



United Church of Christ

The Federated Courier

Federated Community Church
Hampden, MA 01036

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United Methodist Church

Volume 67 4

April 2014

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Folks,

Thank you for welcoming Martha and me into your community of faith. We have been moved by your kindness and generosity over the past month of our transition into Hampden. We look forward to getting to know you all a bit better in the coming months and years...but here is what we've observed about you so far:

- You really love Jesus.
- You are filled with the Spirit.
- You nurture the Spirit through wonderful Bible Studies, a prayer group, Missions and Fellowship opportunities.
- You pray for each other and for people you don't know.
- You are not shy about sharing your faith.
- You like to EAT! ;)

In many ways FCC is a lot like the early Christian community that gathered around Jesus. We are a curious bunch who have been moved in a variety of ways by our relationship with Jesus. We celebrate what we know, what we've seen, what we've experienced, but we want more. We are like the crowds that gathered on Palm Sunday shouting, "He's here! He's here! Look everyone, he's here!" We are excited and in awe of the One who rides into our lives each day. We wonder what else He has in store for us, and we are excited (and maybe a bit anxious) about the possibilities. We talk to each other, ask questions, share insights about how knowing the Son of God has changed us.

I have heard many of you comment that there are more people in worship on Sundays these days. I have heard several people talk about a new Spirit calling to folks who have been away for a while and to folks who are checking us out for the first time. Being a newbie, I can only say that I feel the spiritual energy pulsing in the air whenever we gather together...and that is important. It is important that we gather, as many of us as is possible at any given gathering opportunity, so that the energy of God's spirit can be witnessed and multiplied through our community. Each of us has a role to play in the sharing of the Spirit. When we are not present (and that happens every now and then with work, sports, Shriners, sheer exhaustion, and family activities) we all experience a little less of the excitement because there are fewer of us to interpret and share what we have witnessed of our risen Savior. Please don't read this as a guilt trip. You will come to learn that I don't trade in "guilt." This is a word of encouragement to keep up the good work, because it matters to the health of Christ's community, here at FCC, and in all the world.

I look forward to shouting "Hosanna! He is here!" with you on Palm Sunday (4/13) and traveling through the drama of Holy Week with you, the gathered crowd, in Jesus' name.

Aloha,
Todd

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

Please uphold the following in your prayers:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Bev Burnell | Evie Meacham |
| Peg Stearns | Don Haraty |
| Martha Patullo | Wilbur Jenkins |
| Judy Ingle | Paul Brooks |
| Dot Gulbrandson | Julia Winetrout |
| Derrick Deslauriers | Janet Case |
| Judith Gerrish | Duncan Gourlay |
| Helen Dickinson | Art & Audrey Burger |
| Wendy Vigurs | Peter Bokulic |
| Elva Jenkins | Don Samms |
| Tracy Helin | Robertson Clark |
| Bev Savoie | Walt Black, Jr. |
| Walt Black Sr. | |

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

- | | | | |
|-----------------|-------|-------------------|-------|
| Judith Hatch | 04/04 | Brittany Fisher | 04/19 |
| Alice Willcutt | 04/05 | David Anable | 04/20 |
| Judith Gerrish | 04/06 | Hayden Tibbetts | 04/21 |
| Homer Fuller | 04/06 | Marcia Willey | 04/22 |
| Matthew Fisher | 04/06 | Melanie Bliss | 04/23 |
| Richard Patullo | 04/07 | Sarah Schoolcraft | 04/25 |
| Gretchen Warner | 04/10 | Alice Wilcox | 04/28 |
| Joyce Burt | 04/12 | Mason Kennedy | 04/28 |
| David Lemoine | 04/14 | Audrey Burger | 04/29 |
| Jane Wyman | 04/16 | Teresa DuBois | 04/29 |
| David Quill | 04/18 | Whitney Collins | 04/30 |
| Matthew Doyle | 04/19 | | |

Anniversaries

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

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Alan & Cynthia Struthers | 04/01 |
| April & Joshua Gonce | 04/06 |
| John & Barbara Panek | 04/11 |
| Mitch & Mary Drozdowski | 04/21 |
| Matt & Diane Fisher | 04/21 |

Sunday School Birthdays

FROM THE DEACONS' BENCH

As we move thru the Lenten season and approach Easter, it has become a ritual to read and reflect on the thoughts offered by Jarod Smith 4 years ago. I find this quite uplifting and heartwarming, and desire to share this wonderful perspective this month with you!!

Easter

While pondering the immense spiritual significance and symbolism associated with Easter, we can discover the incredible importance of this day in defining the entire religion of Christianity. When congregating earlier last Thursday and Friday we understood the manner in which Jesus died to forgive us for our sins. In looking beyond the superficial, secular meaning of the holiday with the characteristic rabbits and eggs, we can move past the excruciating suffering endured by Jesus and look forward, toward rebirth and a new life.

The notion of resurrection, commemorated today as Easter, distinguishes our religion from all others, while defining all of our individual identities as Christians. Throughout the course of history, innumerable prominent religious figures and leaders have existed. Many of them thrived, influencing and improving the lives of numerous people across the world, yet it is the story of resurrection that separates our savior, Jesus Christ, from all the rest. Jesus died to forgive us of our sins, yet his story wouldn't end with a finite lifespan characteristic of humans such as ourselves or any other religious figure. Powerfully exhibiting that he's not restrained by the physical limitations of this world, Jesus succeeded in defying death itself and proved his transcendence over the physical world as the Son of God.

Jesus claimed in John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life" – for in addition to Jesus' victory over evil, Easter also remains symbolic of the hope for eternal life that Jesus instilled in all of humanity. It is this commitment and dedication to achieving eternal life that shapes our faith and we all strive for as Christians.

As Jesus miraculously rose from the dead on this day and irrefutably established himself as the Son of God, he in turn verified all of his teachings and messages presented throughout the course of his life. And as he gave each and every one of us hope that we too may one day attain eternal life, he stressed the incredible faith in God required to achieve this extraordinary feat. As we congregate here once a year, it is important to recognize the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ that transpired so long ago in order for us to reinforce our faith in Him and God so that we may one day join them in the Kingdom of Heaven.

PALM SUNDAY, April 13, 2014

On Palm Sunday, we will celebrate Jesus' Triumphant Entry into Jerusalem. The "OGHS Offering" will be received during the service.

MAUNDY THURSDAY, April 17, 2014

7:00 PM Service of Holy Communion

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE, April 18, 2014

12:00 noon Ecumenical Intergenerational Service
at Wilbraham United Church

Tupperware Fundraising Party

Friday April 4, 7-9
Karen Gatchell's house
15 Raymond Drive,
Wilbraham, Ma
413-596-4746

PAINT SIP FUN

20-30 YEAR OLDS

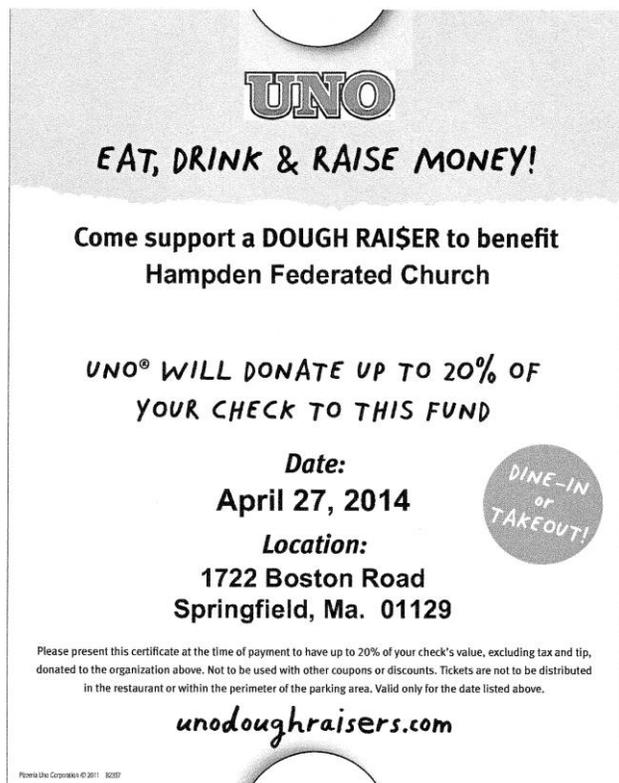
GETTING TO KNOW YOU EVENT

APRIL 11, 7-10

Must have a reservation by April 3

413-566-3711

Free Admission



UNO
EAT, DRINK & RAISE MONEY!

Come support a DOUGH RAISER to benefit
Hampden Federated Church

UNO® WILL DONATE UP TO 20% OF
YOUR CHECK TO THIS FUND

Date:
April 27, 2014

Location:
1722 Boston Road
Springfield, Ma. 01129

Please present this certificate at the time of payment to have up to 20% of your check's value, excluding tax and tip, donated to the organization above. Not to be used with other coupons or discounts. Tickets are not to be distributed in the restaurant or within the perimeter of the parking area. Valid only for the date listed above.

unodoughraisers.com

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Present this to your server

EASTER SUNDAY, April 20, 2014

6:00 AM (EST) Sunrise Service 138 Mountain Rd.

7:00 AM Easter Breakfast – in Libby Hall,
Federated Community Church, 590 Main Street,
Hampden. The cost will be \$4/person.

10:00 AM Worship Service – We will have only one service this year at 10:00 AM. There will be no Sunday School or Nursery on Easter. Children are encouraged to attend church with their parents.

Missions

We will be collecting our One Great Hour of Sharing special collection on Palm Sunday.

<http://onegreathourofsharing.org/>

This worthwhile cause is one near and dear to our church. It helps us to reach out to those in need worldwide who have suffered from some kind of disaster, need refugee assistance or development. Come along as we learn more each week about the work of this worthy cause. Continuing with our theme of helping others in need both near and far, we are starting a long-term project with Heifer international. <http://www.heifer.org/> Ginny Gray came down from the local Heifer project based in Rutland and gave us a talk on the project at the last church supper. We will be following up with a couple of visits to the farm. So watch this space for more details to come! As always, we continue to collect for the Indian Orchard Survival Center. This is such a worthwhile cause and helps feed the hungry right in our own neighborhood. Thank you all for your donations! They are so very gratefully received.

Prayer Shawls

We have a number of knitters in the church who do a great job at making prayer shawls. A group got together to teach new knitters to join in this worthwhile ministry. If you are interested in learning how, please contact a deacon. Support is available any Sunday. The prayer shawls are given to those in need of comfort. Prayers are said over the shawl and it is a tangible way to remind the person that we care.

Movie Night

April 5th at 6:30 We will be showing

“Babe”

Free Admission, Pizza, Popcorn, Juice

EASTER PICNIC DINNER

At

Federated Community Church

590 Main Street

Hampden, MA

Saturday, April 12, 2014

6:00 pm



Menu

Ham

Homemade Potato Salad

Baked Beans

Green Salad

Rolls

Dessert

Beverages



Adults \$10 – Children under 12 \$5

Please call Church Office

For reservations by April 9th

566-3711

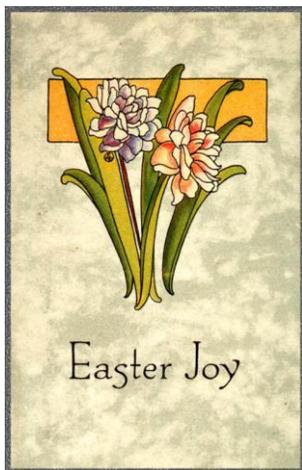


April 2014



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:00 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	2 11:00: Prayer Group	3 7:00 Sr. Choir	4	5 6:30 Movie Night "Babe"
6 10:00 Worship, Communion, Sunday School, Nursery 11:30 Missions Mtg.	7 6:30 Potluck/Study	8 9:00 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	9 11:00: Prayer Group Circle of Faith Mtg.	10 11:30 Ladies Aid Work/Bus Mtg. 7:00 Sr. Choir	11 7:00 20/30's PaintSipFun	12 8:00 Men's Breakfast 6:00 Ham Dinner
13 10:00 Palm Sunday NO Sunday School, Nursery 11:30 Deacons Mtg.	14 6:30 Potluck/Study	15 9:00 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	16 11:00: Prayer Group	17 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service	18 12:00 Good Friday Service Wilb. United	19
20 6:00 Sunrise Service 7:00 Pancake Breakfast 10:00 Easter NO Sunday School, Nursery	21 6:30 Potluck/Study	22 9:00 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	23 11:00: Prayer Group	24 7:00 Sr. Choir	25	26 8:00 Men's Breakfast
27 10:00 Worship , Sunday School, Nursery Uno's Fundraiser All Day	28 6:30 Potluck/Study	29 9:00 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	30			

FLOWERS FOR EASTER



The Flower Committee will be ordering plants for Easter. The deadline for ordering plants is April 14th. Orders may be sent to Mary Howell, 22 Oak Knoll Dr., Hampden, MA 01036. Please enclose with your order form, your check made out to "Federated Community Church."

Detach Here and Mail



I would like to order: *Prices subject to change.

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Cost</u>
_____ Lily	@ \$9.75 = \$_____	_____ Tulip	@ \$9.75 = \$_____
_____ Hyacinth	@ \$9.75 = \$_____	_____ Daffodil	@ \$9.75 = \$_____
			CHECK TOTAL = \$_____

I wish to give my plant in memory/honor of _____
(circle one)

YOUR NAME _____ PHONE: _____

ADDRESS _____

Please deliver my plant to a shut-in. _____

I will pick up my plant after the 10:00 service on Easter Sunday _____

If you want your plant but are unable to pick it up after the 10:00 service, please let someone on the Flower Committee know and we will save it for you. Plants that are not picked up will be delivered to shut-ins

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, Apr 6th 5th Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Ezekiel 37:1-14
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45

Sunday, Apr 13th Palm Sunday

Scripture: Matthew 21:1-11
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Matthew 26:14-27:66

Sunday, Apr 20th Easter

Scripture: Acts 10:34-43
Colossians 3:1-4
John 20:1-18

Sunday, Apr 27th 2nd Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Acts 2:14a
I Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31