



United Church of Christ

The Federated Courier

Federated Community Church
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United Methodist Church

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From the Pastor's Desk

31 After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. 32 All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. 33 With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all 34 that there were no needy persons among them. --Acts 4: 31-34

When the Spirit is moving among us, things get stirred (and shaken) up! Filled with the Spirit, we think in new ways, we behave in new ways, we relate to God and one another in new ways...and all of this creates a community in which God's people are served more effectively.

Even the simplest ministry is enhanced by an infusion of God's grace. This newsletter is an example of that infusion. Beginning this month we will return to a standard printed newsletter delivered to your home. We have found enough people interested in the ministries of our church to allow us to send this to you via Bulk Mail rate. Frank Watson and Joyce Ogonowski have worked with the US Postal Service to streamline our mailing list. From this point on you will all be able to hold in your hands the Good News that comes through our monthly Courier.

"But how does this relate to the Spirit?" Oh, let me tell you!

Since the time when we went to mostly *emailing* the newsletter:

- We have been told that folks have found the links in our email cumbersome to use, and so they have given up trying.
- We have heard over and over again how people do not read the e-newsletter as thoroughly or as often.
- We have been made aware that those who do read the e-version of the Courier, frequently lose track of it in their email...or they delete it before they write down what is contained on its pages.
- We have learned that when people are not reading the newsletter, attendance, communication, and participation in various ministries declines.
- We have listened to the Spirit crying out through the congregation, "this isn't working very well!"...and in an effort to bring together the hearts and minds of our community of faith, we have responded by not only giving you something to hold in your hands, but an *e-version* of the Courier to those who were already receiving it! We do this, *so that there is no need among you*. We do this because we believe that you want to know what is going on, so that you can be more involved in the exciting life of faith we are living!

I hope this edition of the Courier shakes you up. It is chock full of information and opportunities to grow your spirit. It may even be worth a place on your refrigerator, or next to your favorite chair. May it fill you so that you can continue to speak the word of God boldly, in Jesus' name.

Peace,

Todd

Sunday School Begins September 13th
Registration: 9:00 a.m. on the front lawn

Starting September 6th
Sunday Worship begins at 10 AM.

***P**ARISH NOTES*

Thank You

Dear Federated Community church,

Thank you so much for the recent scholarship I received from the church. The scholarship will help pay for expenses while I attend Bentley University and pursue a major in International Business. Thank you again for your generosity and financial investment in my future.

Sincerely, Sarah Willoughby

Members of the FCC,

I wanted to thank you so much for awarding me a church scholarship. I appreciate your generosity very much. Thank you again.

Love, Samantha Quill

Members of FCC,

I would like to thank the wonderful church community for once again helping me in my journey through college. I am truly touched that I was able to receive a scholarship through the church. I am very grateful for the support I receive from the church family. Thank you all once again!

Yours truly, Erin Lee

Dear Church family,

Thank you so much for all your cards, visits and prayers while I was in the hospital and in rehab. And a special HUGE thanks to Elsie for finding me in rehab and washing and cutting my hair. I am still receiving cards at home and really appreciate all the good wishes. I am getting better and hoping to be back in church soon.

All my love to everyone, Kiaran

Across the miles....warming the hearts and souls of so many. THANK YOU Karen Gatchell & Barbara Dunwoody for your time and talents in knitting for the *FCC Prayer Shawl Ministry*.

10 years ago, we gave my sister in law Maura a prayer shawl as she was battling breast cancer. Since that time, the shawl was passed on to her dear friend Liz, who in turn gave it to a friend and it is now comforting the lonely in AFGHANISTAN. It's amazing how far and wide these shawls have traveled, cradling the receivers in HOPE, kept in JOY, graced with PEACE and wrapped in LOVE. Many thanks and blessings to all.

Janet Modlish

FROM THE DEACONS' BENCH

On Sunday, Sept 27, we will be recognizing and honoring those in our family who have been FCC members for 50 years or more. "Come, follow me!" is the invitation Jesus offered to his first disciples, and to many others throughout his ministry. Not everyone responded. Our 50 -year members heard, and responded to, Jesus' call. Fifty years! That's a big chunk of anyone's life: 18,250-plus days! And moment by moment, hour by hour these people have lived out their devotion to our Lord, and to our community of faith:

The following are our newest members to this elite group:

Robert Schoolcraft joined 2/23/64

Evelyn Schoolcraft joined 2/23/64

Patricia Baker joined 11/8/64

Florence Munroe joined 4/5/65

We especially honor Adina Johnson, a member for 78 yrs. and Beatrice Officer, 87 yrs.

It is a privilege and a blessing for us to thank them for their witness of "good and faithful" service, which continues to inspire us in our own faith journeys!

And, speaking of Jesus' call...: New members will also be welcomed on Sept. 27! On September 20 (a week before), we invite anyone who may be interested in joining the Federated Community Church to a round-table with Todd and the Deacons, immediately following the Sept. 20 service. This is a good time for us to share refreshments and open discussion of our individual paths to FCC, and to answer any questions/concerns from prospective members. All seekers are invited - attending does not commit anyone to the Sept. 27 timeline.

We are so excited as we consider all of the blessings our faith family has enjoyed together, and all of the blessing which are yet to come; we pray you are feeling blessed by your participation in the life of the Federated Church!

Your Deacon,
Linda Hornig

Anniversary

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

Jodi & David Brodeur	09/08
Tanya & Frederick Orr	09/09
Ronald & Sandra Richter	09/11
Kevin & Elaine DeGray	09/12
Randall & Kimberley Mercure	09/12
Russell & Marilyn Streeter	09/12
Ron & Jessica Donais	09/15
Bruce & Janet Libby	09/18
Chris & Cheryl Fonda	09/20
Ross & Michelle Gardner	09/21
Stone, Myron & Rosemary	09/22

HAPPY Birthday!

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

Rachel Struthers	09/01	Carrie Wescott	09/18
Otto Kern Jr	09/06	Leah Howell	09/19
Edwin Thompson	09/07	Phyllis Hultstrom	09/20
Darcey Walulak	09/09	Jennifer Howell	09/21
Sean Obuchowski	09/12	Mark Casey	09/24
Amy Varney	09/15	Rudy Wilk	09/24
Evie Schoolcraft	09/15	Evelyn Meacham	09/26
Patricia Safford	09/16	Elsie Bradway	09/27
Arlene Fisher	09/17	Rollyn Hatch	09/30



Sunday School Birthdays

Donais, Isabella E 09/08

Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast will resume on September 12th at 8:00am. Men's Breakfast is open to the public and held on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the month.

7th Annual Harvest Festival at FCC

Celebrate the start of Fall with a beautiful day of feasting and fun!

October 3, 8am-2pm

Breakfast, 40+Crafters and Vendors, Activities for the kids and Live Entertainment

Come join the fun

Annual Report

Anyone who has not submitted your annual report please do so as soon as possible so they can be input, printed and put together for the Annual Meeting on October 18.



*All God's children have
"A Place In The Choir"*

Yes! There's a place in the choir, we need more singers. Some sing high-some sing low – we need them all!

The Senior Choir will start rehearsals on Thursday, September 4th at 7:00 pm.

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

Post Office Rules

Anything mailed to the church needs to use our PO Box number – 246. The Post Office is complaining and eventually probably won't deliver mail without it.

Christian Education Teachers Needed!

Our Sunday school enrollment is growing! We had a new family sign their kids up for Bible Buddies Breakfast Club, and it was such a good experience that they're coming to church in the fall and bringing their 3 children with them!

Now this is the kind of "problem" we've been praying for! And it does mean that we'll have more opportunities for people to participate in the Sunday School as teachers and helpers.

Right now, we need help in the nursery: cuddling babies is a tough job, Pilgrims, but someone's gotta do it!!

If you are willing to help out with any age level (infant to 8 years), speak to Laurie, Kristi, or any of the Christian Education Committee members. We are not looking to burden anyone, so the more volunteers available the lighter the commitment for each of us.

(In line with our Safe Church Policy, a CORI (Criminal Offender Records Information) check is required for all volunteers working with children. This is a routine procedure for schools and organizations, to ensure the safety of the kids.)

God is at work in our church, and blessing us in so many new ways, maybe working with our children could be a new blessing for you!

Laurie, Kristi, Jocelyn, Linda, Hayden, Jack Germain (Board of Directors liaison to C.E. Committee)

What do all of these have in common?

- July/August Newsletter
- Summer children's program
- Hymnal markers
- Blue envelopes in pews

Yes!! You're right! They are all stepping-stones in our congregation's "journey to generosity"!

In the summer newsletter, the Stewardship Ministry shared some thoughts on overcoming discomfort with talking about money in church, so we can freely explore how best to use the money God has blessed us with, to live out the love of Christ as a congregation.

Summer children's program: (Taking Care of God's Creation): our children have been identifying God's abundant gifts in every facet of life, and ways in which they can preserve, protect, and share their blessings with others, as Jesus taught us to do.

Hymnal markers spotlight various ministries we are currently able to share as a result of congregational offerings of time, talent and money. Some encourage us to envision new ways to "spread the love" of Christ within our church, and beyond our walls.

This is new for us, shifting our emphasis from budget-driven fundraising, to seeing our financial giving as both a thankful response to God's generosity in our lives, and a foundation for ministry planning in the coming year.

Over the past 10 months we've been exploring what whole-life generosity may look like in our personal lives, and our congregational life.

As we move into the annual pledge time we will necessarily focus on financial support, but this is not the end of our journey! It is another stepping stone on our path; it may even turn out to be a bridge to a greater experience of God's love. So stay tuned for more about our **"Love Runneth Over"** pledge program and be sure to join us in worship on **November 1st** for our **Celebration Sunday**.

We pray that you are as excited as we are to see where this "journey to generosity" may lead us!

What's the Blue Envelope Headstart Challenge??

On July 5, your Finance Committee launched the "B.E.H.C.". Each pew holds one or two striking blue envelopes, stamped "I am grateful to God for _____". This is what it's about:

"Challenge":

- we are challenging you (and ourselves) to take regular inventory of the blessings God has brought into our lives
- challenging you to experience those blessings with gratitude
- challenging you to translate that gratitude into an active response to what God has done

Then, we invite you to use the blue envelope as a means of expressing your gratitude for what has been and what will be.

"Headstart":

- all blue envelope offerings are considered to be a "headstart" on the annual pledge drive which begins in October
- blue envelope offerings will be earmarked for 2016; none of the monies will be used this year (2015)
- blue envelope offerings will be counted separately from the regular offering; the total will be revealed when we kick off our pledge campaign (in October)

A couple of points you should know:

We have no expectations around the amount or frequency of offerings. This is an opportunity for each of us to draw closer to God as we reflect on the magnitude of his love and generosity, and to respond as we feel appropriate. There is a place on the blue envelope for your name - this is strictly optional. If you are unable to get to church, but would like to participate in the Blue Envelope Headstart Challenge, you may send in an offering and specify "Headstart Challenge" on your check. We know this is new to you; it's new to us, too. We're all used to thinking in terms of "paying the bills". Our hope, and our prayer, is that as we shift our focus more to an intentional awareness of God's blessings, a joyful sense of gratitude will be motivating our giving.

In line with this vision, the theme of this year's pledge drive is "Love Runneth Over"- another opportunity for each of us to identify how we experience the blessing of God's love, and how we wish to respond, and pass it on.

More about that will follow in several weeks. In the meantime, we are looking forward to sharing with you our tally of blessings and offerings from this Blue Envelope Headstart Challenge, next month.

Your Finance Committee

Dave Anable, Carol Darnley, Janet Libby, Donald Facey



Introduction to New Testament Offered

"And she wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger." Jesus is the central figure of the New

Testament and this third volume in the popular *Exploring the Bible* series examines Jesus in three distinct ways: A man like other men, a Jewish rabbi, and the Christ of Christian faith.

Then it's on to the cantankerous Paul, the other New Testament authors, and the wild and baffling book called Revelation.

Learn what Nazareth was like in the first century, discover what scholars know and don't know about Jesus as a historical figure, and explore how Paul really wrote all those letters. And who is the Antichrist anyway?

This is the third in a three part series addressing biblical literacy using the Dickinson Series created by the MA Bible Society.

\$14/person (scholarships available) include book and facilitation of the material by Rev. Todd Farnsworth.

We meet on Monday evenings beginning Sept. 14 at 6:30pm at Federated Community Church in Libby Hall (first floor). Participants need not be members of the church to learn about this amazing book.

NOTE: we will NOT meet on Monday, October 12

Checks may be made out to the Federated Community Church. Call 566-3711 to reserve your book and space today.



**YOU CAN
BUILD A BETTER
BRAIN
IN 6 WEEKS**

Build A Better Brain

Studies show that stress, disease, and trauma render large portions of our brain off line.

Prolonged disengagement exacerbates the situation and feeds an increasingly unhealthy lifestyle. We end up running faster, going nowhere, making poorly formulated decisions. Our health suffers. Our work suffers. Our loved ones suffer.

Taking time to teach our brains new tricks help reintegrate our mind and build a better brain!

Todd Farnsworth is a reintegration specialist. Trained by the Brookfield Institute, Association of Comprehensive Energy Psychology, and Strategies for Trauma Awareness and Resilience, Todd is offering a six week workshop (September 24-October 29) to help you build a better brain, experience peace, and learn skills that will lead to healthier decisions. 6 Weeks. 9 hours. A Better Brain. Only \$60/person. Registrations begin soon. Check back here. Each session will take place in Hampden Town Hall. Please wear comfortable clothes.

The House of the World

by Nila Mack

adapted by Todd Farnsworth
(a different kind of Christmas story)

Auditions for Christmas Play

Flashlight Theater in association with the Hampden Federated

Church will be holding auditions for a Christmas play, The House of The World. The play will be presented on Friday, December 4 and 5 at 7pm in Town Hall in Hampden.

Directed by Todd Farnsworth and adapted from a 1940's radio play, House of the World tells the story of a young child trying to enter the House of the World on Christmas Eve. The walls to the house are very difficult to navigate, and the inhabitants are cruel, but with the help of a friend, the child makes the journey and discovers the heart of Christmas.

This is NOT a pageant, but a play originally aired as part of the Let's Pretend Radio series on CBS Radio. It is presented with permission by CBS Radio.

Parts for actors 7 to adult. Ages 7 and up are welcome to try out.

Actors should prepare a one minute monologue, a Christmas song, and be ready to cold read from the script.

Carolers needed.

NOTE: auditions will be held on 9/23 from 7pm-8:30pm and on Saturday, 9/26 from 10am-12noon in Town Hall.

Character list available on our Facebook page @Hampden Federated Church

Quinnetikut II Riverboat Cruise- Sept 27

The boat is full for our picnic and cruise outing in Northfield! We will leave the FCC parking lot at 11:30, and will start with a picnic lunch up there at 12:30. (Carpooling is encouraged-it reduces carbon emissions, and increases fun and fellowship!)

What to bring for the picnic: Hamburgers, hot dogs, rolls and condiments will be provided (Chef Frank Watson manning the grill, with sous-chef Phyllis).

Bring whatever else you would like, in the way of beverages, chips, dessert, etc.

Remember to check the weather for that area, as it may be cooler, windier than here, and wear comfortable clothes. Don't forget cameras, binoculars, if you use them, as our cruise takes us by several wildlife habitats, including bald eagle nesting sites.

Thanks to Frank Watson for organizing this wonderful day of fellowship (and food) for us!



FALL FESTIVAL - Craft Fair

October 3rd 8-2pm

Federated Community Church

590 Main St., Hampden, MA

Come join us for a day of fun and shopping!

Crafters; including handmade items and more

Pancake Breakfast **8am-10am**

Available all day:

Soups

Bake Sale

Questions about Booth Space and the Bazaar, Please contact

Laurie at 364-8322 or Kristi 374-8742

e-mail: fairsatfcc@gmail.com





September 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	2 11:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Missions Mt.	3 7:00 Choir	4	5
6 9:30 Worship, Communion .	7	8 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	9 11:00 Prayer Group 6:30 CE Meeting	10 7:00 Choir	11	12 8:00 Men's Breakfast
13 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery 9:00 Sunday School Registration	14 6:30 Intro to New Testament	15 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	16 11:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Deacons Mtg.	17 7:00 NO Choir	18	19
20 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	21 6:30 Intro to New Testament	22 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	23 11:00 Prayer Group	24 7:00 Choir	25	26 8:00 Men's Breakfast
27 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery New Members, Fifty Year Members 3:00 River Cruise	28 6:30 Intro to New Testament	29 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	30 11:00 Prayer Group			

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

Church Staff

<u>Pastor</u>	Rev. Todd Farnsworth
<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, Sept 6th	15 th Sunday after Pentecost
Scripture:	Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 James 2:1-10, 14-17 Mark 7 24-37
Sunday, Sept 13th	16 th Sunday after Pentecost
Scripture:	Proverbs 1:20-33 James 3:1-12 Mark 8:27-38
Sunday, Sept 20th	17 th Sunday after Pentecost
Scripture:	Proverbs 31:10-31 James 3:13-4:3 Mark 9:30-37
Sunday, Sept 27th	18 th Sunday after Pentecost
Scripture:	Esther 7:1-6, 9-10 James 5:13-20 Mark 9:38-50