



United Church of Christ

The Federated Courier

Federated Community Church
Hampden, MA 01036

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United Methodist Church

Volume 68 6

June 2015



From the Pastor's Desk

*"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. **15** Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. **16** In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.--Matt 5*

Thank you for the beautiful lamp I received for my Installation on May 17. It was a big day with 3 of our young people confirming their faith in the morning (Congratulations: Sean Lee, Samantha Quill, KK Walulak), and my Installation by the Hampden Association in the afternoon, followed by a sumptuous dinner in Libby Hall provided by the Board of Deacons. It was a wonderful day and through it all, your love as a community shined brightly for all the world to see!

It seems to me that whenever we get together Christ's light sparkles in the conversation and concern we show to one another and folks who are just visiting for the day. It is a significant gift that gives people hope for the CHURCH in a universal sense.

As we sail into Summer we will have more opportunities for coming together. Bible Studies, Steak Supper, Blessing of the Bats Block Party, Paw Sox Game, Bible Buddies, and whatever else you think up will allow us to share Jesus' love with a world that is looking for that gift in the midst of community. Let us continue to be witnesses to that love. Let us invite those who are seeking to dip their toes in its refreshing waters.

You are the light of the world...let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify our God in heaven!

Aloha,
Todd

Summer Worship will start on June 28th this year with Worship beginning at 9:30 AM
During July and August members of the Diaconate will serve refreshments on the back lawn, weather permitting.
The Missions Committee will provide a program for children during July and August.

FROM THE DEACONS' BENCH

***P*ARISH NOTES**

BLESSING OF THE BATS BLOCK PARTY

Help is needed to plan and carry out our very first BBBPARTY! The BBBP will take place on June 22 beginning at 7pm (bats usually appear by 8:30pm) on Riverside Drive by the Parsonage. This is an event to teach people about the ways bats help our environment and some of the struggles bats are facing to survive. The event is free to the public and word on the street is that Batman may make an appearance for pictures!

Please contact Todd at:

hampdenfederated.pastor@gmail.com if you would like to assist in this event that speaks to our stewardship of the earth. In case of rain, the BBBP will take place on June 24 at 7pm.

BIBLE BUDDIES

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS BACK!

Bibles McSplore is back with all new stories and characters for children age 4-12 to explore. This year's 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 OFFERED

Calling all budding actors: *Flashlight Theater* will be holding a one week summer camp during the week of 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 fee is \$100.00.

Please note: we are presently in conversation with the Hampden Rec Department concerning where the camp will be held and how to register. Please call the church office at 566-3711 for more information or to reserve a space in this program for your child.

Pastor Todd is now official. So says the UCC church council. It all happened at the INSTALLATION CEREMONY hosted by our church and organized by the Deacons. The installation ceremony was something most, if not all, the deacons had never witnessed so we were kind of flying blind. There were lots of questions about every aspect of the event but with the able leadership of Karen and Linda H. we pulled off what was a pretty successful event.

The event itself came in 3 parts. The first was a business meeting of the Western Mass UCC Council. This, we (the Deacons) had very little to do with other than making the sanctuary available and showing visiting clergy where it was. This was like most board meetings I have attended and lasted less than ½ an hour.

The second part was very informative. As part of the process the Deacons had sent out invitations to local UCC churches announcing the event. Pastor Todd invited others, both lay and clergy, to testify about his journey to the ministry. It began with Todd addressing the assembly and speaking of his personal call to the ministry. A couple of the invited guests then spoke on his behalf. The meeting was opened to the assembly to pose some very challenging questions directly to Todd. Several were asked and your Pastor handled them well. It ended with the eligible voting to affirm his worthiness to serve our congregation.

The 3rd part was a catered sit-down supper for all. It was catered by Tony and Penny's of Ludlow. It was well attended and the food was first rate and enjoyed by all.

In summary, the day was a full one. We experienced something new to most of us, we learned some things about the Pastor we did not know before and we had a good meal with good people. All in all, it was a great day for Pastor Todd, the Deacons and the Federated Church of Hampden.

David Anable, Deacon

Anniversary

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

Richard & Sharon DeSanti	06/02
Joanne & David Gernux	06/07
George & Gail Romano	06/12
David & Jane Wyman	06/12
William & Ellen Gatchell	06/14
James & Beverly Brant	06/21
Edwin & Marion Cilley	06/27
Donald & Joyce Ogonowski	06/27

HAPPY Birthday!

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

Karen Anable	06/05	Jean Carroll	06/19
Michelle Gardner	06/07	Roberta Grant	06/19
Ross Gardner	06/08	Alicia Richter	06/20
Kim Mercure	06/08	Janet Modlish	06/20
Jacqueline Brusa	06/10	Paul Cilley	06/23
Kyle Thompson	06/13	Michael DeSanti	06/24
Helen Dickinson	06/14	Elena Green	06/27
Jennifer Fisher	06/15	Nancy Nelson	06/27
Margaret Pauly	06/16	Donald Haraty	06/28
June Godin	06/18	Elizabeth Cilley	06/29
Jacqueline Prior	06/18	Matt Sterling	06/29

Christian Education

It is hard to believe that our Sunday school year is coming to an end. It has been a wonderful year with our young people. The closing program is June 14th followed by an all church picnic sponsored by the Board of Directors. Please come and support the youth of our church and the teachers and committee members who have made it all possible.

There are several fun things planned for the children of the church and the entire town to participate in this summer and we look forward to seeing a new group of kids in the fall joining us at Sunday school.

Laurie & Kristi

Craft Fair

We had another wonderful Memorial Day Craft Fair. We thank all who supported us by either working, eating or supporting the crafters with a purchase. A special thanks to Laurie & Kristi for their tireless devotion in making these events happen three times a year. People working behind the scenes know how much time and effort go into putting these fairs together.

Summer Activities

Some people have shown an interest in playing golf as a church group. This could be a onetime event or maybe a recurring date, weekly, monthly, over the season. If you have any interest please sign up in Libby Hall. If there is enough interest we will have a meeting to setup the type of format that would be agreeable to everyone

Missions Moment

At the end of every quarter, FCC sends a contribution, on your behalf, in support of a number of mission ministries. Here is who you have helped with your donations of money and goods through March:

LOCAL:

Community Survival Center: \$50.00; 188 pounds of food; clothing/ household items

Food Bank of Western Mass.: \$75.00

Springfield Rescue Mission: \$75.00

Habitat for Humanity: \$60.00

MSPCC: \$75.00

WORLDWIDE:

Missionary Ventures (Paul and Cheryl Bendele,

Argentina): \$25.00

Wycliffe Bible Translators (Papua, New Guinea): \$25.00

We receive a "thank-you" from everyone. This is an excerpt from the Springfield Rescue Mission, through whom you help feed, clothe, and shelter the hungry and the homeless:

"...your generosity is like a bright burst of Hope. When someone is out on the streets, utterly alone, hungry, thirsty, unable to shower...hopelessness can pull them down into a place where they get stuck. You can't begin to know what a difference it makes when someone cares enough to reach out and help. ..Hope is a powerful healer."

As the committee which administers a part of FCC's mission outreach, we also thank you for your commitment to bringing the love of Jesus to all.

Summer Ushers

If you would like to volunteer to usher for the months of July and August there will be a sign-up sheet in the vestibule. It's an easy job and gives the people who volunteer all year a "vacation."



Sunday School Birthdays

Walulak, Kathrine	06/19
Smith, Alexandra	06/23
Trevallion, Jacob	06/25



Sarah Willoughby graduated from Minnechaug and will be attending Northeastern Univ. in the fall.

Samantha Quill graduated from Minnechaug and will be attending Westfield State University.

Joshua Sterling graduated from Minnechaug and will be attending Springfield Technical Community College.

Jennifer Fisher graduated from James Madison University.

Scholarships

This years scholarships will be handed out during Family Sunday, June 14th. We hope that all recipients will be able to attend to accept their certificates

Summer Kick-off

Come enjoy fellowship with our Church Family as we celebrate the close of the Sunday School program with the start of the Summer Season and our Hamburg and Hotdog Social. The event will begin immediately after Service on Sunday, June 14th. The Board of Directors will be sponsoring as well as serving for the event. As usual we will have Hamburgers, Hotdogs, Summer Salads, Chips, Punch and Desserts. Weather permitting we'll shoot for a lawn event like last year. Bring your friends and extended family members. We have a great Congregation and want extend our appreciation for all the support we receive.

The Board of Directors

CHURCH COMMUNICATIONS

Since the earliest days of the church gathering, there has been a need to communicate upcoming events. Luke 22 records one such event that teaches us how we can let folks know about the events our church has to share with the wider community. The text reads: *Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed. Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover." "Where do you want us to prepare for it?" they asked. He replied, "As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters, and say to the owner of the house, 'The Teacher asks: Where is the guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' He will show you a large room upstairs, all furnished. Make preparations there."* They left and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover. *When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table.--Luke 22*

The benchmarks of communication are as follows:

- [] What is the event? *Go and make preparations for us to eat the Passover."*
- [] Why is event happening? *Then came the day of Unleavened Bread on which the Passover lamb had to be sacrificed.*
- [] When is event? Date? Time? *When the hour came, Jesus and his apostles reclined at the table.*
- [] Where is event? *As you enter the city, a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him to the house that he enters. He will show you a large room upstairs, all furnished. Make preparations there."*
- [] Cost of event? Free
- [] How do I reserve space for event? *Be one of Jesus' disciples*
- [] Who is contact person for event? *Jesus sent Peter and John*
- [] How do I get more information? Email address? Phone number(s)? *None available in 33AD*

If you are planning an event at the church, please be sure to meet all of the benchmarks indicated above so that every guest will know what is going on and be able to easily join in the experience.

Living a Generous Life

Why do we have a "Stewardship Ministry" when we have a "Finance Committee"?

Well, our Finance Committee is responsible for the dollars-and-cents accounting work of our church, which is only one aspect of Christian Stewardship. A very important aspect, because without a sufficient level of monetary income, we really could not fully carry out God's work at our Federated Community Church.

But the concept of "stewardship" goes as far beyond finances as the Milky Way Galaxy goes beyond the Earth. At the heart of stewardship, is a commitment to living a life of gratefulness and generosity. It encompasses an "attitude of gratitude" for all that a loving God has gifted to us:

- a beautiful natural environment which supports and inspires us
- a miraculous body and brain, which allow us to experience every aspect of existing as human beings
- our talents and personality traits which allow us to grow and create the abundant life

When we truly understand and accept that we have been gifted in every way by a loving God, we can't help but feel grateful and blessed and THEN, we can't help but want to spread the joy and bless others by giving back. And THEN, when we experience the joy of giving (physically, emotionally, spiritually, and financially) we are going to want to choose to live a generous life!

This transformation doesn't happen overnight; it is a spiritual process of intentional thought and prayer. Opening ourselves to gratefulness for the abundance that God is offering is a good starting point: think "I have..."and "I can..." in place of "I don't have...", "I " can't..." or "I wish I had...", "I wish I could..."

In his poem, "A Pledge for Grateful Living", Benedictine Brother David Steindl-Rast writes:

"In thanksgiving for life, I pledge to overcome the illusion of ENTITLEMENT by reminding myself that everything is gift and, thus, to live GRATEFULLY."

Can we commit to one another to intentionally choose gratefulness as our "default setting"? Together, with God, we will experience unimagined joy and blessings in our lives, in our church family, in our community, and in our world

Linda Hornig, Carol Darley, Jocelyn Smith

Confirmation

It was a privilege to welcome the fine young people of this year's Confirmation class into full membership in the Federated Community Church of Hampden on Sunday, May 17, 2015.

Confirmand

Sean Lee

Samantha Quill

Katherine Walulak

Joined

UCC

UCC

UCC

Confirmands

It has been such a pleasure getting to know ***Samantha Quill*** during confirmation classes. Samantha loves spending time with her family, David, Susan and Jessica.

She also loves dancing and has been studying dance for 15 years. Samantha enjoys helping others. She has been a member of the Lumberjack club at Minnechaug which is a community service club. In addition Samantha is a summer camp counselor. In the Fall Samantha will be attending Westfield State University to major in Elementary Education.

Mary Howell, Sponsor

I was pleased to be asked by ***Sean Lee*** to be his sponsor in Confirmation. I must admit I did not know him, I must also admit that as I did get to know him we had a winner. Sean is a young man who will be active in the affairs of the church. He was pleased to help in the Christmas candlelight service, again in the Easter Sunrise service and Call to Worship on Laity Sunday, which he wrote himself. As sponsor it was my pleasure to give him a Hawaiian name. Ka Ikaika Akamai Ho'olana Aka'nahe. Translated as sturdy, stalwart, smart, cheerful and gentle. Sean is ready and willing to be an active member, we need only to ask.

Hayden Tibbetts, Sponsor

It has been a pleasure being ***Kathrine (KK) Walulak's*** mentor this year. She is a very busy young woman with interests in sports and theater, and she makes time for FCC. She is always willing to help out when asked, whether it is with fellowship after church or making props for Bible Buddies Breakfast Club. I especially appreciated that she shared her talent of song on Easter morning. She has a lovely voice!

I am so happy KK has confirmed her membership in our church family and look forward to growing together in faith.

Martha Farnsworth, Sponsor



STEAK ROAST

At

Federated Community Church

590 Main Street

Hampden, MA

Saturday, June 20, 2014

6:00 pm

Menu

Steak

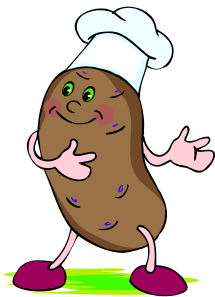
Baked Potatoes

Vegetable

Tossed Salad

Dessert

Beverages



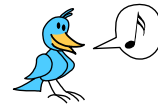
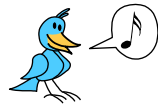
Adults \$12 – Children under 12 \$5

Hotdogs and hamburgers will be offered for the children

Please call Church Office

For reservations by June 17th

566-3711



June 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 9:30 Bible Class 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	3 11:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Missions Mtg.	4 7:00 Choir	5	6
7 10:00 Worship, Sunday School Holy Communion	8	9 9:30 Bible Class 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	10 11:00 Prayer Group 6:30 CE Meeting	11 7:00 Choir	12	13 8:00 Men's Breakfast
14 10:00 Worship Happy Father's Day	15 7:00 BOD	16 9:30 Bible Class 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	17 11:00 Prayer Group	18 7:00 Choir	19	20 6:00 Steak Roast
21 10:00 Worship	22 8:00 Blessing of the Bats – Block Party	23 9:30 Bible Class 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	24 11:00 Prayer Group	25 7:00 Choir	26	27 8:00 Men's Breakfast
28 9:30 Worship 6:30 Knit, Stitch, Pray	29	30 9:30 Bible Class 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA				

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, June 7th 2nd Sunday after Pentecost
Scripture: I Samuel 8:4-20
2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1
Mark 3:20-35

Sunday, June 14 3rd Sunday after Pentecost
Scripture: I Samuel 15:34-16:13
2 Corinthians 5:6-17
Mark 4:26-34

Sunday, June 21st 4th Sunday after Pentecost
Scripture: I Samuel 17:32-49
2 Corinthians 6:1-13
Mark 4:35-41

Sunday, June 28th 5th Sunday after Pentecost
Scripture: 2 Samuel 1:2,17-27
2 Corinthians 8:7-15
Mark 5:21--43