

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

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# *The Federated Courier*

Federated Community Church  
Hampden, MA 01036

E-mail: [hampdenfederated@gmail.com](mailto:hampdenfederated@gmail.com)  
[www.hampdenfederatedchurch.org](http://www.hampdenfederatedchurch.org)

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

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## *From the Pastor's Desk*

Read Psalm 136

*Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever. His love endures forever.*

Psalm 136:1

Greetings of Grace and Peace!

For many, Thanksgiving is the favorite holiday. It offers an opportunity to gather with family and/or friends, to enjoy a bounty of food, to think about all the blessings we have showered down upon us. Absent is the pressure of buying gifts or expectations. Thanksgiving gives us a chance to enjoy, reflect on the past, and give thanks. Even in a year when we will not be gathering as freely with others as we may want, we still have reason to give thanks.

God is good and God is with us- Always!

The peace, goodness, beauty, love, and more which God blesses us with is enough. Each day we have the warmth of the sun, even from behind the clouds in the winter months. Beauty surrounds us. This time of COVID is teaching us how often we take each other and our freedoms for granted. We often do not relish the opportunity to see friends or family, but since we

are now restricted, we are learning how important social contact is.

The United States has many freedoms other countries do not have; however, we, Americans, often do not remember how blessed we are or cherish the freedoms we do have. Since now we are restricted in our movements, gatherings, shopping, dining, and worship, rituals, and more, we are recognizing we have been blessed all along.

November has two holidays: Veterans' Day and Thanksgiving. Both offer us opportunity to give thanks. Many brothers and sisters have fought, some sacrificing their life, for us to enjoy the freedom we have in this country and daily lives. Let us give thanks to those who have served or are serving. May Thanksgiving grant us an opportunity to value our family and friends as we give thanks to a God who is the Author and Creator of all. With so many folks suffering loss this year: jobs, life, loved ones, school classes, homes, may we dig deeper into our pockets of abundance and share with others a portion of all that God has indeed blessed us with. For God is good, His love endures forever. Since we are created in God's image, let us love as God loves.

Blessings,

*Pastor Pat*



## *From the Deacons' Bench*

As I sit here with my great view of the woods I am reminded to pause and give thanks for so many things. Not the least is the deer that just walked by. Wow.

I am reminded of the great gift we have...namely God gave us His son to guard and guide us. Look around and give thanks for family, for our ability to share our gifts and remember all are gifts from God.

As we gather with family and friends let us pause to remember God's great gift of His son to us. Remind us that Jesus is our light and salvation. Remind us to share and give thanks for this great gift.

Finally let us pray that we do all things as God wills and revealed to us by His great gift ...His son, Jesus.

Hayden Tibbetts,  
Deacon



## *Servers for the Months*



### Deacons

November

Karen Anable

December

Dave Spencer

## *Anniversaries*

David & Kathleen Hutchinson	11/04
Anthony & Pamela Rogers	11/14
David & Karen Anable	11/23
Geraldine & John Spear	11/26

# Congratulations

## *Sunday School Birthday*

Eva Becker	11/04
Caleb Becker	11/06
Anthony Tulloch	11/16



## *November Birthdays*

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

Heather Sterling	11/01
William Haley	11/04
Nancy Willoughby	11/05
April Gonce	11/05
Jeremy Tessier	11/09
Earl Schofield Jr	11/10
Trina Robinson	11/11
Journe Germain	11/11
Lisa Chaffee	11/11
Nathan Varney	11/12
Susanna Gourlay	11/12
Cheryl Fonda	11/15
Carol Quinlivan	11/17
Dawn McKeone	11/17
Alicia Hummel	11/18
Sean Lee	11/19
Jeanne Regnier	11/19
Diane Fisher	11/20
William Cunningham	11/21
Todd Kane	11/21
David Spencer	11/23
Walter Bliss	11/25
Lynn Cunningham	11/26
David Hutchison	11/26
James Morini	11/30





## *Prayer Corner*



Evie Meacham  
Richard Grant  
Kathie  
Audrey Burger  
John (Jack) Bennett  
Janet Brehaut  
Beverly Pease  
Winnie  
Don Facey  
Fran Brown  
Frank & Phyllis Watson  
Christopher  
Laurianne

Jake  
Otto Kern  
Carol Darnley  
Gwen Wills  
Lelum  
Jackie Prior  
Dennis Connor  
Jeffrey Howe  
Edith  
Joanne Fernandes  
Bonnie Watson  
Janet Miller  
Emerson Miller  
Earl Schofield

For those affected by the wildfires in the West.

## *Sympathy To...*

Family & friends of Robert Powers who  
passed away on October 1<sup>st</sup>.



Family & friends of Shirley Fuller, who passed away on  
October 11<sup>th</sup>.

Mary Drozdowski in the death of her sister.



Thank you to the anonymous donor for the large screen television in the sanctuary. This has allowed us to provide for worship participation to those viewing online.

Thank you to the anonymous donor of flower arrangements.

### *Seeking Direction*

There have been some mysterious items accumulating in the extra Sunday School room, such as camping equipment, kids clothing, and other odds and ends. Please direct us as to where these items should go. Are they donations or do they belong to someone? Please advise church office.

### *Advent Booklet Devotions*

It is Pastor Pat's hope that the community of FCC will create their third 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 30, 2020 (in time for Advent) to [FCC.PastorPat@gmail.com](mailto:FCC.PastorPat@gmail.com) (preferred method) or leave in the church office marked "Advent Booklet".

### *Seeking Readers for Advent Outreach*

Do you have a favorite Christmas book for young readers? We are seeking people who would be video recorded reading a book to create a family reading hour for social media. Please see Kristi Tessier if interested.







## *Join Our New Hand Bell Choir*

Our church now owns 2 octaves of handbells thanks to Wellspring United Methodist Church. We would like to start forming a choir.

The basics will be taught using easy pieces and the music marked for those that do not read music. No prior knowledge is required.

Practices will be held every Wednesday evening at 6:30pm in the Isham Room. Masks will be required. All are welcome, aged 12 and over. Any questions, please see Karen Kielb.

## *Christian Education*

We have had a wonderful start to our Sunday school classes outside on the parsonage lawn. The children are now meeting in Libby Hall. The children are adjusting well to our COVID-19 adjustments to Sunday school. We have started our studies from the beginning in Genesis. We are learning about creation, and studying Abraham and Sarah, with key points being God keeps his promises and God answers our prayers.



Parents/ guardians if you have not filled out registration cards please ask Kristi or Laurie for one. Thanks.

Blessings,  
Laurie & Kristi

## *Clothing Donations Needed*

FCC is collecting business attire clothing to go to the Women's Leadership Program of Asnuntuck Community College in Enfield CT., through the non-profit Carol Rivest Memorial Foundation, coordinated by Sheila Rivest. The foundation supports survivors of domestic abuse with going to back to work. The clothing collected is for women to wear for job interviews. Please drop off clothing by November 8<sup>th</sup>.



Our Faith-Commitment Sunday is coming up soon: November 22nd. This is a special time for us to take the opportunity to reassess our blessings and offer faithful pledges for the coming year.

Did you ever wonder how your money is used to support and grow our Christian calling?

Our pledges are very important for our church's ministries. They provide for our day-to-day functioning and for our dedicated staff, as well as the upkeep of our facilities for our congregational worship, meetings, education and community gatherings. The church provides a platform for the many wonderful missions we are called to share in the name of Christ.

Because of your generosity, we are able to open our doors to community organizations like Alcoholics Anonymous, Girl Scouts and Dress A Girl providing the place and space for them and the good works they do. Your pledges and donations of food and other goods help to feed, clothe and shelter so many in need of these basics through our support of the Indian Orchard Survival Center, the men's ministry at The Springfield Rescue Mission, the women's ministry at Christina's House, and more.

Through our connections with the United Church of Christ and the United Methodist Church, our contributions add to wonderful world-wide missions supported by our denominations, such as refugee relief and disaster relief. Our churches also support basic needs like clean water and sanitation around the world and here at home.

When we all give generously, together we can do so much more than any of us can do alone. And we can do it all in the name of Christ! Many secular organizations do wonderful work as well, but the work of the church brings with it the love of God, the healing of Jesus, and the comfort of the Holy Spirit. What better investment can we make?

Please join us on November 22, 2020 for Faith- Commitment Sunday!

Begin praying now to discern how generous you may be in the upcoming year to share God's bountiful love and amazing grace with others.

### *Christina's House Staircase Update*

Thank you to the church members and friends who have donated to pay for the rebuilding of a 2 flight curved railing main staircase from the first floor to the third floor for Christina's House!

We would like to reach our goal by the end of November.

If you would like to donate, please make checks payable to the Federated Community Church. In the Memo line please write CHRISTINA'S HOUSE, and send to:

Federated Community Church  
P.O. Box 246  
Hampden, MA. 01036.

Thanks,  
Bruce and Janet Libby



### *Executive for Missional Implementation Called*

The Rev. Dr. Audrey C. Price, an Associate Conference Minister for Leadership Development in the Central Atlantic

Conference, has been called as the Southern New England UCC Conference's first Executive for Missional Implementation.

In this role, Rev. Price will be serving in much the same way that a traditional Conference Minister would: she will be responsible for operational oversight of the Conference, providing leadership for the program staff and the regionally assigned staff and overseeing daily operations, facilities, outdoor ministries, and

budgets. She will be part of the Executive Leadership Team, along with Executive Conference Minister The Rev. Darrell Goodwin and Executive for Missional Stewardship Dawn Hammond.

## *Thanksgiving Outreach*

For the past twenty year, FCC has followed Faith- Commitment Sunday and Thanksgiving worship with a celebratory Turkey Soup Luncheon. It was first hosted by the Christian Education Director and students. In recent years, a dedicated group of members, spearheaded by Joyce Libby, have resumed the tradition. Unfortunately, this year, due to the pandemic and health restrictions, we will not be able to share in the luncheon. However, we would still like to observe the tradition, but in a different way this year. We ask you to donate the items needed to make a turkey soup dinner. They will be donated to the Community Survival Center for disbursement. These items can be brought in during office hours or left at the altar before Sunday worship. Deadline will be November 22<sup>nd</sup>. Following is a list of suggested items. Monetary donations will be graciously accepted towards the purchase of turkeys or other items needed by the Center's clients. Make checks payable to FCC with an indication of gift for "*Survival Center*". We will forward our donations in one check.



Some suggested items:

- Potatoes (fresh, instant, canned)
- Carrots (fresh or canned)
- Assorted vegetable (fresh or canned)
- Onions
- Celery
- Pasta noodles
- Rice
- Turkey or chicken broth
- Assorted desserts
- Monetary donations

# *Make Time to Vote in the Election November 3rd!*

## **Election Prayer from the United Church of Christ**

Loving God, we give thanks for our right to vote and know that the outcome of this and all elections affect our lives. We pray for healing for the divisions among us, patience as some of us wait hours to vote, and calm as we wait for the results of the election. Give us wisdom to make choices that benefit the least among us, and let us unite around the common good, mercy, and justice. May your love sustain us. Amen

## *A Poem*

Brown nuts are for squirrels  
Red apples for me  
And leaves red and yellow  
For people to see.

I sing in the Summer  
I sing in the Fall  
To God, our Kind Father  
Who cares for us all.

-Anonymous

Taught to Joyce Libby by her mother, Ruth Stillman, when she was nine years old.



# *Bible Study at Church*

Open to all!

Fridays @ 10:30 am in Libby Hall.  
No preparation or prior knowledge needed.

**Commonwealth West United Methodist Women**

**Fall District Meeting      November 21, 2020**

**Online via Zoom**

**Homelessness in the age of Covid**

**1:00 pm to 4:00 pm**

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**Registration: DEADLINE to register is November 11, 2020**

- There is no cost for this meeting, but registration is required to access
- Commonwealth West District Meeting will be virtual via Zoom
- You must register to get the Zoom link which will be sent out via email by November 17<sup>th</sup>

How to register:

Email Jamie Filteau, Our registrar for this gathering

Include in email: Your Name, Church and Local,

Mailing Address, phone number.




Jamie Filteau  
16 Litchfield St  
Fitchburg, MA 01420  
(978) 751-1562  
jrfilteau@gmail.com

**Deadline to Register: November 11, 2020**

**This will allow us to send out Zoom links by November 17<sup>th</sup>.**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		5:30 PM AA 6:30 PM Finance	6:30 PM Handbell Choir	6:30 PM Girl Scouts	10:30 AM Bible Study	
8 10:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Christian Education Ministry	9	10 5:30 PM AA	11 Veterans Day 6:30 PM Handbell Choir	12	13 10:30 AM Bible Study	14 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast
15 10:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Christian Education Ministry	16 10:00 AM CE Meeting	17 5:30 PM AA 7:00 PM BOD	18 6:30 PM Handbell Choir	19	20 10:30 AM Bible Study	21
22 10:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Christian Education Ministry	23	24 5:30 PM AA	25		27	28 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast
29 10:00 AM Worship Advent begins 10:00 AM Christian Education Ministry	30	31 5:30 PM AA				



*November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020*