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September 2021

From the Pastor's Desk

“Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.” Matthew 7:21

Greetings of Grace and Peace,

I have been studying with Andrew Harvey this summer. He is an amazingly brilliant human being; having studied at some of the world's best institutions and been immersed in several different religions. In his blog, he shares about how desperate our world situation is: fires, floods, heat rising, disharmony all around. He also gives advice to follow during these difficult days. While I am summarizing in my own words, you can read his full article here (<https://www.andrewharvey.net/blog/three-ways-to-strengthen-your-spiritual-backbone>)

First, look at the truth of the reality and name it. You cannot address situations if you do not look at what the truth is of the reality. Name it clearly, so you will know what you are up against. There are many conspiracy theories trying to get your attention and belief: BEWARE. Ask questions, such as, “Who is writing and/or sharing the information?”

Second, develop a spiritual practice. You will be brought close to The Divine through the time and energy put into your devotion. You will be able to hear God's still small voice, gaining wisdom, truth, and guidance. Through these practices you will also be given

assurance that God is a Creator of the Past, is here in the Present, and into the Future. You will be given confidence to endure and know that God, who lives in all of God's creation (which is in you) cannot be defeated.

Third, become active. These days are not for us to become paralyzed, fearful, or complacent, but we are in a time that calls us to live boldly into our faith. While we cannot solve all the world's problems, we can do our part. Through our spiritual practices, discover who you are in God and what you are being asked to accomplish. Where are your passions? Then find local groups interested in the same and join them or find others with similar passion in our church community and start a small group. Being part of two denominations, both United Church of Christ and United Methodist, we have a wealth of resources including other churches who have already taken steps in being active in many issues.

What should our church be learning about? What issue is pressing in your heart and mind that we should be a voice about? Jesus calls us not only to love God but to love our neighbors. Participating in a current issue that addresses the care of others is actively loving our neighbors. Please let me or a Deacon know what concerns are on your heart!

In Christ's Light and Love,

Pastor Pat

Greetings from our new CYFF Coordinator

Hello to you all! My name is Laura Lillibridge and it is my pleasure to be serving the congregation as Children Youth Spiritual Formation Coordinator! I have a background teaching in a variety of settings and locations. It is my mission to make sure young people know their value and the importance of kindness and compassion. I am looking forward to meeting all of you and growing our caring community together!

From the Deacons' Bench



There are many things that make me glad and grateful that I am a part of the Hampden Federated Church community.

The first is Bible Study on Wednesday mornings. As a Catholic, I had only limited exposure to scripture, often as a young girl just memorizing rote answers on Catholicism and finally in High School, a narrow focus on mostly the New Testament. It just seemed that reading the Bible was not as important in my adult life as prayers and attending Mass. So attending Bible Study on Wednesdays opened up a whole new world for me.....one filled with excitement and wonder, especially when reading the Old Testament. I love the safety of being able to express my thoughts among friends, but also to listen to the interpretations from others.....all this being done under the guidance of Pastor Pat, who brings so much knowledge and understanding to each session.

My second love is the Wednesday Worship service on the third Wednesday of the month when we sit among old friends, reminisce on the old days and have lunch together all to be followed by worship and communion.

Maybe you will join either opportunity or both!

Greetings of peace.....Rita Spencer.

Bible Study begins
September 15, 2021
10:30 AM

We will be studying the Gospel of Mark this Fall. It is good to have a solid foundation of the stories of Jesus. We have many new folks in our study, so sharing our Stories is important. Of course, even for the knowledgeable Christian, there are always new things to learn or review.

Come and Join us! Your presence will enrich or group.



September Birthdays

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



| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Otto Kern Jr | 09/06 |
| Darcey Walulak | 09/09 |
| Amy Varney | 09/15 |
| Evelyn Schoolcraft | 09/15 |
| Patricia Safford | 09/16 |
| Beth Algie | 09/17 |
| Carrie Wescott | 09/18 |
| Kenneth Baillieul | 09/18 |
| Leah Howell | 09/19 |
| Phyllis Hultstrom | 09/20 |
| Dominick Tessier | 09/21 |
| Jennifer Howell | 09/21 |
| Mark Casey | 09/24 |
| Rudy Wilk | 09/24 |
| Evelyn Meacham | 09/26 |
| Elsie Bradway | 09/27 |
| Rollyn Hatch | 09/30 |

Wedding Anniversaries

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------|
| Keith & Stephanie Lemelin-Bliss | 09/03 |
| David & Rita Spencer | 09/08 |
| Jodi & David Brodeur | 09/08 |
| Ronald & Sandra Richter | 09/11 |
| Pat & Wayne Miller Fernandes | 09/12 |
| Kevin & Elaine DeGray | 09/12 |
| Randall & Kimberley Mercure | 09/12 |
| Russell & Marilyn Streeter | 09/12 |
| Bruce & Janet Libby | 09/18 |
| Chris & Cheryl Fonda | 09/20 |





Prayer Corner



Evie Meacham
Winnie
Dennis
John (Jack) Bennett
Watson family
Janet Brehaut
Josh G & Family
MaryLou Black
Sandra Gibson
Christopher
Bob Green

Fran Brown
Elaine Selfridge
Gretchen Warner
Ann Leger
Doreen
Jaoat
William
Jingles
Ed
Amy
Carol Darnley (cancer)

For the victims of Hurricane Ida
For the people Afghanistan & the people of Haiti
For those traveling
For shut-ins and those who are isolated
For first responders & healthcare workers
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 those impacted by changing weather disasters
For World Peace

Join us on Mondays at 9:30 AM for Spirit Chat and to lift those
above in prayer.

Wonderful Wednesday Worship **September 15th 12:30 PM**

Come and join us for a light lunch followed by
A short worship service together. All are welcome.
Come and join old friends and make new ones. If you
Need a ride or have a question, please give the office a call.

Sympathy to....



*Rick & Shari Desanti and family in the death of **Elaine DeSanti** (Rick's mom) who passed away on July 24th.*

*Family & friends of **Audrey Burger**, who passed away on July 28th. Condolences can be sent to Audrey's daughter, Barbara Panek & husband John, of East Longmeadow.*

*Fran Brown and her son Dan in the death of son and brother, respectively, **William Brown**. He passed away on August 31st.*



July 1, 2021

Many thanks to the FCC scholarship fund, for granting me the necessary funds to pursue my certification for Adventures in Wisdom coaching program for kids.

I feel so passionate to be able to teach mindset development through stories that will help your child bloom & grow with positivity & self-confidence.

Blessings to my church family for the opportunity.

September 1, 2021 -Update

After checking into this program more & seeing what's involved, I have decided NOT to pursue this. My non-technology skills are causing me undue stress, so I am returning the Gerrish scholarship money back to FCC.

♥ Janet Modlish

Fall Schedule Begins September 12th

Worship will be held outside one last time this year. The musical group, “*Still Working*” along with Pastor Pat, will provide a contemporary worship experience. Children will be dismissed from the worship service after an introduction of our newly hired Christian/Youth Spiritual Formation Coordinator: Laura Lillebridge. and blessing upon the school year. Hope you will be present to meet and greet the group members and give a warm welcome to Miss. Laura.

Bell Choir Resumes

Bell Choir is starting up again for anyone who is interested in joining. Practice will be on Sunday nights from 6:30pm to 7:30pm, beginning on September 12th. Please see Karen Kielb for details.



Mission Chair

We need a mission chair. Our church loves missions and supports them wholeheartedly. However, after many faithful years of leadership, Kristi Tessier has decided to step down as Mission Chairperson. We thank her for her leadership through which many lives were touched.

There is an active committee with energy, ideas, and support. If you have a heart for missions, and a willingness to take on the role as Chairperson, please speak with Pastor Pat.

Altar Flowers

The following dates in September and October are available for altar flowers:

September 26th
October 24th

October 3rd
October 31st

October 10th



Please contact Regina Germain at 413-566-3933 if you would like to have flowers in honor or memory of someone.

Watercolor Sessions

Watercolor sessions are planned for the fall on 6 consecutive



Saturday afternoons, starting October 9th through November 13th from 12:30 to 3:30ish. As before, Federated Community Church has agreed to provide us space in the administrative wing of the Church.

We can accommodate about 10 people at tables so sign up early to your reserve spot and also mention it to interested friends. Five people have signed up to date. Because shapes are so basic in this work we will devote on Day 1 a half-session on perspectives made easy. Bring some inexpensive sketch paper as we will want to practice this simple technique.

The cost again will be \$10.00 per session.

Please see Dave Spencer for additional details.

Seeking Musicians for Worship Music until November 21st

We thank Sandy Tilander, Bruce MacKay, Wayne Miller Fernandes, Faith Thompson and others who have provided worship music since Easter. We are in the process of hiring a musician who will begin at the end of November (more details to follow in next month's newsletter). Faith is giving private piano lessons and returning to school in the fall and is no longer interested in our music position. Sandy Tilander will provide music every other week; traveling from Worcester is too much for her to do weekly. So, we are looking for those who have music gifts to share with us. Please speak with Pastor Pat or Cheryl Fond if you are willing to assist.

Words from the UMC Bishop

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where does my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. — Psalm 121:1-2

Beloved in Christ:

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The suffering in Afghanistan increases. Thursday's bombing took the lives of an estimated 170 people – in addition to the 13 U.S. military personnel killed – and wounded another 200.

Our hearts are heavy as we see the Afghan people struggling amid the violence and chaos. If you are like me, you find it excruciatingly painful to watch the news these days.

The people of Afghanistan have endured decades of conflict and are now, again, at a point of upheaval and uncertainty.

Let us be intentional in our everyday prayer lives and in our worship services to remember the Afghans, our military – those who have served in this area and especially those who are still there – our nation's leaders and diplomats, and world leaders.

Some of you have reached out to see how you can help. We are blessed to be a part of a global church, and our United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) has worked with partners in Afghanistan for decades.

UMCOR is working diligently to determine what assistance will be most effective and how to best get humanitarian aid to the Afghan people. To support UMCOR's Afghanistan response, make gifts online [here](#) or by checks sent to Global Ministries/UMCOR, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY 10087-9068, with Advance #982450 noted on the memo line.

UMCOR, partnering with Church World Service, is also prepared to assist with refugee resettlement. Those interested in supporting the UMCOR-CWS partnership can make gifts online [here](#) or by checks sent to Global Ministries/UMCOR, P.O. Box 9068, New York, NY 10087-9068, with Advance #3022144 in the memo line.

We know that New England refugee organizations are preparing for the arrival of Afghan refugees, and there will be many ways that we can assist them in their transition. We will continue to share details as they

develop.

For now, as we pray for those caught in this crisis, we also pray for those caught in the wake of natural disasters, both here and around the globe. Let us put our trust in our God who feels the pain of God's people, in the peace only our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ can provide and in the Holy Spirit who is our ever-present source of strength and help.

In Christ's love,
Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar
New England United Methodist Conference

Any money donated through our church to these causes will be split equally between United Methodist & United Church of Christ organizations.

Upcoming Fund Raiser

We are in the process of planning a fund raiser for our church. COVID has put a damper on holding dinners and crafts fair fund raiser. To cover some of the gap, we are planning on selling shirts with FCC name with our grant logo and name of "Connecting in the Spirit." All the shirts will be blue, but you will have a choice of button-down collar or a simple t-shirt. We hope that all church members will support this fundraiser. When you wear your shirt out and about, you will be witnessing for Christ and perhaps opening an opportunity to have a conversation about your church. We will be reaching out through phone calls. Kim Cummins is spearheading this idea.



Octoberfest

October 16, 2021, 5:00 ~ 9:00 PM



- Delicious German Fare
 - Schweinebraten (German Pork Roast)
 - German-style potatoes, red cabbage.
 - Dessert
- Music provided by Sawyer Music Productions.
- Authentic Biergarten under the tent.
- Local Micro Brews by Iron Duke Brewing.
- Raffles ! Fun Prizes !
- Exceptional service and hospitality provided by Knights of Columbus Council 10195
- All proceeds to benefit the good work of the Community Survival Center.

St. Cecilia Parish Center
42 Main Street
Wilbraham, MA

Tickets
\$20 / person

- Sold after each Mass starting 9/25/2021
Or
- Via e-mail
kofc10195@gmail.com



Sponsored by Saint Cecilia Knights of Columbus

Paul Sawyer
Professional DJ, Flutist


Munchhaus
GERMAN RESTAURANT





September 2021



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|----------|--|--|
|  | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 10:00 AM Worship | 6 Labor Day | 7 6:00 PM AA | 8 10:30 AM CE Volunteers to meet with CYFF Coordinator | 9 | 10 7:30 PM AA | 11 |
| 12 10:00 AM Worship 6:30 PM Bell Choir | 13 9:30 AM Spirit Chat | 14 6:00 PM AA 7:00 PM Finance | 15 10:30 AM Bible Study 12:30 PM WWW* | 16 | 17 7:30 PM AA | 18 |
| 19 10:00 AM *CY Faith Form 6:30 PM Bell Choir | 20 9:30 AM Spirit Chat | 21 6:00 PM AA | 22 10:30 AM Bible Study | 23 | 24 7:30 PM AA | 25 |
| 26 10:00 AM Worship *CY Faith Form 6:30 PM Bell Choir | 27 9:30 AM Spirit Chat | 28 6:00 PM AA | 29 10:30 AM Bible Study | 30 | * Children/Youth Faith Formation will begin in the sanctuary and will be dismissed after approx. 15 minutes | *WWW= Wonderful Wednesday Worship |