



FEDERATED COMMUNITY CHURCH
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Federated Community Church
590 Main Street
Hampden, MA 01036

E-mail: hampdenfederated@gmail.com

www.hampdenfederatedchurch.org

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

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July – August 2022

From the Pastor's Desk

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Matthew 11: 28-30

Greetings in the Name of Christ!

Many of you know that I am taking six weeks off, beginning July 1st for rest and renewal.: two weeks of vacation time and four weeks of renewal. While I have been serving for only four years at FCC in Hampden, my last time of renewal was in 2010. The United Methodist recommends pastors take off an extra four weeks every four years and a sabbatical of three months every twelve years. I am due.

My time away will be taken during my favorite season of the year, I will not squander the hours. Yes, there will be time at the beach, campfires, gardening, and with friends, but I also have a list of readings and courses to take which will fill and restore my cup. I hope to recapture my daily meditation of centering prayer, which I have let slip away.

The last four years have been challenging. I hoped to bring new energy and excitement as we focused on rebuilding the church.

The threats of COVID sidetracked many plans as we focused on simply maintaining; trying to stay connected as we were instructed through the government and denominations to stay apart. Preaching to a camera is hard. There is no feedback of laughter, or smiles, heads shaking in support or disagreement; just a hope that somehow the Spirit will touch those who are willing to listen on a computer screen.

During the past year, we created a RENO team to help implement some new ideas, build relationships with folks in the community, and reconnect our own church members. It has taken a lot of time and energy for many of us on the team. What is challenging and defeating is to invest so much into planning events and opportunities and to have so little congregational participation or involvement. Many of the events we are holding are opportunities to invite new folks, but also an opportunity to simply be together as a church community in something beyond worship.

On July 30th and August 27th, we will be hosting community events. Beginning at 5:00 PM, we will offer a free meal of hotdogs and burgers followed by fun entertainment: Big Joe the Storyteller and a Comedy & Magician show. It is good fun for all ages. I hope you will plan on attending: laughing, eating, sharing, and simply being together. It is a sign of support and encouragement to those who have worked to put the programs together.

Church will continue each Sunday. We will worship outdoors, weather permitting, except for July 3rd, which will be in the sanctuary. We will have various guest worship leaders. Please show up. It is a sign of hospitality and support. Christ is counting on YOU as you are counting on CHRIST.

Be well and enjoy your summer.

In Christ's Light and Love,
Pastor Pat

From the Deacons' Bench



Greetings:

Now that it's officially summer, we can start to enjoy fresh produce, locally grown. If one is so inclined, locally grown in our own backyards. Living where I did in Colorado, going out and picking a ripe tomato off the vine wasn't something you could do without having your own greenhouse. I have definitely enjoyed that treat since being back here.

Planting seeds and watching them grow into flowers or produce is such a wonderful experience. My parents had gardens, so I grew up with an abundance of both. I learned how to can at an early age so we could extend the season. Of course, once freezing came along, canning wasn't as necessary, but I still like to once in a while.

Whenever I see an organization helping folks put together a community garden, I always hope that those people will get joy out of eating the product of their labor. I have sometimes wondered during various Bible studies if the original disciples ever thought of talking to people about God and Jesus as gardening. Planting seeds and watching them grow. Seems they found fertile ground. Maybe we can too.

Blessings,
Penny Dibble, Deacon

Food Pantry

Please bring in non-perishable items and extra garden fruits & vegetables to support the Community Survival Center in Indian Orchard and Springfield Rescue Mission.

Music News



I have almost completed my first "Liturgical Year" at Hampden Community Church. I started on Advent One and we just celebrated Pentecost a few weeks ago. That covers all of the 'seasons.' I like the seasons of the church year. I find the rhythm reassuring as it mimics our trip around the sun. These past couple of years have felt dis-jointed and 'out-of-whack' because of the relentless Covid virus and all its ramifications. The evening news doesn't provide much comfort. I need some consistency, some predictability. I long for order amidst the chaos and somehow, observing the seasons of the church reminds me that God has been my help in ages past and is my hope for years to come.

We are now in yet another season, one not marked on the liturgical calendar but widely recognized in northern hemisphere churches as "Summer Worship" This is characterized by outdoor worship services, lemonade on the lawn, flip flops, guest preachers, and tanned soloists; all in all, not too bad a time. It's also that time when a combined July/ August Newsletter compels us to start thinking aboutgasp!.....September. It seems like a long way off but let's plant a few seeds anyway.

*I would like to begin a Junior Choir program. We will start in late September. It will be on Saturday mornings from 10-11 AM. It will include singing, bell ringing, games, a light snack and we'll even sneak in some musical education. I would like a female assistant /co-director. It will be open to all children in the community.

*Bells will continue on with its Tuesday evening, 6:00 PM rehearsal.

*Thursday evenings are the best time for a Voice Choir rehearsal. It's as close as we can get to Sunday morning without it being the weekend. So, we'll go for it. Tentative time is 7:00 PM - 8:30PM. A word about Voice Choirs; the very nature of a choir is supportive. You are surrounded by people singing the same thing that you are. You are not alone. We are making an offering to

glorify God. While we want to make it the best it can be; it is never a performance. If you've entertained the idea of lending your talents to a Church Choir, this is the time to do it. Besides, it's kinda fun.

*Scantic River Drummers - the surprise of the millennium (so far) has much support and interest. Anyone can drum. It's meditative and relaxing, one can get lost in "the zone" even for a few moments. Often, after we've all been drumming for a 5 or 10 minute stretch; we'll stop, we'll look at each other and say, "That was a good one." We have been meeting on Tuesday nights at 7:00 PM but that's also a big meeting night at the church. An alternative time might serve the effort better. Stay tuned. (see what I did there....'tuned'....get it?)

It is said that, "Those who sing, pray twice." I think I might add that those who make music for the glory of our Lord are blessed thrice. Once because your music gladdens the hearts of the worshipping community. Twice, because you are sharing your gifts and talents with the universe, and thrice, because God loves it. Indeed, it is good to give God thanks and praise.

Enjoy your Summer. Don't forget to come to church. Remember to think about singing, ringing, drumming, children's choir and please keep it all in your prayers.

"In the Midst of New Dimensions"
Julian Rush

*"We are man and we are woman, all persuasions, old and young,
each a gift in your creation, each a love song to be sung.
God of rainbow, fiery pillar, leading where the eagles soar,
we your people, ours the journey, now and ever,
now and ever, now and ever more".*

Peace and Grace,
Mark



July- August Birthdays



Birthday Greetings to the following members
of our church who celebrate birthdays in July &
August.

Joshua Hummel	07/01	Frank Watson	08/02
James Brant	07/03	Logan Paradis	08/06
Theodore Zebert	07/05	Anthony Rogers	08/07
Nolan Fonda	07/07	Kimberly Luthgren	08/07
Teresa Kennedy	07/08	Marion Cilley	08/11
Linda Hornig	07/09	Robert Schoolcraft	08/11
Mary Howell	07/09	Shirley Facey	08/11
Frances Brown	07/10	Cameron Regnier	08/13
Nancy Zebert	07/11	Brandan Parry	08/15
Richard DeSanti	07/12	Nathaniel Wyman	08/15
Michael Stone	07/13	John Spear	08/17
Paige Fonda	07/13	Jessica Quill	08/18
Keith Lemelin-Bliss	07/13	Nicole Hiersch	08/18
Amelia Gardner	07/14	Debra Anderson	08/21
Aiden Gardner	07/14	Rebecca Varney	08/22
Heather Webb	07/14	Kristi Tessier	08/22
Nicole Gray	07/14	Janet Libby	08/24
Bruce Libby	07/15	Patricia Baker	08/25
Ashley Stoddard	07/16	Wayne Miller Fernandes	08/26
Priscilla Kibbe	07/18	Debra Doyle	08/26
Nancy Ryan	07/19	Dana Ramponi	08/26
Christopher Fonda	07/25	Cody Nunes	08/27
Allen Schoolcraft	07/27	Laurie Bliss	08/29
Kathleen Hutchison	07/27	Phyllis Watson	08/30
Yvonne Godek	07/29		
Sandra Wilk	07/30		
Elaine Evans	07/31		

Wedding Anniversaries

David & Geraldine Kruger	07/06
Dennis & Marilyn Connor	07/12
Beverly & Wayne Burnell	07/14
Mark & Linda Casey	07/21
Paul & Nancy Willoughby	07/24
William & Ruth Haley	07/27
Gregory & Heather Webb	07/28
Frank & Phyllis Watson	08/17
Glenn & Brenda Olesuk	08/18
Jeffrey & Annemarie Sias	08/19
Kimberly & Dave Cummins	08/24
William & Lynn Cunningham	08/26

Congratulations

Congratulations and blessings to **Kyle Nunes** who graduated from high school and will be attending Holyoke Community College in the fall.



Congratulations to **Dawn McKeone** for graduating with a Master's degree in Social Work!



Prayer Corner



Rita Spencer
Watson Family
Evie Meacham
Gail Banning
Linda & Winnie
Jeffrey
Josh G & Family
MaryLou Black
Pat Safford
Tony Rogers
Bob Green
Fran Brown

Rollyn Hatch
Lois Pixley
Elaine Selfridge
Doreen
Adam
Melinda
Yvette
Ann
Sherry & Family
Beverly
Denise & family
Naomi

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 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

Sympathy to.....

*Family and friends of **Janet Brehaut**, who passed away on May 29th.*



Cards can be sent to her daughter Diane Hansen, 367 Mountain Sunset Trail, Henderson, NC 28739 or her son Paul Willoughby, 280 Chapin Road, Hampden, MA 01036.



No Wonderful Wednesday Worship in July

Please note that there will be no Wednesday Worship and lunch in July. We will resume again in August.



Ukraine

Thank you for your generous donations towards assistance for Ukrainians. So many have been displaced and uprooted from their homes. Others, trapped in an endless cycle of sirens, bombings, destruction and death. FCC members contributed \$1861.00. The collection will be distributed between the The United Church of Christ, which is working to assist Ukrainians through the World Council Relief, and the United Methodist Committee on Relief. Thank you for helping our sisters and brothers in Christ. We will continue to accept and forward any donations to these two agencies as we receive them. Unfortunately, this crisis will be ongoing for quite a while.

Do as I (Jesus) commands, Love your neighbor as yourself (Mark 12: 31) “He (Jesus) sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal.” Luke 9:2

Healing Touch Spiritual Ministry

The Healing Touch Spiritual Ministry program is education taught from a Judeo-Christian perspective that says God is the ultimate source of all healing, we are but the instruments, conduits for God’s grace of healing. It offers a multi-level educational program presenting healing based in the Judeo-Christian scriptures. Healing has its rightful role in Christianity. Learn about the mystery of the Sacred Art of Healing from ancient traditions to modern applications: about the importance of prayer, intention, touch, and anointing for healing. In the training, experience compassion and caring as you learn practical techniques for spiritual care, tools for self-care, stress relief and maintaining balance in our hectic world.

More information is available at <https://www.ishahealing.com>

The Federated Community Church 590 Main St. Hampden MA will be hosting training for the first two courses on August 19th and 20th. The third course, 103, a two-day course will be offered at the church on September 24th and 25th. You can sign up at the ISHA healing site for one course or as a “bundle” of all three courses for a discounted price.

If you have further questions, please contact Rev. Patricia Miller Fernandes at 413 566 3711 or FCC.PastorPat@gmail.com

A Message from the National Officers of the United Church of Christ

<https://www.ucc.org/we-will-stand-with-you-in-protest-national-officers-speak-out-after-sc-overturns-roe-v-wade/>

The national officers of the United Church of Christ are speaking out against the U.S. Supreme Court decision eliminating, after almost 50 years, the constitutional right to an abortion.

Long before the Supreme Court decision in *Roe v. Wade*, the United Church of Christ, by action of the General Synod, affirmed the right of every individual to follow their personal religious and moral convictions regarding their reproductive healthcare. We continue to stand by this conviction today. This religious and moral agency includes the autonomy of birthing people to decide whether to complete or terminate a pregnancy.

Our Synod resolutions, which represent the will of the church in light of scripture, highlight the importance of ensuring access to the full range of reproductive health care regardless of race, religion, or economic status. We do not take this stand in spite of faith, but rather because of it. Throughout sacred text humankind is tasked with care of self and others. Bodily autonomy is a human right given by God.

Today's Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, discarding nearly 50 years of precedent, will endanger the lives and well-being of birthing people who do not choose to continue pregnancy. God loves and cares for people who have abortions, and so does the United Church of Christ. We believe all people have the right to make their own decisions about their bodies and medical treatment. We believe women have an inalienable right to shape the direction of their lives as they see fit, and no institution established by humankind should supersede such freedom.

The Supreme Court's decision to vacate *Roe v. Wade* and return the protection of a woman's human right to states represents a continual effort to oppress women and people who can give birth. Such uniform repression targeted at one specific class of people, namely those who have a uterus, creates yet another stark division in a country that so desperately needs unity. In addition to gender bias, such a rendering also disproportionately affects birthing people of color and women in rural or low-income areas who face challenges in access to safe and medically supervised reproductive health care, including abortions. The gravity of this decision and the devastation of its impact cannot be overstated.

Through the prophet Isaiah, God offers these words of comfort to the Israelites during a challenging time: "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." (Isaiah 41:10) These are not words that assuage us with easy answers and shallow promises. There is no declaration that things will be better tomorrow. They will not be. But they do promise that we are not alone in our struggles.

We, the officers of the United Church of Christ, want those feeling the pain of today's decision to know that you are not alone. God has not abandoned you and neither will we. We will do what we always do when the law loses its love. We will grieve with you and offer space for lament and mourning. We will work with you until the rights of every person are honored in this land. We will stand with you in protest. We will kneel with you in prayer. And we will maintain our commitment to educate people about abortion access and safe medically supported reproductive healthcare. Now and always, we remain firm in the knowledge that all are beloved of God, and this cause is right and holy.

The Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer
General Minister and President

The Rev. Traci Blackmon
The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson
Associate General Ministers

July 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 7:30 PM AA	2
3 10:00 AM Worship	4 Independence Day Office Closed	5 6:00 PM AA	6	7	8 7:30 PM AA	9
10 10:00 AM Worship	11 10:00 AM Line Dancing	12 6:00 PM AA 7:00 PM Finance	13	14	15	16
17 10:00 AM Worship	18 10:00 AM Line Dancing	19 6:00 PM AA	20 No Wednesday Worship/Lunch	21 5:30 PM Reno Team	22 7:30 PM AA	23
24 10:00 AM Worship	25 10:00 AM Line Dancing	26 6:00 PM AA	27	28	29 7:30 PM AA	30 5:00 PM Scantic Summer Series
31 10:00 AM Worship					7:30 PM AA	

August 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 10:00 AM Line Dancing	2 6:00 PM AA	3	4	5 7:30 PM AA	6
7 10:00 AM Worship	8 10:00 AM Line Dancing	9 6:00 PM AA 7:00 PM Finance	10	11	12 7:30 PM AA	13
14 10:00 AM Worship	15 10:00 AM Line Dancing	16 6:00 PM AA 7:00 PM BOD	17 12:30 PM Wednesday Worship & Lunch	18	19 Healing Touch Spiritual Ministry	20 Healing Touch Spiritual Ministry
21 10:00 AM Worship	22 10:00 AM Line Dancing	23 6:00 PM AA	24	25	26 7:30 PM AA	27 5:00 PM Scantic Summer Series
28 10:00 AM Worship	29 10:00 AM Line Dancing	30 6:00 PM AA	31			

2022 Scantic Summer Fun Series

For families and friends of all ages!

5-6PM Light Supper & lawn games

6-7 PM Dynamic Guest Entertainment

**July 30:
Big Joe the Storyteller**



Animated and funny, this storyteller and his puppets will have youngsters and young-at-heart captivated!

"The best in the business!" Boston Globe

(more info at www.bigjoe.com, and on Facebook)

**August 27:
Michael Wald Comedy Magic**

Multi-age excitement and laughter with a Master Magician!



(more info at massachusettsmagician.org and on Facebook)

All Free!

Last Saturday of June, July, and August
(held inside if inclement weather)

**Sponsored by
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