

FEDERATED COMMUNITY CHURCH
590 Main St.
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Hampden, MA 01036

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The Federated Courier

Federated Community Church
590 Main Street
Hampden, MA 01036

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May 2025

From the Pastor's Desk

Dear My Beloved FCC family,

Greetings from the love of the risen Christ!

This past Easter Sunday brought us such great joy. The breakfast, the beautiful flower decorations, the Easter gifts, the choir, the bell choir, children's bell ringing, and so on were so special and joyful because of your heartfelt dedication. You are no longer a small church. You've become a strong and vibrant church that gives hope to others. I am truly grateful to God for this.

During the past two years, I've been deeply thankful to serve the Lord alongside you as a part of such a wonderful church. When I reflect on all the love and prayers I've received from you, my heart—and the hearts of my family—are filled with gratitude.

I'm writing this letter to share my upcoming appointment with you. Starting July 1st, I will be serving a different church, First United Methodist Church, Stafford Springs, CT. This was not something I asked for or pursued. It's not even a usual pastoral appointment. But this church is currently in great difficulty, and our Bishop has asked me to go and help rebuild it. This church has less than half the average attendance of our church and is struggling very much.

Although I had the option to decline, I chose to obey the Bishop's request for two reasons:

First, I believe in you. You are truly a beautiful church. Regarding the Sunday attendance, we are in the top 10% among the 530 churches in our conference. But more than numbers, I see your devotion, love, and faith. I am confident that no matter who the next pastor is, you will unite and continue to move forward in love.

Second, this is a mission to help a struggling church. I had intended to stay here long-term. Leaving such a wonderful church to go to a church in a difficult situation is not an easy decision for anyone. But when I remember how the Lord sent me to you two years ago, I can only imagine how desperately they are praying for help. I felt that this was God's calling. After many sleepless nights in prayer, I decided to go.

Our Board of Directors met with the Deacons and decided to receive a United Methodist pastor as the next shepherd of this church. The Cabinet of the New England Conference will prayerfully and carefully send us someone well-suited for our congregation. You will be hearing more about your new pastor soon.

I know this may come as a surprise. But I ask for your understanding, as this is to help a church in great need. And I ask for your continued prayers for the journey ahead of our own church. Please pray for our church leaders and the Conference Cabinet, who will guide this transition. And most importantly, please pray for the incoming pastor. Just as I have needed your prayers and love for the last two years, your new pastor will also need them. I ask that you offer as much love and support as you can. And join hands and move forward in unity, becoming a beacon of hope for many churches around us.

No matter where I go, I will continue to pray for you and cheer you on. May the risen Lord walk with each of us on the journey ahead.

With all my love and gratitude,

Kwan Kim

From the Deacons' Bench

He is risen!

Christ is Risen indeed!!

And beauty is all around us. Trees are budding and bushes and flowers are bursting with color. Spring is a beautiful time of the year. April was a busy time with Palm Sunday through Easter. We experienced the triumphant entry into Jerusalem with music and waving of the palms on Palm Sunday. Maundy Thursday was very special, first with communion and then with the twelve disciples reading from the Bible and the slamming of the stone closing the tomb where Jesus was buried.

Easter morning sunrise service was windy and chilly but a beautiful service was shared at Old Cemetery at 6:00 am followed by a delicious pancake breakfast. The aroma of lilies and a sanctuary full of worshippers was a beautiful and joyful sight. Pastor Kwan has brought us to a happy place in our church family! After service, the children gave out jellybeans with the jellybean prayer. Then we all took a flower and put it on the cross. The sun was shining and it was a beautiful day for our annual photo. I have asked Pastor Kwan to have copies of the photo made as a remembrance of our two happy years with him.

As you know, the next day we were notified that Pastor Kwan will be leaving us in June to pastor a church that is going through what we did two years ago. To say this was a shock is an understatement. But we are trying hard to absorb this news with love and support. Pastor Kwan has done an amazing job of making us a stronger church family, filling us with love, kindness and caring for others. We will welcome our new pastor with this same strength. FCC has been the beneficiary of an amazing person, who is truly one of God's disciples. He is humble, kind, caring and so willing to share his incredible gifts with everyone. While we are heartbroken to see him leave us, we know that this was not an easy decision. We need to accept that serving God is his passion and just as we needed him two years ago, his love of God is taking him to a new church whose parishioners need him to heal and help

them grow.

Dear Lord,

Pastor Kwan's love and dedication is visible in everything he does. We need to thank Kwan, Su, Tom and Teak for sharing just a bit of yourselves with us. We send you to your next appointment with the same love that you have shown to us.

In Jesus name we pray, Amen

Deacon Elsie Bradway

Easter Photos

The photos will be 5x15 in order to have a full view. The cost:

Photo	\$5.00
Photo with frame	\$18.00





May Birthdays

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



Anne Marie Matzko	05/01	Joyce Ogonowski	05/17
Regina Germain	05/02	Cheryl Patterson	05/18
Philp Castellano	05/02	Scott Olesuk	05/18
Barbara Schofield	05/03	James Bliss	05/20
Jodi Brodeur	05/03	Lori-Beth Sterling	05/20
Gail Romano	05/04	Bear Lillibridge	05/23
Paul Olesuk	05/05	Stephen Libby	05/24
Sandra Howell	05/05	Ruth Haley	05/26
Beverly Burnell	05/08	Amy Bliss	05/28
Sandra Dodd	05/09	Kylie Walulak	05/29
Ryan Thomas	05/09	Rita Spencer	05/29
Robert Fernandes	05/14	Bonnie Howell	05/30

Congratulations

Wedding Anniversaries

Jeremy & Kristi Tessier	05/03
Patricia & David Baker	05/04
Jesse & Kathleen Lee	05/15
Robert & Mary Howell	05/18
Richard & Jeanne Regnier	05/20
Dale & Amy Varney	05/30
Lauren & Keith Hummel	05/31



Prayer Corner



Sam Glista
Joan Day
Rita Spencer
Sally Badillo
Dawn McKeone
Joyce Brooks
Phyllis
Laurie Schoolcraft
Ann Beroth
Linda Hornig & family
Kris Butler
Dennis Connor
Rory
Tyler

For World Peace
For those affected by wildfires
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 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



Sympathy to...

family & friends of
Lois Pixley
who passed away on April 18th.

family & friends of
Jeffrey Howe
who passed away on April 15th.

Thank You

Thank you to **Karen Kielb** for sponsoring our May newsletter!



May Ushers

5/4	Sheila Hess & Joyce Ogonowski
5/11	Bobbi Grant & Meredith Sullivan
5/18	Beverly Barrett & Penny Dibble
5/25	Beverly Burnell & Regina Martin

Thank you for serving our church. Please let us know if you wish to reschedule by contacting Usher Coordinator Joyce Ogonowski or Deacon of the month Linda Hornig.

Christian Education Ministry

May is a beautiful reminder of renewal and growth—not just in nature, but in our spiritual lives as well. As flowers bloom and school years begin to wind down, it's a perfect time to reflect on how we are growing in our faith.

This spring, our Sunday School classes have been filled with energy, curiosity, and joy. It's been a blessing to watch our children engage with Scripture, ask deep questions, and grow in their understanding of God's love. A huge thank-you to all our CE Team, volunteer teachers and helpers—you are making a lasting impact!

Let's continue to encourage one another to grow in Christ—not just on Sundays, but in our everyday lives. Whether it's through Bible study, prayer, or acts of service, there's always room to deepen our walk with God.

Wishing you a joyful and Spirit-filled May!

In Christ's love,
Jocelyn Smith
Christian Education Coordinator



A Tribute to Pastor Kwan and Su

With love and gratitude from the Christian Education Ministry

It is with full hearts and tearful eyes that we prepare to say goodbye to our beloved Pastor Kwan and his wife, Su, at the end of June.

Pastor Kwan has led our church with wisdom, humility, and unwavering faith. His sermons have been filled with truth and grace, and his presence in our lives has reflected the love of Christ in so many ways. Su has been a gentle, steady light among us—walking alongside our congregation with compassion and care.

From the pulpit to the visitations, from playing guitar & bells to organizing pictures & videos online, their influence has shaped & blessed the spiritual life of our church family. The music ministry that the whole Kim family share with us is priceless. In addition to Pastor playing guitar & singing, and Su playing bells, Tom playing guitar & singing as well as Teak playing drums and filling in for bells have been extraordinary. We are especially thankful for the support Pastor Kwan continually gives to our children. He has never overlooked the importance of planting seeds of faith in the youngest hearts among us.

Pastor Kwan and Su, thank you for loving us, teaching us, and walking with us through seasons of joy and sorrow. You have given so much of yourselves to this church, and we are so much better because of it. While we are heartbroken to see you go, we trust that God is guiding your steps and has beautiful things in store for your next chapter.

You will always be a part of the FCC Family and you will be missed beyond measure. Our love, our prayers, and our deepest gratitude and appreciation go with you.



WOMEN OF WORSHIP

(WOW)!!!

**YOU'RE INVITED TO
THE 6TH WOW GATHERING**

BRING A FRIEND & COME MEET NEW FRIENDS

Help create a vibrant and supportive community
for women to grow in Christ-centered

FAITH, FRIENDSHIP, & FUN!

Light Refreshments Served

Date: Saturday, May 17, 2025

Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm

**Place: Federated Community Church
590 Main Street
Hampden, MA 01036**

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!

For such a time as this! (Esther 4:4)

For more information, please call **413-566-3711**.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HampdenFederatedChurch/>



FEDERATED COMMUNITY CHURCH
IS HOLDING A
MEMORIAL DAY CRAFT FAIR
(on Parade Route)

May 26, 2025
8:00 AM -2:00 PM
Pancake Breakfast 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

A variety of items made by local crafters!

Raffle Table!

Lunch available for purchase!

In the event of rain, the fair will be held inside

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May Missions

From now until May 31st, you will see as you enter the front doors of the church that we have a donation jar for Shriner's Hospital in the narthex next to a display of red ribbon pins. The recommended donation is \$5. Please consider donating and taking a pin to support this precious mission.

It has come to our attention that Don Facey was also very involved with Shriners, along with Frank Watson & Dr. Stoddard. His name will be included when donations are submitted to Shriners.



The Missions Committee has also resumed collecting food donations for the Community Survival Center.

Pentecost Sunday

Pentecost Sunday (June 8th) is the birth of the church. Let's celebrate. I am asking our congregation to join me in bringing gifts to the church.

Monetary gifts would be appreciated as we have a new pastor coming and we need to defray the costs of the movers. Any other gifts are appreciated such as supplies for the church:

Paper products
Pens & Office Supplies
Postage stamps
Paper plates
Plastic utensils
napkins, etc .

Thank you in advance,
Elsie Bradway





Tumbler Fundraiser

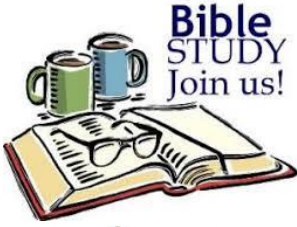
Order your FCC “Connecting in the Spirit” Tumbler! They are designed Jarrod Smith. The tumblers are available in blue, aqua, black, and pink. The cost is \$15.00 each. An order sign up sheet is available in Libby Hall.



May 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 4:00 PM Deacons & BOD Meeting	2 7:30 PM AA	3
4 9:00 AM Choir 9:30 Prayer Gathering 10:00 AM Worship	5 6:00 PM Bell Choir 6:00 PM AA	6 10:30 AM Bible Study 1:00 PM Knit, Stitch, Pray 3:00 PM Prayer Gathering 4:00 PM CE Meeting	7 10:30 AM Bible Study 1:00 PM Knit, Stitch, Pray 3:00 PM Prayer Gathering	8 4:00 PM Deacons & BOD Meeting	9 7:30 PM AA	10 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast
11 9:00 AM Choir 9:30 AM Prayer Gathering 10:00 AM Worship	12 6:00 PM Bell Choir 6:00 PM AA 7:00 PM Finance 7:30 PM BOD or May 20th	13 10:30 AM Bible Study 1:00 PM Knit, Stitch, Pray 3:00 PM Prayer Gathering	14 10:30 AM Bible Study 1:00 PM Knit, Stitch, Pray 3:00 PM Prayer Gathering	15 4:00 PM Deacons & BOD Meeting	16 7:30 PM AA	17 10:00 AM WOW
18 9:00 AM Choir 9:30 AM Prayer Gathering 10:00 AM Worship	19 6:00 PM Bell Choir 6:00 PM AA 7:00 PM BOD Or May 13th	20 10:30 AM Bible Study 1:00 PM Knit, Stitch, Pray 3:00 PM Prayer Gathering	21 10:30 AM Bible Study 1:00 PM Knit, Stitch, Pray 3:00 PM Prayer Gathering	22	23 7:30 PM AA	24 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast
25 9:00 AM Choir 9:30 AM Prayer Gathering 10:00 AM Worship	26 Memorial Day 8:00 -10:00 Pancake Breakfast 8:00 -2:00 Craft Fair	27 6:00 PM Bell Choir 6:00 PM AA	28 10:30 AM Bible Study 1:00 PM Knit, Stitch, Pray 3:00 PM Prayer Gathering	29	30 7:30 PM AA	31 

Join us For....



**Bible
STUDY**
Join us!

Bible Study- Wednesday 10:30 AM



Knit, Stitch & Pray – Wednesday 1:00 PM

Women of
WORSHIP

WOW – every 3rd Saturday of the month
at 10:00 AM



Men's Mystery Breakfast- every 2nd
& 4th Saturday of the month at
8:00 AM



Prayer Gathering – Sunday at 9:30 AM &
Wednesday at 3:00 PM

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