



United Church of Christ

# The Federated Courier

Federated Community Church  
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United Methodist Church

Volume 66 2

February 2013

## From the Pastor's Desk

I want to walk as a child of the Light.  
I want to look at Jesus.  
God set the stars to give Light to the world.  
The star of my life is Jesus.

Hymn text and music by Kathleen Thomerson, 1966

Brothers and Sisters-in -Christ,

Soon the church season of Epiphany, the celebration of the manifestation of God in Jesus, will give way to Lent. Its symbols, stars and light, sparkle before us. They draw us to them in the cold, harsh, darkness of winter. They orient us and beckon us to make Jesus the guiding star of our lives. We will celebrate and claim Jesus as our star in two ways on Sunday, February 10, the last Sunday of Epiphany.

Many of you received stars with a word on it. The word was either a characteristic or a quality of God or of our spiritual journey. You were invited to put your star in a place where you would see it and to be alert to the Spirit guiding you by your star during the year. Together, we will reflect on how our stars have guided us on February 10. If you did not get a star, stuck it in the back of a drawer and forgot about it or, simply are shy and don't wish to share, no matter! Come and listen and be illuminated!

The second expression of Jesus as our Light is in our acolyte ministry. Beginning on this same Sunday this ministry will take on new prominence. The Light of Christ, embodied in a flame, will be brought into the sanctuary as a part of the worship. The candles will be lit and remain lit throughout our worship. This will remind us of God's Light coming into the world, as described in Genesis 1, right from the beginning, at the Creation. The candles lit throughout the service remind us that God's Light in Jesus has been and is shining, always. We will end our worship with the Light going into the world symbolized by the candles in the chancel being extinguished and a single flame being carried out. The act reminds us of our calling, as Christians, to bring the Light of Christ's Love into the world. We are grateful to Elsie Bradway for bringing this idea to the Deacons. Thank you, Elsie.

We hope that you can bask in the Light with us, wherever you are on February 10.

In Christ's Love and Light,

Rev. Dr. Janet L. Burdewik

## **FROM THE DEACONS' BENCH**

"I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go." Psalm 32:8. All of us have times when we doubt the direction that we should take. We must be aware that if we put out indecision before God, He will let us know in good time whether or not the road we choose is the right one. This does not mean that we should do nothing at all but should consider matters that confuse us with open eyes and diligence. Our church family is currently on a path that some may see as uncertain. We must have faith that with the guidance of the Holy Spirit our church family will flourish and continue along God's chosen route for us. We must be aware of opportunities that present themselves especially those that are beneficial to our brothers and sisters in Christ. Don't turn your back on an instance that can help another, and yourself, because of fear and indecisiveness. Take the road with courage that God is with you!

Yours in Christ's name,  
Karen Gatchell

### **Questions of the month from the Deacons**

Christmas this year is on a Wednesday. What time would you prefer the service on Christmas Eve. Speak to a Deacon and let us know.

Do you need a ride to church or a function? Please let your Deacon know.

### **Search Committee Update**

Thank you very much for your input at the visioning meetings. We have met with Rev. Jill Graham of the UCC and Rev. Heidi Chamberland of the Methodist Church.

*"The overall goal of any church should be to welcome, nourish, empower and serve. It all begins with welcoming."*

## **PARISH NOTES**

### *Anniversary*

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

Earl & Barbara Schofield 02/04

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!**

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

Beverly Haraty	02/04	Ashley Richter	02/18
Karen Gatchell	02/06	Kathleen Lee	02/19
Pauline Philpott	02/08	Tracy Kavanaugh	02/20
Amy Gernux	02/09	Kyle DuBois	02/21
Irene Cutting	02/10	Mary Black	02/22
Katrina Safford	02/10	Wendi Obuchowski	02/23
Janice Gallivan	02/11	Alice Martinez	02/23
Richard Harris	02/12	Peter Bokulic	02/25
Carin Vella	02/13	Bruce Stewart	02/26
Matthew Brodeur	02/16	David Kruger	02/27
Donald Safford	02/16	Jeffrey Sias	02/29
Clara Kern	02/18		

*Valentine treasures are people who  
have often crossed your mind,  
family, friends and others, too,  
who in your life have shined  
the warmth of love or a spark of light  
that makes you remember them;  
no matter how long since you've actually met,  
each one is a luminous gem,  
who gleams and glows in your memory,  
bringing special pleasures.*



## Christian Education

We have young and eager Sunday school children that can't wait to come to church. While going through our curriculum we came upon a poem written by a youth, which touched home. We thought we would share how living in the moment can make a difference.

### **Now**

I have only THIS MOMENT, Lord.  
I can't do anything in the past.  
I can't forget, can't change it.  
Can't take back things said or done.  
I'm not there.  
And I can't do anything in the future.  
I can't make future decisions now-  
Be a heroine, enjoy a husband and children,  
Be a perfect Christian.  
I'm not there.  
Lord, you put me here, NOW; in this place,  
In this time, and with these people.  
If I'm ever gonna praise You, love You,  
Serve you, enjoy you, learn from you  
I need to do it NOW.  
Thank you Lord  
For Knowing that more than a moment was  
Too much for me to handle.  
Help me to remember  
I'm not meant to live past, present,  
And future all at once.

THANK YOU FOR THIS MOMENT.

By Anneke DeVries (16)  
Missionary kid in Kenya, Africa

Blessings, Laurie & Kristi



### **Sunday School Birthdays**

Samantha Quill	02/07
Sarah Willoughby	02/18
Weston Willoughby	02/18
Joshua Sterling	02/26

## Youth Group

We have plans for a fun and eventful rest of the year. Due to conflicts with meeting after church, the youth group will be meeting on Sunday Night in hopes for higher attendance.

Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> – Youth will meet at 9:30- church to make subs for the annual Supper bowl Sub Sale

Feb 9<sup>th</sup> 6pm – Feb 10<sup>th</sup> 10am – Annual Youth Group Lockin. Please see Kristi for additional information & permission slips

Feb 24<sup>th</sup> – 6-8pm: Youth Group Meeting

Our Youth Group is open to anyone in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade and up. Youth do not need to be a member of the church to attend. Friends are invited and encourage to see what our youth group is all about.

Blessings,  
Kristi

## Missions Moment

Lent is just around the corner so the Missions Committee have been thinking about projects that can make a real impact. Enclosed is some information about malaria. There is no vaccination so this is not a preventable disease but one that we can help to reduce. It's as simple as making sure those in mosquito infested areas have nets to go over them while they are sleeping in order to prevent being bitten. "Malaria kills 3,000 children every day – that's one life every 30 seconds. Mosquitoes spread it. You can stop it!" (umc.org) Let's get involved. If you would care to donate please contact any member of the missions committee. \$10 buys one net!

We will be providing dessert for the Open Pantry's Loaves and Fishes on Wednesday March 6<sup>th</sup>. We have been asked to be there by 4 PM. The maximum number of people able to go at this time is 10. We hope that the youth of our church will be involved. There will be 2 ways to help, one is to go on the day and serve, the other is to have a baking session on Monday March 4. Please see anyone on the missions committee or call Karen 413-596-4746 if you are interested in participating. We will also need donations of 5 gallons of milk and baking supplies. There are so many ways to give! Isn't it great?

## **TEN MALARIA FACTS**

### **Fact 1**

Malaria is a disease which can be transmitted to people of all ages. It is caused by parasites of the species plasmodium that are spread from person to person through the bites of infected mosquitoes. If not treated promptly with effective medicines, malaria often is fatal.

### **Fact 2**

About 3.3 billion people - half of the world's population - are at risk of malaria. Every year, this leads to about 250 million malaria cases and 880,000 deaths. People living in the poorest countries are the most vulnerable.

### **Fact 3**

One in five (20 percent) of all childhood deaths in Africa are due to malaria. It is estimated that an African child has on average between 1.6 and 5.4 episodes of malaria fever each year. Every 30 seconds a child dies from malaria in Africa.

### **Fact 4**

Early diagnosis and prompt treatment are two basic elements of malaria control. Early and effective treatment of malaria can shorten the duration of the infection and prevent further complications including most deaths. One should view access to disease management not only as a component of malaria control but also as a fundamental right of all populations at risk.

### **Fact 5**

Inappropriate use of antimalarial drugs in the past century contributed to widespread resistance in the malaria parasite to drugs such as chloroquine, leading to rising rates of sickness and death. Over the past decade, a new group of antimalarials – known as artemisinin-based combination therapies – has brought new hope in the fight against malaria.

### **Fact 6**

The main objective of malaria vector control is to reduce significantly the rate and number of cases of both parasite infection and clinical malaria. This is achieved by controlling the malaria-bearing mosquito and thereby reducing or interrupting transmission.

### **Fact 7**

Long-lasting insecticidal nets provide protection to risk groups, especially young children and pregnant women in high-transmission areas. This provides personal protection. The nets can also protect communities when coverage is high enough (more than 80 percent of people in a target community sleeping inside the nets). The nets are effective for three to five years, depending on models and conditions of use.

### **Fact 8**

Indoor residual spraying is the most effective, quickest means of reducing mosquito density. Its full potential is obtained when at least 80 percent of premises with malaria vectors are sprayed. Indoor spraying is effective for three to six months, depending on the insecticide used and the type of surface on which it is sprayed. (DDT is effective for longer periods, up to 12 months in some cases).

**UMCNothingButNets.org**

**malaria kills every 30 seconds. Mosquitoes spread it.**

**You can stop it!**

**malaria kills. Send a net. Save a life.**

### **Fact 9**

Pregnant women are at high risk not only of dying from the complications of severe malaria, but also of spontaneous abortion, premature delivery or stillbirth. Malaria also can cause severe maternal anemia and is responsible for about one-third of preventable low birth-weight babies. It contributes to the deaths of an estimated 10,000 pregnant women and up to 200,000 infants each year in Africa alone.

### **Fact 10**

Malaria causes an average loss of 1.3 percent of annual economic growth in countries with intense transmission. It traps families and communities in a downward spiral of poverty, disproportionately affecting marginalized and poor people who cannot afford treatment or who have limited access to health care. Malaria has lifelong effects through increased poverty and impaired learning. It cuts attendance at schools and workplaces. However, it is preventable and curable.

*[http://www.who.int/features/factfiles/malaria/malaria\\_facts/en/index9.html](http://www.who.int/features/factfiles/malaria/malaria_facts/en/index9.html)*



**SPAGHETTI & MEATBALL SUPPER**  
**AT**  
**FEDERATED COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
590 Main Street  
Hampden, MA  
Saturday, February 16, 2013  
**6:00 PM**



**Menu**

Spaghetti & Meat Balls  
Tossed Salad  
Rolls  
Dessert  
Beverages



Adults \$10 – Children under 12 \$5  
Please call Church Office  
For reservations by February 13<sup>th</sup>  
at 566-3711



## February 2013



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 10:00 Worship, Communion, Sunday School, Nursery 11:30 Missions Mtg. Y.G. Super Bowl Subs	4 6:00 Pot luck/Study	5 9:00 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	6 11:00 Prayer Group	7 7:00 Choir	8	9 8:00 Men's Breakfast
10 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery 11:30 Deacons Meeting	11 6:00 Pot luck/Study	12 9:00 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	13 11:00 Prayer Group 5:30 Ash Wednesday	14 10:00 Ladies Aid Work/Business Mtg 7:00 Choir	15	16 6:00 Spaghetti supper
17 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	18 6:00 Pot luck/Study 7:00 BOD Meeting	19 9:00 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	20 11:00 Prayer Group	21 10:00 Ladies Aid Work Mtg 7:00 Choir	22 6:30 Friday Fellowship	23 8:00 Men's Breakfast
24 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	25 6:00 Pot luck/Study	26 9:00 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	27 11:00 Prayer Group	28 7:00 Choir		

Church Staff

<u>Pastor</u>	Rev. Dr. Jan Burdewik
<u>Organist/Choir Director</u>	Barbara Bennett
<u>Administrative Assistant</u>	Joyce Ogonowski

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, Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>** Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture: Jeremiah 1:4-10

I Corinthians 13:1-13

Luke 4:21-30

**Sunday, Feb 10<sup>th</sup>** Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture: Exodus 34:29-35

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Luke 9:28-36

**Sunday, Feb 17<sup>th</sup>** Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Romans 10:8b-13

Luke 4:1-13

**Sunday, Feb 24<sup>th</sup>** Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Scripture: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Philippians 3:17-4:1

Luke 13:31-35

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