



United Church of Christ

The Federated Courier

Federated Community Church
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United Methodist Church

Volume 68 5

May 2015

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Folks,

On May 17 I will be installed by the United Church of Christ as your settled pastor. Installation is an opportunity for churches within the Hampden Association to witness to and become a part of the covenant we made with each other over a year ago. It is a celebration of the commitments we have made to minister together, and an opportunity to share that joy with the wider church. The formal service of installation will begin at 4pm on the 17th, followed by a celebration supper. I hope you will attend and share in this great coming together of promise.

A big part of the covenant I agreed to in coming to FCC was the development of our next generation of Christians. The Search Committee was clear that we had an enthusiastic core of faithful people that were looking for ways to share the Good News with younger individuals, families, and children. We have taken some good steps in that direction via our Sunday School program, Heifer Summer Project, Family friendly activities (sing along suppers, hockey games, and the upcoming Paw Sox game to name a few). These are great opportunities for the intersection of generations to take place, and they do take place!!!

In the coming months we have a few more events that will put us in proximity with folks who are yearning to learn more about the Spirit that lights our way. I need your help. The truth is, not everyone will connect with everyone.

The other truth is, the more of us participating in an event, the better the odds are that a connection will be made. I need you to help make connections. I need you to talk to folks you don't know. Let them know why you go to FCC, and listen for how FCC can help them. I need you to sign up to help with the Craft Fair. I need you to pitch in with Bible Buddies Vacation Bible School. I need you to help spread the word about Flashlight Theater. I need you to celebrate Family Sunday on June 14th. I need you to invite everyone you know to the first annual *Blessing of the Bats Block Party* on June 22. I need you to attend a Paw Sox game if you can on June 28. I need you to come to worship and invite new folks to fellowship and introduce them around.

As individuals, we can only make a limited number of connections. As a community of faith bound in covenant, the intersections that lead to Jesus grow exponentially. Being present is truly a gift.

I look forward to celebrating the gift of our covenant on the 17th...and in all the days that follow.

Aloha,

Todd

PARISH NOTES

Upcoming Events

On Sunday, June 28th at 1:05 we will be attending the Paw Sox game in Pawtucket, RI. The cost of the ticket for the park is \$9.00. We can travel by car pooling from the church parking lot. We need 20 people to get the \$9.00 rate. Food can be purchased at the park for around \$10 per person. Parking is free. A signup sheet will be in Libby Hall. We need a final count by Sunday May 31st.

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

BIBLE BUDDIES

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS BACK!

Bibles McSplorer 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 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.*

FROM THE DEACONS' BENCH

I learned a lot this winter. First I learned to laugh as the forecast was for snow, more snow, and even more deep snow. Then I learned perseverance to keep shoveling and to throw the snow up over my head onto the snowbank. Next came determination that I would get to my car without falling by shuffling my feet cross the always icy sidewalk. The best thing I learned was about the dedication and love that our church family has. When I drove to church on many a snowy, icy Sunday morning so did many others. We wanted to come to our church and worship God together. It is good!

God Bless, Mary Howell, Deacon

Anniversary

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

Jeremy & Kristi Tessier	05/03
Patricia & David Baker	05/04
Dennis & Sandra Chaffee	05/06
Jesse & Kathleen Lee	05/15
Barbara & John Bennett	05/17
Robert & Mary Howell	05/18
Carl & Karen Gatchell	05/24
Dale & Amy Varney	05/30
Lauren & Keith Hummel	05/31

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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

Dorothy Maiwald	05/01	Beatrice Moriarty	05/12
Anne Marie Matzko	05/01	Lois Pixley	05/14
Regina Germain	05/02	Barbara Bennett	05/14
Barbara Schofield	05/03	Ryan Struthers	05/15
Jodi Brodeur	05/03	Joyce Ogonowski	05/17
Myron Stone	05/03	Cheryl Patterson	05/18
Robert Fisher	05/03	Scott Olesuk	05/18
Gail Romano	05/04	James Bliss	05/20
Paul Olesuk	05/05	Lori-Beth Sterling	05/20
Donald Ogonowski	05/05	Ryan Doyle	05/23
Sandra Howell	05/05	Stephen Libby	05/24
James McEwan	05/08	Ruth Haley	05/26
Geraldine Kruger	05/08	Kylie Walulak	05/29
Beverly Burnell	05/08	Rita Spencer	05/29
Sandra Dodd	05/09	Kathryn Marino	05/30
Carroll Willey	05/11	Alan Struthers	05/31

Christian Education

The children have been learning about Dorcas, a woman who sewed clothes for people who needed them. When she passed away her friends called upon Peter who brought her back to life because he knew she was not finished with her work.

We want to thank everyone who donated socks for the survival center. Thanks to everyone who attended the Easter picnic dinner. The children had a wonderful time making their own Easter hats. Prizes were given to all including adults who wore an Easter bonnet. Special thanks to Joyce, Hayden and Allen who peeled all the potatoes and eggs for our homemade potato salad. Our closing program will be June 14th and Scholarships will be handed out during the service. Please come and support the children.

Blessing Laurie & Kristi

STEWARDSHIP MUSINGS ...

Still struggling with the concept of "Christian Stewardship"? That's okay - the foundation of Stewardship is both simple (all that we are, and have, are gifts from God) and complex (all that we are, and have, are gifts from God).

Simple:

Life is God's gift. So is **time**, the form in which life passes from cradle to grave. So are our **talents**, the gifts God has given to each of us to shape a life.

Complex:

*How shall we use **life** and **time** through the hours that we have them?

*What will we do with the **talents** given to each of us by God?

*Why has He given each of us just that unique combination of skills and potential which makes every human being different from every other?

*How should we use the goods our efforts acquire?

*Is all that we have been given, and earned, ours to use as we please?

*If not: how much of our **lives**, our **time**, and the fruit of our **talents** should we offer to the Lord's service, and to our neighbors?

These are some of the questions we consider as we attempt to journey together toward a deeper understanding of our purpose as followers of Christ.

Again, the journey is:

Simple: understanding that Stewardship is what the Christian life is all about.

Complex: opening ourselves to the spiritual transformation which makes that understanding possible.

In Romans 12: 1-2, Paul describes how we can BEGIN this transformation:

" So here's what I want you to do, God helping you:

- Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering.
- Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him.
- Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking.
- Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out.
- Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you."

The Message (MSG)

Transforming our thoughts and habits will take time and a conscious commitment to change, for each of us. The good news is, being Christians, we believe in supporting one another in seeking God's help, so that * "**...as we journey with Him, using His gifts according to His intentions, He changes us and the world around us to more perfectly reflect His grace, justice, and truth.**"

We pray that you are as excited as we are at what God's plans for FCC's journey to, and through, transformation may look like in the coming months!

Your fellow travelers in faith,
Carol Darnley, Jocelyn Smith, Linda Hornig

* Lester DeKoster and Gerard Berghoef, Faithful in All God's House, Christians Library Press, 2013

Ongoing Ministries

- Food Drive to benefit the Survival Center
- Men's Breakfast "Open to the Public" every 2nd & 4th Saturday morning at 8am. (Do not meet in summer)
- Food donations for Sunday's coffee hour to support the Fellowship Committee
- Opportunity to read scripture during worship – Please speak to a Deacon if you would like to volunteer.
- Monday Night Bible Study – 6:30pm. Will not meet during July and August.
- Tuesday Morning Bible Study – 9:30am – Will not meet during July and August.
- Wednesday Morning Prayer Group – 11:00am. Meet all year round.

Prayer Corner

Please uphold the following in your prayers:

Evie Meacham	Bob & Cheryl Patterson
Peg Stearns	Don & Bev Haraty
Judy Ingle	Helen Dickinson
Paul Brooks	Julia Winetrout
Janet Case	Wendy Vigurs
Polly Howard	Judy Schwabe
Judith Gerrish	Margaret Pauly
Tracy Helin	Dot Dickinson
Joan Little	Hank Dunwoody
Winnie Godek	Derrick Deslauriers
Neal Sleeper	Michelle Gardner
Audrey Burger	

Flower Sale

On Saturday, May 9th, 9-12 noon, a wide variety of flowers and plants will be available and on sale, just in time for Mother's Day. Come browse the beauty and brighten up a loved one's life with these stunning specimens of splendor. Proceeds will benefit the upcoming ministries of the FCC.

Clean Up Day

In anticipation of warmer weather, Todd's Installation, and our Family Picnic, the Property Committee invites you to a Clean Up Day on May 9 from 9-2. Bring rakes, gloves, and a hearty spirit ready to take on the remnants of Winter and welcome Spring to our FCC properties.

The Lions Club will have a special offering to all, a free eye, hearing and blood pressure screening clinic. Eye examinations and hearing tests will be available all day at the Eyemobile Trailer in the parking lot during our Craft Fair. Eyes will be examined for glaucoma and visual acuity, similar to the Registry of Motor Vehicles testing procedure and forwarded for medical review if a problem is detected. In addition to eye and hearing testing, blood pressure screening will also be available. Results are compared to "normal" and follow-up suggestions will be offered if need be. Anyone over sixteen may take advantage of the screenings, and children under sixteen may be tested with parental approval.

Dress A Girl

On May 30th from 10-12 noon women will be meeting in the Isham Room for "Dress A Girl", a group who provide sturdy dresses to girls around the world. Imagine a world where every little girl owned at least one dress. What if that dress was made by you? If you are interested in participating or would like more information you may contact Jeanne Westcott at 413-328-4802.

Blessing of the Bats Block Party

The bats are back and they need our help! Last summer our belfry hosted over 100 bats (trust us, we counted them). Environmentalists tell us that bats have been developing a white fungus that infects and ultimately kills them. White nose syndrome is a real problem.

On June 22nd at 7pm we will gather in the church and parsonage yard (rain date of June 24) to celebrate our insect eating neighbors and offer a blessing on their lives. Music, video, arts and crafts, and of course, food will be on hand as we look to the heavens from whence our help comes and count the bats together as a community!

If you would like to help plan and/or facilitate this party, please contact Todd.

Mother's Day Breakfast

Calling all Mothers! You and your loved ones are cordially invited to a light breakfast before worship on Sunday, May 10 at 9am. The Men's Breakfast Group will provide the meal. Please plan to attend as we celebrate the blessings you bring to your family.



May 2015



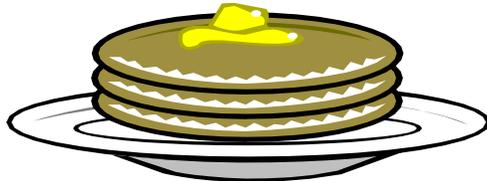
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 10:00 Worship, Communion, Sunday School, Nursery,	4 6:30 Bible Study	5 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	6 11:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Missions Mtg.	7 7:00 Senior Choir	8	9 8:00 Men's Breakfast 9:00 Clean Up Day 9:00 Flower Sale
10 8:00 Mother's Day Breakfast 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	11 6:30 Bible Study	12 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	13 11:00 Prayer Group 6:30 CE Meeting	14 7:00 Senior Choir	15	16
17 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery Confirmation 3:00 Installation	18 6:30 Bible Study 7:00 BOD Meeting	19 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 Deacons Mtg. 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	20 11:00 Prayer Group	21 7:00 Senior Choir	22	23 8:00 Men's Breakfast
24 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery 6:30 Knit, Stitch, Pray	25 Pancake Breakfast Craft Fair 	26 9:30 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	27 11:00 Prayer Group	28 7:00 Senior Choir	29	30 10:00 Dress A Girl
31 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery						

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MEMORIAL DAY
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



PANCAKE & SAUSAGE BREAKFAST
AT
FEDERATED COMMUNITY CHURCH
590 MAIN STREET
Hampden, MA

MONDAY, MAY 25, 2015
7-10 AM



ADULTS \$4.00
CHILDREN UNDER 10 \$3.00

COME AND HAVE BREAKFAST WITH US
AND STAY AND ENJOY THE PARADE!

Craft Fair

Monday, May 25

The event will be held on our
beautiful grounds
on the banks of the Scantic River.

Come join us for a day of fun and shopping!

Crafters; including handmade items, candy, jewelry,
and much more.

Hours: 8am - 2pm

Soda & water and lunch will
be available for purchase.

Questions about Booth Space and Table Rental
Please contact

Laurie at 364-8322 or Kristi 374-8742

e-mail: fairsatfcc@gmail.com



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, May 3rd 5th Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Acts 8:26-40
I John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8

Sunday, May 10th 6th Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Acts 10:44-48
I John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17

Sunday, May 17th 7th Sunday of Easter

Scripture: Acts 1:15-17,21-26
I John 5:9-13
John 17:6-19

Sunday, May 24th Pentecost Sunday

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21
Romans 8:22-27
John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15

Sunday, May 31st 1st Sunday after Pentecost

Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-8
Romans 8:12-17
John 3:1-17