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Nonprofit
organization
U.S. postage
PAID
Springfield,
MA
Permit no
2702

The Federated Courier

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Volume 76 6

June 2023

From the Pastor's Desk

"I still have much to tell you, but you cannot yet bear to hear it. However, when the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. For He will not speak on His own, but He will speak what He hears, and He will declare to you what is to come. He will glorify Me by taking from what is Mine and disclosing it to you. Everything that belongs to the Father is Mine. That is why I said that the Spirit will take from what is Mine and disclose it to you."

John 16: 12-15

"Render, therefore, to all their due, tribute to whom tribute is due, custom to whom custom, fear to whom fear, and honor to whom honor."

Romans 13:7

"No (hu)man takes this honor unto him(her)self, but (s)he that is called of God."

Hebrews 5:4

Greetings of Grace and Peace:

This is my last, of five years, pastoral newsletter to you. So much I want to thank you for; so much I still have to say. What to choose as my last words for the newsletter is difficult. (I hope you will also join me for my last worship on June 18th.)

Federated Community Church is the fifth church I have served. My first was at my home church, which provided a platform to

try out and secure my footing in my call as Pastor. My second church was at a Congregational Church which embraced me as a seminary intern and taught me the coming and goings of church. They honored me in my call, allowed me to explore my abilities in preaching and worship, leading and teaching in Bible studies, affirmed my pastoral care and visitations as they cared for me, and supported me in co-leading the youth group.

Following my ordination, I was assigned to a United Methodist suburban church. My call and appointment as Pastor were affirmed and celebrated as members supported my leadership. I served as Pastor for ten (10) years in this location. My next appointment was to a United Methodist city church. It was a challenging appointment for me, but I was well received and supported by church members as we worked together to be a visible light for God in the city. After five years, the UMC Bishop appointed me to be Pastor at Federated Community Church (FCC).

I have enjoyed my time serving FCC as Pastor, even amid the COVID crisis. Highlights in my time together have been the Wednesday Bible studies, women's retreats, worship, the laughter among members (even at meetings and in worship), Spirit chat, introducing the Healing Ministry, and personal connections with many of you. But this has been the most challenging of my appointments. Being the first United Methodist Pastor in about forty years at FCC seemed to cause some anxiety or upset. Bylaws support a Congregational way of being and living as church.

But what has really been a struggle and disappointment has been the way some members have treated me and each other. Members would stop attending without ever having a conversation about why or what they were upset about. Folks would be hospitalized or have surgeries without letting myself or others know and then wonder why they were not visited and contacted. There has not been direct communication. Through the "grapevine" I hear that someone is upset about my being a UMC Pastor or does not like my preaching about serving our neighbors (especially if they look or act differently from

ourselves), or that they have been hospitalized and ask why I didn't visit (even when I was never notified).

Simply disappearing from worship and not speaking the truth to the pastor (or another) to try and come to an understanding is disrespectful. It is a hurtful and immature way of acting in their Christianity walk. Jesus calls us to speak our truth and models trying to come to an understanding, which gives respect to all involved.

There's honor in being called by God and we are to give honor to whom honor is due. Pastors are not better than anyone else, but respect is to be given for the office and calling. By showing respect for the pastor and church, we also show respect for God. God says the person of God should be honored not because they're better than everyone, but because of their calling. Silently disappearing is not honoring the pastor, the congregation, or God.

If you have been a member who has simply disappeared, I hope you take this opportunity of change in pastor to come back. The folks in the congregation would love to see you. Know you are forgiven in Christ and can begin anew. Give Pastor Kim the gracious welcome and support his call deserves. See how you can support him and the FCC community and do all you can to extend the love of God to each other and the community. Remember, if something bothers you, don't just ignore it until you can't take it anymore, don't yell and scream at one another, but speak the truth with love in search of understanding.

I shall pray for FCC as they transition to a new pastor. I hope and pray you will receive and support Rev. Kwan Kim. If you have an issue with what he preached on, his style of serving communion, or leading worship, the songs he chooses, Bible study, or anything else, please have a conversation with him. Discussion might lead to understanding and growth for all of you. If nothing can be resolved, then you will have at least given respect for yourself, him, the congregation, and God in speaking and being truthful. I pray you will receive him and his family

with open hearts. Remember he is human, but he is called by God.

In Christ's Love and Light,
Pastor Pat

Pastor Etiquette and Code of Ethics

Pastors of UMC and UCC **are not allowed** to come back and officiate at a wedding, baptism, funeral, or any other event. When the pastorate ends, so does any and all pastoral counseling, visitations, any official pastoral obligations, etc. Declining all such invitations is the responsibility of the previous pastor. This policy is ongoing and doesn't have an expiration date. Any previous pastor should not be asked to come back to the church for an official role.



From the Deacons' Bench

Greetings:

Tis the season for planting. My favorite time of year. Getting the garden soil turned and ready for plants. Going to the various garden centers to get the plants. So many choices, so many colors and varieties. What do I want and how many?

Then comes the actual planting. Making sure not to put those plants that need shade in the sun or vice versa. Trying to give the young plants a good start with fertilizer and water. Putting in support around those that will need it later on. Then, of course, putting something down that will deter those pesky bunnies and deer (not sure there really is anything that will do that).

It's a lot of work and as I grow older, it takes me more time to do it. But afterward comes the reward of enjoying watching all the beautiful flowers mature and seeing the birds and bees enjoy the nectar and seeds as well. And, of course, enjoying and sharing all those fresh fruits and veggies.

It's also one of the times I feel closest to God. Nature has always done that for me. It reminds me that as God's children we are like a garden. We are given a good start being nurtured and supported spiritually; but it's actually up to us how we use that start to mature and become a bountiful garden giving to others.

Have a blessed summer,

Penny Dibble, Deacon





June Birthdays

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



Pat Miller Fernandes	06/02
Kimberley Mercure	06/08
Jacqueline Brusa	06/10
Miyani Tessier	06/10
Betty Sutcliffe	06/14
August Fernandes	06/18
Roberta Grant	06/19
Janet Modlish	06/20
Paul Cilley	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

James & Beverly Brant



Prayer Corner



Joan Harris
Marilyn & Dennis
Jack Jeffrey Godin
Schoolcraft family
Bonnie
Phyllis
Evie Meacham
Gail Banning
Jeffrey
Josh G & Family
Lois Pixley
Rollyn Hatch
Kimberly Ayers
Ruth
Doreen
Penny
Adam
Nancy
Ellie G.
Carl

Donald
Lisa
Joyce Brooks
Lorraine
Rick
Beverly
John
Emma
Beverly & Wayne
Burnell
Melinda
Yvette
Ann
Sherry & Family
Denise & family
Naomi
Barbara
Jim
Scott
Amy

Kenain
John
Frank
Dennis
Emerson
Kelsey
Usa
Ellen
Artem
Cheryl
Evan
Matthew
Howie
Joanna
Janet
Stacy
Carolyn
Ken
Melody

For victims & families of mass shootings
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 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 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

Save the Date: June 11th !

While we always want you to share in Sunday worship, we especially encourage you to join us at church on **June 11, Children's Sunday** (and bring along friends and family!)

- to support the Sunday School children as they share messages of faith during worship, including a hand-bell hymn. It's so important for us to show the children that they are loved and valued members of the congregation.
- to enjoy our Annual Picnic following worship (sponsored by the Board of Directors), during which we'll be offering our thanks and good wishes to Pastor Pat (and her family), as she prepares to end her ministry with us, after 5 years of faithful shepherding of our congregation.

Staying Connected

We strive to keep our congregational family "in the loop" regarding what's on the church calendar of events, who may need prayer, and other miscellaneous details of our shared faith life. The very best way to keep up to date is to come to church on Sunday, when announcements are shared before Worship, and through informal conversations during Fellowship time. If you're unable to be physically present, you can access worship online by Facebook, or by public access TV in your area.

We also share information through our Weekly News email on Fridays, our Facebook page "Hampden Federated Church", and this monthly Newsletter, which is available online through our Weekly News and our website, as well as the physical copy we mail to you via USPS.

Despite our multiple attempts to connect our congregants with the ongoing life of the church, we hear from congregants many times during the year, "*I didn't know.....*". Friends, the information is out there: please take a few moments weekly to watch or read, or come to share Worship in the church.. Let's make time to stay connected.

Missions



The Missions Committee is collecting money for the month of June to purchase bug nets for those in Africa. Please make note on Check or Envelope that money is for Mission Africa. Let's spread God's Love with a much needed, lifesaving net to keep the bugs away!

Upcoming News; Please keep in mind in your Shopping Travels through summer that we will be collecting school supplies for a local Springfield School later this Summer.

The Mission Committee and myself are continuously grateful for your support!

Many Thanks and Blessings Joyce!

New Boiler

The finance committee is looking to fundraise a total of \$20,000 toward the new boiler we had installed. The total cost to replace the old boiler was approximately \$47,000.00. The balance will be taken from bequests but we do not want to deplete them entirely, we are bound to have more needs.



Please mention boiler in memo or on envelope so counters know where to allocate the money.

Memorial Day Craft Fair

We were blessed from GOD for a day of beautiful weather and activities on Memorial Day, starting off with a successful Pancake Breakfast put on by Jack & Regina Germain- who I want to thank so very much for all they do, as always they did a fantastic job and the breakfast was enjoyed by all!

After the Pancake Breakfast, our annual Memorial Day Craft Fair began with over 30 vendors with so many different types of wonderful crafts! I visited each vendor during the day to find out how everything was going and everyone was pleased with how they were doing and loved our setting and said they want to be notified whenever we have a Craft Fair. Feedback couldn't have been more positive!

I want to thank everyone who helped with our wonderful day, Ellie Soucy, Karen Kielb, Janet Libby, Bobby Schofield, Marilyn Connor, Penny Dibble, Joyce Brooks, Shirley Facey Sheila Hess, and Mark Casey. Also, our wonderful kitchen helpers who did a fabulous job putting the meals together for lunch a big thank you to all! Pamela Rogers who made a wonderful chicken salad, Ellie Soucy, Rita Spencer, Janet Modish & Joyce Ogonowski, thank you all for your help! I also want to thank Joyce Brooks, Shirley Facey & Joan Harris for manning the bake table, job well done!

Also, a thank you to Janet Libby for the time she put in putting our cash boxes together and tallying everything up at the end!

I also want to thank everyone who donated to our raffle table making it yet another success!

Feeling so blessed on what couldn't have been a more beautiful day weather wise and activities all running so smoothly, the day was enjoyed by all! It was such a good feeling with everyone coming together and connecting with the community for such an amazing day!

I want to thank everyone for ALL their help, as it takes a village to make things work, - it made my heart feel good to be part of a village!

GOD Bless!
Beth Algie

Thank You!

Thank you to the silent servants who power-washed the church, rototilled & planted, mulched & weeded the garden for the new pastor as well as for the extra donations to the Survival Center.

Well Done!

The Transition of Pastors is Underway!

The anticipated date of arrival for Pastor Kim is June 24th. Your help is needed in providing a warm welcome and support in making his move to our community a joy. Please see sign-up sheets in Libby Hall or call the church office and leave a message if you can help.

Areas in need are:

** Movers to physically unload and bring into the parsonage and church office Pastor Kim's belongings.

** Helpers to provide and/or serve food to Pastor Kim and the FCC Helpers who will be assisting him on moving day.

** Janet Libby has agreed to coordinate the donations of food for Pastor Kwan and Su. We are seeking a few simple meals (ex. soup, cold cuts, casserole, salad, or crockpot meal) to welcome and assist them as they transition, unpack, and settle in. Gift certificates to local restaurants or from grocery stores are welcome. See Janet Libby with how you can help give a gracious welcome to our new pastor.

** The Deacons are putting together an All-Church Directory. Bobby Schofield has graciously agreed to photograph anyone willing to have their picture taken. This will help Pastor Kwan to learn names and faces quicker. Please reach out for an appointment to be photographed (413- 566 -1192) or join us on June 11th worship and picnic which will follow and have photo taken then.

Please be mindful that Pastor Kwan is moving from out of state. His wife will only be here until mid-July before returning to Carolina so his youngest son can finish his high school senior year. It will be a long year, separated from his family. Please include him in some of your social activities. Who will share an ice cream at the Apple Farm or coffee and goodie at Rice Farm with him? Anyone going to the Western View Creamery in Monson? Invite him to enjoy your company, an ice cream or snack, feed a sheep, and take in the spectacular view. Attending a summer play or a musical outing? A day at Sturbridge or trip to Boston? Simply offering to drive from Hampden to Springfield hospitals to make him familiar with the roads will help. There are so many other ways to be gracious. I know we will make him feel welcomed.

How Do Think About Our Church?

** Do you desire your own preferences (music, communion style, liturgy, Bible version, etc.) or choose to pursue God's purpose?

** Does our church seek to satisfy the needs, desires, and wants of those already in the church or do we think about how to look outward and see what our community needs and desires?

** How are we investing in the next generation so God's love in Jesus and his ways might be expressed and carried on?

Summer Worship

We will be going outside under the large Maple Tree in the back of the church building for worship (weather permitting) for July and August. I hope you will join us as we make a witness to our community that we are alive and active. Bring your own chair or use a church chair. Please make sure you sit close enough to the outdoor pulpit to "connect" to the Pastor and one another.



Wonderful Wednesday Worship June 14th

12:30 PM

Please join us for a light lunch at 12: 30 PM., followed by an informal Spirit filled worship service. (Normally ends by 2:30 PM) on June 14th. This is an opportunity to connect with some members that we do not get to see on Sunday mornings due to stairs or the time. All are welcome regardless of age. Come and join us! Your smile might lighten the soul of another.

Prayer List

Our prayer list keeps growing and growing. As we change pastors and begin anew, it is a good time to begin anew our prayer list. If there are folks or situations on the prayer list that need continued prayers, please let the office know and we will put them back on the list.

Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, & Nobody

A classic which is always worth giving thought to

This is a little story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.

In a church there are many moving pieces, especially as Federated Community Church transitions to a new pastor. No one individual or even committee is responsible for everything. We are the church TOGETHER. The song refrain is popping into my head: *I am the church, you are the church, **we are the church together.***

According to ChurchPad.com, *Being a member of a church is optional, even though as a Christian, you should submit to a*

church. Once you become a member of a church, certain responsibilities fall on your shoulders automatically.

You are probably wondering, “Do church members have responsibilities to the church?” **The answer is a resounding YES!** There are things that you are expected to do to contribute to the achievement of your church’s mission. We will discuss a few of them in this post. (<https://churchpad.com/6-responsibilities-of-church-members-to-the-church/>) See the website for a fuller explanation.

Usually, a Christian’s understanding of their responsibilities depends on their denomination and theological convictions. Notwithstanding, certain responsibilities cut across the board. Here are some of them:

- * Attend services regularly
- * Serve with spiritual gifts
- * Protect and affirm the gospel
- * Love one another
- * Praying for the church

Conclusion (from churchpad.com)

*Becoming a church member comes with so many responsibilities. We have mentioned only six in this post. Others include discipling other church members, sowing to your church, and publicizing services. **Don’t leave these responsibilities to the church leadership. You are also a stakeholder in your church so start acting like one.***

Please show up, let one another know you care, and what you are willing to do to make our church shine with the light of Christ for the sake of God.



Considering joining the life-changing Holy Land Pilgrimage in 2024 but want more info?

Your hosts, Rev. Dr. Jackie Brannen, UMC Katahdin District Superintendent, and Brenda Cayer, Bishop's Administrative Assistant, will provide a brief overview of the trip and answer all your questions at a Zoom session on **7 PM on Thursday, June 22, 2023.**

Learn more about the journey and the info session

<https://www.neumc.org/holy-land>

Good Morning!

I am GOD. Today I will be handling all of your problems. Please remember that I do not need your help. If the devil happens to deliver a situation to you that you cannot handle. DO NOT attempt to resolve it. Kindly put it in the SFJTD (Something for Jesus To Do) box.

- It will be addressed in MY time, not yours
- Once the matter is placed into the box, do not hold onto it or attempt to remove it. Holding on or removal will delay the resolution of your problem.
- If it is a situation that you think you are capable of handling, please consult me in prayer to be sure that is the proper resolution.
- Because I do not sleep nor do I slumber, there is no need for you to lose any sleep. Rest my child.
- If you need to contact me, I am only a prayer away.

Submitted by Beverly Burnell

The Following is a letter from Rev. Carol Steinbrecher, Area Conference Minister for the North Central Region:

I have some heartbreaking news to share. As many of you already know, the First Congregational Church in Spencer has suffered a devastating fire. You may have seen videos on the news showing the fire and the collapse of the steeple as it came crashing down. Even as I am writing this, the fire is still burning.

I have been in touch with Rev. Bruce MacLeod who is the current Pastor of both the church in Spencer and the First Congregational Church in Leicester. The one bit of good news is that the two churches have been sharing worship and alternating buildings, so the Spencer congregation has a familiar place to go to be with friends who will comfort and care for them.

I have been inspired by the immediate outpouring of concern and offers of help being expressed by churches, Pastors, congregations, friends, and neighbors from all over our conference. I have asked Bruce to share with his churches on Sunday that they are not alone. We are all on stand-by waiting to see how we can best help them in the difficult days and months that lie ahead.

For now, please know that everyone is safe. Pray for the firefighters, EMTs, and the members of the Mass. Corps of Fire Chaplains who raced to the scene to help. Pray for Pastor Bruce as he leads his people through this time of loss. Pray for the congregation, the town, the many people who have history and connections to this community of faith. Pray and give thanks for this church that has been a beacon of light for decades in their community.

Rev. Darrell Goodwin, our Executive Conference Minister, and all our conference staff are praying and on-call to help in whatever way we can. A friend at the scene sent me a picture that shows the shape of a cross barely seen in the thick smoke, standing above the still burning ruins. I see it as a reminder that God is with us in the

worst of life's tragedies. I see it as a reminder that Jesus has promised to be with us always. And, we have God's greatest gift - we have each other.

We will be letting folks know in the coming days ways to help and support our friends in Spencer. Please hold all those affected by this devastating event in your prayers.

On behalf of the leadership and staff of the Southern New England Conference,

Peace and prayers

Rev. Carol Steinbrecher

Area Conference Minister, North Central Region



Shredding Day

When Ellie asked for volunteers to help move and sort paper for our paper shredding day the turnout was fabulous! Over 20 boxes were brought down from the attic and then sorted through to remove metal and plastic parts. I heard Meredith, Laura, and Karen were still sorting at 2:30! The non-financial papers were loaded into the church's two recycling bins.

The next step is to get the paper to Monson Savings Bank in Hampden Saturday, June 10th 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM.



There is a five- box limit so we will need several cars to help transport the paper. I will not be in town that day- would someone open the church and help load boxes into cars?

Please call the church at 413-566-3711 and leave your name and number if you can help by either opening the church or driving paper to the bank.

Thank you!

Janet Libby

June 2023

		Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 6:00 PM Movie Night 7:30 PM AA	3
4 10:00 AM Worship	5 Office Closed 10:30 AM Line Dancing	6 10:00 AM Line Dancing 6:00 PM Bells 6:00 PM AA	7 10:30 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Spiritual Healing Touch	8	9 7:30 PM AA	10 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast
11 10:00 AM Worship Children's Sunday followed by Annual Picnic	12 10:30 AM Line Dancing 6:00 PM BOD	13 10:00 AM Line Dancing 6:00 PM Bells 6:00 PM AA 7:00 PM Finance	14 10:30 AM Bible Study 12:30 PM Wonderful Wed. Worship 1:00 PM Knit, Stitch, Pray 7:00 PM Spiritual Healing Touch	15	16 7:30 PM AA	17
18 10:00 AM Worship	19 10:30 AM Line Dancing	20 10:00 AM Line Dancing 6:00 PM Bells 6:00 PM AA	21 10:30 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Spiritual Healing Touch	22	23 7:30 PM AA	24 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast
25 10:00 AM Worship	26 10:30 AM Line Dancing	27 10:00 AM Line Dancing 6:00 PM Bells 6:00 PM AA	28 10:30 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Spiritual Healing Touch	29	30 7:30 PM AA	

CHURCH
COOKOUT



Save the Date: June 11th !

Children's Sunday

&

Annual Picnic!

Following 10:00 AM Worship

