

FEDERATED COMMUNITY CHURCH
590 Main St.
PO Box 246
Hampden, MA 01036

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The Federated Courier

Federated Community Church
Hampden, MA 01036

E-mail: hampdenfederated@gmail.com
www.hampdenfederatedchurch.org

Tel. (413) 566-3711 Fax (413) 566-5324

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April 2021

From the Pastor's Desk

“I (Paul) therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all”. Ephesians 4: 1-6 ESV

Greetings of Grace and Peace! Easter Blessings upon you!

Who would have thought a year ago that we would still be struggling with coronavirus? It has been a difficult, sad, stressful year. I ponder what God is saying to us during this time. Now I want to be clear that I do not believe God oversees sending down a virus or other catastrophe upon us, but God does allow humanity to have free will and to pay the consequences of our actions, both in our personal lives and as a collective. What I do believe God might be saying is *enough with division: you are **all** my children.*

We are becoming more aware of how small the world is and how interrelated we all are. While we are divided by countries, governments, philosophies, religions, customs, and more; the bottom line is ***we are one***. We are human beings who live in different places with different customs and ways of living and of honoring God, even calling God by a wide variety of names; but we are all brothers and sisters who are made in the image of God and surrounded and filled with the Holy Spirit. The coronavirus

has impacted everyone! We are in this together: every country, every culture, nationality, and religion. Every economy, every hospital and staff has been affected. Every school system, every family, every business, every human is affected. We are one in our struggle against this virus.

Is God speaking to us and allowing us to see how connected we all are with the many issues coming up in the same time period: effects of climate change, racial injustices, coronavirus, and even the cargo boat blocking the Suez Canal, which will impact all of us with material goods. Has God gotten your attention in all this also?

So, then what can we do about it? None of us can solve the entire world's problems, but we can and should do our part. Be mindful of how we treat one another. Do only words come out of our mouths for building up others? We can and should speak the truth, but do it with gentleness and love, and a willingness to join in and help make it better going forward. Can we carpool more often or walk instead of using the car? take more local vacation trips instead of flying - which impacts the climate? Might we cut down on our consumption of meat, one, two or three days a week, to lessen the demands on our environment? Can we examine our own prejudice and biases honestly? Can we pray for our world leaders and our brothers and sisters all over the world? Can we share our resources including our time? Talents? Treasure? Prayers? Visit? Mission Trip?

We are Easter people. We are people called to have Hope. We are to look, see, and name reality but to know that God is still working and to offer ourselves to be used to God's glory. We are not to gloss over reality with a thin sugar-coated quick fix but to look honestly at the situation and ourselves and work **with** God in whatever and however God asks us to serve. While the situations may seem daunting, we have hope that God sees the entire picture and asks us to be used in the solutions. How will you respond?

May this season of Easter be a blessing and may you see the Risen Christ surprising you as you journey. Keep your eyes open!

In Christ's Light and Love,

Pastor Pat

From the Deacons' Bench

As part of our 2021 vision of "Connecting in the Spirit", the Sunday School children and Deacons assembled small Easter baskets to deliver to friends who, due to a variety of health concerns, have been unable to attend in-person worship. We wanted them to know they are not forgotten, they are in our thoughts, our prayers and our conversations, still.

As I drove around Hampden and Wilbraham with the baskets I was delivering I was flooded with welcome memories of each person, from our shared church life. I was blessed to chat with some old friends, and to see their homes and their emerging gardens on a warm, sunny day. We couldn't hug, but the affection between us was there just the same.

Driving past the homes of church friends who are no longer with us, I was immersed in memories of them, happy and sad: sharing Worship and fellowship, pot luck dinners, Bible studies, committee meetings, baptisms, funerals and memorial services, and much more. What a blessing to "see" them again, still!

I thank God for directing my path to this church. I have been blessed to journey and grow with so many wonderful, faithful people for over 30 years. Yes, there are fewer of us now, but I continue to see strong faith and a shared commitment to our Church Covenant: "to walk together in Christian faithfulness and love".

The friends of my memories have laid a secure foundation for us to build on as we continue our journey into the future God is planning for us!

In His service,
Deacon Linda Hornig

April Birthdays

Birthday Greetings to the following members of our church who celebrate birthdays in April.



Elizabeth Nelson	04/02
Steven Elliot	04/02
Judith Hatch	04/04
Matthew Fisher	04/06
Richard Patullo	04/07
Abigail Tulloch	04/08
Gretchen Warner	04/10
Joyce Burt	04/12
Benjamin Blain	04/16
Jane Wyman	04/16
Richard Regnier	04/17
David Quill	04/18
Maurice Dezan	04/19
Matthew Doyle	04/19
Brittany Fisher	04/19
Karen Leger	04/19
David Anable	04/20
Hayden Tibbetts Jr	04/21
Marcia Willey	04/22
Melanie Bliss	04/23
Sarah Blain	04/25
Jeanne Westcott	04/27
Kim Cummins	04/28
Alice Wilcox	04/28
Mason Kennedy	04/28
Annabelle Tulloch	04/29
Audrey Burger	04/29
Anne Collins	04/30



Wedding Anniversaries

April & Joshua Gonce	04/06
John & Barbara Panek	04/11
Mitch & Mary Drozdowski	04/21
Matt & Diane Fisher	04/21



Prayer Corner



Evie Meacham
Ingrid & Beth (Schwabe)
Joyce Brooks(back surgery)
Audrey Burger
John (Jack) Bennett
Janet Brehaut
Beverly Pease
Winnie
Don Facey
Fran Brown
Frank & Phyllis Watson
Bob Green
Ann Kibbe

Bonnie Watson
Beverly Burnell
Carol Darnley
Judy
Lelum
Jackie Prior
Dennis Connor
Jeffrey Howe
Edith
Earl Schofield
Christopher
Josh G. & Family

For shut-ins and those who are isolated
For first responders & healthcare workers
For the homeless
For our country
For all world leaders
For Asians & Blacks & all who are persecuted for
simply being how God created them
For those impacted by changing weather disasters

Sympathy to

*Family & friends of **Teddy Connor**. Teddy was the brother of Dennis Connor and brother -in-law of Marilyn Connor.*



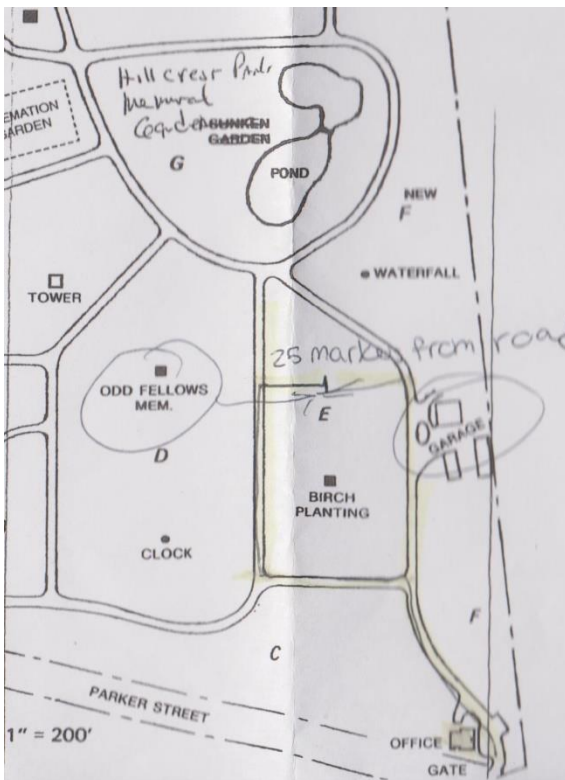


Memorial Service for Peg Stearns

May 2nd is the first anniversary of the passing of our beloved Peg (Winifred). Because of the Covid pandemic, there was no service.

On Saturday, May 1st 2021 there will be a graveside Memorial service for Peg at 11:30 AM at Hillcrest Cemetery, 895 Parker Street in Springfield.

The map shows the location. If you enter by the office and turn left and then right, you will see the location on your right.



Safety Guidelines for Indoor Worship



As we open our doors and begin to worship physically together, it is important that we continue to follow church guidelines.

Please continue to wear a face mask and make sure to stay 6' apart. We have pews marked and an overflow area set up in the Isham Room. Face masks should cover your mouth and nose at all times while in church, unless speaking from the podium.

If you or any member of the family are experiencing the following symptoms, please do not attend in person, but consider watching on Facebook Live or "Goto Meeting" at the scheduled viewing time. You can also view the service later on cable tv or on our Facebook page or FCC website at a more convenient time for you.

If you are experiencing any symptoms such as fever (100.0 and above) or chills, cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, fatigue, headache, muscle/body aches, runny nose/congestion, new loss of taste or smell, or nausea, vomiting or diarrhea, please stay home. Also, if you have had "close contact" with an individual diagnosed with COVID-19. "Close contact" means living in the same household as a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, caring for a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, being within 6 feet of a person who has tested positive for COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more, or coming in direct contact with secretions (e.g., sharing utensils, being coughed on) from a person who has tested positive for COVID-19, while that person was symptomatic; or if you have been asked to self-isolate or quarantine by your doctor or a local public health official; please stay home and watch services as described above.

We will ask that you sign in at worship to stay in guidelines for contact tracing, should there be a need.

Please note no communal gatherings pre or post service (e.g., coffee hours or other food services) are allowed.

Easter Flowers

In memory of Catherine Kielb and to honor Hunter Zierthaler from Karen Kielb.

In memory of Barbara D. Hatch, Barbara and Carl Hatch, and Harriet Dusenberry from Rollyn H. Hatch.

In memory of Peter Bokulic from Irene Cutting.

In memory of Matthew Bokulic from Irene Cutting.

In memory of Howard Cutting from the Cutting family.

In honor of Winnie Godek from Linda, Joe, and Carl.

In honor of Gabriella from Grammy and GeeGee.

In honor of Dave and Rita Spencer from your friends at F.C.C.

In memory of loved ones from Linda Hornig.

In memory of Lillis Irving, Shirley Ferreira, Evelyn Richer, and Penny Witcher from Pastor Pat.

In memory of loved ones from Pat and Wayne.

In honor of our C.E. Co-ordinators, Laurie Schoolcraft and Kristie Tessier.

In memory of Wendy, Tracy, and Kim Hebert from Frank, Phyllis, and Bonnie.



In honor of Alphonsine and John Arsenault by David and Rita Spencer.

In honor of Sydney and Evelyn Spencer from David and Rita Spencer.

In memory of Mom, Dad, and Ryan. We love and miss you. From Debra Doyle.

In memory of Burt Rounds, and Bob and Barbara Cummins from Kim and Dave Cummins.

In memory of Nina and Lysle Dibble (mother and father), Arthur Dibble (brother), and Doug McGinn (husband) by Penny Dibble.

Flowers are given this Easter in honor of our loving family, and in memory of loved ones that have gone before us and are deeply loved and missed. From Laurie and Allen Schoolcraft.

In memory of Mark, Roy, and Lucille Budrow from the DeGray family.

Easter
Blessings





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Maundy Thursday	2 6:30 PM Good Friday Service	3
4 Easter 10:00 AM Worship	5	6 6:30 PM BOD, Deacons, CE Meeting 7:30 PM Finance	7 6:30 PM Bell Choir	8	9 10:30 AM Bible Study	10 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast
11 10:00 AM Worship	12	13 6:30 PM BOD	14 6:30 PM Bell Choir	15	16 No Bible Study	17
18 10:00 AM Worship	19	20	21 6:30 PM Bell Choir	22	23 No Bible Study	24 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast
25 10:00 AM Worship Annual Meeting	26	27	28 6:30 PM Bell Choir	29	30 10:30 AM Bible Study	



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ANNOUNCES

ALL CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

Will follow Worship on Sunday, April 25th 2021

Either in person or by gotomeeting link:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/326842397>

All members are eligible to vote and it is important that you attend to be up to date with church information. Per our bylaws we do need to have a quorum.

Your presence is important and appreciated.