



United Church of Christ

The Federated Courier

Federated Community Church
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United Methodist Church

Volume 68 2

February 2015

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear folks,

February is a month of love. Barbara will be playing some special music for us during worship to reflect the love of Jesus that we experience here at FCC. I am reminded that Paul wrote about love in his famous letter to the Corinthians. 1st Corinthians 13 tells us about a sacred love. In fact theologians note that Paul uses the word "love" and "Jesus" interchangeably! Try reading 1st Corinthians 13 inserting the word "Jesus" for "love" and experience what Paul's readers would have picked up in the first century.

1Cor13

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 3 If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast,[b] but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. 5 It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. 6 Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. 7 It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. 11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. 12 For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

"Love" is the word of the day. Help spread it in Jesus' name.

Peace,

Todd

Tapping Prayer for Resilience

The Brookfield Institute

After the joy and lights of Advent and Christmas, the bleak, gray days of Lent can weigh heavy on the soul. But what if there was a tool to alleviate that dreariness? What if a new way of praying could not only energize you but heal a host of hurts from your past? If it meant that you and your friends could experience more joy, more peace, more freedom by using this technique, would you spend two days learning how to use tapping prayer?

You will learn how the brain and body are affected by prolonged stress and traumatic events, the basic recipe for tapping prayer and its theological underpinning and how to create and activate your own personal prayer plan for peace.

When: Two days – Feb. 21 and Feb. 28, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Where: First Church Ludlow, 859 Center St., Ludlow, MA

Fee: \$65 covers printed material, a light breakfast, snacks, instruction and online support. (In order to keep the price down, lunch will be on your own; we'll make suggestions, if you'd like to dine out.)

We are also offering a one-day workshop for clergy, "Tapping Prayer for Resilience for Clergy," scheduled for Feb. 10. Please go to www.brookfieldinstitute.org for more information.

***P**ARISH NOTES*



Knit, Stitch, Pray

Please join us once a month on Sunday evenings at 6:30 for a time of fellowship and fun. We work on individual and group projects such as prayer shawls, hats, scarfs, pillowcases etc. These are then donated to someone who is ill, local schools, local hospitals, homeless shelters and anyone in need. We will organize a couple of longer sessions during the day to make dresses and britches for girls and boys. There is no experience necessary, teaching is available, ages 9-99. Please contact Karen Gatchell at 413-237-1598 for more information. Supplies for projects available. Our next meeting will be on February 22. Come on along and meet someone new.

Ash Wednesday

The holy season of Lent begins on February 18th at 6:30 p.m. with a worship service held in the sanctuary. Ashes made from last year's palm leaves are traditionally burned and then imposed upon participants for heads as a sign of being humble before the Lord. It is a quiet and moving way to begin a season of reflection and renewal as we make our personal and communal journey toward Easter morning. Please plan to attend and bring a friend.

Missions: Veterans

Bill Moore from Project New Hope will be a guest speaker on Wednesday February 25th at 6:30 p.m. In Libby Hall. Bill is the founder of this innovative retreat program that helps warriors rebuild with dignity. Refreshments will be served.

Scantic River Child Care

We have some exciting news! SRCC is Growing!! We are in the process of building another preschool classroom. Our new classroom will be opening March 3rd, 2015. We are now accepting applications for preschool (limited space available). We are also enrolling for our toddler classroom, starting at 15 months. Please contact Sarah for more information!!

www.scanticriverchildcare.com

413-566-2906

FROM THE DEACONS' BENCH

1 Timothy 5:17 Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. Matthew 25:40 The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' These 2 scriptures come to mind when I reflect on the month past. There was so much giving in our community in so many ways, 2 giving trees, groceries, bedding, time, prayer. God wants us to help those in need. Opportunities to do so may come about in unexpected ways. We should be alert to these and act on them when we can. A friend, whose daughter was very ill, said to me once, "How will I ever pay back those who have shown us so much kindness?" I told her that she did not have to repay the kindness to the exact people who had been kind to her family, but an opportunity would arrive where she would be able to show generosity to another, paying it forward. Many of you may not know that the Christmas offering in the special envelopes in your monthly or weekly offering pack, is given to the retired ministers in the UCC and UMC. Our pastors give so much during their life that it is a nice opportunity to give a little back to them. This year we collected \$512.50 for this fund. We also identified some specific families to help with a grocery store gift card. If you know of anyone

who needs a helping hand at any time of the year, please let any of your deacons know. A kind word or a prayer can go a long way too.

Anniversary

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

Earl & Barbara Schofield

02/04



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

Beverly Haraty	02/04	Tracy Kavanaugh	02/20
Karen Gatchell	02/06	Kyle DuBois	02/21
Irene Cutting	02/10	Mary Black	02/22
Richard Harris	02/12	Wendi Obuchowski	02/23
Matthew Brodeur	02/16	Peter Bokulic	02/25
Donald Safford	02/16	Bruce Stewart	02/26
Clara Kern	02/18	David Kruger	02/27
Kathleen Lee	02/19	Jeff Sias	02/29

Christian Education

The year has taken off to a great start. Our lesson for January included the parable of the lost coin, followed by the Good Samaritan. These are lessons that the children can relate to and help bring God into their daily lives.

Our Sunday School is expanding! We are looking for assistance in our classrooms. We need nursery/toddler room volunteers, and assistance in our older kids rooms.

This is not a bad problem to have. We are growing from the babies up. Lessons are already prepared, all that is needed is for you to show up with a smile. One time, or once a month spots are needed.

Blessings,

Laurie and Kristi



Sunday School Birthdays

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

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.



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.

STEWARDSHIP MUSINGS ...

"Watch this Space"

You've seen that sign before- it usually signals something new and exciting is under construction. Some new construction is going on here at FCC- our foundation is being strengthened by a renewed and re-inspired congregational spirit!

Our Stewardship Ministry is part of the new construction. Why a Finance Committee *and* a Stewardship Ministry- aren't they the same thing? The answer is: no.

We have traditionally thought about stewardship only in terms of finances, budgets, and expenses. However, in Christian practice, the scope of "stewardship" encompasses a way of thinking and living, in which we open ourselves to the awareness that all of Creation, all of our talents and abilities, our material wealth and our time are God's gifts to us. These gifts are not intended for us to keep to ourselves, but to bless others as God has blessed us.

The result of our recent Pledge Program shows that we *are* committed to financial stewardship: together, we have increased our pledging by nearly \$20,000! But looking beyond finances, we can see the beginning of a "whole-life" spirit of stewardship: in people building closer connections with one another and with Pastor Todd, and a renewed commitment to FCC's mission, through sharing of time, donations of goods, and monetary support.

Aren't we really saying, "Thank you, GOD, for blessing us so richly! We want to keep doing your work, doing more of it, and doing it to the best of our abilities."

So— watch this space, as we explore the concept of true spiritual "Stewardship" throughout the coming year.

*A Message from Your Stewardship Ministry Team,
Carol Darnley, Linda Hornig, Anne Marie Matzko,
Jocelyn Smith*

Souper Bowl of Caring

The Souper Bowl of Caring is a national movement of congregations, schools, community organizations and compassionate individuals caring for others. Every dollar donated can bring in \$13 of food for the Survival Center. The youth will be collecting non-perishable items, as well as monetary donations every week throughout the month of February.

Federated Community Church of Hampden with the Springfield Falcons!

Sunday, March 8th, 2015 3:00PM
MassMutual Center

Tickets only \$13!

Bring your skates for our Sunday
post-game skate!

Catch the excitement of Falcons
Hockey Action!



VS



FOR MORE INFO CONTACT

Frank Watson





**CHICKEN POT PIE DINNER
AT
FEDERATED COMMUNITY CHURCH**

590 Main Street
Hampden, MA
Saturday, February 21, 2015
6:00 PM

Menu

Chicken Pot Pie
Tossed Salad
Rolls
Cranberry Sauce
Dessert
Beverages



Adults \$10 – Children under 12 \$5
Please call Church Office
For reservations by February 18th
at 566-3711

The Love Continues

Valentines Day is not the last word in LOVE!

The community is invited to a Love Song Sing-along during our Pot Pie Dinner
Diners will choose their favorite Love Songs from booklets on each table,
and our own Barbara Bennett will accompany us as we sing out the songs of the season.



February 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 Communion, Sunday School, Nursery . Super Bowl Subs	2 6:30 Bible Study	3 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	4 11:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Missions Mt.	5 7:00 Choir	6	7
8 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery 12:00 Confirmation Class	9 6:30 Bible Study	10 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	11 11:00 Prayer Group 6:30 CE Mtg.	12 10:00 Ladies Aid Work/Business Mtg 7:00 Choir	13	14 8:00 Men's Breakfast
15 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	16 6:30 Bible Study	17 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 Deacons Mt. 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	18 11:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Ash Wednesday Service	19 7:00 Choir	20	21 9:00 Tapping Prayer Seminar 6:00 Chicken Pot Pie dinner
22 10:00 Laity Sunday School, Nursery 6:30 Knit, Stitch, Pray	23 6:30 Bible Study	24 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	25 11:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Project New Hope Speaker	26 7:00 Choir	27	28 9:00 Tapping Prayer Seminar 8:00 Men's Breakfast

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, Feb 1st 4th Sunday After Epiphany

Scripture: Deuteronomy 18:15-20
I Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

Sunday, Feb 8th 5th Sunday After Epiphany

Scripture: Isaiah 40:21-31
I Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

Sunday, Feb 15th Last Sunday After Epiphany

Scripture: 2 Kings 2:1-12
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

Sunday, Feb 22nd 1st Sunday in Lent

Scripture: Genesis 9:8-17
I Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15