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From the Pastor's Desk

“There will be signs in the sun, moon, and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. ²⁶ People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. ²⁷ At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. ²⁸ When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” Luke 21: 25-28

Greetings of Grace and Peace!

Advent is upon us. A time of waiting, getting and being ready, a time to stand up and raise your heads and look around. But what shall we be looking for?

For many of us the season of Advent will be filled with worry, stress, and grief. We will worry about what gift to buy our loved ones, worry about having the favorite foods for each guest, worry how many people will be safe to gather with, and worry about getting everything done in time. All the worry will add to our stress. News will strive to heighten our stress levels as they forecast shortages of day to day living essentials and report on COVID deaths and infections. Grief has come upon each of us living through the pandemic. We have lost our freedom to go wherever and whenever we want to go without giving it a second thought. We grieve the loss of connections of groups and crowds, even the loss of gathering in worship without precautions and

concern. Personal loss of loved ones draws us into new ways of life we may not be ready for or want. Grief covers us in the longing for the old way of living.

Jesus comes to us amid the worry, stress, grief and more. Scripture calls us to *Stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.* (Luke 21: 28b) We are called to look for signs of the kin-dom around us. Jesus lived his life in peace, prayer, love of others, healing, fellowship, and more. His ways call us back to sanity, away from worry, stress, and grief. They call us to come home to his ways, remembering we are Beloved Children of God.

If you do not have a morning ritual, I suggest a quick prayer as you put your feet on the floor inviting Jesus to guide you into his ways through the day. Perhaps the use of the *Upper Room* daily devotional would be a good resource. Look for signs of God's presence in your daily life to assure you that you are not alone, and God's ways are available to you anywhere and at any time. Advent calls us to get ready for the ways of Jesus. Do not live by the world's standards (worry, stress, etc.) but live by the ways of God we find in the life of Jesus.

See you for Sunday worship at 10:00 AM as we welcome our new Music Director: Mark Jacobson.

In Christ's Light and Love,

Pastor Pat





From the Deacons' Bench

As I sit here thinking (yes, I do that) of what to write, I think of what Christmas is all about. I think it could be of the Great Gifts given to us by God, the Father.

I think of the great and holy silence given to us by the words and music of the carol "*Silent Night*".

I think of the great and joyful celebration given to us by the words and music of the carol "*Joy to The World!*".

Let us remember the Great Gifts given to us by God, and let us know how to live out our lives in accordance with the words and promises of these gifts.

Amen, let it be so.

Hayden Tibbetts, Deacon





December Birthdays



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

Erin Lee	12/01
Sandra Wild	12/03
Stephanie Lemelin-Bliss	12/03
Malaysia Tessier	12/04
John Germain	12/05
Joyce Libby	12/05
Barbara Powers	12/08
Elaine DeGray	12/14
Shelley Sears	12/15
Brenda Olesuk	12/15
Sharon DeSanti	12/17
Erin Obuchowski	12/25
Florence Munroe	12/29
Russell Streeter	12/30

Wedding Anniversaries

Brett & Alison Castellano 12/10

Congratulations

Sympathy to....

Family & friends of *Carol Darnley* who passed away on
October 29th.



Prayer Corner



Evie Meacham
Winnie
Dennis
John (Jack) Bennett
Watson Family
Janet Brehaut
Josh G & Family
MaryLou Black
Sandra Gibson
William
Amy
Joan
Amy
Vincent
Jake
Joyce Libby
Patrick

Fran Brown
Elaine Selfridge
Doreen
Jaoat
Ed
Adam
Jan
Melinda
Ann
Anna
Kelvin
Doug
Barbara
Christopher
Phil Stoddard
Bob Green

For those working on Covid vaccines
For those without access to Covid vaccines
For first responders & healthcare workers
For the people Afghanistan & the people of Haiti
For those impacted by changing weather disasters
For those traveling
For shut-ins and those who are isolated
For those battling cancer
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 transitions within our church
For World Peace

Christmas Eve Service

A service of songs, story, and celebration will be held on December 24th at 5:30 PM. It is focused on families, so all are welcome regardless of age. Hope you will join us as we set a strong foundation of the true meaning of Christmas. There will be a 10:00 AM worship service, as normal, on December 26th.



Recognition of 50 Yearlong FCC Membership

During the November 21st worship service, we honored three members who have been part of our church family for the past 50 years. The newest 50 yearlong members are: Frank Watson, Phyliss Watson, and Laurie (Schoolcraft) Bliss. They have served in many different capacities during membership to the church. We give thanks for their faithfulness and service in making The Federated Community Church a shining light in the community of Hampden through the years. The members received a praying hand lapel pin and a living plant as a symbol of ongoing life to the glory of God. Thank you, Frank, Phyliss, and Laurie, for your faithfulness through the years.

All Church Meeting on December 12th

Following worship on December 12th, FCC will have an All-Church Meeting. Please make every effort to attend. Our church By-laws require a quorum to hold and implement a vote. This will be a short meeting allowing payment of bill as we head into the new year at the same rate as 2021. A fuller All-Church meeting will be held later in the year, complete with committee reports, financial reports, and 2022 budget.





Update on our Pumpkin Fest

Thank you to all who made the day a wonderful success. Because of the rain, we had to move the festival indoors. While the weather may have been gloomy, Libby Hall was filled with laughter, excitement, and good community connections. We had 53 guests. Pumpkins were carved; cider, doughnuts, and candy were shared. Many folks were in costume to add to the fun.

Blue Christmas Worship Service

A service of quiet, reflection, and silence will be held on Thursday, December 16th at 5:30 PM. Naming the areas of worry, stress, and grief in our life make room with in. During the service we will invite Jesus to come into those broken and weary space within us and bring us comfort. All are welcome.

David's Painting Class

On November 14th, the altar was adorned with many of the paintings created during David Spencer's watercolor painting class. Thank you to all the artists who shared their beautiful paintings with us. There were many words of praise for the beauty shared with the congregation through the paintings during worship. Thank you, David for sharing your gift of painting with all.



Music Update

Prepare Ye !



.....and what better way to prepare for this season than to rehearse !

To anyone who is interested in singing during the Advent and Christmas season, please come to Choir Rehearsals on Thursday nights at 7:00 PM beginning December 2nd .

We will conduct these rehearsals as "safely" as possible in the choir room. Masks are recommended.

Bells will have their regularly scheduled practice on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM. Our next rehearsal is November 30th.



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This is a great opportunity to explore participation in the Music Ministry at FCC.

It should make things a little easier as much of the Advent and Christmas music is familiar.

Many of us have not been singing for over a year so we'll begin simply with fairly easy songs. Give it a try.

You'll make some beautiful music for the glory of the Lord and I bet that you'll have a good time doing it.

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Advent is the start of the Christian year. This also marks the beginning of our new journey together. I pray that our relationship blossoms and that our labors yield fruit.

Blessings,
Mark Jacobson

Missions

After the service on Sunday the 28th , come down for Fellowship and join me at the Mission's Giving Tree! There will be tags on the tree of wishes for 3 foster children- a 13 year old girl and sibling boys ages 3 and 1 1/2 years old! There are a variety of wishes for all 3 of them so please choose one or two and sign up with me or on the clipboard next to matching name and wish please! The children are always very appreciative of the gifts that are given to them. Please keep the ticket and place it in the bag with the unwrapped gift by/on Sunday Dec 12th If you are unable to return that day please contact me at my cell phone at 413-272-3943 and we can make arrangements. Toys are being picked up no later than the December 16th, so please let me know if you have any questions or concerns!

Coming up in January/February is a Winter White Out Blizzard! Fill the Church with paper goods, toilet paper, paper towels, napkins, feminine items, diapers, wipes etc.

More information to come!

Respectfully Submitted, Joyce Brooks



Christian Youth Faith Formation News:

This upcoming holiday season we will be celebrating with song, crafts and stories! We are taking this time of Advent to discuss life-long values and lessons of hope, peace, joy and love. These themes are supported by Bible stories and classic children's literature from multiple cultures. We will be busy with everything from crafting advent wreaths to crafting ornaments.

We will also be preparing for a Christmas pageant on Sunday the 19th and will need some helpful participants to join in the celebration fun! We will need shepherds, angels, and animals to accompany Mary, Joseph and the Holy Child in the reading of the Christmas play. Contact the church office for more details.

We are supported each week with a different Congregation volunteer and we wish to wholeheartedly thank our volunteers: Janet, Joyce, Ellie, Beth, Penny and Beverly and would like to welcome anyone else who wants to be charged-up with some big child-sized joy to give us a call as we would love to have you!

Laura Lillibridge, CYFF Coordinator



Food Collected for Community Survival Center

Dear Federated Community Church,



Your congregation donated 256 lbs. of food this month to our Emergency Food Pantry. Thank you so much! Additionally, since July which is the start of our fiscal year, you have donated a total of 764 lbs. That is so generous of you and all involved.

Gratefully,
Mary Cassidy
Executive Director
Community Survival Center

Items collected during November were divided Between Indian Orchard's Community Survival Center and Springfield Rescue Mission. Thank you for your generosity

Stewardship Time

A gentle reminder that we would like to receive everyone's 2022 pledge card soon so that we can start the budgeting process for next year. This year our envelopes will look a little different. They will provide you with a section to track your weekly or monthly donations. If you would like to set up a regular bill-pay program with your bank - just send the payments to:

Federated Community Church
P.O. Box 246
Hampden MA 01036.

With a thankful heart, we look forward to 2022!

**thank
you!**

Prayers

If I wrote a note to God
Oh! What would I say?
So many things in so many ways
I know he will listen,
He always does
My list is so long
I send it to him with love
He listens and always
Answers in His time
He tells me to be patient
Sometimes it's hard to do
His will
But I always abide
And wait.
My prayers may come in
two days, one week, or even years
But when they are answered how grateful
I am
Jesus, Jesus sweetest
name I know
Master Savior Jesus
How great thou art

By Marilyn Connor



Poinsettias for Christmas



The Flower Committee is taking orders for poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas.

All poinsettias are \$9.00 each and your order **MUST BE RECEIVED** by **December 11th** to ensure you get your preferred color selection.

Please make checks payable to Federated Community Church and leave your order and money at the church office, or mail to Regina Germain, 43 Pinewood Rd, Hampden, MA 01036.

I wish to give my poinsettia with the following message: (to be included in the church bulletin).

Your Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

I have enclosed \$ _____ for _____
Poinsettia plant(s).

Please check color desired: Red () White () Pink ()

- () I will pick up my poinsettia.
- () Please give my poinsettia to a shut-in.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:30 AM Bible Study	2 7:00 PM Choir	3 6:00 PM Game Night 7:30 PM AA	4
5 10:00 AM Worship CYFF begins in classroom Fellowship Hour	6 9:30 AM Spirit Chat	7 6:00 PM AA 6:00 PM Bell Choir	8 10:30 AM Bible Study	9 7:00 PM Choir	10 7:30 PM AA	11 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast
12 10:00 AM Worship * CY Faith Form	13 9:30 AM Spirit Chat	14 6:00 PM AA 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM Finance	15 10:30 AM Bible Study 12:30 PM *WWVW Worship & Lunch	16 5:30 PM Blue Christmas Service 7:00 PM Choir	17 7:30 PM AA	18
19 10:00 AM Worship * CY Faith Form	20 9:30 AM Spirit Chat	21 6:00 PM AA 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM BOD	22 10:30 AM Bible Study	23 7:00 PM Choir	24 5:30 PM Christmas Eve Service 7:30 PM AA	25 Merry Christmas!
26 10:00 AM Worship * CY Faith Form	27 9:30 AM Spirit Chat	28 6:00 PM AA 6:00 PM Bell Choir	29 10:30 AM Bible Study	30 7:00 PM Choir	31 New Year's Eve 7:30 PM AA	* Children Youth Faith Formation will begin in the sanctuary and will be dismissed after approx. 15 minutes

Christmas Eve Service

Friday, December 24th

5:30 PM

Join us for a family service of songs, stories & celebration

All are Welcome!