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May 2023

From the Pastor's Desk

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come:^w The old has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV

Greetings of Grace and Peace!

Easter begins a season of Resurrection! New Beginnings! New Birth! Surprises! Change! Hope! and more! Here in North America, it is easy to experience the hope and new life resurrection offers as we head into the season of Spring towards summer. Flowers are beginning to sprout, gardens are being tilled, days are getting longer, the sun is stronger and warmer, more folk are outside for exercise and hobbies, and more. Hope comes naturally. It is easy for us to take for granted the Good News of Resurrection or “pooh-pooh” it, because it is Spring, and change happens at this time of year. Do we diminish the Good News because it is so readily around us? Easter takes place all over the world on the same calendar date.

Five years ago this June, I arrived in Hampden, MA. During that first summer, Carmel began to worship with us. She was living here in Hampden; transplanted for a while due to her husband's employment. Carmel and Richard are originally from Australia. Since meeting my Australian friend, I have pondered what it is like to experience the hope of Easter and the season of resurrection as the season of Fall sets in and they head towards winter. None of us

want hope delayed. But that is the reality of life. Sometimes, we pray and wait for something to happen for years. Sometimes we hope for something that never comes to fruition. Do the sightings of the Risen Christ as recorded in the Gospels mean something different to Australians? Do they count on one another more readily to share a sighting of the Risen Christ in their life than we do here in America? Does the hope filled season we experience of Jesus' resurrection here in North America encourage us live our lives expecting instant gratification in all areas of life? I wonder if Australians are more patient in all areas of life. More questions to investigate.

I do know one thing. The sightings of the Risen Christ in our lives, encourage and give hope to one another that Jesus is alive, and God is still working. When we celebrate joys in our worship, we give hope and encouragement to each other. Sometimes, we do take things for granted and so when we hear another person say that they had a phone call from a loved one, it reminds us of the phone calls or contacts we have had from friends or family that share God's love with us. Worship is not strictly about praising God, but being a community of people who care about one another, who encourage each other, who say hello and call each other by name. God uses us to convey Her love to another. I remind you to use each other's name (please wear name tag so we know each other's names) when we see each other, for Mary knew it was Jesus when he called her by name. (John 20:16) Come to worship; for it was when they were together that the Risen Christ walked through the door and showed himself to his followers. (John 20: 19) Share in communion and fellowship, for it is in the breaking of the bread, that the disciples in Emmaus recognize the Christ. (Luke 24: 30-31) Our sharing becomes a gift to one another, encouraging and offering hope on behalf of God. Don't take the resurrection for granted but remember that some of us are in the dread of winter, literally and figurative. Let us share the hope we have found in the Good News of Easter and encourage one another on our faith journeys.

Please pray for Peace in our World!

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

From the Deacons' Bench

As you know, Pastor Pat is retiring at the end of June. At this time, the Pastoral Transition Team is sharing a message regarding the appointment of our new pastor in July:

“Bishop Peggy Johnson intends to appoint Rev. Kwan Kim to the Federated Community Church of Hampden, MA, effective July 1, 2023, subject to fulfilling all the requirements needed for a successful transition by the pastor and the respective churches affected by the appointment.

The appointment will be finalized at the 2023 Annual Conference Session of the New England Conference in June.”

Leadership representatives of the Board of Directors (Pamela Rogers, Janet Libby), and of the Board of Deacons (Penelope Dibble, Bruce Libby, Linda Hornig, and Bobby Schofield) met with Rev. Kim in April, and found his passionate devotion to sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ through beautiful worship, loving pastoral care ministries, active mission outreach, and next-generation discipleship aligns well with our own congregational Mission Statement vision.

Rev. Kim ((he prefers to be addressed by his first name, “Kwan” or “Pastor Kwan”) and his wife Su currently live in North Carolina and have one son in college, and another in his last year of high school.

A Pastoral Transition Team has been formed *to help the congregation and the outgoing pastor take leave of one another with “grace and gratitude”; to provide extravagant welcome and support to the new pastor and his family; and to provide support to the congregation, throughout the lead-up to July 1, and the year following.* Our Team members are Pamela Rogers, Janet Libby, Ellie Soucy, Linda Hornig, Penny Dibble, and Bobby Schofield. Bruce Libby is assisting in overseeing needed parsonage repairs.

The Transition Team will be sharing more information with the congregation in the next two months, but make note of these dates:

- **June 11: Children's Sunday** *followed by Farewell Picnic for Pastor Pat, Wayne, August and Robert*
- **June 18: Pastor Pat's last day Preaching**
- **July 2: Rev. Kwan's first Communion service.**

A change of pastor is often bittersweet, inevitably bringing many conflicting emotions, including anxiety, a sense of loss, excitement, and anticipation: for us, for Pastor Pat and her family, and for Rev. Kim and his family. Let's keep them and our congregation in prayer, asking God's blessing in each step as we move through this time of transition.

God is good.
Linda Hornig





May Birthdays

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



Anne Marie Matzko	05/01
Regina Germain	05/02
Philp Castellano	05/02
Barbara Schofield	05/03
Jodi Brodeur	05/03
Gail Romano	05/04
Paul Olesuk	05/05
Sandra Howell	05/05
Geraldine Kruger	05/08
Beverly Burnell	05/08
Sandra Dodd	05/09
Beatrice Moriarty	05/12
Lois Pixley	05/14
Robert Fernandes	05/14
Joyce Ogonowski	05/17
Cheryl Patterson	05/18
Scott Olesuk	05/18
James Bliss	05/20
Lori-Beth Sterling	05/20
Bear Lillibridge	05/23
Stephen Libby	05/24
Ruth Haley	05/26
Amy Bliss	05/28
Kylie Walulak	05/29
Rita Spencer	05/29
Bonnie Howell	05/30

Wedding Anniversaries

Jeremy & Kristi Tessier	05/03
Patricia & David Baker	05/04
Jesse & Kathleen Lee	05/15
Robert & Mary Howell	05/18
Richard & Jeanne Regnier	05/20
Dale & Amy Varney	05/30
Lauren & Keith Hummel	05/31



Prayer Corner



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
Adam
Nancy
Ellie G.

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

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

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 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

Children/Youth Faith Formation Program Notes

The Lenten season can be a tough time to teach: the kids are looking forward to Easter, but their focus tends to be on the Easter Bunny, egg hunts, Easter baskets and....candy! How to help them enter in to the stories of the darkest season of the Christian calendar is a challenge, when their heads are filled with images of bunnies, chicks, and...candy.

The “hook” turned out to be the dramatic unfolding of Holy Week- starting off with so much joy and hope shown by the crowds on Palm Sunday, and ending with the crowds calling for the death of Jesus, and his ultimate crucifixion. The children readily connected with the roller-coaster of emotions likely experienced by the people, the disciples, the Pharisees, Pilate, the Centurion, and Jesus, as the events of the week progressed, right through to the discovery of the empty tomb, and the reappearance of Jesus. They had so many good questions, “wonderings”, and solid observations as they acted out the stories through dramatic play and games. (They were appalled by the brutality of crucifixion as a punishment: “No wonder they wanted to get rid of the Romans!” was one insightful comment.)

We thanked God for human brains which created the cell phone technology which allowed us to “look up” how the Easter Bunny became part of the story, and how bunnies and chicks relate to Jesus’ story. I’m sure I learned more by exploring with them, and experiencing the story through their perspectives; I can’t wait to share the next part of the story with them: carrying on with new life in Jesus, for them, for the disciples, and for all of us.

We are so blessed by the group of children we have, and their families, who faithfully bring them to church to learn the stories and grow in their faith.

Our children’s ministry is also blessed by our congregants: your giving allows us to buy curriculum and supporting storybooks and materials which help the children to connect with Jesus through a variety of pathways. The children and I pray for you each Sunday, and ask that you pray for us, and for more people, including

families and children, to walk with us in this exciting faith journey we share.

Blessings,
Linda Hornig, CYFF Coordinator

ps: ***June 11: Children’s Sunday followed by Farewell Picnic for Pastor Pat and family.***



Join us for Family Game Night!

Friday, May 5th

6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Changes Among Us

On Palm Sunday, we excitedly welcomed three new members to our congregation. They are *Sheila Hess*, *Laura Lillibridge*, and *Meredith Sullivan*. If you have not had the opportunity to officially welcome them, please reach out to each of them. Let them know how pleased we are to have new disciples traveling with us on our faith journey.

On April 16th, two members were commissioned as Deacons. They are Bobby Schofield and Bruce Libby. Deacons are called to:

- Care for the spiritual wellbeing of the congregation and newcomers alongside the Pastor.
- Assist in preparation and administration of the sacraments.
- Assign Lay/congregational participation in weekly worship
- Provide spiritual leadership in the absence of the Pastor
- Care for and visit the sick and shut in members of our community.

Welcome Bobby and Bruce. Other Deacons serving are Linda Hornig (Chair), Penny Dibble, and Dave Spencer.

The Board of Directors (BOD) held their first meeting following the Yearly Meeting. After 12 to 14 years serving as Chairman of the BOD, Jack Germain requested not to be elected to the position again and have a change in leadership. The BOD voted Eleanor (Ellie) Soucy to be the chairperson for this year. Jack will remain on the Board as a participant. We thank Ellie for stepping up and into the position as Chair and wish her success .

After 12-14 years of service as Chairman of the BOD, a big **THANK YOU** is given to Jack Germain for his faithfulness and leadership in this position. Jack will continue to serve on the Property Committee and host his pancake breakfasts. He will be hosting a pancake breakfast on Memorial Day, before the parade.

Please make sure to give your personal Thanks for Jack for his service through the past 12-14 years.....and check to see if he needs help with the upcoming breakfast.

Memorial Day Activities

A Pancake Breakfast will start off the day on Monday, May 29th. Serving will begin at 8:00 AM. FCC will have several vendors in our parking lot. The church will have a baked goods table. Please support in as many ways as possible. Many hands make the work lighter for all.

Missions

In the month of May we are having Pet Day on May 13th!

Please consider bringing in food for the Community Survival Center as prices of food and everything have gone up! Food donations are really needed more now than ever.

There are some great Missions coming in the upcoming months so keep your eyes peeled!

May Blessings are coming our way with flowers from April Showers!

Joyce Brooks

A Message from Bishop Peggy Johnson Enough

Recently the Central Square Congregational Church (UCC) of Bridgewater, MA, put a display of empty chairs on its front lawn spelling out the word "E-N-O-U-G-H."

As we hear of yet another horrific mass shooting in this country, this simple and poignant message rings true in my heart and I am sure yours as well. This time it is a school in Nashville. There have been more than 100 mass shootings so far this year in our country. That is a staggering number, but each comes as a shock — and a horror. This almost everyday occurrence of assault rifle violence increases our sense of fear, hopelessness, and frustration.

We have prayed, we have written to our lawmakers about gun laws and background checks, we have called for greater accessibility to mental health services, we have declared our churches “gun-free zones.” Still it appears that these horrific acts of violence are on the rise.

As we approach Holy Week, during which we walk the Via Dolorosa with the Lord of love once again, his brutal execution at the hands of religious and secular authorities shows me that humankind has long turned to violence and cruelty as its answer to disagreements, hatred, and threats to the powers that be. This is nothing new, but we cannot be given to despair and lose hope.

In his death, Jesus calls us to a better way: The way of love for our enemy, the way of sacrifice to foster peace-making, the way of forgiveness as the path to freedom from the personal bondage of hatred.

In his resurrection there comes the ultimate hope for the day when swords will become plowshares and spears will turn into pruning hooks (Isaiah 2:4). His bodily resurrection is just a part of the full restoration of peace for all people and all of creation. Believe this, no matter how long the wait.

As Easter people we still need to be working together with God to make a better day now. So, start with yourself. Where are you harboring hatred for people? How does your criticism and negativity against one of your siblings foment violence? Jesus said, “Everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment, whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council and whoever says, ‘you fool’ will be liable to the hell of fire.” (Matthew 5:22)

Teach peace in your churches’ communities by instructing people about how to resolve differences and conflicts in restorative ways rather than with division and retaliation.

Take political action as you can. Our democracy calls on all of us to speak out for justice and laws that promote safety and health for all. If you do nothing, you are complicit in the continued wave of violence. Believe in the power of one voice. Remember that the faithful actions many have already taken and continue to take have made a difference. New England Annual Conference, I rejoice in your faithful witness and pray for you as you journey on this Holy Season. Shout from the roof tops “Enough” and then follow the footsteps of Jesus in bringing life and reconciliation to this world.





HAMPDEN FEDERATED CHURCH

IS HOLDING A

MEMORIAL DAY CRAFT FAIR

(on Parade Route)

May 29, 2023

10:00AM - 3:00PM

Pancake Breakfast 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

In the event of rain, the Fair will be held inside.

It's time to plant our gardens. As you plant, may I suggest the following rules for your garden planting:

Plant three rows of squash:

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash criticism
3. Squash indifference

Plant three rows of peas:

1. Purity
2. Patience
3. Perseverance

Plant six rows of lettuce:

1. Let us be unselfish and loyal
2. Let us be faithful to duty
3. Let us search the scriptures
4. Let us not be weary in well-doing
5. Let us be obedient in all things
6. Let us love one another

No garden is complete without turnips:

1. Turn up for church, prayer service and Bible study
2. Turn up with a smile, even when things are difficult
3. Turn up with determination to do your best for God's cause

After planting, may you,

"Grow in Grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ." (2 Peter 3:18)

source unknown





May 2023

		Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	10:30 AM Line Dancing	3 10:30 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Spiritual Healing Touch	4	5 6:00 PM Game Night 7:30 PM AA	6
7 10:00 AM Worship	8	10:30 AM Line Dancing	10 10:30 AM Bible Study 1:00 PM Knit, Stitch, Pray 7:00 PM Spiritual Healing Touch	11	12 7:30 PM AA	13 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast 12:30 PM Pet Day
14 10:00 AM Worship	15	10:30 AM Line Dancing	17 10:30 AM Bible Study 12:30 PM Worship/Lunch 7:00 PM Spiritual Healing Touch	18	19 7:30 PM AA	20
21 10:00 AM Worship	22	10:30 AM Line Dancing	24 10:30 AM Bible Study 1:00 PM Knit, Stitch, Pray 7:00 PM Spiritual Healing Touch	25	26 7:30 PM AA	27 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast
28 10:00 AM Worship	29	8:00 AM Pancake Breakfast 10:00 AM Memorial Day Craft Fair	31 10:30 AM Bible Study 7:00 PM Spiritual Healing Touch			

All Creatures Great and Small

Saturday, May 13th

12:30 PM – 3:00 PM



1:00 PM Blessing of the Animals

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Baby Farm Animals

With Animal Craze of Winchendon, MA

Ducks, chicks, bunnies, baby goats, baby pigs & pets!



(All Dogs Must Be Leashed)



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