

**FEDERATED COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
**590 Main St.**  
**PO Box 246**  
**Hampden, MA 01036**

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Springfield,  
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# *The Federated Courier*

Federated Community Church  
590 Main Street  
Hampden, MA 01036

E-mail: [hampdenfederated@gmail.com](mailto:hampdenfederated@gmail.com)  
[www.hampdenfederatedchurch.org](http://www.hampdenfederatedchurch.org)  
Tel. (413) 566-3711

Volume 77 2

February 2024

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## *From the Pastor's Desk*

A Church where the Next Generation is Happier

We would like to shift our ministry focus slowly to children. For the last 6 months, our ministry focus was worship. We formed new ministry teams, such as the Welcome Team, Prayer Team, and Worship Team. And we are now forming the Praise Team. These teams mainly support worship. If I need to say the age group we focused on so far, I would say it was 50+.

And now, we would like to support the children and the families with children. They are the future of our church as well as our Christian faith. As we heard and learned the gospel from our parents or grandparents when we were young, we should deliver the gospel to the next generation. It's our turn.

What I am thankful to God for is that we have a wonderful Christian Education (CE) team. Linda Hornig, one of our lay spiritual leaders, is leading the team. Jocelyn Smith, the coordinator, has two master's degrees and has deep Biblical knowledge with passion and love for children. Moreover, ALL teaching volunteers are active or retired public school teachers in MA. Every team member is professional, experienced, and full of love, especially for the children's education. We have a dream team!

Moreover, we, as a team, are now studying for a better Christian curriculum for Sunday School. Sunday School is a precious time to teach our children the Christian faith. It is not just playtime or babysitting. It is when children learn and accept Jesus as their Savior. The current curriculum is good, but we would like to provide the best curriculum for our children. Please pray for that.

Finally, we would like to support our children financially for this coming PA trip, which will be April 23-25. During the trip, we will see a Biblical show, "Daniel," at the Sight & Sound Theater and have an Amish Country tour. Children will learn how Daniel kept his faith in God from childhood and how God blessed and used him for His glory. And we will see how Amish people keep their faith and rear their children in the Christian faith even in the 21st century. It will be truly a valuable time for everyone.

However, the trip is in the mid-week days and right after the Spring break. It's not the best time for children. Moreover, the trip cost (\$539 per person) would be too high for a family to bring children. So, we decided to cover the FULL payment for each and every child if they are going.

Jocelyn (CE coordinator) and I will prepare a 4–6-week special curriculum for Children's Moment and Sunday School with the story of Daniel before the trip. We plan to have a separate gathering time for children and their families each night of the trip so that they may share what they learn and think. This will be a wonderful opportunity for children to learn the Christian faith with great experience.

To receive this scholarship, the child should be our child or grandchild. They must attend the 4–6-week special Children's Moment and Sunday School. Either their parent(s) or grandparent(s) should go with the child. Children's age should be 12 and under, and the children should understand the Children's Moment and Sunday School.

I don't know how many children can join the trip. Even if no child can join, we just would like to give our hearts to them. This is my hope. Federated Community Church becomes the church where the next generation is happier.

# *From the Deacons' Bench*

## THE MEANING OF LENT

Lent is a period of 40 days observed by most Christians in preparation of Easter.

It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Maundy Thursday which is the day Christ was betrayed after the last supper and then arrested before his crucifixion on the cross 3 days before Easter. The duration of Lent is based on the 40 days that Jesus Christ spent fasting in the desert and enduring temptations by Satan according to the New Testament gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke.

The practice of fasting during Lent involves abstaining from certain types of food, mainly meat and dairy products for a specific period of time. It is also a period of giving up or sacrificing something important to you as a remembrance of the sacrifices made by Jesus Christ for us. This is also a time for thoughtful prayer to reflect on your own faith and seek spiritual renewal.

The word Lent comes from the Old English word "Lencten" meaning March or lengthening in regards to daylight during spring. The timing of Easter is tied to the lunar calendar which the people of Israel used at the time of Christ.

During this season of Lent let us make an effort to take some time to reflect, pray and help the poor.

Blessings to you All,

Bruce Libby



## *February Birthdays*

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



Samantha Quill	02/07
Irene Cutting	02/10
Katrina Safford	02/10
Richard Harris	02/12
Clara Kern	02/18
Ashley Richter	02/18
Sarah Willoughby	02/18
Weston Willoughby	02/18
Kathleen Lee	02/19
Mary Black	02/22
Cody Godin	02/23
Joshua Sterling	02/26
David Kruger	02/27

## *Wedding Anniversaries*

Earl & Barbara Schofield	02/04
Elizabeth & Cody Godin	02/14

*Congratulations*



## Prayer Corner



Phyllis  
Gail Banning  
Lois Pixley  
Dennis Connor  
Andrew  
Carl  
Earl  
Rory  
Joanna  
Connie  
Ellen  
Karen  
Peter  
Jacob  
Howard  
Ryan  
David

Mary Beth  
Susan  
Chantel  
Beverly Barrett  
Greg  
Ellie  
Pete  
John  
Judy  
Beth  
George  
Diane  
Laurie S  
Jonathon  
Phil  
Joanne  
Jane

For World Peace

For victims & families of mass shootings

For the people of Palestine & Israel

For those affected by hurricanes

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

## Missions

For the month of January, the Missions Committee focused on sending canned meat and tuna to the Survival Center. Our goal for February is to collect men's, women's, and children's underwear. Items such as undershirts, underwear, and socks are very needed. In addition, if you have any lightly worn winter clothing including coats and boots, they will go to the Springfield Rescue Mission. Any donation can be brought to the table in Libby Hall nearest the window and back door. Thank you for your continued support.



## Wednesday Bible Study

Join us for Bible study hosted by Deacons Bobby Schofield and Justin Fontaine in Libby Hall on Wednesdays at 10:30AM



## Ash Wednesday

Join us on Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM for our Ash Wednesday Service.

## *Christian Education / Children's Ministry*

January was an amazing month for new beginnings: new month & year, the start of the Christian Education (CE) program & Christian Education Committee (CEC) / Children's Ministry Team, to name a few. I am so excited to work with the children, their families & the CE volunteers at FCC.

My name is Jocelyn Smith & I started on 12/18/23 as the new Christian Education Coordinator. My family & I have been involved with FCC for almost 30 years (thank goodness the Varney Family invited us to visit when Nathan & Jarrod were two years old!). My husband, Don, & I felt so at home on our first visit, that each of our three children, Jarrod, Gillian & Alexandra grew up & were confirmed here. They had such wonderful experiences & amazing role models growing up at FCC (Joyce Libby is at the top of the list!).

I am so humbled by the warm FCC welcome I continue to receive. It's like coming home (as so many others have shared with me.) I am so grateful that Pastor Kwan's contagious love for God, his music & his energy have been calling so many people back home to FCC, including me!

It is an honor to teach the children at FCC & I look forward to helping them get to know Christ & their identity in Christ as they grow into their adult years. The three Sunday school classes I've spent with the children have shown me that their faith is so deep & they enjoy learning about Jesus Christ. They are a joy to be with & so enthusiastic taking turns with the closing prayer right before class ends.

The CEC/Christian Ministry Team & Pastor Kwan have been such a wonderful & vital support & assistance with Sunday school classes. I'm so grateful for all the time people spent in organizing the CE Office & helping me to get started. Thank you to Linda Hornig, CEC Chair, who has spent countless hours helping me to get started with procedures, curriculum, forms, etc. There are so many people who have helped me in so many ways & I wish I could name each person, but I'd be remiss if I didn't mention Kristen Roy



in all that she's done for me & continues to do in order to help me & everyone at FCC! I'd also like to say a big thanks to all that my family continues to do to support & encourage me in my position as Christian Education Coordinator.

In closing, I'd like to invite everyone to get to know our FCC children, their families, as well as other CE volunteers by getting involved in whatever your time or interest permits. Please contact me (email: [fcc.js71618@gmail.com](mailto:fcc.js71618@gmail.com)), Kristen: (email: [hampdenfederated@gmail.com](mailto:hampdenfederated@gmail.com)) or anyone currently involved with the CE Ministry (please see list below). It is so rewarding to get to know such faith-filled people & to help our children on their Christian journey. We look forward to hearing from you!

Blessings,  
Jocelyn Smith, Christian Education Coordinator

CE Ministry (as of 2/4/24):

Pastor Kwan

Linda Hornig (CE Chair)

Bill Cunningham

Lynn Cunningham

Elaine DeGray



Betsy Gray

Mary Howell

Janet Libby

Laura Lillibridge

## February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 7:30 PM AA	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Spiritual Healing Ministry 1:00 PM Vision Meeting	<b>5</b> 10:30 AM Line Dancing	<b>6</b> 10:00 AM Line Dancing 6:00 PM AA 6:00 PM Bells	<b>7</b> 10:30 AM Bible Study 1:00 PM Knit, Stitch, Pray	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 7:30 PM AA	<b>10</b> 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast
<b>11</b> 10:00 AM Worship	<b>12</b> 10:30 AM Line Dancing	<b>13</b> 10:00 AM Line Dancing 6:00 PM AA 6:00 PM Bells 7:00 PM Finance	<b>14</b> 10:30 AM Bible Study 1:00 PM Knit, Stitch, Pray 5:30 PM Ash Wednesday Service	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 7:30 PM AA	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 10:00 AM Worship	<b>19</b> 10:30 AM Line Dancing	<b>20</b> 10:00 AM Line Dancing 6:00 PM Bells 6:00 PM AA 7:00 PM BOD	<b>21</b> 10:30 AM Bible Study 1:00 PM Knit, Stitch, Pray	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 7:30 PM AA	<b>24</b> 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast
<b>25</b> 10:00 AM Worship	<b>26</b> 10:30 AM Line Dancing	<b>27</b> 10:00 AM Line Dancing 6:00 PM Bells 6:00 PM AA	<b>28</b> 10:30 AM Bible Study 1:00 PM Knit, Stitch, Pray	<b>29</b>		



## *Easter Flowers*

The Flower Committee will be ordering plants for Easter. The deadline for ordering plants is March 24, 2024. Orders may be sent to:

Federated Community Church, PO Box 246, Hampden, MA 01036 or to Elaine DeGray at 18 Brookside Drive, Hampden, MA 01036.

Please enclose with your order form, your check made out to "Federated Community Church".

I would like to order:

Quantity

Cost

\_\_\_ Lily

@ \$10.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK TOTAL = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to give my plant in memory/honor of (circle one)

\_\_\_\_\_  
YOUR

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Plants may be picked up after the 10:00 am Easter Service on March 31, 2024. Plants that are not picked up after the service will be left in the sanctuary for the following weeks services.

