



United Church of Christ

The Federated Courier

Federated Community Church
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United Methodist Church

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July/August 2018

A Season of Change

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

On Sunday June 24, the end of our season with Rev. Ellie Kramer, we shared a meaningful Communion by intinction, in which Ellie greeted each of us by name as we dipped our bread into the cup. Following worship we gathered for a delicious potluck luncheon, and presented Ellie with gifts reflecting our gratitude for her devoted pastoral care during our time together: a garden wind chime (...*the breath of the Almighty gives me life-Job 33:4*), a glass-shaded lamp (*The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it-John 1:5*) and an Amazon gift card (she is an avid reader!) As is customary with us, our farewell to Ellie, husband Dave, and grandson Josh concluded with cake and hugs!

Now, just as the seasons turn from one to another gently and seamlessly, so our season with Pastor Patricia Miller Fernandes and her family begins. Prior to their move, the parsonage was radon-tested and professionally de-leaded as required by law. The shed doors were replaced, and painting started on the garage doors. Necessary interior repainting was done by Dave Spencer and Mark Casey. Dave Anable and Dave Spencer pruned overgrown shrub and trees, and potted planters appeared courtesy of Bruce Libby and Regina Germain. Karen Gatchell, Pamela Rogers, and Linda Hornig freshened up the Pastor's study. You, the congregation, contributed pantry and refrigerator staples and gift cards to Village Market and a local restaurant, to help tide over the family while they are settling in. On Saturday June 16, Bruce Libby, Jack Germain, Dale Varney, and Bill Cunningham packed up a panel truck full of boxes at Pastor Pat's home in Holden, and brought them back to the parsonage for unloading. Janet Libby, Regina Germain, Pamela Rogers and Linda Hornig organized a meal for the family and workers in Libby hall, and everyone helped with watching Pastor Pat's and Wayne's grandsons (August – just turned 4, and Robert-just turned 3) who were very busy exploring their new surroundings, and were so good amidst all the hustle and bustle of moving! On Tuesday, June 19 Pastor Pat and the boys arrived with the big moving trucks for the actual move into the parsonage. Jack and Regina Germain, Pamela Rogers, Mark Casey, and Linda Hornig were on hand providing food and drinks for all, care for the boys, helping familiarize Pastor Pat with her new home office, and generally answering questions and offering reassurance in this very stressful time for the family. Heartfelt thanks to each one of you in the congregation: you have offered your time, talent, financial resources and most importantly- your prayers in support of our new pastor and her family.

We hope you will join us on July 1, when Pastor Pat will lead us in worship and Communion, after which you will meet and welcome her, her husband Wayne, their adult son Chris, and their grandsons, August and Robert. This Fellowship time will, of course, include cake and hugs!

A formal Reception Luncheon will be held on July 15 following worship: we hope you will come to share worship and this special time as we officially welcome Pastor Pat, and mark the beginning of our new ministry journey of discovery together.

We also hope to host a Community Cookout in August, at which people from town and surrounding communities can gather to meet Pastor Pat. More details will be coming!

Don't forget the Time Change for Sunday Services!!

Beginning July 1st, Sunday Services will start at 9:30 AM. Remember, this is the first Sunday our new Pastor, Patricia Miller Fernandes, will take the pulpit.....Let's not be late!

Join us for Fellowship following the service for an informal meet and greet. Please wear your new name badges - they're hanging by the entrance in the narthex. Let's help Pastor Pat get off to a great start. See you July 1st.

PARISH NOTES

We need ushers for July & August. There is a sign-up sheet in the vestibule if you would like to volunteer.



Summer Sundays

Once again we are looking for our talented singers and musicians to volunteer to sing or play just one Sunday in July or August. Our terrific choir sings thru June and will be back in September.

Please see Cheryl Fonda and offer to take one of the Summer Sundays.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men's Breakfast **does not** meet during the Summer months but will commence in September. They meet every second and fourth Saturday morning at 8:00am.

Anniversary

We send congratulations to the following members who celebrate wedding anniversaries in July & August:

David & Geraldine Kruger	07/06
Dennis & Marilyn Connor	07/12
Beverly & Wayne Burnell	07/14
Mark & Linda Casey	07/21
Paul & Nancy Willoughby	07/24
William & Ruth Haley	07/27
Gregory & Heather Webb	07/28
Phyllis & Kenneth Hultstrom	08/15
Frank & Phyllis Watson	08/17
Glenn & Brenda Olesuk	08/18
Jeffrey & Annemarie Sias	08/19
William & Lynn Cunningham	08/26
Otto & Clara Kern	08/30

Facebook

Like us on Facebook so any news posted will show up on your newsfeed.

HAPPY Birthday!

Birthday Greetings to the following adult members of our church who celebrate birthdays in July & August:

Josh Hummel	07/01	Nicole Gray	07/14
James Brant	07/03	Bruce Libby	07/15
Ted Zebert	07/05	Ashley Stoddard	07/16
Nolan Fonda	07/07	Priscilla Kibbe	07/18
Teresa Kennedy	07/08	Nancy Ryan	07/19
Linda Hornig	07/09	Judith Schwabe	07/19
Mary Howell	07/09	Janet Brehaut	07/24
Fran Brown	07/10	Chris Fonda	07/25
Nancy Zebert	07/11	Dot Dickinson	07/26
Richard DeSanti	07/12	Allen Schoolcraft	07/27
Michael Stone	07/13	Kath. Hutchinson	07/27
Paige Fonda	07/13	Yvonne Godek	07/29
Philip Stoddard	07/13	Sandra Wilk	07/30
Keith Bliss	07/13	Elaine Evans	07/31
Heather Webb	07/14		

Frank Watson	08/02	Nicole Hirsch	08/18
Janet Case	08/05	Debra Anderson	08/21
Anthony Rogers	08/07	Rebecca Varney	08/22
Kimberly Luthgren	08/07	Kristi Tessier	08/22
Marion Cilley	08/11	Janet Libby	08/24
Bob Schoolcraft	08/11	Patricia Baker	08/25
Shirley Facey	08/11	Debra Doyle	08/26
Brandan Parry	08/15	Dana Ramponi	08/26
John Spear	08/17	Laurie Bliss	08/29
Jessica Quill	08/18	Phyllis Watson	08/30

Hearing Assistance Devices

The Church is in the process of getting all technology up to date. We need your input regarding hearing assistance. If you have difficulty hearing, please send a note to the Church office, or let Jack Germain or Dave Kruger know. Can you hear the service without difficulty?

Do you wear hearing aids?

Do your hearing aids support Bluetooth technology?

Do your hearing aids support induction loop (telecoil) technology?

If you would wear a church provided hearing assistance device,

Would you wear a earbud?

Or headphones? Single?

Dual?

Any suggestions to insure that you hear the service?

Christian Education

We had a great children's program on June 10th with the children going on a treasure hunt through the Bible explaining to the congregation what we learned through the year. We hope that maybe the congregation learned a little too. Four children received new Bibles that we hope they will keep for years to come.

Thanks to the BOD for a great picnic lunch with all the fixings, and for everything that they do for our church all through the year.

We were very encouraged to see so many of you signing up to help with the summer children's program, but very discouraged by the lack of help during the school year with the Sunday school program. Our Sunday school is growing and we desperately need help with our preschool class, and occasionally with the older children. You do not need to commit to every week. Once a month, once every two months would help us greatly. There is no prep work involved, everything will be prepared for you. And there is no need to study the Bible, these are bible lessons put simply for preschoolers, with a simple craft. Please think about volunteering, we would greatly appreciate it.

Our first day of Sunday school will be September 9th. Registration will start at 9 AM. Hope to see everybody there!

We all hope you have a wonderful summer.
Blessings
Laurie & Kristi



Sunday School Birthdays

Amelia Gardner	07/14
Aiden Gardner	07/14
Logan Paradis	08/06
Cameron Regnier	08/13
Nathaniel Wyman	08/15
Cody Nunes	08/27

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that three members of our church were granted scholarships totaling \$3258. from the following funds:

Thresher Trust (\$594), YOLA Trust (\$369), Helen & Carl Larson Fund (\$1194), and Memorial Gifts (\$400) & Melba & Wesley Chapin (\$699).

Sarah Willoughby (Sr.), Samantha Quill (Jr.), Alex Smith (Jr.)

We congratulate these young people and thank them for their participation in our church, as we wish them well in their academic pursuits in the year ahead.

Dear FCC,

Thank you so much for this generous scholarship money and for the continued support throughout the years. With your help, I am able to pursue my educational goal of graduating from Bentley University next year. After college, I have many ambitions, and to have your support now reassures me that I can achieve my goals and much more. FCC will always be a place of comfort for me to come home to. Thank you again for your incredible generosity.

Sincerely,
Sarah Willoughby

Summer Sunday School Program

We're planning a more structured program for Sunday School for the summer. Mary Howell has graciously agreed to be the coordinator. We are looking for volunteers to help with this program and want to involve young adults, parents and kid enthusiasts of all ages. It is especially important for the young boys to have male role models who exemplify Christian living and would like men to join in as volunteers. The summer program involves covering 11 Sundays - hopefully with pairs of volunteers scheduled each Sunday - and prepared materials to work from. If you are interested in joining the fun, please contact Mary Howell @ 413-426-7724 (cell) or marylhowell@hotmail.com OR Karen Anable @ 413-267-3377 or Kanable58@yahoo.com. Thanks!



Harvest Gifts Update for July

The work of Harvest Gifts has been truly gratifying. Last month, I asked for tomato cages, plants, help with watering and weeding. Although volunteers to tend the garden have been few, I was thrilled to see plants left by the garden gate to be planted, the work of a gremlin who kindly planted two hills of cantaloupe, and of course, newly arrived cages carefully placed around the growing tomato plants. So, I know you're out there - people filled with the Christian spirit of charity - paying attention and doing what you can to help.

Thanks to generous donations and the produce from the Prayer Patch, we were able to deliver 83 packages of fresh lettuce to the Hampden Senior Center and another 28 packages to the Monson Open Pantry. The Monson Open Pantry serves 22 clients, more than half of which are families with young children. It is impossible to express the deep sense of joy I experienced delivering those gifts - so thankfully accepted by our local food pantries.

Going forward, we need any and all produce you can donate beginning Sunday July 8th from 9AM - 12 noon or Tuesday July 10th and 11th from 8 - 9AM. We will be targeting the Palmer Open Pantry which services substantial numbers of families in need. This group distributes food two days a week, every week, and would be thrilled to have fresh produce to distribute.

There will be more announcements in the Friday emails and Sunday bulletins as the summer progresses. As produce becomes more plentiful, we will be expanding to include larger centers in Indian Orchard and Springfield.

If you feel inspired and want to help, please contact Karen Anable 413-267-3377 or at Kanable58@yahoo.com. Thanks.



Learning to Swim

Abby is learning to swim. It's been fun to watch her progress. Each session gets a bit easier as she peers out over the water and spots her instructor's outstretched arms. Once timid, Abby now plunges right in and swims a few strokes to reach her instructor...she seems unaware that each session, the instructor moves a bit further away. Just a short distance away, at the edge of the pool, stands the ever-vigilant lifeguard, gear in hand, eyes roving the length of the pool. Abby is thriving in this atmosphere of security and trust.

Abby's experience is not unlike the life of a Christian. We are mentored by earthbound believers who offer kindness and support in times of trouble, share the word of God, and encourage our personal growth in the Faith. The Lord is ever present, just a prayer away, guiding and protecting us from harm. With God's grace, we too will learn to swim.

The Lord keeps you from harm.

And watches over your life.

*The Lord keeps watch over you
as you come and go, both now and forever.*

Psalms 121:7-8

Deacon Karen Anable

Something to Think About

The Deacons will be meeting soon with Pastor Pat to go over the calendar for the next few months. What would you find meaningful to you? Would you like to see a return of weekly evening Bible Study? Other suggestions? Please pass along your thoughts: you can write it down and drop it in the Blue Blessing Box on the wall in the Narthex, or tell a deacon. This is a wonderful time to craft our ministries together. Think about it, and let us know!

Deacons Karen Anable, Dave Anable, Beverly Burnell, Steve Elliott, Karen Gatchell, Linda Hornig, Dave Spencer, Hayden Tibbetts, and Frank Watson.



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.

Thanks" Doesn't Cover It!

The Board of Directors and the Board of Deacons want to offer our deepest thanks to our sister, Joyce Ogonowski, who has been acting as temporary Administrative Assistant since March. The Deacons are so grateful to Joyce for the many hours she has spent in bringing the membership records up to date, and for passing along pastoral needs of congregants as they come to her attention, allowing us to be more effective and efficient in our roles going forward. With Joyce "running the Office" (meaning: knowing where to direct inquiries, find and file necessary information, prepare worship bulletins and nudge people for newsletter content so she can then format it and prepare it for mailing in a timely manner, and generally keeping everyone on their toes with what is needed at any given time!), the Board of Directors have been able to focus on the countless practical financial, legal, and physical details of overseeing church operations, supporting Rev. Ellie, and preparing for a new pastor. In addition, Joyce has continued to manage necessary check preparation and clear record-keeping of all expenditures for our yearly audit (which sometimes requires following up with someone to clarify who spent what, and what for!)

Thanks also to Karen Kielb, who has been helping with check preparation, and sending out the Weekly News email!

(Interviews will begin this week for an Administrative Assistant: your prayers of support in finding a well-qualified individual are appreciated.)

Reconciliation Meeting Wednesday, July 11

Our final meeting with Margaret Keyser will take place at 6:30 on the above date. We will review what we have learned through this process of Conflict Transformation, and explore the purpose and function of a Pastoral Relations Committee within the church.

The primary function of the Pastoral relations Committee is to support and maintain an open relationship between the congregation and the pastor. The Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC) focuses not so much on the "work" of the church as on the "workings" of it. In other words the relationships between congregants and pastor which enable the tasks of ministry to be carried out faithfully and joyfully with a minimum of friction and stress. It is a confidential committee that requires a high degree of trust among members, pastor, and congregants.

Please join us for this meeting in which we will share information vital to the future ministry of our church – a committee of this type may have helped us to avoid the recent painful and destructive conflicts which arose within our church family. Your participation is so valuable, as we seek to find ways to rebuild and nurture the strong connections among us, and with our Creator, which are the foundation of healthy and effective church works.

The Little Angel Pet Treats

This is an ongoing missions endeavor intended to attract pet lovers. The dog treats are homemade, healthy and preservative free. The Bagel Nook and Hampden Professional Cleaner have agreed to display the items - many have sold.

The treat bags include information about activities at the church. Currently they carry information such as, the church address and contact information. Items featured vary month to month, highlighting church dinners, mystery plays and fairs - all open invitations to the community.

We are also considering having a "Blessing of the Pets" day the summer, with booths offering pet health information, dog obedience training, etc. I'd encourage you to think about working on this project - it takes some planning but is a one day event rather than an on-going commitment. For those of you with limited free time, this may be a way for you to participate in missions activities.



July 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:30 Worship, Communion Children's Summer Program	2	3 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speakers	4 12:00 Prayer Group	5	6	7
8 9:30 Worship Children's Summer Program	9	10 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:00 BOD mtg. 7:30 AA Speakers	11 12:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Reconciliation meeting	12	13	14
15 9:30 Worship Children's Summer Program Reception following worship	16	17 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speakers	18 12:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Deacons Mtg	19	20	21
22 9:30 Worship Children's Summer Program	23	24 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speakers	25 12:00 Prayer Group	26	27	28
29 9:30 Worship Children's Summer Program	30	31 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speakers				



August 2018



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 9:30 Worship, Communion Children's Summer Program	6	7 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	8 12:00 Prayer Group	9	10	11
12 9:30 Worship Children's Summer Program	13	14 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	15 12:00 Prayer Group	16	17	18
19 9:30 Worship Children's Summer Program	20	21 6:30 Deacons Mtg. 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	22 12:00 Prayer Group	23	24	25
26 9:30 Worship Children's Summer Program	27	28 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	29 12:00 Prayer Group	30	31	

FEDERATED COMMUNITY CHURCH
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Church Staff

<u>Pastor</u>	Rev. Patricia Miller Fernandes
<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, July 1st 6th Sunday after Pentecost
Scripture: 2 Samuel 1:1,17-27
2 Corinthians 8:7-15
Mark 5:21-43

Sunday, July 8th 7th Sunday after Pentecost
Scripture: 2 Samuel 5:1-5,9-10
2 Corinthians 12:2-10
Mark 6:1-13

Sunday, July 15th 8th Sunday after Pentecost
Scripture: 2 Samuel 6:1-5
Ephesians 1:3-14
Mark 6:14-29

Sunday, July 22nd 9th Sunday after Pentecost
Scripture: 2 Samuel 7:1-14a
Ephesians 2:11-22
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Sunday, July 29th 10th Sunday after Pentecost
2 Samuel 11:1-15
Ephesians 3:14-21
John 6:1-21