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

The Federated Courier

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Volume 75 11

November 2022

From the Pastor's Desk

⁴ Always be glad because of the Lord! I will say it again: Be glad.With thankful hearts offer up your prayers and requests to God. ⁷ Then, because you belong to Christ Jesus, God will bless you with peace that no one can completely understand. And this peace will control the way you think and feel.

¹⁰ The Lord has made me very grateful that at last you have thought about me (Paul) once again. Actually, you were thinking about me all along, but you didn't have any chance to show it. ¹¹ I am not complaining about having too little. I have learned to be satisfied with^[c] whatever I have. ¹² I know what it is to be poor or to have plenty, and I have lived under all kinds of conditions. I know what it means to be full or to be hungry, to have too much or too little. ¹³ Christ gives me the strength to face anything.

(Philippians 4: 4-7, 10-13)

Greetings of Grace and Peace!

November is a busy month. It contains All Saint's Sunday, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, and this year, the first Sunday of Advent, which is the beginning of the Christian year and our journey towards Christmas. We will have a craft fair on November 12th (we are seeking crafts, items for a raffle table, and asking members to volunteer for at least one hour), our "Thanks-Giving" Sunday Pledge Sunday followed by our traditional turkey soup luncheon, Bible study, book study, Spiritual Healing Classes, game

night, movie night (Noah), and more. Wow! There is a lot on our church calendar. We will need help and participation from ALL our members to accomplish and be successful in all that is planned. Being hospitable is attending the events that other members have planned. It provides support and encouragement.

For myself, and in speaking with some of you, I know I am not alone; there seems to be a *fog of gloom* covering us. The war in Ukraine, threats of nuclear power and nuclear drills from foreign countries, school shootings, inflation, political tensions on the rise within our own country, global warming, personal health issues, grief, disgruntled church members, apathy, onset of winter and shortened hours of daylight, and the list goes on.

For November, I have decided to take up a spiritual practice that has assisted me in the past in cultivating a more positive, hope-filled, thankful heart. I invite you to join me, even if you are not in the *fog of gloom* I mentioned above.

Each day, write down 10 things that you are thankful for and a short (or long if you want to) reason why you feel that way. Sounds easy, right? However, for the thirty (30) day practice, you **cannot repeat** an item. As you move through the month, you will find yourself giving thanks for things you often take for granted. Perhaps on day 17, you might give thanks for the can opener to open the can of soup for lunch. That thankfulness will carry over through your memory each time you reach for the can opener for many months. Don't think this is foolish. It will be relatively easy for the first days or weeks, but as you continue through the 30 days to the end of the month, you will remember to give thanks for the small, insignificant things we all take for granted (toilet paper?), but truly are a blessing in our lives.

Have some fun with it. Challenge you family or friends to participate. Gather once a week and share what things you have put on each of your lists. Give thanks for others sharing with you, because after naming 295 things you are grateful for, you might need a friend's idea to add to your list. Let me know if you are participating. Share with others if the practice has helped. Perhaps write a short article of the impact it made in your life for an

upcoming newsletter. Let's have a coffee hour conversation to hold one another accountable. Pastors need being held accountable and encouragement also.

Let us live as the thank-filled people we are as Christians: *for we have a God, that so loved the world that s/he came to live among us in the one called Jesus and gives us his/her own Spirit that we might be able to live, love, laugh, learn, serve, and work together to bring God's Kin-dom here on earth.*

May it be so.

In the Love and Light of Christ,
Pastor Pat



From the Deacons' Bench

Greetings:

Well, here we are transitioning from summer into the cooler days of fall. A time for goblins, turkey and nature's paintbrush. The smell of the leaves as we rake them up. Putting away flower pots and getting things ready for winter.

I find this time of year both sad and beautiful. Sad that all the flowers and produce I've nurtured over the summer are gone. But on the other hand, I get to walk amongst the beautifully decked out trees as the leaves are falling around me and eat crisp apples fresh off the branches. Then there's the carving funny faces into pumpkins and watching the children having fun on Halloween. Boo!!

I guess the old adage "there is a time for every season under heaven" is true. So let us enjoy nature as she puts on a beautiful display to get us through the colder months until she warms us up with spring flowers.

Blessings and happy apple munching,

Penny Dibble, Deacon

There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens (Ecclesiastes 3:1)





November Birthdays

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



Heather Sterling	11/01
Eva Becker	11/04
William Haley	11/04
Nancy Willoughby	11/05
April Gonce	11/05
Caleb Becker	11/06
Jeremy Tessier	11/09
Earl Schofield Jr	11/10
Journe Germain	11/11
Lisa Chaffee	11/11
Nathan Varney	11/12
Cheryl Fonda	11/15
Anthony Tulloch	11/16
Carol Quinlivan	11/17
Dawn McKeone	11/17
Alicia Hummel	11/18
Beverly Barrett	11/18
Sean Lee	11/19
Jeanne Regnier	11/19
Diane Fisher	11/20
William Cunningham	11/21
Todd Kane	11/21
David Spencer	11/23
Walter Bliss	11/25
Lynn Cunningham	11/26
David Hutchison	11/26
James Morini	11/30

Wedding Anniversaries

David & Kathleen Hutchinson	11/04
Anthony & Pamela Rogers	11/14
David & Karen Anable	11/23
Geraldine & John Spear	11/26



Prayer Corner



Bonnie
Phyllis
Evie Meacham
Gail Banning
Linda & Winnie
Jeffrey
Josh G & Family
Fran Brown
Lois Pixley
Rollyn Hatch
Kimberly Ayers
Kenain
Doreen

Adam
Melinda
Yvette
Ann
Sherry & Family
Beverly
Denise & family
Naomi
Barbara
Jim
Scott
Ken

For those affected by Hurricanes in Florida
For victims & families of mass shootings
For the people of Ukraine
For those battling cancer
For those struggling with addiction or mental illness
For those who are shut-ins and those that are isolated
For those that grieve the loss of loved ones
For those who do not have access to COVID vaccines
For first responders & health care workers
For those impacted by weather disasters
For the people Afghanistan
For the people of Haiti
For the people of Iran
For the changing climate
For our country
For all world leaders
For those traveling
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

Sympathy to.....

*Family & friends of **Bob Green**, who passed away on September 29th. Condolences can be sent to Ellie at 107 Baldwin Drive in Hampden.*



November Deacon of the Month is Bruce Libby.

Day Light Savings Begins on Saturday, **November 5th**.
Don't forget to turn your clocks back!

PumpkinFest

Thank you to all who came out to our Pumpkinfest on Saturday, October 22nd. A great time was had by all!



Kids Ministry Corner

Living in God's Light

Love Jesus Grow in Faith Change the World!

Each Sunday morning, the children take their places in the Sanctuary as fellow congregants with the adults. We have moved from the "sideways" front pews to the forward-facing front pews, to give the children a better view of the altar, Pastor Pat, and the screen, and to physically better integrate them into the congregation. We've also provided large-print bulletins for them to follow along with their fellow congregants, as they are able. It's important for them to know and feel that we are all walking together on our communal spiritual journey, regardless of our differences in age (or any other perceived "difference").

These small changes have had a big impact in tying in our "Seeking God Together" curriculum: we can talk together about the significance of each part of the worship service, the Christ candle, the altarscape, the pastor's "job" in Worship, and our "job" as congregants.

After we leave the Sanctuary and return to our room, we light our own (LED) Christ candle, share our opening prayer, and transition to our Bible verse and story.

Our whole time together is a time of worship, drawing us into a closer relationship with one another, and our Creator: wondering and exploring (outside and inside) through discussion, movement activities, art and sensory activities, and building our "Creation Station" with natural elements we find here or at home.

Right now, we are also working on two songs (they love music !) we hope to share with you in Worship in the coming weeks. Every week, the innocence and open hearts of these kids demonstrate that *"Children are a gift from God; they are his reward"* (Psalm 127: 3).

Please keep the children, their families, and our Children/Youth Faith Formation ministry in your prayers.

With a grateful heart,
Linda Hornig, CYFF Coordinator/Lead Teacher

Missions

November is here and this month is the beginning of the Christmas season! We will be granting wishes for 4 Foster Children! 2 are through Maryanne's Kids and 2 are through The Children's Study Home! The items and information on the lists will be available shortly, as the due dates for the gifts are 12/14/22.



The Nursing home here in town, Vantage, has asked for gifts for the seniors who do not have families that visit! I will be finding out the dates that the donations have to be in by soon - just wanted to let you know ahead of time for those who are shopping already! They are looking for the following examples; Stuffed Animals, Adult Coloring Books, Colored Pencils, Word Searches (regular or large print), Crossword Puzzles (regular or large print), Socks, Cozy Blankets (homemade or storebought), etc..

Stay Safe/Warm as this busy holiday season is among us!

Many Prayers and Blessings to you all as well from the Mission Committee!

Joyce Brooks



Knit, Stitch, Pray

Come join our church knitting/crocheting group on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. If you want to make prayer shawls or hats/mittens/scarfs for the homeless, the church Missions Committee will provide the yarn. Also, feel free to bring your own projects to work on. We will meet in the Prayer Room at 1:00 PM. Our first gathering will be on Wednesday, November 9th.

Thanks-giving Celebration and Soup Sunday

On November 20th, we will have the opportunity to offer to God a “Thank you” pledge through our church. The pledge should reflect how grateful you are to God for providing you the essentials for life, plus all the extras to enhance and allow one to live in comfort and community, with many opportunities to live an enriched life. The pledge also signifies how much we really do trust God to make a way in our daily lives. As inflation is making a toll on our household living expenses (Gas, electric, food, insurance, etc.), we at the church are also impacted. Take this month to reflect on truly what is important to you and how blessed you are to have God with you and for you! Will you consider a full tithe: traditionally 10 % of your income? If you cannot commit to a full 10%, would you consider increasing your giving, but another percentage or two or three? Unfortunately, we have had many congregational members enter eternal life this year.



With the loss of their presence, their energy, their spirit, we also lose their weekly giving. The church has been blessed with a few gracious members who left memorial gifts or bequests in their wills. While some of what receive does assist us in the yearly budget, much of the money is restricted towards what it is used for. So, our church is counting on each of us to give generously as God gives generously to each of us.

Following service, we will celebrate with our traditional Thanksgiving soup. To continue this wonderful tradition, we need the following donations. Please drop them off in the church kitchen by Friday, November 18th. There is a sign-up sheet in Libby Hall.

2 small turkeys – thawed	1 gallon milk
4 large cans chicken broth	3 bunches celery
4 pounds carrots	2 pounds onions
4 pounds frozen corn	2 pounds potatoes
6 loaves Sliced Italian Bread	1 pound butter
2 loafs of white bread (any brand)	1 dozen eggs

This is always a time to remember all that we’re thankful for in our Church Family.

Thanks to all that contribute to this meal. It is so appreciated

Celebrating All Saints Sunday

There is a white tablecloth in Libby Hall which will be used on the altar table as we celebrate Holy Communion on All Saints Sunday, November 6th.

You are invited to write the name of a deceased loved one on the cloth.

Mark Your Calendars

November 5th

Wreath Making Class



On Saturday November 5th at 10:00 AM, Rose Sullivan is donating her time & supplies for making snowflake Christmas wreaths which will be donated to sell at the church's Winterfest Craft Fair. The class is free of charge. We need all our members to join in for fellowship and making craft fair items to sell.

December 3rd

Pancake Breakfast with Santa



Serving Breakfast 8:00 -10:00 AM

and

Free Ornament Making Craft

(for children)

9:00 -11:00 AM



We will have a free Christmas tree ornament making class for children. Thank you to Rose Sullivan for her donation of time & supplies for the craft. The children can take their Christmas ornament home to put on their tree.

See Jack Germain to volunteer with the breakfast.

Follow up Thoughts on our Oct 2nd *Conversation regarding Inclusivity*

Dear Friends,

On Oct. 2, we began our congregational discussion of “inclusivity”; it was a good, open discussion outlining our fears, as well as our hopes and dreams. Thank you to all who participated. While these discussions have currently been prompted by differing perspectives on same-sex issues within the entire United Methodist Church, the discussion has been going on within the wider universal Church for 50 years. Personally, I believe the larger issue is who do we say we are, as a congregation professing to follow Jesus? For those of us who call ourselves “Christians” our spiritual and emotional nourishment is grounded in love: the kind of love that Jesus continually preached about, and lived out during his short ministry: healing, restorative love that unconditionally extends empathy and compassion to all fellow human beings. It reflects God’s active, unconditional, and unearned love for us and all of Creation, and calls us to desire, and be willing to work for, the well-being of “the other”.

In Matthew 22: 36-39, Jesus gives us “The Greatest Commandment”: “*Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind*”. *This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself’*” Not just the neighbors we know, not just the neighbors we like, not just the neighbors we approve of, not just the neighbors we believe deserve it; Jesus offers no conditions or qualifications; he calls us to love all neighbors, all others, as he did, and as God does.

Then, in verse 40, he says, “*All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.*” Jesus distills the Law of the entire Hebrew scriptures (our Old Testament) down to this two-fold

commandment to *love*. Ultimately, all the rules and directives in the Law flow from the ideas of loving God and loving others. Jesus, through his ministry, affirms this; he confirms this in Matthew 5:17: *“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”*


In the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 7:12) Jesus tells us, *“So whatever you wish that others would do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets.”*

If we accept that Jesus was Divine, God among us, came to model us how we are to be in relationship with our Creator, with Creation, and with one another, then are we not required to live and walk in Jesus’ teachings? And if Jesus teaches that our entire beings are to be grounded in his love, does it not follow that we are called to shape a congregational culture and ministry in which the touchstone for decisions and actions is the love he taught and modeled?

The larger question I believe we are facing as a church is: do we identify as a people of love, or don’t we? Are we willing to claim, and proclaim, that identity, or aren’t we? If we are a people of love, then we’ll be willing to act accordingly, to uphold and safeguard the well-being of every person in our congregation, and of every person in our community and beyond -period.

This is my own perspective; It’s not a political, partisan, “woke” or trendy position. It’s based on Jesus’ words and actions, and I can’t yet find any Gospel Scripture that overrides them.

We’ll continue our communal conversation when we gather for our annual Budget Meeting in December. In the meantime, I hope you will pray, talk further with Pastor Pat and other members, and use the interim time to discern where your hearts lie.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:00 PM Bells 6:00 PM AA	2 10:30 AM Bible Study	3	4 7:30 PM AA	5 10:00 AM Wreath Making Class 6:00 PM Game Night
6 All Saints Sunday 10:00 AM Worship Daylight Savings	7 10:30 AM Line Dancing 6:00 PM "Wild Mercy" Study	8 6:00 PM Bells 6:00 PM AA 7:00 Finance	9 10:30 AM Bible Study 1:00 PM Knit, Stitch, Pray	10	11 7:30 PM AA Veterans Day	12 9:00 AM Winterfest Craft Fair
13 10:00 AM Worship	14 10:30 AM Line Dancing	15 6:00 PM Bells 6:00 PM AA 7:00 BOD	16 10:30 AM Bible Study 12:30 PM WWW*	17	18 6:00 PM Movie Night 7:30 PM AA	19 8:15 AM Healing Course
20 8:15 AM Healing Course 10:00 AM Worship	21 10:30 AM Line Dancing 6:00 PM "Wild Mercy" Study	22 6:00 PM Bells 6:00 PM AA	23 <u>NO Bible Study</u> 1:00 PM Knit, Stitch, Pray	24 	25 7:30 PM AA	26 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast
Turkey Soup 27 10:00 AM Worship Advent Begins	28 10:30 AM Line Dancing	29 6:00 PM Bells 6:00 PM AA	30 10:30 AM Bible Study			* WWW = Wonderful Wednesday Worship



**FEDERATED COMMUNITY CHURCH
of HAMPDEN
is holding a**

WINTERFEST HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

**Saturday November 12th, 2022
9:00AM - 3:00PM**

A variety of items made by local crafters!

Raffle Table!

Lunch available for purchase

**Contact Beth Algie for more info @
gr8corgi@hotmail.com**

We are seeking bakers to make items for our bake sale table, crafts (either handmade or purchased) for the church craft table, as well as items for a raffle table.

Please spread the word about the fair. Perhaps bring a friend to lunch here!