

United Church of Christ

# *The Federated Courier*

**Federated Community Church**

**Hampden, MA 01036**

[www.hampdenfederatedchurch.org](http://www.hampdenfederatedchurch.org)

E-mail: [hampdenfederated@gmail.com](mailto:hampdenfederated@gmail.com)

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



United Methodist Church

Volume 72 4

April 2019

## *From the Pastor's Desk*

*If you want to build a ship, don't drum up people together to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensity of the sea.*— Antoine de Saint Exupery

Greetings of Grace and Peace!

I used the above referenced quote in a sermon not too long ago. To me it captures the essence of the pastor's role: to help people fall in love with God. Through Bible study, we learn the stories of our Judeo Christian ancestors and how they understood God. Knowing the stories of the Bible gives us a common language to speak about God. But knowing the stories is not the end. What is important is how the stories speak to our lives now. It is how the God we worship impacts and transforms our lives.

I was raised attending church each week, youth group as a teen, and Christian camps in the summer. But it wasn't until March 30<sup>th</sup> 1994 (I was in my late 30's), that I truly met God and knew the gift Jesus was for my life. It was a shift from knowing our faith stories to a longing for a deeper relationship and knowledge of God. Who was this God that could find me in the woods of Rhode Island, speak to my heart, wash me and fill me with love and give me the knowledge that Jesus Christ was my Lord and Savior? Who is this God that could transform my life from someone filled with anxiety that I couldn't say my name in public to call me and give me grace to be a preacher? Who is this God that could be personal with me and others at the same time? Who is this God? It is in that longing for God that I actually find him/her.

It is so easy to lose the longing for a relationship with God if we do not give attention, time, and energy. Easter is a great time to renew: not just for the day but as a way of life. It is amazing that when you seek God, you find God speaking to you in many different forms and ways. If you haven't been to church in a while, I invite you to come and join us on Easter or any Sunday.

In Christ's Love and Light,

*Pastor Pat*

## ***Holy Week Services***

**April 14th Palm Sunday**

**April 18th Maundy Thursday**

(observance of the Last Supper) - 7 PM

**April 19th Good Friday**

6-6:30 PM Chowder Dinner Worship at 7 PM

**April 21st Easter Sunday**

6AM Sunrise Service Chapin Road Cemetery

7 - 9 AM Pancake Breakfast

**10AM Easter Service/ Sanctuary**

## From the Deacons' Bench

### GOD'S LOVE

On Wednesdays weekly, Pastor Pat has organized a thoughtful and meaningful Christian study/discussion group which deals with probing questions and possible insights into our contemporary lives. Approximately 13 folks assemble.....some to listen and some to share. Last month, I offered that God's Love in the world seemed elusive and confusing for me. I soon realized that my bluntness was not satisfying for me personally.....and possibly for others. Further insights followed.

As an active parenting partner many years ago, I remember making this observation: "Being a parent gives me a better understanding of God's Plan." A parenting role is an active commitment of love.....we nurture, care, offer instruction and insight, demonstrate kindness to others, provide security, discipline, inspiration. Upon reflection that seems a lot like the Divine Spirit at work.....that thread of divinity which connects us all in a fabric which feels a lot like God's Love. Some of our best weaving we do at home.

Dave Spencer, Deacon

## Servers for the Month

### Ushers

4/7 Amy & Dale Varney  
4/14 Dave & Karen Anable  
4/21 Bill & Lynn Cunningham  
4/28 Elaine DeGray & Ellie Green

### Deacons

April Frank Watson  
May Beverly Burnell  
June Karen Anable

## Anniversaries

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

April & Joshua Gonce	04/06
John & Barbara Panek	04/11
Mitch & Mary Drozdowski	04/21
Matt & Diane Fisher	04/21

## Parish Notes



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

Elizabeth Nelson	04/02	Brittany Fisher	04/19
Steven Elliot	04/02	Karen Leger	04/19
Judith Hatch	04/04	David Anable	04/20
Matthew Fisher	04/06	Hayden Tibbetts Jr	04/21
Richard Patullo	04/07	Marcia Willey	04/22
Gretchen Warner	04/10	Melanie Bliss	04/23
Joyce Burt	04/12	Sarah Blain	04/25
Jane Wyman	04/16	Jeanne Westcott	04/27
Richard Regnier	04/17	Alice Wilcox	04/28
David Quill	04/17	Mason Kennedy	04/28
Matthew Doyle	04/18	Audrey Burger	04/29
	04/19	Anne Collins	04/30

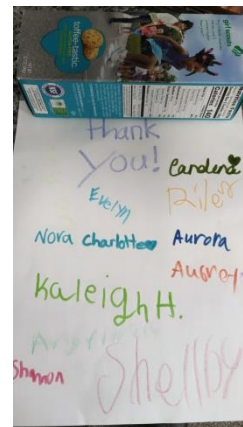


### **Sunday School Birthdays**

Tulloch, Abigail	04/08
Tulloch, Annabelle	04/29

## Thank You

We received a thank you note from the Girl Scout troop for allowing them space to hold their meetings. They also donated delicious Girl Scout cookies for our coffee hour.



## Announcements



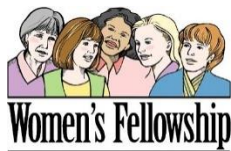
### Congratulations!!

Karen & Dave Anable are pleased to acknowledge the arrival of great granddaughter **Reya Sunshine**, born October 18, 2018. She lives up to her name – all smiles and happiness!

**Payton Fransiso** was born on February 28, 2019  
daughter of Lena & David Fransiso.  
Maternal Great Grandparent: Barbara Dunwoody

### Welcome!

Please give a warm welcome to our new Administrative Assistant, Kristen Roy! Thank you 'to Jocelyn Smith & Joyce Oganowski for time serving and making the office and Church communications run so smoothly.



## *Women's Fellowship*

**Saturday April 27th : Lunch and Trip to the  
Russian Icon Museum, Clinton, MA**

**10:30 AM - 4:30 PM**

**General Admission is \$ 10. \$7 for seniors (>62).**

The Museum of Russian Icons is a non-profit art museum. The collection includes more than 1,000 Russian icons and related artifacts, making it one of the largest private collections of Russian icons outside of Russia and the largest in North America. All church women (sorry men) are invited to join us. We will carpool from the church parking lot at 10:30 AM. Lunch is at the Clinton Bar & Grill, within walking distance of the museum. Interested? Look for a sign-up sheet in Libby Hall.

## Women's Spring Retreat : Growth through Spirituality

**May 17 - 19: St Scholastica Priory, Petersham, MA.** The priory is the home of Benedictine nuns whose mission is hospitality. The accommodations include single occupancy rooms and shared private bathrooms (2-3 per bathroom). The facility comes with a full kitchen and cooking facility. The facility was a former private residence with private beautifully maintained grounds.

**There are three options for participating;**

- (1) Arrive Friday by 5 PM and stay through Sunday 1:00PM**
- (2) Stay over one night - either Friday OR Saturday**
- (3) Come up for Saturday Session ONLY : 9 AM - 4:30 PM**

Overnight stays are \$60 per night. Those attending Saturday session only: \$10.

All church women are welcome are invited to attend!! A realistic count of attendees is needed for planning purposes. Look for sign-up sheets in Libby Hall.

There will be no Women's Fellowship meeting on Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup>. There will be a brief meeting on Saturday April 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm.

## *Music News*



Thank you to the Youth Choir for sharing the gift of song in worship on March 31<sup>st</sup>. It is so nice to see their smiling faces and see them, grow in confidence of singing each time they share.

The Chancel choir will share a Cantata on April 28<sup>th</sup> Worship. We look forward to them sharing their gift of music with us.

## Spotlight On....

### **Communion**

It has come to my attention that some of you are having trouble adjusting to coming forward to receive communion. In coming forward, it is symbolic, that we are willing to come forward and give of ourselves to the Lord; we willingly receive the gifts the Lord offers. Our participation as disciples is active, not passive. As a pastor, I love serving communion to each individual. The piece of bread is broken off as each person steps forward. That is the grace the Lord is providing. As one receives the gifts of communion (bread and juice), the Lord in God's mystery meets the needs of each person receiving. As pastor, I have limited knowledge of each person's need, but God knows. God meets each person's need individually, offering new life. For some folks, the bread and juice might be forgiveness, for another an understanding, wisdom, for another a sense of community, for others a trust to know God will provide all our daily needs, for others the body and life of our Lord, and still others it might be simply bread for the journey. Our needs vary as we receive, but God knows and meet each one of us individually.



While staying in the pews offers us a simple of silence and reverence, I am not sure all the meals Jesus shared were quiet, holy, and reverent. Jesus loved to laugh. Folks loved to be around him. He startled people in many of the dinner parties he attended. The Lord's supper, Holy Communion, Eucharist are all names in which Jesus invites us to come and dine with him and of him. It is a feast of joy, gratitude, and thanksgiving. Yes, sometimes, it is good to be holy and reverent, especially as we hear the words of the liturgy before being served. Forgiven and created new in Christ should set our hearts on fire with love and thanksgiving and we might be moved to dance to the table of the Lord, overcome with joy. That is also a holy response.

While we have many youngsters in Sunday school that have a difficult time sitting still, serving intinction style allows the Sunday school to come to the table and receive the gifts hearing that Jesus loves them. What a beautiful sense of family as we all partake together in the beautiful gift of the Lord's supper.

## January Meat Pie Dinner Update

Thank you to the Germain Family for coordinating, preparing, and hosting a wonderful evening of fun, food, and fellowship. A delicious meal of French meat pie with potatoes, carrots and turnips, green bean casserole, gravy, salad, and dessert was enjoyed by all. Jack Germain, in honor of the tradition at his Grandmother's house, invited us sing *Alouette* before our dinner. Jack also led us in *Frere Jacques*. Following our dinner, Faith Thompson, our organist and choir director, led us in a mini hymn sing. We great time was enjoyed by all. Thank you to the many hands who assisted in set up , preparation, and clean up. Eight hundred dollars was raised towards our general church budget. Thank you. Well Done Good and Faithful Servants!



### **Focus on Kids/Family Activities for April**

Attention Parents: Are you considering a Christian camping experience for your child this summer? Consider Camp Aldersgate, 1043 Snake Hill Rd., Scituate, MA. Camp Aldersgate is opening for tours and information April 14th 1-4 PM AND May 5th 1-4 PM. This is a wonderful opportunity to see if the camp is a good fit to your child and your family. For more information, speak with Pastor Pat.

#### **April 6th - 1:00-3:00PM Kids Easter Activities:**

Egg coloring, basket making, cards, crafts and more for church kids and their friends. Cookie baking with kids 10 and up. The kids will create Easter baskets for our shut-ins as their Lenten Project. Sponsored by Women's Fellowship. If you'd like to help, contact Karen Anable 413-267-3377.

#### **April 14th - 11:30 AM**

Everyone is invited to enjoy the beauty of nature and deeper relationships among our church family. Please join Pastor Pat and our guides Alex Smith and Josh Sterling on a hike up Goat Mountain. Bring water bottle, lunch and comfortable walking shoes. Children 10 and older will be supervised by our guides. Younger children must be accompanied by an adult. Have any questions? Speak to Pastor Pat.

## Holy Week

### Palm Sunday Read Luke 19: 28-38

We will celebrate Palm Sunday on April 14<sup>th</sup> and accept new members into our congregation. If you are interested and have not spoken to Pastor Pat yet, please let her know you are interested in joining.

### Maundy Thursday Read John 13: 1-17

On Thursday evening, we will celebrate Maundy Thursday. Maundy means commandment. It is the night in which Jesus, while sharing his last supper with the disciples, got up and washed their feet. He shared the commandment, *"A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."* (John 13:34,NIV). On Maundy Thursday, we will celebrate the last Supper (Holy Communion) and also offer a time to wash one another's feet or hand. Most of us will react as Peter putting up a protest to have his feet washed. It is humbling to allow someone to see and wash our feet. Participating is an act of submission willingness to do as Jesus modeled and asks us to do. Only one foot needs to be washed, as it is symbolic. For those still uncomfortable (and most of us will be) with having or washing a foot, a hand basin will be available.

### Good Friday

We will have a chowder dinner. (cost will be \$5.00 for a bowl of chowder, roll and coffee) from 6:00 – 6:30 PM. This time will give the kitchen crew time to clean up so that they may participate in the service. At 7:00 pm., we will have a candlelight Tenebrae (shadows) service. It is a very powerful service of reflection and participation of letting go. It is geared for adults.

### Easter Sunrise Service at Chapin Cemetery 6:00 am

Begin your Easter celebration just as the early disciples did. Early in the morning, they went to the tomb to greet Jesus. Join us as we praise God in song, words, and prayers. A pancake breakfast will follow at FCC fellowship hall from 7-9:00 AM. Please remain on the paved road in the cemetery.

There is a turn-a-bout at the end of the main driveway.

### Easter Service Celebration

At 10:00 AM in the sanctuary. Don't forget to order your Easter flowers to adorn the altar in memory or honor of a loved one.

*All services are open to the public.*

## Scholarship Applications

Scholarship applications for church members planning on attending college beginning in September are available in the church office. Applications must be completed and filed in the church office by April 15. All information is kept confidential.



## Prayer Corner



Evie Meacham

Jack Bennett

Audrey

Peg Stearns

Walter Black Jr.

Burger

Julia Winetrout

Judy Schwabe

Gail Banning

Judy Ingle

Janet Case

Tim Green

Wendy Chadwick

Debbie Doyle & Family

John & Nenita

Don Smith

Barbara Bennett

Hal

Sheila

David Blanchard

Peter Bokulic

Donald

Joyce Brooks

Christopher

Ogonowski

Claire Silva

Branden

Sharon

Gloria

Sarah Blain

Phyllis Watson

Please uphold Pamela Rogers and her family in our prayers in the death of her aunt, Delia Cooley who died March 23, 2019.

### Church Staff

Pastor

Pat Miller Fernandes

Organist/Choir Director

Faith Thompson

Administrative Assistant

Kristen Roy

Christian Ed Directors

Laurie Schoolcraft

Kristi Tessier



# April 2019



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 9:30 Spirit Chat  6:30 AA Step 7:00 BOD Webinar 7:00 Missions 7:30 AA Speakers	3 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 – 12:00 Bible Study	4	5	6  12:30 Art Workshop 1-3 pm Women's Fellowship Easter Basket
7 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	8  1-3 Deacons	9 9:30 Spirit Chat  6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speakers	10 . 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 – 12:00 Bible Study 12:30 Afternoon Worship	11  5:00- 6:30 Girl Scouts	12	13  8:00 Men's Breakfast 12:30 Art Workshop
14 <u>PALM Sunday</u> 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery 1-3 Hike	15  1-3 Deacons	16 9:30 Spirit Chat 6:30 AA Step 7:00 BOD mtg. 7:30 AA Speakers	17 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 – 12:00 Bible Study	18 <u>MAUNDY Thursday</u>  7:00-Maundy Thursday Service	19 <u>GOOD FRIDAY</u>  6:00-Chowder Supper 7:00-Good Friday Service	20 10:00 Dress a Girl
21 <u>EASTER Sunday</u> 6:00 Sunrise Service 7:00 Pancake Bkft. 10:00 Easter Worship No Sunday School	22  .	23 9:30 Spirit Chat 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speakers	24 10:00 Fellowship 10:30 – 12:00 Bible Study 12:30 Afternoon Worship	25  5:00- 6:30 Girl Scouts	26	27 8:00 Men's Breakfast
28 10:00 Cantata , School, Nursery	29  1-3 Deacons	30				



FEDERATED COMMUNITY CHURCH  
590 Main St.  
PO Box 246  
Hampden, MA 01036  
(413) 566-3711

U.S. postage  
PAID  
Springfield, MA  
Permit no. 2702



**Maundy Thursday Service**

**Date: Thursday, 4/18/19**

**Time: 7:00pm**

**Place: Federated Community Church**

**Good Friday Service**

**Date: Friday, 4/19/19**

**Time: 6:00 pm-Chowder Supper**

**Time: 7:00 pm-Good Friday Service**

**Place: Federated Community Church**

**Easter Sunday Events**

**Date: Sunday, April 21, 2019**

**Sunrise Service:**

**Time: 6:00am**

**Place: Old Cemetery/Chapin Road**

**Pancake Breakfast:**

**Time: 7:00am-9:00am**

**Place: Federated Community Church**

**Easter Sunday Service:**

**Time: 10:00am/Sanctuary**

Nonprofit organization