



United Church of Christ

The Federated Courier

Federated Community Church
Hampden, MA 01036

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United Methodist Church

Volume 68 4

April 2015

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Folks,

Please let the community know that they are invited to participate in all of the worship experiences at FCC leading up to Easter...and beyond!

In some ways Holy Week is a really long play in which we relive the last week of Jesus' life. The Good News is, everyone gets a part, no matter who shows up! Together we will cheer, wonder, fret, and rejoice. Like good actors, we will support each other on the stage we call "life" as we allow our bodies to remember the story of how we came by the peace, the grace, the justice, the love that is Jesus' resurrection.

I hope to see you there.

Cue preview in 5...4...3...2...1....

April 2, 6pm--Maundy Thursday Potluck supper and Tenebrae. Please bring a dish to share as we gather around tables in Libby Hall to experience the story of Maundy Thursday and then move upstairs into the sanctuary to witness the passion of Tenebrae.

April 3, 12noon--Good Friday at WUC

April 3, 6:30pm--Good Friday at FCC: 24 minute video devotion dedicated to reflecting on the meaning of Jesus' death. This video will play at 630, 7pm, and 730pm. Please enter and exit sanctuary quietly. NOT recommended for children under 12.

April 5, 6am--Easter Sunrise service at Prospect Hill Cemetery. Come celebrate new life!

7am--Pancake Breakfast at FCC

10am--Easter at FCC. He is Risen!!! Come sing a song of praise and celebration.

April 12, 10am--Post Easter Hymn Sing.

April 18, 6pm--Post Easter Bonnet Contest and Dinner (see details in this issue.)

Peace,

Todd

PARISH NOTES

I would like to thank everyone for their cares & concerns when my dear Muir passed away. I am blessed with a loving, caring family.

The support from all my church, friends and colleagues has been very comforting. I know Muir has played a large part in all our lives and the memories we have bring a smile to our faces. That's how he would have liked to be remembered. God bless you all.

Catherine Gardner.

BIBLE BUDDIES VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS BACK!

Bibles McSplorer is back with all new stories and characters for children age 4-12 to explore. This years Bible Buddies will feature characters from the New Testament as well as breakfast every day! July 13-17, 8:00am-10:00am. \$10/child. Please call 566-3711 to register your child. You do not need to be a member of FCC to enroll your child in this program. Open to the community.

SUMMER THEATER PROGRAM AT FCC

Calling all budding actors: *Flashlight Theater* will be holding a one week summer camp at the Federated Community Church, July 27-31 for children ages 7-13.

Facilitated by Todd Farnsworth, the purpose of *Flashlight Theater* is to teach basic theater skills to children 7-13. Improv games, theater exercises, set building and costume design will accompany acting and learning lines. At the end of the week, children will produce and present a show to the community.

The camp will run from 9-12 noon, Monday-Friday. Performance, Friday at 7pm.

Registration is \$50. Checks may be made out to the Federated Community Church. Call 566-3711 to register your child.

Thank You

Thank you for the food and many cards and phone calls I received while recuperating from my knee surgery. You kept up my spirits. and have made time go by a little faster. I am about halfway there with therapy and hope to be driving soon.

In Christian love, Elsie Bradway

Anniversary

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



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

Betsy Nelson	04/02	Brittany Fisher	04/19
Judith Hatch	04/04	Karen Leger	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
Gretchen Warner	04/10	Donald Schmidt	04/23
Joyce Burt	04/12	Sarah Schoolcraft	04/25
David Lemoine	04/14	Alice Wilcox	04/28
Jane Wyman	04/16	Mason Kennedy	04/28
David Quill	04/18	Audrey Burger	04/29
Matthew Doyle	04/19	Teresa DuBois	04/29
		Anne Collins	04/30



Sunday School Birthdays

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

Christian Education

The children have gone through Holy Week learning about Jesus' triumphal entry on Palm Sunday, The Last Supper, Jesus Prays at Gethsemane, Jesus' crucifixion, Resurrection and Ascension. We hope that the children have learned that Easter is not only about jelly beans and chocolate bunnies. Jesus has showed us how much he loves us through His birth, death and resurrection that we need to know what he sacrificed for us.

“His is not here for He has risen!” *Matthew 28:6*

Blessings, Laurie & Kristi

Missions Moment

During Lent, the Missions Committee hosted several events aimed at helping our Veterans reintegrate themselves back into their families and communities at large. Pastor Todd spoke on Wednesday evening, March 18th, Matt Sterling shared his challenges reintegrating back into community as a veteran, and Project New Hope spokesperson, Ron Murphy, discussed Veterans' Retreats and other resources available for veterans and their families on March 25th.

Several Missions Committee members also attended a celebration of International Women's Day which was held in Chicopee, MA. "International Women's Day represents an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of women while calling for greater equality." There were many good speakers but one woman in particular caught our attention. Her mission, **Angels Take Flight**, focuses on the needs of children in transition. This organization provides children in transition with some of their basic needs to help restore a sense of wholeness and confidence that has been shattered by trauma and domestic challenges.

Missions is looking into working with this group to help support children in transition in our local area as well as looking into working with the Springfield Rescue Mission.

STEWARDSHIP MUSINGS ...

Have you ever noticed that the people you know who are most generous to others with their time and material goods may often be the least generous with themselves? They are the people who tend to:

- bring food for gatherings and to people at home, who may be in need
- offer donations of time and/or goods for Mission projects
- take the time to write notes to people
- make a point of seeking people out to offer an encouraging word of gratitude or support
- faithfully pledge annual financial support to their church

These people are powerful witnesses to Christian love, and we know that "God loves a cheerful giver"!

BUT: Does God call us to ONLY give to others? Some of us have grown up with a habit of self-denial: that is, we tend to put others first in all things, and feel that thinking of our own wants/needs is selfish. As a result, self-care may be very low in our daily priorities.

A healthy model of Christian Stewardship includes self-care! The apostle Paul counseled the early church on this issue when he wrote: "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body."

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

"Taking care of our bodies, our health, and our emotions is not selfish. God has given us the job of taking care of ourselves for His sake, to do His work. God wants us to take care of ourselves and make sure our needs are met so that He can effectively use us to meet the needs of others. How can He use someone who is completely worn out?"

(Christy Shipe, crosswalk.com.)

So, let us try to accept that God intends for each of us to enjoy His blessings by:

- making sure we are eating nutritiously and sufficiently before we make a casserole for someone else!
- letting someone else share the workload at church now and then, and allowing ourselves to rest and recharge!
- taking time to exercise before we drive someone else to their physical therapy appointment
- making sure we are keeping warm enough for good health: and then contribute to the fuel assistance program for our neighbors in need.

In this season of celebrating Christ's presence in our midst, let us honor God with our whole selves.

In Christ's Service,

Carol Darnley, Linda Hornig, Jocelyn Smith

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Scholarship applications for church members planning on attending college beginning in September are available in the church office.



Thresher Foundation Scholarship

YOLA Guild Scholarship

Memorial Gift Fund Scholarship

Edwin Lombard Memorial Scholarship

Helen and Carl Larson Fund Scholarship

Melba R. & Wesley A. Chapin Scholarship Fund

Applications must be completed and filed in the church office by April 15. All information is kept confidential.

EASTER PICNIC DINNER

At

Federated Community Church

590 Main Street

Hampden, MA

Saturday, April 11, 2015

6:00 pm

Menu

Ham

Homemade Potato Salad

Baked Beans

Cole Slaw

Rolls

Dessert

Beverages

Adults \$10 – Children under 12 \$5

Please call Church Office

For reservations by April 8th

566-3711



“Create your own Easter Bonnet Contest”
Prizes will be awarded in various categories.





April 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 11:00: Prayer Group 6:30 Missions Mtg.	2 6:00 Maundy Thursday Service	3 12:00 Good Friday Service WUC 6:30 Good Friday Service FCC	4
5 6:00 Sunrise Service 7:00 Pancake Breakfast 10:00 Easter NO Sunday School, Nursery	6	7 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	8 11:00: Prayer Group 6:30 CE Meeting	9 7:00 Choir practice	10	11 8:00 Men's Breakfast 6:00 Ham Dinner
12 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	13	14 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	15 11:00: Prayer Group	16 7:00 Choir practice		18
19 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	20	21 6:30 Deacons Mtg. 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	22 11:00: Prayer Group	23 7:00 Choir practice	24	25 8:00 Men's Breakfast
26 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery 6:30 Knit, Stitch, Pray	27	28 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	29 11:00 Prayer Group	30 7:00 Choir practice		

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 5th Easter
Scripture: Acts 10:34-43
I Corinthians 15:1-11
John 20:1-18

Sunday, Apr 12th 2nd Sunday of Easter
Scripture: Acts 4:32-35
I John 1:1-2:2
John 20:19-31

Sunday, Apr 19th 3rd Sunday of Easter
Scripture: Acts 3:12-19
I John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36b-48

Sunday, Apr 26th 4th Sunday of Easter
Scripture: Acts 4:5-12
I John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18