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# *The Federated Courier*

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## *From the Pastor's Desk*

*For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the LORD, ..."*

Jeremiah 31: 11-14a

Greetings in the Name of Christ!

We are just coming to the end of the Easter season. During sermons this season, I have talked about seeing signs of the Risen Christ in our daily life. For many of us, we are like the disciples of Luke's writing on the road to Emmaus. The Risen Christ comes and walks with disciples, but they do not recognize him. We often do not recognize God's presence in our lives. Finally, as the disciples approach home, they invite the Risen Christ to stay with them. At dinner, he breaks bread, the disciple's eyes are open, and they recognize Jesus. (Read Luke 24:13-35 for the full account).

First, the scripture tells us that hospitality counts. If they had not invited the Risen Christ to stay with them, he would not have had the opportunity to break bread and the disciples' eyes would not have "been opened." Signs of the Risen Christ surround humanity, but we do not see them. God, in Jesus, loves people and wants to have a relationship. God speaks to us regularly, trying to get our attention. There are several reasons for not being able to see them. First, we move so fast that we do not take time to observe our

surroundings. Second, we just do not look. Third, we lack the faith to name and claim that it is the Risen Christ. We might think there was a sign or something mysterious happened that we cannot explain, and we believe for a fleeting moment, but then we wonder if people will think we are crazy if we name it as such. Our doubts creep in and we try not to think about it. Other times, we remember the sign or experience, but we still are silent. Not to sure about sharing our belief out loud.

We have been seeking God's guidance and intentionally taking steps in faith over the last few years: working with Ministry Architects, sponsoring seasonal programs, and a new healing program, to begin this summer. (More news on this to follow.) During this Easter season, a robin has made her nest in the wreath on the back door. We have had the wreath up for the past few years, but this year, we have a nest with new life in four eggs ready to burst forth. For a few of us at church, this is a sign from God, letting us know that the future of the church might look quite different than it has in the past, but that God is with us, and new life abounds for us!



We are entering Pentecost on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Pentecost is the birth of the church, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples and they were no longer fearful, but full of faith. Those who had hid behind locked doors after Jesus had been crucified, now full of the Spirit, stood up in front of those who ridiculed them as being drunk, and proclaimed boldly the Risen Christ. (Read Acts 2) May we seek God, be open to the Holy Spirit to fill our cup to overflowing, and may we boldly walk forward choosing faith over our fears! May we be confident enough to share our sightings of the Risen Christ with others.

On Pentecost Sunday, you are invited to wear red to symbolize the Holy Spirit arriving among us. Yes, Holy Spirit, come upon and into me and enflame my heart with your Spirit.

In Christ's Light and Love, *Pastor Pat*

## *From the Deacons' Bench*

### Sparrows

Matthew 10:29-31 *The Living Bible*

*Not one sparrow (What do they cost? Two for a penny?) can fall to the ground without your father knowing it. And the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't worry! You are more valuable to him than many sparrows.*

As I was driving down Somers Rd. in East Longmeadow the other day, I saw a cloud of birds come swooping down not far above traffic, an unusual sight. As I got closer I saw there were a dozen or so small birds being chased by a large hawk. In the split-second that it took my brain to record this and prompt me to gasp at the sight, the flock suddenly wheeled around and, turning together, began chasing their pursuer. In a flash, the hawk turned and was gone from my range of vision, chased by his intended prey.

I had to keep moving with traffic, but I was so moved by this glimpse of the workings of the natural world. What a blessing for me! In that first sight I was sure I would see the hawk grab one of the birds- there were so many of them, how could he miss? I never considered an alternative scenario, and am still deeply moved: How did those small birds know to work together and turn on their attacker? How did they know their strength would be far greater together? Science tells us this defensive mechanism in these small birds would have evolved over time - but how did this arise in the first place? What caused their birdy behavior to change, and to turn and go on the attack for the first time?

I keep wondering: Is there a lesson here? Do I recognize when my welfare is threatened? Do I know when to change my behavior for my welfare? Do I recognize when working as part of my "flock", will provide the best outcome?

Often (very often!) I have found in retrospect that, without even being conscious of it, I have been holding on to faith that the Creator will uphold me and guide me, even when my faith is weak- or even absent. Even within my doubt, something within me holds on to Jesus' words, "You are more valuable to him than many sparrows."

Deacon Linda Hornig



## *June Birthdays*

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



Pat Miller Fernandes	06/02
Karen Anable	06/05
Kimberley Mercure	06/08
Jacqueline Brusa	06/10
Miyani Tessier	06/10
Samuel Castellano	06/11
Betty Sutcliffe	06/14
Jennifer Fisher	06/15
Roberta Grant	06/19
Alison Castellano	06/19
Alicia Richter	06/20
Janet Modlish	06/20
Paul Cilley	06/23
Alexandra Smith	06/23
Michael DeSanti	06/24
Jacob Trevallion	06/25
Owen Godin	06/25
Penny Dibble	06/26
Elena Green	06/27
Nancy Nelson	06/27
Elizabeth Cilley	06/29
Matthew Sterling	06/29

## *Wedding Anniversaries*

Richard & Sharon DeSanti	06/02
Joanne & David Gernux	06/07
George & Gail Romano	06/12
David & Jane Wyman	06/12
James & Beverly Brant	06/21
Beverly & Dale Barrett	06/28



## *Prayer Corner*



Libby Family  
Evie Meacham  
Gail Banning  
Linda & Winnie  
Jeffrey  
Watson Family  
Janet Brehaut  
Josh G & Family  
MaryLou Black  
Pat Safford  
Tony Rogers  
Christopher  
Bob Green  
Fran Brown  
Rollyn Hatch  
Bonnie Watson  
Earl Schofield III  
Bobbi Schofield  
Lois Pixley

Elaine Selfridge  
Doreen  
Jaoat  
Ed  
Adam  
Jan  
Melinda  
Yvette  
Ann  
Anna  
Kelvin  
Doug  
Barbara  
Jack Hess  
Ed  
Sherry & Family  
Jim  
Beverly

For victims & families of mass shootings  
For the people of Ukraine  
For those battling cancer  
For those who are shut-ins and those that are isolated  
For those that grieve the loss of loved ones  
For those working on the COVID vaccines  
For those who do not have access to COVID vaccines  
For first responders & health care workers  
For those impacted by weather disasters  
For the people Afghanistan  
For the people of Haiti  
For the changing climate  
For our country  
For all world leaders  
For those traveling  
For shut-ins and those who are isolated  
For the homeless  
For Asian & Black people & all who are persecuted for simply being  
how God created them  
For transitions within our church

## *Sympathy to.....*

Janet Modlish and her daughter Michaela, in the death of **Edward Modlish**, who passed away on May 3rd.



Family and friends of **Joyce Libby**, who died peacefully, surrounded by family on May 26th. Joyce was a faithful member of the United Methodist Church, first in Michigan with her immediate family, and then as part of the Federated Community Church of Hampden as she created her own family in Hampden. At 94, with failing health issues, loss of eyesight and hearing, she still attended worship regularly until the last month. What an inspiration! She has touched many lives over the years. We celebrate her life as we grieve our loss.

## *Notice of Funeral Services*

**A Celebration Life and Service of Death and Resurrection** will be held for **Joyce Libby** on June 11th at 10:30 AM. Following the service, a light luncheon will be served in Libby Hall where the family will receive expressions of sympathy, including words of comfort and support. Burial will be private.

**A Celebration Life and Service of Death and Resurrection** will be held for **Jeanette D. Ingle** on June 11th at 1:30 PM. Burial will follow at the Old Cemetery on Chapin Road.

# *Celebration of Summer's Arrival*

Summer's arrival will be celebrated on June 12th. **The Children/Youth Faith Formation** group will participate and share in the morning worship. **You are invited.** Following worship, The Board of Directors will host a cookout on the back lawn. Games and activities will be shared as a way to create memories and build fellowship. Hope to see you there.



## *Scantic Summer Series*

The last Saturday evening of June, July, and August, The Federated Community Church of Hampden will host community events: Scantic Summer Series. They will be held from 5:00 to 7 :00 PM. We will serve a light meal with a variety of activities available, followed by a professional entertainer.

**June's** entertainment will be Bob Bloom, a Master Interactive Drummer. He will lead in drumming and various percussion instruments. He is bringing 3 types of different instruments for 75 people. No one gets left out.

**July** - Big Joe the Storyteller will share his gifts of fun and laughter after sharing in a light dinner. He is engaging and good wholesome fun for all ages.

**August** is TBA, but will follow the same format.

Everyone and anyone seeking to have good community fun and fellowship is invited to join us.

Many hands make work easier for all. Remember to volunteer where and when ever you can. Simply being present and answering a question of "Where is the bathroom?" makes it easier for one another. It leaves those more capable to do heavier work. Everyone needs to be hospitable and welcoming.



## *June 15th Wednesday Wonderful Worship*

We begin at 12:30 PM with a light lunch in the Libby Hall. When all are finished, normally about 1:00 PM, we transition our chairs to a semi circle and have an informal worship service. It is a relaxing, yet spirit filled time. The service was designed for those who cannot make Sunday service for whatever reason, (stairs, time, day, work, etc.) as well as offering an opportunity for fellowship. **You are invited.** The conversation is always enriching, but would be more so if you joined us. Please consider joining us.



## *Dog Cookie Bake*

On Saturday, May 14<sup>th</sup> a dedicated group of our church women came together to bake two different recipes of dog treats or “cookies” with no sugar. They will be selling them at the Pet Blessing ceremony the weekend of Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>. Beth

Algie, our photographer, Joyce Brooks, Ellie Soucy, August and Robert Fernandes, Pastor Pat, Penny Dibble, Janet Libby & Karen Kielb made the dog treats. Bobbi Scholfield is your news reporter as well as the typist for the recipes of ingredients for the different dog cookie recipes. A good time was had by all!



# *All Creatures Great and Small*



On May 21<sup>st</sup> Federated Community Church hosted a Pet Day called “All Creatures Great & Small”. Although it was supposed to be hot we were blessed with a beautiful day with the shade of the trees & popups. About 40 dogs showed up & were blessed by our Pastor Pat. We had an agility demonstration & afterwards people were able to take their dogs through the agility steps. We also had a breeder who exhibits dogs do a grooming

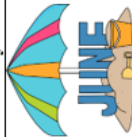
demonstration & cut some dogs nails which made the owners very happy! Animal Craze, who does events with baby farm animals came & everyone was able to interact & hold the baby chicks, ducks, rabbits, goats & there was even a baby pig!



The day was a huge success & enjoyed by all who attended! Can't wait to do it again next year!

Submitted by Beth Algie



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:30 AM Bible Study	2 5:30 PM Reno Team	3 6:00 PM Game Night	4
5 Pentecost 10:00 AM Worship	6 9:30 AM Spirit Chat 6:15 CE Ministry Team	7 6:00 PM Bell Choir 6:00 PM AA 7:00 PM Drumming	8 10:30 AM Bible Study 12:20 PM Knit/Crochet	9 5:30 PM Reno Team	10 7:30 PM AA	11 10:30 AM Celebration of Life for Joyce Libby 1:30 PM Celebration of Life for Jeanette Jangle
12 10:00 AM Worship Followed by cookout	13 9:30 AM Spirit Chat 6:15 CE Ministry Team	14 6:00 PM Bell Choir 6:00 PM AA 7:00 PM Finance 7:00 PM Drumming	15 10:30 AM Bible Study 12:30 PM WWW*	16 5:30 PM Reno Team	17 7:30 PM AA	18
19 10:00 AM Worship	20 9:30 AM Spirit Chat 6:15 CE Ministry Team	21 6:00 PM Bell Choir 6:00 PM AA 7:00 PM BOD	22 10:30 AM Bible Study 12:30 PM Knit/Crochet	23 5:30 PM Reno Team	24 7:30 PM AA	25 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast 5:00 PM Scantel Summer Series
26 10:00 AM Worship	27 9:30 AM Spirit Chat 6:15 CE Ministry Team	28 6:00 PM Bell Choir 6:00 PM AA 7:00 PM Drumming	29 10:30 AM Bible Study	30 5:30 PM Reno Team	* Children/Youth Faith Formation will begin in the sanctuary and will be dismissed after approx. 15 minutes	*WWW= Wonderful Wednesday Worship

## *Scantic Summer Series*

*Saturday*

*June 25<sup>th</sup>*

*5:00 PM – 7:00 PM*

Join us for a light meal with a variety of activities available, followed by a professional entertainer!

**June's** entertainment will be **Bob Bloom**, a Master Interactive Drummer. He will lead in drumming and various percussion instruments. He is bringing 3 types of different instruments for 75 people.

