



United Church of Christ

The Federated Courier

Federated Community Church
Hampden, MA 01036

www.hampdenfederatedchurch.org
E-mail: hampdenfederated@verizon.net

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



United Methodist Church

Volume 67 2

February 2014

From the Pastor's Desk

“Now it's time to say goodbye.....”

Dear Friends-in-Christ,

Scenes from the old TV show “Mickey Mouse Club” have been drifting through my mind in the weeks since New Year's Day. Flickering black-and-white images, populated by Mouseketeers”, from the TV show of my early childhood have emerged from my memory. It went off the air decades ago! How curious! ...Hmm?...Not really, I've concluded, since I've remembered the ritual at the finale of each show. It ended with a song, ...” Through the years we'll all be friends wherever we may be ... Now it's time to say goodbye...” It was repeated every day. With millions of others across America, my younger brother and I, reluctantly, said goodbye to our TV family.

You and I are drawing near to the time when we will say “Goodbye”. Unlike the TV families or secular groups that we become a part of, our faith family is enduring. Our faith family, the Christian Church, is both grounded in time and is beyond time. The Bible proclaims the profound truth that we, who were once strangers, through Christ, are no longer strangers, but friends, brothers and sisters. While we- you and I- will no longer be pastor and people come March 1st, we will always be brothers -and sisters- in- Christ. I will miss you deeply, but I am comforted by this truth.

Words are inadequate to express what it's meant to me to share this part of the journey with you. We've shared a lot of life together in our time together. Over and over, God's Love has been incarnate for me through you. I've learned and grown in this time, experiencing “grace upon grace” because of and through you. I can only trust that, to use Paul's eloquent words, “the Spirit that searches our hearts and gives utterance to that which is too deep for human words” will do so for me. Through the Spirit may you know how much you mean to me.

My heartfelt appreciation to you for entrusting me with your pastoral leadership and for being my friend. While the former is about to draw to a close, through Christ, the latter never will.

Love and Prayers to you and to Pastor Todd as you open this new chapter in your lives.

In Christ's Love,

Jan

PARISH NOTES

Laity Sunday

Our speaker on March 2nd will be Becky Moriarty from the Senior Center in Hampden. The service will be led by members of the congregation. Pastor Todd will be serving communion that day. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

ANNIVERSARIES

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	Kathleen Lee	02/19
Karen Gatchell	02/06	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
Matthew Brodeur	02/16	Bruce Stewart	02/26
Donald Safford	02/16	David Kruger	02/27
Clara Kern	02/18	Jeffrey Sias	02/29
Ashley Richter	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.*



FROM THE DEACONS BENCH

Isaiah 55:10-11 As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

God made all seasons for a purpose. The earth is resting now but soon new bulbs will be pushing through the ground. Likewise we are about to move into a new season in our church. Our interim Pastor Jan will be moving on to new pastures and our new Pastor Todd will be joining us. This is a time of mixed emotions for us, excitement, anticipation, but also anxiety and apprehension. Our pastors will also be feeling the same way we do. Pastor Jan will be moving onto a new church who will have gone through a similar process. We will miss her and her guidance. We are thankful that she was sent to us to help us transition from one settled pastor to another. She has been supportive of many of our church family and we wish her well in any new endeavor. Pastor Todd is saying goodbye to his church of many years. He too will be feeling these mixed emotions. We will welcome him with open arms and pray that he will guide us on our continuing journey of faith. So here we are at a new season. What does the future hold? We can be assured that God will be with us through all of our alterations. So let's pray for both pastors and all the congregations that are affected by the transitions ahead. May we all be heartened by the changes that God has in store.

We do not draw people to Christ by loudly discrediting what they believe, by telling them how wrong they are and how right we are, but by showing them a light that is so lovely that they want with all their hearts to know the source of it.

Madeleine L'Engle, author

Christian Education

Our eager little ones are leaning that God gives us the things we need like clothes, food and water. This month our Early Elementary class will be leaning that God takes care of Jesus and me and we are growing learning.

Youth Group

The youth group would like to thank everyone who ordered subs for Super Bowl Sunday, the children will be making 50 subs.



Sunday School Birthdays

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

Missions

Winter is upon us and we have had a further request from the Springfield Rescue Mission for more gloves, hats and warm socks. With this cold snap, those who live on the streets of the city are in more need than ever. Thank you to all those who contributed with brownies, milk, prayers and service at the Loaves and Fishes. This wonderful mission served 149 meals the evening we were there. Please watch for more information on how to help in the future. The Indian Orchard Survival Center is grateful for all that we contribute. The need for food, clothing and housewares is continual. Please continue to donate throughout the winter. We have received many letters of thanks from gifts already given. Let's keep up the good work of the holiday season by continuing to make a contribution and let those in need know we care.

Dates to remember:

March 2 Laity Sunday, Becky Moriarty speaker
March 9 Pastor Todd's first day of preaching

Dennis is working on a schedule for future movie nights.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

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

The scholarships available are:



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.

Prayer Corner

Please uphold the following in your prayers:

Evelyn Wiley	Evie Meacham
Peg Stearns	Don Haraty
Martha Patullo	Wilbur Jenkins
Judy Ingle	Paul Brooks
Dot Gulbrandson	Julia Winetrout
Derrick Deslauriers	Janet Case
Judith Gerrish	Walter & Judy Schwabe
Helen Dickinson	Art Burger
Dave Dobles	Wendy Vigurs
Elva Jenkins	Peter Bokulic

If you know of anyone who is in need of remembrance or prayers please contact one of the Deacons, Pastor Jan or the Church Office so that their name can be added to our list.



The Choir will be doing a Cantata sometime around Easter. Anyone interested in joining please see Barbara Bennett. This is a short commitment but you may enjoy it so much you decide to stay on.



CHICKEN POT PIE DINNER
AT
FEDERATED COMMUNITY CHURCH
590 Main Street
Hampden, MA
Saturday, February 15, 2014
6:00 PM

Menu

Chicken Pot Pie
Tossed Salad
Rolls
Cranberry Sauce
Coconut Custard Pie
Beverages



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

There will musical entertainment
during dinner.



February 2014



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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2 10:00 Communion, Sunday School, Nursery Y.G. Super Bowl Subs 11:30 Missions Meeting	3 6:00 Pot luck/Study	4 9:00 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	5 11:00 Prayer Group	6 7:00 Choir	7	8 8:00 Men's Breakfast
9 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery 11:30 Deacons Meeting	10 6:00 Pot luck/Study	11 9:00 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	12 11:00 Prayer Group	13 10:00 Ladies Aid Work/Business Mtg 7:00 Choir	14	15 6:00 Chicken Pot Pie dinner
16 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	17 6:00 Pot luck/Study 7:00 BOD Meeting	18 9:00 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	19 11:00 Prayer Group	20 7:00 Choir	21	22 8:00 Men's Breakfast
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FEDERATED COMMUNITY CHURCH
590 Main St.
PO Box 246
Hampden, MA 01036

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 2nd 4th Sunday after Epiphany
Scripture: Micah 6:1-8
I Corinthians 1:18-31
Matthew 5:1-12

Sunday, Feb 9th 5th Sunday after Epiphany
Scripture: Isaiah 58:1-9a
I Corinthians 2:1-12
Matthew 5:13-20

Sunday, Feb 16th 6th Sunday after Epiphany
Scripture: Deuteronomy 30:15-20
I Corinthians 3:1-9
Matthew 5:21-37

Sunday, Feb 23rd 7th Sunday after Epiphany
Scripture: Leviticus 19:-1-2,9-18
I Corinthians 3:1-11, 16-23
Matthew 5:38-48