

FEDERATED COMMUNITY CHURCH
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The Federated Courier

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Hampden, MA 01036

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December 2023

From the Pastor's Desk

Waiting for Jesus

It's Christmas season! Children started counting the days to Christmas. Radio stations raise our heartbeats with carols, and TV commercials are busy to persuade us how we can have a perfect Christmas by purchasing their products.

According to the Christmas songs, "It's a holly jolly" season. "It's the best time of the year." Somebody gave his/her heart "last Christmas," saying, "All I want for Christmas is you." Yes, it is the best time of the year for many people.

However, some other people around the world are now going through the darkest time of their lives. The Israel-Hamas war is still going on. And the war between Ukraine and Russia seems that no one can stop them. Even in our society, victims of mass shootings would have Christmas in grief. Some people are living in their last stage of life. Other people suffer from diseases or pain 24/7. I hope and pray that our Heavenly Father will bestow His mercy and peace upon them so that they may have hope in Christ Jesus.

In 1971, John Lennon and Yuko Ono released a song, "Happy Xmas (War Is Over)," with the hope of ending the Vietnam War. And even now, the lyric speaks to us:

So this is Christmas. And what have you done?
Another year over, A new one just begun.

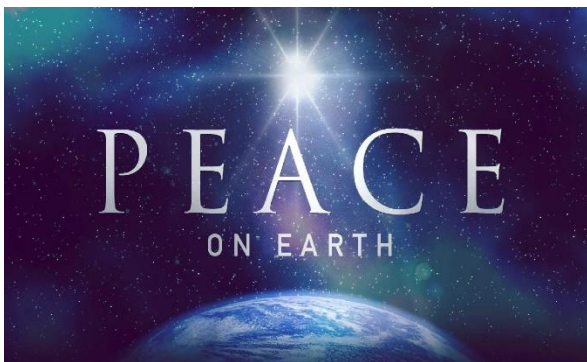
And so this is Christmas for weak and for strong, for rich and the poor ones.

The war is so long, and so happy Christmas (war is over)
For black and for white (if you want it) For yellow and red ones (war is over)
Let's stop all the fight (now)

And so this is Christmas. I hope you have fun.
The near and the dear ones, The old and the young.
A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
Let's hope it's a good one without any fear

During the Advent season, we are waiting for Jesus to come into our lives as our hope, peace, joy, and love. Let's pray together so that our Lord Jesus Christ may come to us and cease the fire, bringing peace. Feel his presence in the midst of your pain and sorrow. Being embraced by his love, experience overflowing joy given by him.

Pastor Kwan Kim



From the Deacons' Bench

The holidays can bring out the best and the worst of ourselves. Let us focus on doing what the Lord would have us do. Love one another as He has loved us, flaws, and all. If you feel anger or frustration, start praying until His peace floods over you. Over time you will find yourself doing this automatically. You will find people asking you “How can you be so calm and giving?” under certain provoking behaviors aimed at you, and you can answer “I pray” until I have left it all back in God’s hands. It puts a smile on your face even when you do not realize it. Moreover, it is good for your health. It stabilizes your blood pressure, (good for the heart), relaxes the muscles in your body, which have been screaming for relief. It greatly reduces headaches, and it is contagious.

Smiles break out everywhere. Now that you are so happy, break out your Bible and read some Psalms, another section from the Old Testament, and then the New Testament. Soon you will realize that you are more relaxed, and happier. Instead of wanting to avoid others, you look for more opportunities to socialize. Play a box game with family and friends. Laughter will well up in you and you can thank God for all of it, because you have learned that focusing on Jesus has been the best medicine for soul and body you could ever have. Now go out there and enjoy the holidays knowing that somebody loves you just the way you are. Thank you, Jesus. You gave us your life as payment for our sins and then

continued to bless and encourage us to be all that you intended us to be.

Thank you, my Lord and Savior.

Amen.

Bobby Schofield, Deacon





December Birthdays

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



Erin Lee	12/01
Cheryl Joley	12/01
Sandra Wild	12/03
Stephanie Lemelin-Bliss	12/03
Malaysia Tessier	12/04
John Germain	12/05
Barbara Powers	12/08
Elaine DeGray	12/14
Shelley Sears	12/15
Brenda Olesuk	12/15
Sharon DeSanti	12/17
Erin Obuchowski	12/25
Florence Munroe	12/29
Russell Streeter	12/30

Wedding Anniversaries

Brett & Alison Castellano	12/10
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Congratulations



Prayer Corner



Phyllis
Evie Meacham
Gail Banning
Lois Pixley
Cheryl Joley
Dennis Connor
Andrew
Carl
Earl
Rory
Joanna
Connie
Ellen

Karen
Peter
Jacob
Howard
Ryan
David
Mary Beth
Susan
Chantel
Beverly Barrett
Greg
Ellie

For World Peace
For victims & families of mass shootings
For the people of Israel & Palestine
For those affected by hurricanes
For the people of Hawaii
For those affected by earthquakes in Turkey & Syria
For the people of Ukraine
For those traveling
For those affected by floods and fires
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



Turkey Soup Luncheon

A big thank you to all who donated the ingredients for this year's Turkey Soup Luncheon! Donations ranged from bags of carrots and celery to a turkey, and many loaves of freshly baked bread and delicious carrot cakes! Special thank you to the many volunteers who helped prepare the soup and Libby Hall (and helped with clean-up) for this yearly tradition. The event took 3 days of preparation but working together lightened the load.

Thank you!

Penny Dribble and Pamela Rogers

Giving Tree

The Missions Committee will be collecting Christmas gifts for children in need. We will be donating them to the Springfield Partners for Community Action and will be serving 65 low-income families. Please take an ornament from the tree with an item on it and return gifts unwrapped by December 15th.



Mark Your Calendars

Please note that there will be one Christmas Worship Service this year. It will take place on Sunday December 24th at 10:00 AM.



Spiritual Healing Touch

Please note that Wednesday, November 29th was our last Wednesday Spiritual Healing Touch Session. Beginning in January, we will offer Spiritual Healing touch on the first Sunday of the month, following worship at 11:30 AM. Join us for the first session on Sunday, January 7th.

Ornaments for Children

We will be giving Christmas ornaments to the children on Sunday, December 10th.

Please call (413-566-3711) or email the office (hampdenfederated@gmail.com) to let us know if you and your children will be present so we will know how many ornaments we need.





Family Movie Night


Join us from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM on Friday December 1st for Movie Night. We will be showing the movie “A Christmas Carol”.



December 2023



Sunday	Monday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:00 PM Movie Night 7:30 PM AA	2
3 10:00 AM Worship	4 10:30 AM Line Dancing	5 10:00 AM Line Dancing 6:00 PM AA 6:00 PM Bells	6 10:30 AM Bible Study 1:00 PM Knit, Stitch, Pray	7 7:30 PM AA	8 7:30 PM AA
10 10:00 AM Worship	11 10:30 AM Line Dancing	12 10:00 AM Line Dancing 6:00 PM AA 6:00 PM Bells 7:00 PM Finance	13 10:30 AM Bible Study 1:00 PM Knit, Stitch, Pray	14 7:30 PM AA	15 7:30 PM AA
17 10:00 AM Worship	18 10:30 AM Line Dancing	19 10:00 AM Line Dancing 6:00 PM Bells 6:00 PM AA 7:00 PM BOD	20 10:30 AM Bible Study 1:00 PM Knit, Stitch, Pray	21 7:30 PM AA	22 7:30 PM AA
24 10:00 AM Christmas Worship	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i>	26 10:00 AM Line Dancing 6:00 PM Bells 6:00 PM AA	27 10:30 AM Bible Study 1:00 PM Knit, Stitch, Pray	28 7:30 PM AA	29 7:30 PM AA
31 10:00 AM Worship					



Federated
Community Church
of Hampden

WINTERFEST HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR


SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9TH
8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Breakfast with Santa 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

A variety of items made by local crafters!

Raffle Table!

Lunch available for purchase!



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Poinsettias for Christmas

The Flower Committee is taking orders for poinsettias to decorate our sanctuary for Christmas.

All poinsettias are \$9.00 each and your order **MUST BE RECEIVED** by **December 11th**.

Please make checks payable to Federated Community Church and leave your order and money at the church office, or mail to Regina Germain, 43 Pinewood Rd, Hampden, MA 01036.

I wish to give my poinsettia with the following message: (to be included in the church bulletin).

Your Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

I have enclosed \$ _____ for _____
Poinsettia plant(s).

() I will pick up my poinsettia.

() Please give my poinsettia to a shut-in



