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The Federated Courier

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March 2023

From the Pastor's Desk

Read Habakkuk 3

*LORD, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, LORD.
Repeat them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath
remember mercy.*

Habakkuk 3: 1-2

Greetings of Grace and Peace!

Lent is upon us. It is a time of letting go of all the “good, bad, and the ugly” that has been going on in our life through the last year. We return to God and walk with Jesus as he enters into the wilderness. Jesus meets temptation in the wilderness and each time he draws close to God for strength. Lent calls us to follow Jesus’ example and reject the comforts we have and the temptations we face, as we draw closer to God, who is the source of all that is good.

The Prophet, Habakkuk, remembers all that God has done in the past and celebrates. He is overwhelmed when he remembers all the times God has reached out with love and compassion to care for humans. Who in your personal life has witnessed to you about God’s amazing love and grace? A story in which God reached out and cared for them or guided them to a position that was better than what they could have even hoped or imagined. A time when

God became so real, that the situation didn't even have to change, but just knowing God was with you was enough!

As Habakkuk prays, he begs God to act in his day and life time. He remembers that God is the one who brings revival and has the ability to set the world on the right path again. So, he prays, asking God to repeat the miracles of the past in the current times. We need God's intervention in our days and time, just as Habakkuk did. Lent calls us to deepen our prayer life. I hope that you will join me in praying Habakkuk's prayer; asking God to save and restore peace, compassion, and respect to our world. We definitely need God's intervention with all that is going on in the world today. We seek God because we cannot find our way on our own. We join Habakkuk in telling God we know we do not deserve his/her intervention, but we remind God that being merciful is one of his/her main characteristics. We beg God to have mercy on human kind and come to us.

As we draw near to God during this Lenten season, I hope that we might all find such faith and assurance in God that even when things do not go as we had wanted and hoped, we still can sing praises to God and watch with joy what is God is doing in our midst. Habakkuk closes with a prayer that always reminds me of what is most important in my life: a relationship with God. I hope you will open your Bible and find Habakkuk and read his words. Having God at the center and cornerstone of our life is where we find true peace and contentment. May we find that connection to God as we journey this Lent.

In Jesus' Love and Light,

Pastor Pat



From the Deacons' Bench

"My Church"

My church! High spired she stands
Gleaming whitely upon the hill;
'Midst village home and tilled lands
An ever present symbol of brotherhood
and God.

Above the highway's fast-moving flow,
In misty morning sun and evening still
She points the way that saints have trod
And asks that we, too, the way should know.

My church! These her walls shall ever hold,
Memories so sacred, dear and sweet;
Of many a kindly shepherd of the fold—
Of families who often here did meet.

Here little ones sweetly sand,
The talk green tree twinkled many a light,
Here babies small were dedicated in love
And from this altar we followed
Our love'd dead.

Loving couples down these aisles have trod
To speak their vows – a sacrament to God.
Here friend meets friend each week
To share another's grief or joy, they seek.

My church! She is not these alone-
Mortar, rafter, still and steeple,
But a place where hungering hearts find peace.
Where youth's eager mind finds the Truth,
Where fettered souls find their release.
And in the lives of a consecrated people
The eternal God finds His Dwelling Place.

My church! In her future's radiant days
God grant that we, too, shall see
While each one works and each one prays
Tis true- "The best is yet to be"

By Ruth Stillman, Joyce Libby's mother & my grandmother

Submitted by Bruce Libby



March Birthdays

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



Matt Lillibridge	03/01
Bonnie Watson	03/02
Elizabeth Taylor	03/02
Joseph Tessier	03/06
Kellie Hummel	03/11
Beverly Brant	03/11
Geoffrey Sterling	03/15
Virginia Richter	03/17
Jesse Lee	03/17
Mary Drozdowski	03/20
Pamela Rogers	03/20
Anne Collins Jr	03/22
Elizabeth Warner Godin	03/23
Emily Warner	03/23
Lauren Hummel	03/23
Ronald Richter	03/24
Sandra Richter	03/24
Jarrold Smith	03/26
Erik McKeone	03/27
Jolette Germain	03/28
Glenn Olesuk	03/28
Patricia Ritz	03/30
Dale Varney	03/31
Barbara Panek	03/31

Wedding Anniversaries

Carol & George Quinlivan	03/18
James & Laurie Bliss	03/21



Prayer Corner



Jack Jeffrey Godin
Schoolcraft family
Bonnie
Phyllis
Evie Meacham
Gail Banning
Jeffrey
Josh G & Family
Lois Pixley
Rollyn Hatch
Kimberly Ayers
Ruth
Doreen
Adam
Nancy

Ellie G.
Lisa
Joyce Brooks
Lorraine
Rick
Beverly
John
Melinda
Yvette
Ann
Sherry & Family
Denise & family
Naomi
Barbara
Jim

Scott
Ken
Kenain
John
Frank
Dennis
Emerson
Kelsey
Usa
Ellen
Artem
Cheryl
Evan
Matthew

For those affected by earthquakes in Turkey & Syria
For the people of Ukraine
For those traveling
For those affected by hurricanes in Florida
For those affected by floods and fires
For victims & families of mass shootings
For World Peace
For those battling cancer
For those struggling with addiction or mental illness
For those that grieve the loss of loved ones
For first responders & health care workers
For the people Afghanistan, Iran, Haiti, Russia & Middle East
For those impacted by weather disasters
For the changing climate
For our country
For all world leaders
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

Congratulations

Congratulations to Elizabeth & Cody Godin on the birth **Jack Jeffrey Godin** on January 28, 2023. He is little brother to Owen Godin and grandson to Gretchen Warner. Please hold Jack in your prayers for a recent viral infection.



To my dear church family,

My family and I are deeply moved by, and grateful for, your cards, phone calls, and gifts following the death of my mother, Winnie Godek. We are especially grateful for the support of Pastor Pat and all those

who shared in the celebration of her life on February 11th. We were so uplifted and comforted by your presence in the sanctuary during the service. And Worker Bees- you decorated Libby Hall so beautifully, your side dishes were delicious, and your desserts were a loving tribute to Mom's sweet tooth. She would have loved the service and the gathering which followed.

Thank you again for the many blessings you offered to us.

Your sister in Christ, Linda Hornig

Lenten Sermon Series

Pastor Pat will be preaching on *Mystical Hope* this Lenten season. What is *Mystical Hope* you ask? Be sure to join us each week in worship as we explore what it means. The series will be based on Cynthia Bourgeault's book by the same name.

Fellowship Hour

During Lent (perhaps longer), we would like to be intentional about becoming healthier. We ask that you sign up for fellowship hour following worship, but you provide something other than sweets. Bagels and cream cheese, crackers and cheese, fruit, hummus and crackers, pepperoni, veggies and dip are some suggestions.



Surprise us and introduce us to something you snack on while still being mindful of health. The list for hosting fellowship is in the kitchen. Please have your table sign up and share. It is unfair that the same folks do this over and over.

Kids' Ministry

The children, like the adult congregants, are learning about Lent: a time of drawing closer to God, in preparation for Jesus' death and resurrection at Easter. Our Fall and Winter units laid a foundation for connecting with God through prayer and celebration, and seeing God's love in action through Jesus' healing ministry. Guided by the Shine curriculum "Becoming Disciples", we are continuing to explore the nature of God's love through Jesus' parables:

- Who is My Neighbor? (The Good Samaritan- we show mercy through our actions.)
- Who Will Search? (The Lost Sheep- we can notice who's missing.)
- Who Will Celebrate? (The Prodigal Son- we can celebrate when the lost are found.)

We'll end this Lenten session with the roller-coaster events of Holy Week- joy transformed to grief and loss, then joy, in the Easter celebration of the Resurrection.

Please keep our **Children/Youth Faith Formation Ministry** in your prayers, asking for God's blessing on the seeds we are planting with our families and children, and on the **CYFF Ministry Team** as we seek to extend God's love to those outside our doors.

French Meat Pie and Mardi Gras



Thank you to the Jack and Regina for coordinating the French Meat Pie dinner. It was well attended, and everyone enjoyed the food very much. The meal included salad, French meat pie, mashed potatoes, carrots and turnips, and gravy. The meal ended with delicious carrot cake. This was our first fund raising meal since COVID. It was a delightful success. We give thanks to those who helped serve and clean dishes.

While folks were still in the kitchen, the music began playing for a time of dancing and fun. There were crafts for children and youth, beads and rings for all, beautiful decorations, good music, and lots of laughter and fun. Folks of all ages were on the dance floor enjoying themselves.

Thank you to all who made the night a wonderful success!

Wonderful Wednesday Worship is March 15th at 12:30 PM.

A light lunch will be served followed by a worship service. The entire event is held in Libby Hall, so there are no stairs that need to be climbed. Everyone is invited! This is a time when we can get together and share. Some of our members who are unable to get to church on Sunday attend. They would love to see you!

March 3rd is World Day of Prayer (WDP)

The theme of the WDP 2023 program is based on Ephesians 1:15-19, the letter sent to a faith community to express gratitude. Paul gave thanks to God for the Ephesians living out their love and faith and prayed that they could see these three truths: the hope to which God has called the disciples, the riches of God's glorious inheritance among the saints, and the immeasurable greatness of God's power.

Supporting our brothers and sisters in Turkey and Syria following devastating earthquakes.

All loose money donated in the collection plate in February was directed towards aiding those affected by the earthquake. You may continue to donate with cash or checks, either placed in an envelope marked with Turkey, Syria, or Earthquake on it or marked in the check memo with earthquake. The money will be divided between UCC Global H.O.P.E. , UM Committee on Relief, and World Central Kitchen. You may also give directly on any of their websites.

Laughter is Good for the Soul



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Bible Study

Wednesday at 10:30 AM (10 AM for coffee and social time)

What a gift to have a place to talk about important issues and a safe place to bring our questions. All are welcome to join us. Always lively discussions. **No one** knows everything about God. You are accepted just where you are, with lots of knowledge or very little, lots of questions, or none at all. Simply listening and being among one another is a gift in itself. Hope you will join us. Great Studies!



*We turn to you this day crying out for an end to a war
that rages across the land of Ukraine.*

*Help us find the pathway to peace,
A Just Peace.*

On this, the first anniversary of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the United Church of Christ calls on our clergy, our lay leaders, our churches, and all people of faith to pray for peace, to pray for an end to the hostilities that are ravaging the people and land of Ukraine, and to pray for a de-escalation of rhetoric that threatens nuclear options. The war has caused the displacement of 16 million people – Ukrainians and others living or working there; put additional strain on communities in Ukraine and in neighboring countries which have graciously welcomed those who have fled their homes; and severely reduced the ability of people in countries farther away to access daily needs such as food and fuel – effects which are less obvious. All the while, more weapons are infused, and the threat of greater devastation increases. The UCC has supported people and partners affected by the invasion from the beginning, and a UCC delegation recently visited the region to express solidarity with and encouragement to partners, and to witness the work we have supported.

We offer this prayer and invite you to join us in sharing it as a part of your personal prayer time this weekend, or in an act of public worship when you gather with your community of faith.

Creator God, maker of all that is good.

Comforter God, restorer of peace between all peoples.

Redeemer God, healer of wounds that inflict trauma and chaos:

We turn to you this day crying out for an end to a war that rages across the land of Ukraine, threatens the lives of its inhabitants, and

displaces millions of children no longer able to sleep in their beds, attend their schools, or play with their friends.

May your Spirit of peace soften the hearts of the politicians who rattle their sabers and threaten nuclear annihilation.

May your vision of a just world thwart the ambitions of dictators who are thirsty for conquer and lusting for lands over which to rule.

May your hope of shalom engender within our own hearts the call to let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with us.

Help us find the pathway to peace, a Just Peace, built on human rights and equity not just in Ukraine but in every land where bombs and guns are the sounds to which children fall asleep and from which families flee.

You are the source of our peace. You are the horizon of our hope.

You are the author of our love.

May the promise of your enduring peace, your abiding hope, and your everlasting love sustain us all and bring the promise of a new and better day to the people of Ukraine. Amen

New Members Meeting

We will be having new members join the church on Palm Sunday.

If you are interested in learning about what membership means or would like to become a member, please join us in the Prayer Room on March 19th following worship.

Centering Prayer Class Recap

March 19th 1:30 PM in Prayer Room

Join us for a time of checking in on how our personal time of centering prayer is going. Bring your questions and share best practices with one another. We will share in a guided meditation on “Manifesting.” All are welcome.

Wednesday Evening Healing Sessions

7:00 to 9:00 PM

If you are interested but unable to make that time, please speak with Pastor Pat to arrange another day and time. Simply explained, it is intentional prayer. The client leaves feeling like they have received a massage. You can lie on a table or sit in a chair. It is for males and females. It is a gift. If you have questions, please ask Kim, Cummins, Laura Lillibridge, Beth Algie, Ellie Soucy, Janet Modlish, Penny Dibble, or Pastor Pat. Who doesn't need prayer?

Missions

Thank you to Bobbie Schofield and Janet Modlish for stepping up while I took some much needed time off for health reasons! I am back now to run the Mission Committee as usual! I would also like to welcome Rick and Shari DeSanti to the committee. They are already great assets to the group!

In March we are doing an, "Undie Sunday" campaign for the Springfield Rescue Mission. All donations are distributed to the residents in the Men's New Life Program, guests of the Emergency Shelter, the Giveaway Center and those in the community that come in contact with the Mobile-feeding program called Operation Sonshine!

March Undie Sunday collection for the Springfield Rescue Mission and the following is wanted;

- Men's Boxer Briefs, all sizes, most needed is Large and XL!
- Men's undershirts, all sizes, most needed is XL and 2XL
- Men's Socks, all sizes
- Women and Children, all sizes of underwear, undershirts and socks

Many Blessings and Good Health,
Sincerely Submitted Joyce Brooks



Easter Flowers

The Flower Committee will be ordering plants for Easter. The deadline for ordering plants is April 2nd, 2023. Orders may be sent to:

Federated Community Church, PO Box 246, Hampden, MA 01036 or to Elaine DeGray at 18 Brookside Drive, Hampden, MA 01036.

Please enclose with your order form, your check made out to "Federated Community Church".

I would like to order:

Quantity

Cost

___ Lily

@ \$10.00 = \$ _____

CHECK TOTAL = \$ _____

I wish to give my plant in memory/honor of (circle one)

YOUR

NAME _____



PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

Plants may be picked up after the 10:00 am Easter Service on April 9, 2023. Plants that are not picked up after the service will be left in the sanctuary for the following weeks services.

March 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:30 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Spiritual Healing Touch	2	3 6:00 PM Game Night 7:30 PM AA	4 12:30 PM Watercolor Class
5 10:00 AM Worship	6 10:30 AM Line Dancing	7 6:00 PM Bells 6:00 PM AA	8 10:30 AM Bible Study 1:00 PM Knit, Stitch, Pray 7:00 PM Spiritual Healing Touch	9	10 7:30 PM AA	11 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast 12:30 PM Watercolor Class
12 10:00 AM Worship	13 10:30 AM Line Dancing	14 6:00 PM Bells 6:00 PM AA 7:00 PM Finance	15 10:30 AM Bible Study 12:30 PM Worship & lunch 7:00 PM Spiritual Healing Touch	16	17 7:30 PM AA	18 12:30 PM Watercolor Class
19 10:00 AM Worship followed by New Members meeting 1:30 PM Centering Prayer	20 10:30 AM Line Dancing	21 6:00 PM Bells 6:00 PM AA 7:00 PM BOD	22 10:30 AM Bible Study 1:00 PM Knit, Stitch, Pray 7:00 PM Spiritual Healing Touch	23	24 7:30 PM AA	25 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast 12:30 PM Watercolor Class
26 10:00 AM Worship Annual Meeting	27 10:30 AM Line Dancing	28 6:00 PM Bells 6:00 PM AA	29 10:30 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Spiritual Healing Touch	30	31 7:30 PM AA	



Annual Meeting

March 26, 2023 following worship

Join us for a light lunch (soup & dessert) followed by the Annual Meeting. Your Voice and Vote are important. Please make every opportunity to join us. This is the work of the church.

