



United Church of Christ

# The Federated Courier

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United Methodist Church

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## From the Pastor's Desk

“Behold, I make all things new!” –Revelations 21:5

There is a hope that comes on the heels of Christmas and the turning of the calendar page.

A new day.

A new year.

Another chance to start from page one.

In our faith life this time of year offers us the same opportunities. For folks who have been feeling like they are in a spiritual rut it is often a chance to try something new. People explore eating differently. They might pick up an exercise routine. I hear a lot of folks trying prayer programs or Bible verse a day initiatives.

Some of those efforts stick. Most don't make it past January 4.

Disappointment, guilt, failure, surrender loom large by day 5. They take the place of the excitement and anticipation of January 1.

But wait...let's re-read the hope that John of (Patmos) proclaimed 2000 years ago.

“Behold, I make all things new!”

The “I” is not us.

The “I” who is doing the work of transformation is God. The Holy is actually working to bring about something different...something healing...something we can't do by ourselves, in our lives.

Perhaps, instead of trying to fix everything on our own this January, we could commit to sitting still.

Letting our Beloved take the reins is not the same as giving up. It is giving ourselves over to someone who is trustworthy and more than capable of making a difference in our lives. We can do this by practicing quiet, or noticing our breathing; we might close our eyes and listen for the still, small voice of the One who loves us most.

Who knows, getting out of God's way for a bit might be the very thing that transforms our circumstances in sacred ways!

As you prepare to turn the calendar, take heart and allow yourself to hear what John heard...

”Behold, I make all things new!”

Peace,

Todd

In case of inclement weather, please check Channel 3, 22,  
our website or Facebook for cancellation information.

## FROM THE DEACONS' BENCH

Emmanuel - God With Us

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, GOD WAS WITH US.

When the Spirit helps us face the challenges of each day, GOD IS WITH US.

When we anticipate what the new year will bring, GOD WILL BE WITH US.

In each moment of the coming year: May we remember that God is with us. May we feel God's presence close to us, surrounding us with His love. May we be inspired to share that love with one another, throughout each day, so that the Light which came into the world at Jesus' birth may shine even more brightly.

Deacon Linda Hornig



Birthday Greetings to the following adult members of our church who celebrate birthdays in January:

Catherine Gardner	01/02	Scott Wyman	01/18
Gail Banning	01/03	Nicholas Hummel	01/19
Richard Ritz	01/03	Edith Casey	01/20
Dennis Chaffee Sr	01/04	Susan Quill	01/20
Peg Stearns	01/05	John Panek	01/20
David Obuchowski	01/05	Sarah Gernux	01/23
Albert Jones	01/06	Jordan McEwan	01/24
Geraldine Spear	01/06	Joan Harris	01/24
Donald Ryan	01/07	Richard Nelson	01/24
Lisa Wyman	01/10	Shirley Fuller	01/26
Kathryn Jobbins	01/13	Richard Taylor	01/27
Steven Safford	01/13	Paul Willoughby	01/30
Joseph Kellner	01/17	Rosemary DiSimoni	01/31

### Christian Education

We would like to thank everyone who made our children's program a success. With out the help of our volunteers, we could not have done it. The children loved learning their fun song and all the animals noises.

We have a fun packed rest of the year planned for Sunday School. We start the year put with the parable of the lost coin. Followed by the teachings and stories of Moses. With our growing Sunday school, we are looking for volunteers for one Sunday to assist us with lessons. Please contact Kristi or Laurie, or any member of the CE committee.

Blessings, Kristi and Laurie

If you made a pledge in 2015, envelopes (monthly & weekly) are in Libby Hall

## PARISH NOTES

### *Giving: It Feels Sooooo Good!*

♪ "It's the most wonderful time of the year!" ♪  
(...unless you consider all the commercial hype and over-spending that so many fall victim to.)

One of the things that makes the Christmas season so wonderful is the celebration of Christ's birth by exchanging gifts with family and friends—gifts that we have given a lot of thought to and are given as a symbol of our feelings for the one receiving our gift—a symbol of our very lives. *And it feels sooo good!* Giving to the work of Christ through our Church is much the same. Our giving to the Church symbolizes our love and gratitude for God's Grace and for the gift of Jesus Christ; it symbolizes our very lives; and when it's given from our hearts as generously as we can, *it feels sooooo good!*



We are created in the image of God, *the Great Giver*. And so, we are created—"hard wired"—to give, and to give generously from our hearts, from our time and energy, our talents and our material treasure—all given to us by our Gracious God. We can never out-give God, but when we live into that image as fully as we can, *it feels sooooo good!*

*A Message from Your Stewardship Ministry Team,*

*Carol Darnley, Linda Hornig, Anne Marie Matzko, Jocelyn Smith*

### Channel Change

The Sunday services being videoed each week are now available on the Wilbraham/Hampden Public Access Channel **191** at 7:00pm Saturday evening. If you miss that you can watch it on your computer going to video on demand by using <http://tinyurl.com/fedtv1>. Go to playlist on the right, scroll down to the bottom, select Religious and look for Hampden Federated Church.

### Anniversaries

We send congratulations to the following members who celebrate wedding anniversaries in January:

Albert & Judith Jones	01/20
Richard & Elizabeth Taylor	01/24
Richard & Judith Hatch	01/29

## **BIBLE STUDY NEWS**

After a 2 week hiatus, the *Monday Night Bible Study* is back! Newcomers are welcome to explore the Bible through a variety of mediums this winter. Our tentative schedule is as follows:

January 5: Santa left a special gift under the tree for our Bible Study Buddies. Let's unwrap it and discover the legacy of faith we have in our Bibles.

January 12, 19: Wrestling with Angels video series. We will be hearing (via video) from esteemed theologians on a variety of life topics. The video interviews will lead us into sacred conversations about these issues that face us in community.

On January 26, Part 2 of the Massachusetts Bible Society series: What is the Bible? Old Testament edition will begin. OT is a 6 week series that explores the creation of and history behind the Old Testament and some of its most familiar texts. Back before Stonehenge or the wheel, back before the pyramids, math, or even the crudest writing existed, ancient peoples gathered and told stories. They told stories of how the world began, what the first people were like, and which of them were heroes or failures. They tried to make sense of the world around them and tried to sort out who the gods were and what those gods wanted from them. More than ten thousand years later, one set of those stories has come down to us in the form of the Old Testament. It is the story of the Jewish people and their distinctive God, giving us a glimpse through story, song, history, and law of the rocky, raucous, faithful, fumbling beginnings of one of the oldest religions on earth. Perhaps you think you know it. Think again. This second course in The Dickinson Series: Exploring the Bible will help you better understand the Old Testament in the context of the world in which it was written. Participants will need to register for this 6 week series by 1/19. Cost of this 6 week program is \$14/person to cover cost of student workbook. Please register by calling church office at 566-3711 or sign up at a preceding Bible Study program.

All Bible Study programs will take place in Libby Hall at 6:30pm with refreshments served.

## **MONDAY NIGHT POTLUCK NEWS**

During the winter months the Monday Night Potluck dinner will take a break. We hope to resume when warmer weather prevails. Stay tuned.

## **CALENDAR DAY**

If you or your committee are planning a program, dinner, ministry, or mission sometime between January and July, please plan to attend a Calendar Day meeting on Saturday, January 10 at 9:15am in Libby Hall. Come with your calendar. Come with your ideas. Come ready to get a glimpse of the exciting programs FCC will be offering in the coming half year. This gathering will equip our communications folks with information so that they can better share our Good News with the wider community.

## **Super Bowl Subs**

The youth group will be collecting grinder orders for Super Bowl Sunday! This is an annual fundraiser that benefits the Youth Group, so that we may go on trips and participate in outreach projects. Please help support our youth and place a grinder order between Jan 24<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>. Order forms will be available after worship and online in the near future. Grinders will be available to pick up after church on the Feb 1<sup>st</sup>.



Below is a chart indicating our results for the year 2014 for our dinners and craft fairs. . Our total profit for the year was \$9620.00.

If you have any ideas for fundraising please see one of the Board members, or call the church office.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Menu</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Children</u>	<u>Workers</u>	<u>Taken In</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Profit</u>
Feb	Chicken Pot Pie	68	5	10	\$715		\$715
Mar	Corned Beef	82		2	\$840		\$840
Apr	Ham Dinner	44	1	5	\$495	247	\$248
May	Spaghetti	55		11	\$601	78	\$523
Mem Day	Pancake Breakfast	105	47		857	90	\$767
	Plants				1821		\$1,821
	Bake sale				343		\$343
	Crafters				\$1,085		\$1,085
	Lunch				\$190	\$130	\$60
	Soda				\$96		\$96
	Misc Exp					\$97	(\$97)
June	Steak Roast	55		6	\$664		
Oct	Pancake Breakfast	40	7		\$134	60	\$74
	Chili	32			\$180	108	\$72
	Bake Sale				\$324.25		\$324
	Crafters				555		\$555
	Plant Sale						\$0
	Soda					70	(\$70)
Oct	Murder Mystery	113			2240	1123.57	\$1,116
Nov	Meat Pie						
Dec	Pancake Breakfast	72			286	40	\$246
	Lunch				300	44	\$256
	Bake Sale				305		\$305
	Crafters				240		\$240
	Misc Exp						
	Raffle				100		\$100



# January 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 10:00 Worship, Communion Sunday School, Nursery	5 6:30 Bible Study	6 9:00 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speakers	7 11:00 Prayer Group 6:30 Missions Mtg.	8 10:00 Ladies Aid Work/Bus Mtg 7:00 Choir	9	10 8:00 Men's Breakfast 9:15 Calendar Day 7:00 pm channel 191 - Wilb. Hmpd
11 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	12 6:30 Bible Study	13 9:00 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speakers	14 11:00 Prayer Group 6:30 CE Meeting	15 7:00 Choir	16	17 7:00 pm channel 191 - Wilb. Hmpd
18 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery	19 6:30 Bible Study 7:00 BOD Mtg.	20 9:00 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speakers 6:30 Deacons Mtg.	21 11:00 Prayer Group	22 7:00 Choir	23	24 8:00 Men's Breakfast 7:00 pm channel 191 - Wilb. Hmpd
25 10:00 Worship, Sunday School, Nursery Order Super Bowl Subs	26 6:30 Bible Study	27 9:00 Bible Study 6:30 AA Step 7:30 AA Speakers	28 11:00 Prayer Group	29 7:00 Choir	30	31 7:00 pm channel 191 - Wilb. Hmpd

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

Church Staff

<u>Pastor</u>	Rev. Todd Farnsworth
<u>Organist/Choir Director</u>	Barbara Bennett
<u>Administrative Assistant</u>	Joyce Ogonowski
<u>Christian Ed Directors</u>	Laurie Schoolcraft Kristi Tessier

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Federated Community Church of Hampden is to unite as one body the followers of Jesus Christ in the worship of God and to make God's will dominant in the lives of all people. This will be done by following our church covenant, and through this mission build a firm foundation that will morally support not only this generation but generations yet to come.

Worship Schedule

Worship: 10 am - Sunday School: 10 am

<b>Sunday, Jan 4</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas
Scripture:	Jeremiah 31:7-14 Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:10-18
<b>Sunday, Jan 11<sup>th</sup></b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Epiphany
Scripture:	Genesis 1:1-5 Acts 19:1-7 Mark 1:4-11
<b>Sunday, Jan 18<sup>th</sup></b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany
Scripture:	I Samuel 3:1-10 I Corinthians 6:12-20 John 1:43-51
<b>Sunday, Jan 25<sup>th</sup></b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany
Scripture:	Jonah 3:1-5,10 I Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20