

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

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# *The Federated Courier*

Federated Community Church  
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## *From the Pastor's Desk*

### Scholarship for Children for PA Trip and More

I am glad to share this good news with you. Our church decided to financially support our children for this coming PA trip, April 23-25. The church will fully pay the trip cost for each and every child (\$539/per person). There are some conditions. To receive this financial support, the child should...

- Be a child/grandchild of our member
- Be at the age of 12 and under
- Attend a 4-week special curriculum for Children's Moment and Sunday School with the story of Daniel before the trip (March 17, April 7, 14, and 21)
- Be able to understand the Children's Moment and Sunday School

During this trip, we will see a Biblical show, "Daniel," at the Sight and Sound Theater and have an Amish Country tour. Each night, Jocelyn (CE coordinator) will lead a gathering time for children and their parents in which they will share what they learned and thought about during the day.

Daniel was the one who kept his faith in God from childhood in every situation. And God blessed and used him for His glory. Amish people still keep their faith and teach their children in

Christian faith even in the 21st century. This will be truly a valuable time for Children.

For adult congregations who join the trip, we will also have a gathering time for adults each night if the schedule allows us to do so. We will share what we learned on the day and have a joyful time with fun programs like Bible Trivia. I hope that this trip will give us a life-long memory of joy, faith, and friendship.



## *From the Deacons' Bench*

Greetings:

I seem to be more optimistic about this Lenten season leading into Easter than in the past few years. Maybe because even though we haven't had a lot of sun this winter, we also haven't had a lot of snow. Therefore, no shoveling.

Maybe because Easter comes early this year. A harbinger of spring, pretty dresses and bonnets. Spring with flowers and returning songbirds.

When living in Colorado, our springtime would come the first of June, although we could still get the occasional snowstorm anytime. Here we get Spring in March or April. That's huge. At least two months earlier, yea. That means more trips to the flower nurseries. I'm glad I don't have to think about giving that up for Lent!

I've always felt an affinity to spring. A time for renewal, rebuilding and regeneration. Maybe because it's also the time of Jesus' rising from the dead and ascension bringing me hope and peace. His rising from the dead like flowers rising from their dormancy. Both are beautiful.

Blessings,

Penny Dibble, Deacon

HE IS RISEN!



## *March Birthdays*

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



Matt Lillibridge	03/01
Bonnie Watson	03/02
Elizabeth Taylor	03/02
Joseph Tessier	03/06
Kellie Hummel	03/11
Beverly Brant	03/11
Geoffrey Sterling	03/15
Dennis Chaffee Jr	03/15
Virginia Richter	03/17
Jesse Lee	03/17
Karen Paton	03/19
Mary Drozdowski	03/20
Pamela Rogers	03/20
Anne Collins Jr	03/22
Elizabeth Warner Godin	03/23
Emily Warner	03/23
Lauren Hummel	03/23
Ronald Richter	03/24
Sandra Richter	03/24
Jarrod Smith	03/26
Erik McKeone	03/27
Jollette Germain	03/28
Glenn Olesuk	03/28
Patricia Ritz	03/30
Dale Varney	03/31
Barbara Panek	03/31

## *Wedding Anniversaries*

Carol & George Quinlivan	03/18
James & Laurie Bliss	03/21



## Prayer Corner



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

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

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 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

## *FCC Prayer Ministry*

Our Prayer Ministry gathers at 9:30 AM on Sunday morning in the downstairs Prayer Room adjacent to the back door. No weekly commitment is required, just join in anytime you feel the need for focused prayer. For more information, speak with Penny Dibble any Sunday before or after worship.

## *Spiritual Healing Touch Ministry*

Spiritual Healing Touch sessions will be offered on the first Sunday of each month. The next session will be on Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> following worship.

## *Children's Ministry*

FCC has a long history of supporting children's religious education and faith formation. At this time, our congregants are still blessing the children and their families by providing a salary for our Christian Education Coordinator/Lead Teacher, Jocelyn Smith, and by forming a dedicated team of experienced volunteer C.E. Committee members, and teacher assistants.

As in other churches, our Sunday School enrollment has declined over the years: we began Sept., 2023 with 3 children. I have heard wondering from some congregants over recent years if the time and expense invested in the C.E. Program is "worth it" for just a few children. If you were in church this past Sunday, Feb. 25, I believe those concerns were answered!

In leading the Children's Moment, Jocelyn introduced the Bible character Zaccheus. The story of Zaccheus was explored by our core 3 children last Spring, in Sunday School, and they were able to share every detail of the story during the Childrens Moment, demonstrating their understanding of Jesus' motivation in visiting Zaccheus' home, the crowd's reaction, and the transformation in Zaccheus as a result of his encounter with Jesus!

What a testimony to the power of our program! What a testimony to the families, who faithfully bring the children to church, and reinforce their studies at home! What a testimony to the

faithfulness of our congregants, who provide the means of time, money, and loving support to ensure we are living out our **Mission Statement** for the children: “...to create a safe place to know and experience God’s love, to learn the stories and ways of Jesus, and to carry faith, hope, and love into the world.”

As with adult congregants, the number of participants is not as important as the growth of the spirit within them. However, we are being blessed with growth within our congregation and Sunday School: over the past month, Claire and her dad Justin have joined us on Sunday morning, and Madison has been able to join us more often as well. Claire expressed this wish during a recent class: “I want to become a member of this church!” Doesn’t that really say it all?

Amen!

Linda Hornig, CE Committee Chair

### *In Kind Donations*

We would like to start to recognize that we have some very generous church members that like to “pick-up” items while they are at Costco, Staples, Big Y or shopping on line. These items make a big difference in our church budget. If you would like to be given an “in kind donation” form, recognized by the IRS, instead of being reimbursed, please place your receipt in an envelope with your name and address. I will complete the form and mail it to you.



Along these same lines, we would like to bring back the sponsorship of our monthly *Courier Newsletter*. We send out about 210 newsletters, eleven times a year, at a cost of about forty dollars for each mailing. If you would like to sponsor a month, please add your name to the sponsor sheet in Fellowship Hall. Please put the \$40.00 with your name and address in an envelope and place it in the collection plate or on Kristen’s desk in the office. The completed donation form will be mailed to you.

Thank you for all you do for the church!

Janet Libby, Treasurer



## March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 10:00 AM Worship 11:00 AM Spiritual Healing Ministry 11:30 AM Bible Study	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	8 7:30 PM AA	9 8:00 AM Men's Mystery Breakfast
10 10:00 AM Worship 11:30 AM Bible Study	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	15 7:30 PM AA	16
17 10:00 AM Worship 11:30 AM Bible Study	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	22 7:30 PM AA	23 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast
24 10:00 AM Worship	25 10:30 AM Line Dancing	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	29 Good Friday 7:30 PM AA	30
31 6:00 AM Sunrise Service 10:00 AM Worship						



## *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.

