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From the Pastor's Desk

Greetings! Finally, I am here in Hampden. I've watched online services for months and am now able to meet you in person. From the very first day of my arrival, I experienced your radical love. Many people came to church and waited for our coming. A family offered a wonderful dinner. On the next day, a group of people helped to unload my belongings. I could see the beautiful flower beds, the nicely managed parsonage, and the foods prepared with love. Any word is not enough to express my gratitude. Thank you all.

I also thank Rev. [Pat Miller Fernandes](#) for her wonderful ministry. I believe that what I received came from what she gave the congregation. And most of all, I am thankful for your prayer. Your earnest prayer made all these things possible.

Praise the Lord! It is He who prepared both Federated Community Church and me. It is He who traveled with me from North Carolina to Mass. It is He who will accomplish His will through us. I am thrilled and humble as I am waiting to see what He is doing in us and with us.

Before we start our new journey, I would like to introduce my family. I am married to Su Kim with whom I have two sons: Tom Kim (21) and Teak Kim (17). Su, a certified nutritionist, is an encourager, supporter, and caregiver of my family. Tom just graduated a college last May and is pursuing a Medical School. He

is a jazz guitar player and a singer-songwriter. Teak is turning a Senior in high school and is currently the Drumline captain in his high school marching band. Teak is also a YouTube creator who has more than 2500 subscribers.

I have studied theology at Methodist Theological Seminary in Seoul, Korea, and at Duke Divinity School in Durham, NC. The main theme of my theological studies was Missionaries: American missionaries who worked in Korea, European missionaries who devoted themselves to other continents, and John Wesley as a missionary. I realized that evangelism has been the key to making disciples of Jesus Christ and establishing the church throughout history. This study shaped my ministry to focus on evangelism.

Other than evangelism, one of the most essential key theological points of my ministry is 'building together.' God does not work alone. It is not because He is not capable but because He wants to do His work through His people and with His people. As God works with us, we can encounter the spirit of God, witness His grace, and do great things that we cannot do by ourselves.

This is also true in ministry. God established His church for us to work together just as He works with us. When you do something alone, you may go fast but be less effective in other people's lives. But, when you do things together, you may go slow but you will go far, and it will be gracious and powerful. That is why I endeavor to walk together with the congregation as one body of Christ.

Soon, I am going to have the first Sunday worship service with you. Thank you for welcoming us. I am ready to get to know you better. I would love to listen to you about the passion and hope of the church. I look forward to moving forward with you in the light of the Holy Spirit who is working in us.

Pastor Kwan

From the Deacons' Bench

*Oh Lord, my God
When I, in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds Thy hands have made
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Thy power throughout the universe displayed
How Great Thou Art, hymn*

Hearing or singing this verse of this powerful hymn always takes my spirit to a high place, where the infinite expanse of the universe unfolds before me.

What a feeling of exultation in the vast power of our Creator!

I recently read a poem that brought me a similar exaltation but, surprisingly to me, arising from the most commonplace elements of a typical day:

The Patience of Ordinary Things

by Pat Schneider

It is a kind of love, is it not?
How the cup holds the tea,
How the chair stands sturdy and foursquare,
How the floor receives the bottoms of shoes
Or toes. How soles of feet know
Where they're supposed to be.
I've been thinking about the patience
Of ordinary things, how clothes
Wait respectfully in closets
And soap dries quietly in the dish,
And towels drink the wet
From the skin of the back.
And the lovely repetition of stairs.
And what is more generous than a window?

Am I not also blessed by the presence of these smallest of gifts, day after day after day? How much more reason, surely, for my soul to gratefully sing to the Great Architect, "How great Thou art!"

Blessings, Linda Hornig



July/August Birthdays

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



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



Prayer Corner



Phyllis
Evie Meacham
Gail Banning
Lois Pixley
Rollyn Hatch
Cheryl Joley
Dennis
Andrew

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

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.

To my church family,

I'd like to thank you all for the scholarship I was awarded on June 4th. This scholarship will allow me to attend three online classes through Three Rivers Community College in Connecticut. The past year and a half of college provided me with a certificate in Paramedic Studies through Capital Community College in Hartford as well as national certification as a paramedic through the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians. With the completion of the three online classes this fall, I will have earned an Associate's Degree in Paramedic Studies. I'd like to thank you all for all of the prayers and support I have received since starting school in January of 2022.



Thank you all again,

Joshua Sterling

Blessings and Celebrations

June 11 was a day filled with both!

- Starting with our Children's Worship, smiles filled the pews as the children, August Fernandes, Matthew Bear Lillibridge, Olivia McKeone, Andrew River Lillibridge, Robert Fernandes, and Madison Cadieux, led us through the liturgy and presented the skit, "How do You Spell Love?" (the answer is "J-e-s-u-s"), and uplifted us with their singing of "God's Love is for Everybody", and "You Are With Me".

Bibles were presented to the nine-year-olds, August, Bear, Madison, and Olivia, and all of the children received a gift certificate to The Apple Place in East Longmeadow, and a friendship bracelet kit.

Scholarships were awarded to Seth Chaffee, who will be studying Creative Writing at Providence college in the fall and Joshua Sterling for continuing study as a paramedic.

This year's Children and Youth Faith Formation teacher helpers, Mary Howell, Beverly Burnell, Marilyn Connor, Kim Cummins, Laura Lillibridge, and Janet Modlish, were presented with potted dahlias, which symbolize commitment and love. Our children and families have been blessed by their ministry to the children.

We were also blessed to share worship with Rev. Terry Yasuko Ogawa our UCC Southern NE Conference Associate Conference Minister, who formally released Pastor Pat from her pastoral ministry to FCC.

- After worship, as we all moved outside for our picnic, Pastor Pat and Rev. Terry waded in to the Scantic River to perform the baptisms of Karen Paton, and Bear Lillibridge. What an historic and sacred moment!

We welcome Karen and Bear into the family of Jesus, here at FCC!

- The Board of Directors once again sponsored our Annual Picnic with a delicious spread of homemade sides, dessert, and burgers and dogs (from grill master Jack Germain).

With gratitude from the Board and in honor of her ministry to us, BoD Chair Ellie Soucy presented Pastor Pat with a Home Depot gift card. Wayne said it will come in handy as they finish their retirement home in Maine.

On behalf of the congregation, Bobby Schofield then presented to Pastor Pat and Wayne a beautiful quilt which she handmade for them, and gave individual handmade quilts to Robert and August, as well. We pray these labors of love will warm them in body and spirit on cool coastal nights.

All in all, June 11 was a warm sunny day of faith, food, and fellowship, with blessings for all.

A Time for Transitions

"There is...a season for every activity under the heavens."

Ecclesiastes 3:1

On June 18, we shared our last worship and celebration of Communion with Pastor Pat; it was a beautiful liturgy, mutually releasing us from our five years of shared ministry with love and forgiveness. Several days later, Pastor Pat, Wayne, the boys and Mr. Pennypaws were packed and on their way to Maine, taking with them our love and good wishes.

FCC "worker bees" Jack Germain, Bruce Libby, and Mark Casey then tackled parsonage work: replaced the screens, sanded and sealed floors, arranged bathroom tub refinishing, and did concrete walk and stairs repairs. Ellie Soucy arranged professional cleaning of the parsonage, and thorough cleaning of the pastor's office by our custodian, Dulce Figueroa. Janet Libby shampooed the carpets in the parsonage den, and church Prayer Room, and Dulce shampooed the Nursery carpet. "Welcome" leader Janet coordinated stocking of the Parsonage kitchen and food for moving-day workers with congregational donations from Bobbi Grant, Bobby Schofield, Marilyn Connor, Penny Dibble, Barbara Dunwoody, Janet Modlish, Karen Paton and Dawn McKeone. Bruce, Janet, and Steve Libby, Jack and Regina Germain, Ryan Thomas, Justin Fontaine, Bobby Schofield, Dave Cummins, and Kyle and Cody McKeone helped Pastor Kwan and Su unload the truck in a few hours, and Pastor Kwan and Su, after a 21-hour drive up here, could sit and take their first (brief) rest in their new Hampden home. Janet gave Pastor Kwan gift cards for Honey Bear Teas and Casa Bella restaurant (bought with donated money) and a binder of local maps, flyers and information about local medical,

grocery and food and entertainment locations put together by Joyce Brooks.

Weeks ago, Jack rototilled the parsonage garden, and Bobby Schofield, Ryan Thomas, and Justin Fontaine weeded and planted veggies for the Pastor, then moved on and weeded, tilled, planted, and mulched the flower beds around the parsonage to provide a welcoming bit of beauty for our new pastor. It was a lot of work, but the end result is something we all get to enjoy!

Thanks to all who contributed their time, presence, prayers during this busy period of transition.

Thanks, also, to Michael DeSanti who blessed us with his joyful and faithful leading of worship on June 25. His love for serving God was evident in each element of the liturgy he prepared, and overflowed and uplifted all of us in his Sermon. Mike grew up in our church, with his sister Rebecca, and parents Shari and Rick; what a blessing for those of us who watched him grow, to have him return to lead us in worship. We were so happy to see that he and another “church baby”, Matt Doyle, had maintained their friendship over the years, with Matt and his family coming to support Mike that day. How touching to see how the seeds planted here in Sunday School so long ago have grown into deep-rooted faith!

Welcome, Pastor Kwan!

As our new banner* declares: **“Welcome Pastor Kwan Kim and family”**. On Sunday, July 2, we shared a beautiful worship together for the first time. Pastor Kwan uplifted us with his guitar and his strong singing voice, and reassured us during an informal “Connecting in the Spirit” moment in place of a sermon: he shared that he is the son of a preacher (now retired Bishop) in the Korean Methodist Church. He felt called to ministry as a sophomore in high school, He has led churches in Korea, and here in the U.S., and has experience with churches of 30-50 congregants (and with a larger church of 200), and prefers the small-church experience. He

sees himself in the middle on the Conservative-to-Progressive theological spectrum, respectfully engaging with either end of the spectrum, as we walk together toward unity of the spirit.

Pastor Kwan celebrated Communion, with Olivia McKeone holding the chalice. There wasn't a dry eye in the Sanctuary when, after the congregation had been served, he offered Communion to Olivia, then knelt in front of Olivia and gently guided her through offering Communion to him. We certainly sang, "This is a Day of New Beginnings" with heartfelt emotion.

Pastor Kwan dismissed us with a blessing, and we gathered downstairs to share a lovely welcome reception. Thanks to Pamela Rogers, her husband Tony, son Colin, and mother Aileen Clark for making it special, providing and serving punch, homemade curried chicken salad sandwiches, and cream cheese and olive sandwiches. Thanks to Janet Libby for ordering the other finger sandwiches and lovely "welcome" cake. Our thanks, too, to everyone who helped set up, serve, and clean up, and to everyone who helped in each step of the transition, even if we don't have everyone's name to list here.

We can do wonderful things, working together in the spirit.

*The welcome banner was donated by two generous congregants; it was designed by Dave Spencer, and printed by Hampden Sign.

Photo Directory

If your picture was not taken for the photo album and you have a picture of yourself that you like, you can drop it off at the office.

Bobby Schofield will be carrying her camera for the rest of the summer for anyone who wishes to have their picture taken. She can come to your home if you are not able to make it to church



Some Beatitudes for a Parish *Changing Ministers*

Blessed are those who appreciate and profit from the ministers who serve them, for theirs is a resource of great value.

Blessed are those who expect each minister to be uniquely different, for they encourage an understanding helpful to all.

Blessed are those who welcome a new minister with open-mindedness and expectation, for they make possible new progress.

Blessed are those who say to their ministers “How may I be of help?” for they become co-ministers in the life of the parish.

Blessed are those who accept that ministers serve all, for they make the parish an invitation to all to share in the Gospel.

Blessed are those who support the minister’s family, allowing them to truly be a family, for they contribute to the goodness of life about them.

Blessed are those who criticism of their ministers is constructive and responsible; their openness allows for sharing responsibility.

Blessed are those who consulted with their ministers before taking action, for theirs is a vital communication enabling valuable things to happen.

Written by Rev. Gilbert Y. Taverner



Missions

How wonderful, we raised \$160 to send to UMCOR for mosquito nets to Africa! Thank you to all who donated! It is awesome to be able to help others, even in other countries.

Now for the next 2 months we are collecting for two missions, the first being School supplies for the Springfield School System, I will be getting the list printed and put on table outside the Sanctuary for ideas.



Secondly, we are collecting for the Nursing home here in town over the next several months. At Christmas it is difficult for residents without families, so please keep lookout for sales on adult coloring books, colored pencils, large print word searches/Crossword puzzles, activity books, trivia books, blankets, etc so that those people without families can have some gifts to open as well!

The Missions Committee is also collecting food items for the Community Survival Center over the summer. Now that kids are out of school, there is especially a need for breakfast and lunch items such as canned tuna, canned chicken, peanut butter, jelly and sandwich condiments.

Thank you and God Bless!

Joyce and the Mission Committee



	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1
2 10:00 AM Worship	3 10:30 AM Line Dancing	4 10:00 AM NO Line Dancing 6:00 PM AA	5 10:30 AM Bible Study	7 7:30 PM AA	8
9 10:00 AM Worship	10 10:30 AM Line Dancing	11 10:00 AM Line Dancing 6:00 PM AA 7:00 PM Finance	12 10:30 AM Bible Study	14 7:30 PM AA	15
16 10:00 AM Worship	17 10:30 AM Line Dancing	18 10:00 AM Line Dancing 6:00 PM AA 7:00 PM BOD	19 10:30 AM Bible Study	21 7:30 PM AA	22
23 10:00 AM Worship	24 10:30 AM Line Dancing	25 10:00 AM Line Dancing 6:00 PM AA	26 10:30 AM Bible Study	28 7:30 PM AA	29
30 10:00 AM Worship	31				

August 2023



		Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:00 AM Line Dancing 6:00 PM AA	2 10:30 AM Bible Study	3	4 7:30 PM AA	5
6 10:00 AM Worship	7 10:30 AM Line Dancing	8 10:00 AM Line Dancing 6:00 PM AA 7:00 PM Finance	9 10:30 AM Bible Study	10 4:00 PM Deacons	11 7:30 PM AA	12 Comedy Magician Michael Wald
13 10:00 AM Worship	14 10:30 AM Line Dancing	15 10:00 AM Line Dancing 6:00 PM AA 7:00 PM BOD	16 10:30 AM Bible Study	17	18 7:30 PM AA	19
20 10:00 AM Worship Bishop Peggy Johnson preaching	21 10:30 AM Line Dancing	22 10:00 AM Line Dancing 6:00 PM AA	23 10:30 AM Bible Study	24	25 7:30 PM AA	26
27 10:00 AM Worship	28 10:30 AM Line Dancing	29 10:00 AM Line Dancing 6:00 PM AA	30 10:30 AM Bible Study	31		



*Join us for
Outdoor Worship
this Summer!*

Sundays @ 10:00 AM

