



United Church of Christ

# The Federated Courier

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United Methodist Church

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## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Folks.

Thank you for the kind ways in which the FCC community wrapped our family in love this summer. From the work done on the house; to the prayer shawl and continued prayers for Martha's mother; to the active participation in birthday celebrations and Bat Night; to the outpouring of care we received around the death of Martha's mom. We have been shaded from the hot summer sun and cooled by the breeze of your care. Thank you.

Ecclesiastes rightly wrote that "for everything there is a season." We are shifting seasons now, and from a look at the calendar, the pace will be picking up. As you read the articles in this edition of the Courier (we've got Sunday School Kick Off, Heifer Project, Walks, Worship, a Bible literacy program and more!), try to imagine someone you know, who is not already affiliated with a faith community. Think about ways that the programs and activities we are offering at Federated Community Church, might make their lives a little better, a little easier. Ask yourself, "How will X benefit my friend?" "How will X help my friend connect to the Holy in ways they might not feel connected right now." If you get a good answer, share it with your friend! Let them know that we have a program or activity that you think might be right up their alley.

No obligation.

Nothing to sign.

Just show up and grow.

If they like what they experience, perhaps they will find their way to our well again...and that would be great. We have a lot of spirit to offer here at FCC...but we are clear that we don't have it all, and that's OK.

Let's keep doing well what we do well.

Let's grow in the different seasons those gifts afford us.

Let's explore new gifts that might come our way.

Let's warmly welcome the folks who find comfort here...like the comfort my family experienced this summer...in Jesus' love.

Aloha,

Todd

**Sunday School Begins September 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**Registration: 9:00 a.m. on the front lawn**

**Starting September 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**Sunday Worship begins at 10 AM.**

## FROM THE DEACONS' BENCH

# PARISH NOTES

### Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast will resume on September 13<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am. Men's Breakfast is open to the public and held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month.

### Annual Report

Anyone who has not submitted your annual report please do so as soon as possible so they can be input, printed and put together for the Annual Meeting on October 19.

### New Members

On September 21<sup>st</sup> the Deacons will meet with people interested in learning more about becoming members of the Federated Church. We will be accepting new members on September 28<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in joining the church please contact Pastor Todd or one of the Deacons for more information.



*All God's children have  
"A Place In The Choir"*

Yes! There's a place in the choir, we need more singers. Some sing high-some sing low – we need them all!

The Senior Choir will start rehearsals on Thursday, September 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

### **MUM's the Word!**

Get your gardens and window boxes ready for the change of seasons! Mum's will be on sale at FCC, on Saturday, September 13 from 8am-noon and on September 14 from 11am-1pm. A wide variety of colors and sizes will be available. Proceeds will benefit the FCC.



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As you read the following, we hope you will recall some of the instances in which you have experienced the magic of Christian love working here at FCC, and be inspired with additional thoughts or suggestions to expand and extend the magic into new ventures.

Speak to any deacon, or Pastor Todd, or leave a note in the Deacon's mailbox - the smallest idea, or thought (" I wonder if there's a way we could...") may lead to powerful results!

### **The Church is Magic**

"Now a certain man named Simon had previously practiced magic in the city and amazed the people of Samaria, saying that he was someone great . . . . After being baptized, Simon stayed constantly with Philip and was amazed when he saw the signs and great miracles that took place." - Acts 8:9, 13b Simon Magus is one of those characters you can hardly believe is in the Bible, a magician so impressed with Philip's skills he follows the apostle around trying to learn tricks of the trade. But there is nothing up Philip's sleeve. The truth is, the Church is magic. And the act goes on . . . Every Wednesday, 100 empty backpacks arrive at a certain school in Gainesville. Around noon, a team of volunteers appears out of thin air, and before you can say "Abracadabra!" the bags are full of enough food to last a weekend. A caravan of women enters a nearby prison with children's books and MP3 players. The mothers inside record their favorites, and one by one, the books and players vanish, only to pop up in the hands of children who haven't heard their mothers' voices in too long. Refrigerators are mysteriously filled with casseroles. Houses go up seemingly overnight. Spirits are levitated, and light glows where there had only been darkness. And all this happens in one tiny cell of the Body of Christ! Elsewhere, I am sure, faithful people are making whole prisons disappear, releasing doves of peace from empty hands, and healing those who feel like they've been cut in half. It's not an illusion. It's the power of love. Get in on the act!

*Divine Alchemist, work your magic on us again.  
For your next trick, conjure love where we least expect it.*

Vince Amlin, Associate Minister at the United Church of Gainesville, Gainesville, Florida.

# Anniversary

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

Jodi & David Brodeur	09/08
Tanya & Frederick Orr	09/09
Ronald & Sandra Richter	09/11
Kevin & Elaine DeGray	09/12
Randall & Kimberley Mercure	09/12
Russell & Marilyn Streeter	09/12
Ron & Jessica Donais	09/15
Bruce & Janet Libby	09/18
Chris & Cheryl Fonda	09/20
Ross & Michelle Gardner	09/21

# HAPPY Birthday!

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

Rachel Struthers	09/01	Carrie Wescott	09/18
Cynthia Stewart	09/02	Leah Howell	09/19
Otto Kern Jr	09/06	Phyllis Hultstrom	09/20
Edwin Thompson	09/07	Jennifer Howell	09/21
Darcey Walulak	09/09	Mark Casey	09/24
Sean Obuchowski	09/12	Evelyn Meacham	09/26
Amy Varney	09/15	Elsie Bradway	09/27
Evie Schoolcraft	09/15	Evelyn Wiley	09/27
Patricia Safford	09/16	Emily Lemoine	09/28
Arlene Fisher	09/17	Rollyn Hatch	09/30

## Thank You

Dear Members of the Federated Community Church I would like to thank you all for the scholarship I received this year. It is going to help me greatly as I continue to pursue my education. I am truly blessed to be a part of such a wonderful church community.

Thank you again.  
Sincerely, Erin Lee

Dear Church Family,

Thank you very much for the generous scholarship. The money will go a long way towards offsetting the cost of my text books. I wish I could have attended the service to receive my scholarship, however, I unfortunately was still at school in Virginia taking a summer course.

Thank you again.  
Sincerely,  
Jennifer Fisher

# Christian Education

**Whether you enjoy, soccer or football, this Fall the goal is being part of God's team!**

Join us for a **Sunday School Kickoff and Registration** on September 14th where you can register your child/children to be part of *God's team* at the Federated Community Church from 9am – 9:45am. Sign ups will take place on the front lawn of the church at 590 Main St in Hampden. In case of inclement weather you will find us downstairs in the “clubhouse” dining room. ur theme this year is God's Team.

Each Sunday children will:

- Have the opportunity to meet some of the players from the Bible.
- Explore ways in which they may be similar to the team from way back when.
- Learn plays that can help them be spiritually resilient members of their family, their school and their community.
- Discover the joy and wonder of being a part of God's Team!

Children through 12th grade, are invited to be part of the lineup for this new year of fun and faithful Sunday School classes.

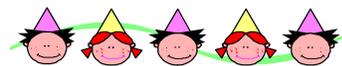
Following worship, there will be a potluck tailgate party featuring FCC's traditional Apple Crisp. Please bring a dish to share.

Like being on any good team, Christian formation doesn't happen in a week, a month or a year... it's a process of learning and growing in faith. With your help, we hope to provide a safe and fun environment for your children to take the field in faith and love.

If you have any questions about the Christian Education program or would like to serve as a volunteer please contact us.

Blessings,  
Kristi & Laurie

*And all thy children shall be taught of the LORD; and great shall be the peace of thy children. Isaiah 54:13*



## Sunday School Birthdays

Donais, Isabella E

09/08

## Prelude to Bible Study or Dinner with Friends

Monday evenings are for potluck dinners at the Federated Community Church. Beginning September 8th, folks will gather in the church dining room (Libby Hall) with their dishes to share between 5-5:30pm. After a brief prayer of thanksgiving the feasting and fellowship begins. Lively conversation around table connects people with one another and prepares some for a time of studying the Bible, and others for a night at home reflecting on the goodness of being with people who care. This Fall, the meal will conclude between 6:15 and 6:25pm so that those who are interested may prepare for Bible Study and others may make their way home with warm thoughts and full bellies.

If you'd like to participate in the Monday night PotLuck Dinner, show up with food (and maybe a story) to share.

Monday PotLuck's are open to the entire community. Please join us for an evening of food, fellowship, and fun.

## FCC VIDEO MINISTRY



### Video Ministry Begins this Fall

The Board of Deacons and the Communications team have begun putting plans in

place to record our worship services. A bit of equipment needs to be purchased (donations welcome) so that folks who cannot attend worship due to illness or travel (or soccer or fatigue or...) will be able to stay connected with the weekly celebration of Jesus in our midst here at FCC! The hope is to show our services on local cable access (Charter channel 5) and on the internet via our website. Programs will be delayed by approximately one week to allow for editing.

Please be mindful of privacy when making announcements or prayer concerns/celebrations. A couple of good rules of thumb include:

\*Anticipate that the camera is ON and RECORDING whenever you enter the sanctuary.

\*Only use first names.

\*Avoid detailed descriptions of individual needs. Instead say, "needs healing prayer," or "needs prayers for peace..." or, "has reached an age worth celebrating!" Folks who want details can ask you about it at coffee hour, after the camera is turned off.

This is an exciting opportunity for folks to stay in touch or get in touch with the awesome ministries we offer here at FCC!

If you would like to be part of a team to help record or edit the weekly videos, please contact Todd Farnsworth or Dave Kruger.

Watch the bulletin for details about when this ministry actually begins.

### What is the Bible?



How often have you thought, "I don't even know enough about the Bible to attend a Bible study---I'd be completely lost."

**The Dickinson Series: Exploring the Bible** is a small group study made exactly for you. This ecumenical study will help you to explore some of the best known Bible passages and to discover some of the many ways that they can be interpreted. You will learn how the Bible as we know it was put together, who decided what parts were in and what parts were out, and where to go with your questions about the wonderful, baffling, beautiful, unsettling book we call the Bible.

The first six week course in this series, ***What is the Bible?*** will be offered on Monday evenings at 6:30pm or Tuesday mornings at 9:30am beginning September 22 and 23. The Monday night program will be held in the Melville Room at Town Offices (lower level). The Tuesday morning program will be held in the Federated Community Church dining room, located on the first floor (ramp accessible). The cost of the course is \$10/person (cash or check payable to FCC) and includes a student workbook. Scholarships are available to those in need. Each session will last approximately 90 minutes. Contact Rev. Todd Farnsworth at 566-3711 for more information or to reserve a workbook by September 14.

This class can be taken either informally or to receive Continuing Education Units and/or eventual certification in biblical literacy.

To find out more please visit  
[www.massbible.org/dickinson-series-faq](http://www.massbible.org/dickinson-series-faq)

## MISSIONS

*Genesis 24* Then God commanded, “Let the earth produce all kinds of animal life: domestic and wild, large and small”—and it was done. <sup>25</sup> So God made them all, and he was pleased with what he saw.

Heifer International was created by Ohio farmer, Dan West 70 years ago. He was volunteering by ladling out milk to hungry children and realized that what they needed was the means of getting their own milk via a cow. He went home after his mission and spoke to other farming friends and with their help sent the first cows to poor farmers in Puerto Rico. The recipients had to promise to give the first female calf away to another in need. The program has expanded over the years and now many animals, seeds, trees and plants are given to people in need. They are trained in keeping livestock and cultivating techniques. Our children raised funds for the project through the “Read to Feed” program that Heifer created. The congregation sponsored the children for every book that they read or was read to them over the summer. Volunteers from church taught the children every Sunday about different animals, plants and the creation story. We had some animal visitors and a trip to the parsonage vegetable garden that thrilled the children. On September 7<sup>th</sup> there will be a trip to the Heifer Farm in Rutland MA to learn more about Heifer and present a check. We are asking that everyone bring a packed lunch on the day to have at church before leaving for the farm at 11:30. The trip will take place rain or shine. This has been an exciting project and has given the children of our church and some visitors too an insight on how to help others in need. Thank you to all who participated!

Your missions committee

Fall is the season of sponsored walks. Here are a few that some of our parishioners are passionate about!

September 21 **Out of the Darkness Walk** for suicide prevention

<http://afsp.donordrive.com/index.cfm> - team name- **Ellen Gourlay** – Karen Gatchell

September 28 **Walk to End Alzheimer’s** –

[http://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2014/CT-Connecticut?fr\\_id=5950&pg=entry](http://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2014/CT-Connecticut?fr_id=5950&pg=entry) –  
team name - **Are We There Yet?** – Janet Modlish

October 19 **Rays of Hope Walk** for breast cancer research

<http://foundation.baystatehealth.org/netcommunity/page.aspx?pid=332>

November 2 **Crop Walk** to end hunger

[http://hunger.cwsglobal.org/site/TR/2014FallCROPHungerWalk/TR-Fall2014?team\\_id=111860&pg=team&fr\\_id=19755](http://hunger.cwsglobal.org/site/TR/2014FallCROPHungerWalk/TR-Fall2014?team_id=111860&pg=team&fr_id=19755) –  
team name **Federated Community Church of Hampden**



# FALL FESTIVAL - Craft Fair

October 4th 8-2pm

Federated Community Church

590 Main St., Hampden, MA

Come join us for a day of fun and shopping!  
Crafters; including handmade items and more

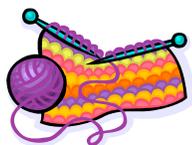
Pancake Breakfast **8am-10am**

Available all day:  
Hamburg & Hotdogs  
Bake Sale

Questions about Booth Space and the Bazaar, Please contact

Laurie at 364-8322 or Kristi 374-8742

e-mail: [fairsatfcc@gmail.com](mailto:fairsatfcc@gmail.com)





# September 2014



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 9:00 Bible Study  6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	3  11:00 Prayer Group	4  7:00 Choir	5	6
7 10:00 Worship, Communion 11:30 Heifer Trip	8  5:30 Pot Luck/Study	9 9:00 Bible Study 6:30 Deacons Mtg. 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	10  11:00 Prayer Group	11  11:00 Ladies Aid Bus. Mtg.  7:00 NO Choir	12	13 8:00 Men's Breakfast 8:00 – 12:00 Plant Sale - Mums
14 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery 9:00 Sunday School Registration 11:00 Plant Sale	15  5:30 Pot Luck/Study 7:00 BOD Meeting	16 9:00 Bible Study  6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	17  11:00 Prayer Group	18  7:00 Choir	19	20
21 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery 11:30 Deacons meet with prospective new members	22  5:30 Pot Luck/Study	23 9:00 Bible Study  6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA	24  11:00 Prayer Group	25  7:00 Choir	26	27 8:00 Men's Breakfast
28 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery New Members	29  5:30 Pot Luck/Study	30 9:00 Bible Study  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

<b>Sunday, Sept 7</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost
Scripture:	Exodus 12:1-14 Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 18:15-20
<b>Sunday, Sept 14<sup>th</sup></b>	14 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost
Scripture:	Exodus 14:19-31 Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35
<b>Sunday, Sept 21<sup>st</sup></b>	15 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost
Scripture:	Exodus 16:2-15 Philippians 1:21-30 Matthew 20:1-16
<b>Sunday, Sept 28<sup>th</sup></b>	16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost
Scripture:	Exodus 17:1-7 Philippians 2:1-13 Matthew 21:23-32