoody	10/03
Jacene Germain	10/05
Joseph Eagan	10/05
Jennifer Jernigan	10/05
Cameron Walulak	10/14
Joyce Brooks	10/14
Ellen Gatchell	10/16
Laurie Schoolcraft	10/17
Gerald Robinson	10/18
Casey DeGray	10/20
Donald Facey	10/20
Rebecca DeSanti	10/20
Rebekah Doyle	10/23
Justin Jernigan	10/24
Bruce Westcott	10/29
Beatrice Officer	10/30
Gillian Smith	10/30

Sunday School Birthdays



Madison Cadieux	10/08
Olivia McKeone	10/31

Anniversaries

John & Beatrice Moriarty	10/01
Allen & Laurie Schoolcraft	10/04
Paul & Elizabeth Cilley	10/09
Nancy & Richard Nelson	10/09
Robert & Ellie Green	10/13
Robert & Cheryl Patterson	10/14
Bruce & Jeanne Westcott	10/15
Michael & Karen Kielb	10/18
Joshua & Sarah Blain	10/24
Erik & Dawn McKeone	10/27
Donald & Shirley Facey	10/30

Congratulations

Congratulations to Evelyn and Bob Schoolcraft who celebrated their 70th anniversary on September 10th. Continued blessings from all of us at church.

Welcome to our newest member in the family of Christ, Arbor Germain, who was baptized on September 29th, 2019. Arbor is the daughter of Joel & Jacene (Germain) Waithe and granddaughter of Jack & Regina Germain.



Sympathy Extended To

Peg Stearns in the death of her oldest son, Frederick. Sympathy cards can be sent to Peg Stearns, Lifecare Center, 2399 Boston Road, Wilbraham, MA 01095.

Family and Friends of Peter M. Bokulic. Cards of sympathy can be sent to Matthew Bukolic, 480 Martin Luther King Street North, Safety Harbor, FL 34695, Marc Bukolic, 3354 23rd Street North, Saint Petersburg, FL, 33713 and/or Irene Cutting at 16 Old Coach Circle, Hampden, MA 01036.

Family of Judith (Judy) Schwabe, who entered eternal life on September 24, 2019. A memorial service will be held on October 18th at 11:30 am at FCC.

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



Prayer Corner



Evie Meacham

Peg Stearns

Julia Winetrout

Judy Ingle

Audrey Burger

Barbara Bennett

Maggie Waugh

Sarah

Kayla

Winn

Pat Safford

Joyce Libby

Walter Black Jr.

Gail Banning

Ethel

Christopher

Carol Darnley

Gwen Wills

Families of Barbara, Paul & Dave

Lelum

Winnie

Coming Events

Connecticut / Western MA United Methodist District

Save the date:

Vital Conversations:

Racism & the US Church Training

Saturday, October 12th

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

First UMC, Mansfield Center, CT

Saturday, November 16th

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Trinity, UMC, Springfield, MA

JFON “Justice for Our Neighbors”

Saturday, October 19th

5:00 pm -9:00 pm

Trinity UMC, Springfield, MA

Saturday, November 2nd

Speaker – John Haney

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Lenox UMC, 6 Holmes Rd., Lenox, MA

United Methodist Annual Church Conference

Monday, November 18th

@ Federated Community Church

Hampden, MA

District Supervisor, David Calhoun will meet with
Deacons and BOD at 6:00 pm followed by an open
meeting at 7:00 pm

United Congregational Church
Super Saturday - October 5, 2019
8:00 AM – 3:45PM
Framingham, MA
Registration Deadline:
September 21, 2019

More info at :<https://www.macucc.org/eventdetail/super-saturday-october-2019-12749786>

Preparing the Church Budget for 2020

The budget process this year will be different than the process used in the past. I am calling this a “zero balance “ budget and see it as a participatory process. In the past we have looked at what the receipts were, what the different committees had spent and updated those numbers to fit the next year. With the “zero based “ process we will ask every committee to review who and what they are and what they want to accomplish and the cost of those plans. We will also ask that they try and predict the receipts they expect to generate. From this information, we will build a budget for the 2020 year. To help with this process the Finance Committee will provide the committees with the income and expenses for their committees for the full year 2018 and the up to date income and expenses for 2019.

We see this process as a way for the members to review the committee’s mission, examine the activities they pursue in that mission and explore possible new ideas. In reviewing the plans and expenses with the committees, it will give the Finance Committee and the Board of Directors a better understanding of what we are doing,

who we are serving and how much we need to maintain or improve the missions we are undertaking.

The results of your committee reviews should be finished and presented to the Finance Committee by or on the 11/13 scheduled meeting. We are available to answer any questions that may arise.

Dave Anable, Treasurer,
Janet Libby, Finance Com Chairperson

Advent Booklet Devotions

It is Pastor Pat's hope that the community of FCC will create their second annual Advent Booklet, similar to the Upper Room Daily Devotional, to be shared by the entire church during this time. The reflections can take many forms. They can be a poem or be short reflections on a time when you were touched by God or saw God working through another person. It can be a time in nature which took your breath away or about someone who made a difference in your life. If you are comfortable finding a supportive Scripture and adding a prayer, that is fine. If you only want to submit the short reflection (no more than a half typed page), Pastor Pat will add Scripture and a prayer. The booklet becomes our gift to one another. Please submit by November 15, 2019 (in time for Advent) to FCC.PastorPat@gmail.com (preferred method) or leave in the church office marked "Advent Booklet".

Small Group Gatherings

Small groups continue to meet. If you are invited, please make every effort to attend. The hosts have gone out of their way to be hospitable to the church community. Accepting is our way of hospitality.

Knit, Stitch, Pray

Knit, Stitch, Pray will be joining our annual charity pillowcase making event in Libby Hall at Federated Community Church from 1 PM – 5PM on Sunday, October 27th. We will turn our minds to children in hospitals and in shelters. Our small gift of making a bright, cheerful pillowcase for these children will hopefully bring a smile to a child who may be having feelings of concern and uncertainty as they face medical interventions or homelessness. This event has been taking place one to two times a year for the last six years in memory of Ellen Gourlay, who made pillowcases for people she loved. Let's share that love with children in our area. No experience is necessary. For further information please contact Karen Gatchell at 413-237-1598.

Silent, Waiting, Worship

There will be a period of worship on Sunday mornings at 8 AM in the Isham room. The style of this worship will be what the Quakers call "waiting worship". It is believed that in the silence God's voice will be heard. Please join us as we seek to hear God's voice.

Music News

Love to sing? Want to join the Choir without a big commitment? The LAST Sunday of each month, we invite you to join us at 9:15 am to rehearse and be part of the Choir for the day! Questions? - See Faith Thompson



(The regular Chancel Choir practices on Sundays at 8:45. The Children and Youth Choir practices immediately following church).

Women's Fellowship

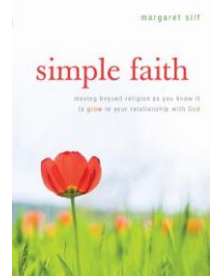
NEXT MEETING: Saturday October 12th at 10:00 A.M.

Hi All! Thanks to our many helpers, our children's chairs, tables and desks are coming along great. At our next meeting we will be discussing additional ideas for fundraising at the Christmas Craft Fair December 7th, 2019. Also, our Veteran's Day Breakfast is on the agenda. Many members of the congregation enjoyed volunteering for this activity last year - I hope you will consider coming to our monthly meeting to help with planning for this year. Our group is open to all church women!

Thanks,
Karen Anable

Women's Fall Retreat

November 2, 2019
9 AM - 3 PM



Women's Fellowship is planning a Fall Retreat. Janet Libby has graciously agreed to open her home for this event - all women are welcome to attend. As part of the Fall Retreat, we will be focusing on the first three (3) chapters of Margaret Silf's book, *Simple Faith*. We will have discussion and activities to deepen our spirituality. Pastor Pat will lead the retreat. Groups will continue to meet monthly at various times as we continue to read through the book; growing in our spirituality and deepening our connections with one another.

There will be a second opportunity for a retreat on November 6th at 5:00 pm at the church. We will share in a light meal, followed by readings and activities of *Simple Faith*. This retreat is for those who are not able to attend on the November 2nd date.

It is Pastor Pat's hope that **all** the women of the church will participate! If we need to make another time for a retreat to fit more people's schedules, we will do so.

The cost of the retreats will be \$15.00 (includes meal and book). We will continue to use the book monthly and end with another retreat as we conclude with the last three chapters in the Spring.

Margaret Silf has a deep spirituality. She is a good writer who is able to break down difficult questions and answer with clarity for her readers to understand. This book moves her audience beyond the complexities of conventional religion and clears the path for us to grow in a life-changing relationship with God. No homework is given and the chapters are short enough to read while we are together.

Please sign up in the fellowship hall and let us know which date (or add your name and a suggestion alternative time) you will be attending. Books will be distributed at the retreats. If you have a friend who would like to attend, they are welcome.



Community Outreach:

Annual Pumpkin Carving Event

Saturday October 26th 2PM until dark

Ed Loiko has sponsored a pumpkin carving event for the community for many years. It started in his home on South Road and moved to other locations as the event grew. Attendance has varied from 100-400 people. This year, FCC has agreed to partner with Ed Loiko and hold this activity on the grounds of the Federated Community Church. This is a fabulous opportunity for us to greet young families in the community and show what a wonderful faith community we are!!

Women's Fellowship initiated contact with Mr. Loiko and presented the plan to the Board of Directors at their September meeting. FCC will provide mulled cider and assorted beverages from 2PM onward and grill hot dogs and hamburgers from 4:30-6:30PM. We will also provide a children's table with markers and stickers for children too young to carve pumpkins.

Mr. Loiko will purchase the pumpkins. He provides two pumpkins per carver - one to use for decoration around town and the other to take home. He will also manage advertising of this event through Facebook and flyers distributed in the schools. Large tents are available in the event of rain.

Needless to say, your help is needed. People willing to help with beverages, serving food or manning children's table - please contact Karen Anable at 267-3377 or text 413-636-6021. People willing to grill food or do table set-up and clean-up - please contact David Anable at 267-3377 or text 413-427-8888. Thank you!

OCTOBER 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:30am Spirit Chat 6:30 / 7:30 pm AA	2	3	4	5
6 10:00am Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	7	8 9:30am Spirit Chat 6:30 / 7:30 pm AA	9 12:30pm Lunch & Afternoon Worship 7:00pm Finance Committee	10 6:00 pm Girl Scouts	11	12 8:00am Men's Breakfast 10:00 am Women's Fellowship
13 10:00am Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	14	15 9:30am Spirit Chat 6:30 / 7:30 pm AA 7:00 BOD Meeting	16 10:30 am Bible Study	17	18	19
20 10:00am Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	21	22 9:30am Spirit Chat 6:30 / 7:30 pm AA	23 10:30 am Bible Study 12:30pm Lunch & Afternoon Worship	24	25	26 8:00 am Men's Breakfast 10:00 am Dress A Girl 2:00 pm Pumpkin Carving Event
27 10:00 am Worship, Sunday School, Nursery 2:00pm Knit, Stitch, Pray Annual Pillowcase Making Event	28	29 9:30am Spirit Chat 6:30 / 7:30 pm AA	30 10:30 am Bible Study	31		