



United Church of Christ

The Federated Courier

Federated Community Church
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United Methodist Church

Volume 67 7

July/August 2014

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Folks,

*There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:*

- 2 a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,*
- 3 a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,*
- 4 a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,*

--Ecclesiastes 3: 1-4



We have had a busy season here at FCC. I began my journey with you at the start of Lent...we saw each other through Holy Week and witnessed an egg set free from a bottle on Easter morning.

Post Easter I met a lot of people, went to a few church dinners, planned and participated in Bible studies, marched in the Memorial Day Parade and, planted a garden.

I have officiated at 5 funerals and one baptism. I have attended several Men's breakfasts, a few clergy lunches, and have had breakfast at the Senior Center .

Plans are underway for a great summer of faith and fun for the kids at FCC by way of *Lady Baa Baa Feeds the World* (on Sunday mornings) and, *Bible Buddies Breakfast Club: Faith*

Explorers (7/21-25). The teens are invited to a pool party in July and a camping trip in August. The adults are invited to a fun and informative Bible exploration (*Characters Welcome!*) that will meet on Monday nights and Tuesday mornings in July and August (come when you can). I imagine there will be a few more surprise adventures thrown in the mix as the summer unfolds.

The wisdom of our faith tradition advises us to seek balance in this coming season. I pray that you will join me in taking some quiet time, some playful time, some refreshing time in order to prepare for the work of the Fall.

Peace,
Todd

Summer Worship

During July and August Worship Begins at 9:30 AM

After the service, members of the Diaconate will serve refreshments on the back lawn, weather permitting.

There is no Sunday school in July & August but families are encouraged to attend worship together.

***P**ARISH NOTES*

We need ushers for July & August. There is a sign-up sheet in the vestibule if you would like to volunteer.



Summer Sundays

Once again we are looking for our talented singers and musicians to volunteer to sing or play just one Sunday in July or August. Our terrific choir sings thru June and will be back in September.

Please see Barbara and offer to take one of the Summer Sundays. 566-3615.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Men's Breakfast **does not** meet during the Summer months but will commence in September. They meet every second and fourth Saturday morning at 8:00am.

Attention All Committee Chairs

Please submit your Committee's **annual report** by August 15th so that we may get them processed before the Annual Meeting.

Anniversaries

We send congratulations to the following members who celebrate wedding anniversaries in July/August:

David & Geraldine Kruger	07/06
Beverly & Wayne Burnell	07/14
Mark & Linda Casey	07/21
Paul & Nancy Willoughby	07/24
William & Ruth Haley	07/27
Gregory & Heather Webb	07/28
Richard & Pat Ritz	07/30
Donald & Beverly Haraty	08/07
Phyllis & Kenneth Hultstrom	08/15
Frank & Phyllis Watson	08/17
Todd & Martha Farnsworth	08/17
Glenn & Brenda Olesuk	08/18
Jeffrey & Annemarie Sias	08/19
William & Lynn Cunningham	08/26

Giving must come from a generous spirit. There is no point in giving at all if it's done out of reluctance or under compulsion to give. We need to be giving out of a genuine desire to meet someone else's need, and be a blessing to them. As God prompts us - we should give. One of the biggest hurdles to not giving, is the fear we don't have enough. We put it off until we think we may have enough - but that time never comes. Things always crop up that take up our resources. But if we put God first, despite all our unpaid bills and mounting debt, and give back to Him in building His kingdom, we find we will have enough. Somehow God makes it stretch. We don't have to worry that we don't have enough. In 2 Corinthians 9:10 we read that God provides seed for the sower and how He will multiply our resources for sowing. He will bring the increase in every area. None of us may end up super rich (materially speaking), but we become rich in other ways - ways that have eternal value. We encourage you today is not to put off giving today what God has prompted you to give, no matter how little you have. You can be such a blessing to someone else.

Happy Birthday

Birthday Greetings to the following adult members of our church who celebrate birthdays in July/August:

Joshua Hummel	07/01	Bruce Libby	07/15
James Brant	07/03	Ashley Stoddard	07/16
Theodore Zebert	07/05	Priscilla Kibbe	07/18
Nolan Fonda	07/07	Bryan Joyce	07/18
David Grant	07/07	Jenna Scott	07/18
Teresa Kennedy	07/08	Nancy Ryan	07/19
Linda Hornig	07/09	Judith Schwabe	07/19
Mary Howell	07/09	Janet Brehaut	07/24
Nancy Zebert	07/11	Dagmar Childs	07/25
Richard DeSanti	07/12	Chris Fonda	07/25
Michael Stone	07/13	Dot Dickinson	07/26
Paige Fonda	07/13	Allen Schoolcraft	07/27
Philip Stoddard	07/13	Kathy Hutchison	07/27
Heather Webb	07/14	Yvonne Godek	07/29
Nicole Gray	07/14	Elaine Evans	07/31
Frank Watson	08/02	Annemarie Sias	08/19
Janet Case	08/05	Debra Anderson	08/21
Todd Farnsworth	08/09	Kristi Tessier	08/22
Marion Cilley	08/11	Don Smith	08/23
Bob Schoolcraft	08/11	Janet Libby	08/24
Shirley Facey	08/11	Patricia Baker	08/25
John Spear	08/17	Debra Doyle	08/26
Jessica Quill	08/18	Laurie Bliss	08/29
Nicole Howell	08/18	Phyllis Watson	08/30

Christian Education

We would like to thank everyone for coming to our year end program and supporting the children. Thank you to all the parents that are dedicated to bringing their children to church every week.

Congratulations to our High School graduates, Gillian Smith & Rebecca Varney.

There is no Sunday School until September but there will be Worship Bags with crayons & activity books in the vestibule for children attending worship with their parents

Sunday School Kick-Off will be on September 14th at 9:00 am. We look forward to seeing everyone.

Blessings Kristi & Laurie

We thank the **Christian Education Committee**.

Co-Coordinators: *Laurie Schoolcraft & Kristi Tessier*

CE Committee: *Jocelyn Smith, Michelle Gardner, Bonnie Watson, Kristi Tessier, Laurie Schoolcraft, Anne Marie Matzko, Hayden Tibbetts*



Sunday School Birthdays

Paradis, Garrett B	07/10
Gardner, Aiden	07/14
Gardner, Amelia	07/14
Brusa, Jessica L	07/30
Paradis, Logan D	08/06
Wyman, Nathaniel S	08/15
Lemoine, Michael R.	08/20
Varney, Rebecca E	08/22

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that nine members of our church were granted scholarships totaling \$4,905. from the following funds:

Thresher Trust (\$760), YOLA Trust (\$460), Lombard Fund (\$150), Helen & Carl Larson Fund (\$1525), and Memorial Gifts (\$500) & Melba & Wesley Chapin (\$1500)..

Gillian Smith (Fr), Rebecca Varney (Fr), Kylie Walulak (Soph.), Erin Lee (Soph.), Mason Kennedy, (Jr.), Jarrod Smith, (Jr.), Nathan Varney, (Jr.), Cameron Walulak, (Jr.), Jennifer Fisher (Sr.)

We congratulate these young people and thank them for their participation in our church, as we wish them well in their academic pursuits in the year ahead.



Do you like to read? Is summer a time when you get a little extra time to engage that passion?

FCC in cooperation with Heifer Project International invites you to Read to Feed. Participants get sponsors for each book (or chapter or page) they read during the months of June-August. "At the end of the program, we will pool our funds and donate them to Heifer International to help Heifer assist millions of families around the world feed their families and reach self-reliance" said Karen Gatchell, chair of FCC's Board of Missions. Each Sunday participants are welcome to check in (we'll be providing a special program during our regularly scheduled worship for young readers to learn more about Heifer International) and add a cotton ball per book read, to Lady Baa Baa. "Our hope is to raise enough money to send several sheep (@\$120 a piece) to Heifer International by the end of August" said Gatchell. "Help Lady Baa Baa Feed the World!" is a great opportunity for families and individuals to make a difference while reading.

Sponsor sheets are available in the church office at 590 Main Street in Hampden.

Thank You

Dear FCC

Thank you so much for the generous gift that you have given me! I really appreciate the scholarship along with all the love, support, and memories that the Church community has given me and my family throughout my life.

Thank, Jarrod Smith

Dear FCC

Thank you so much for the generous scholarship money. I truly appreciate it. I am very grateful for the FCC's support throughout the years.

Love, Gillian Smith

Dear Scholarship Committee,

I would just like to take this time to thank you for the scholarship! This will allow me to further my education even further than I already have. The money will buy me the very expensive books that I need in order to broaden my knowledge in my studies!

Thank you so much, Cameron Walulak

To My FCC Family,

I would just like to thank you all very much for the scholarship money. The love and support this church community has shown me over the years has been amazing. This generous scholarship will greatly help my future endeavors!

Thank you for everything, Kylie Walulak

Going on Vacation?



Please remember to keep your pledge to the church current if you go away during July or August. The ministries at FCC continue all summer long. We will be here providing worship, pastoral care, Christian Education, fellowship and meeting space for Scantic River Child Care and AA. Sharing your

gifts all year around help FCC to provide quality ministry in every season. If you can't make it to worship, you may mail in your contributions (PO Box 246, Hampden, MA 01036) or drop them off in the church office, MWF 9am-noon.

May God bless you and watch over you during your trip!

Characters Welcome! (Old Testament Edition)

What does a bed warmer, a foreign queen, and a game show called, "Outta Time" have to do with the Bible? What characteristics do you share with the people in the Old Testament? What characteristics would you rather avoid?

Each Monday at 6:30pm (potluck supper at 5:30 for those who are interested) and Tuesday at 9:30am (same story as the night before) we will gather to explore a different character from the Old Testament. Using scripts created by our pastor, we will playfully experience the people who populate our Bible and employ imagination to fill in the gaps in their stories and perhaps, learn a little about how their sagas intersect with our lives!

All are welcome.

Monday Night Bible Study **Summer Plans**

By popular request, our Monday night Bible studies will be continuing for the summer. A lighter fare is planned in acknowledgement of our reluctance to over-heat our kitchens with cooking and over-cook our bodies and brains with too much work.

We will be meeting at 6:30pm every Monday evening barring weather emergencies, except 7/7 and 9/1 (both long weekends). For the first half hour we will share fellowship and a light dessert—with individual sign-ups for each week. Our "study" time will begin at 7:00pm —

when it's a little cooler, and will take a fun, "out-of-the-box" approach to help us get to know some of the Old Testament characters who may be somewhat unfamiliar and the cultural influences they had to deal with.

We hope you will feel moved by the spirit to join us on any Monday evening. Each week will be a "stand-alone" session, so vacations and time away will be no problem. We'd love to have you join us in meeting some of those obscure but interesting Bible folks.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS

Tuesday Morning Bible Class **will not** be meeting during the Summer but will start up in September. All are welcome – snacks and fellowship start at 9:00am with bible study starting at 9:30am.

Bible Buddies Breakfast Club

FAITH EXPLORERS

Faith explorers start each day with a prayer, a hearty breakfast with friends and an adventure filled exploration of the Bible where the questions are as big as the answers and imaginations fuel to quest!

July 21-25 - 8am-9:30am at Federated Community Church - Breakfast served each day - \$10/child, \$25 max/family - Ages 4-12 - Call 413-566-3711 to register

Explore:

Day 1: Creation Station...Gather around the campfire with friends and imagine how everything got started...and why!

Day 2: Giggle House. Why is Silly Sarah laughing? Stop by and find out!

Day 3: Fire Mountain...Kick off your shoes and discover a holy place where God will speak to you!

Day 4: The Palace...Will you approach the cranky king? Who will help you find your courage?

Day 5: Sea Side Shanty...Join Jonah as he discovers the importance of listening to God!

Volunteers Needed for Breakfast Club

To: prepare a simple breakfast, playfully explore the daily Bible reading (scripts provided), facilitate a craft project, and clean up. If you have gifts in any of those areas, please sign up in Libby Hall and fill out a volunteer form (with CORI check included).

Safe Church Policy

Members of the Board of Christian Education have been busy working on a plan to provide a safer environment for the children who come to learn about God at FCC. An important piece of the plan is a volunteer form (created from resources provided by the United Church of Christ) which asks all adults working with children at FCC to submit to a CORI check.

FAQ's about CORI

1. What does CORI mean?

CORI stands for criminal offender record information.

2. Why must I have a CORI check?

The law of the Commonwealth mandates a CORI check on current volunteers and employees as well as qualified prospective employees and volunteers, prior to their service or employment, who have particular duties and responsibilities relative to children and youth, the elderly and/or disabled.

3. Why do I have to fill out a CORI request form every 2 years?

The CORI Policy of FCC requires a semi annual CORI.

4. If I fill out a CORI form some place else, why do I have to fill one out for the Church?

Criminal offender record information may not be shared among entities certified to have access to CORI.

5. Why do I have to provide so much personal information on the CORI form?

The Commonwealth determines what information must appear on the CORI request form. The specific information ensures that the returned CORI belongs to the person who filled out the request form.

6. What type of government issued photographic identification must I present when I have my CORI information verified?

You may present a license from Massachusetts or another state, a passport, a Mass ID or other government issued picture identification documents.

7. What if I don't have a picture ID?

If you do not have a government issued photo identification you may present a birth certificate or social security card. However, a notation must be made on the CORI form that you have no available photo identification.

8. The form says I'm not required to include my social security number but my license number is the same as my social security number. What should I do?

Since you must write your license number on the CORI request form, write it as one long number and for your protection get your license number changed as soon as possible.

9. Who will have access to my CORI results?

Our church has two certified CORI officers: Joyce Ogonowski and Kristi Tessier. They are the only two people in the church who will have access to your CORI information. They are bound by the law not to disclose your CORI information to any agency or person not authorized to receive CORI.

10. Where are returned CORI kept?

All CORI request forms and returns are secured in locked files that are kept in a locked file space.

11. If I have something on my record does that mean I can't be employed or serve in ministry?

Not necessarily. CORI are evaluated according to a standardized process that includes established criteria.

12. May I have a copy of my CORI?

Yes, you may request a copy of your CORI return. Contact Joyce or Kristi for more information. Jesus calls us to protect the children given to our care. Our volunteer form (including a CORI check) is a step in that holy direction. May God bless us as we safely minister to the children of our community.

New Members

We will be accepting new members on September 28th during worship. Candidates will meet on September 21st. If you are interested in joining our church please see either Pastor Todd or one of the Deacons for additional information.



July 2014



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	2	3	4	5
6 9:30 Worship, Communion	7	8 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	9	10	11	12
13 9:30 Worship	14 6:30 Bible Study	15 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	16	17	18	19
20 9:30 Worship	21 8:00-9:30 Bible Buddies Breakfast Club 6:30 Bible Study	22 8:00-9:30 Bible Buddies Breakfast Club 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	23 8:00-9:30 Bible Buddies Breakfast Club	24 8:00-9:30 Bible Buddies Breakfast Club	25 8:00-9:30 Bible Buddies Breakfast Club	26 8:00-9:30 Bible Buddies Breakfast Club
27 9:30 Worship	28 6:30 Bible Study	29 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	30	31		



August 2014



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 9:30 Worship, Communion	4 6:30 Bible Study	5 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	6	7	8	9
10 9:30 Worship	11 6:30 Bible Study	12 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	13	14	15	16
17 9:30 Worship	18 6:30 Bible Study	19 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	20	21	22	23
24 9:30 Worship	25 6:30 Bible Study	26 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	27	28	29	30
31 9:30 Worship						

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.