

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

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

The Federated Courier

Federated Community Church
590 Main Street
Hampden, MA 01036

E-mail: hampdenfederated@gmail.com
www.hampdenfederatedchurch.org
Tel. (413) 566-3711

Volume 77 6

June 2024

From the Pastor's Desk

It's a New Beginning

It's JUNE!!! Finally, my family joined me. When you receive this newsletter, I may be in North Carolina packing to move to Hampden. In the middle of this month, you will meet the entire Kim family assembled at church.

June is the month of graduation, a time of immense pride and joy. If you have a graduate in your family, my heartfelt congratulations! They have successfully completed a course of study and are now embarking on a new journey filled with hope and prayer. May God bless these young souls as they navigate through life's adventures.

June also has the Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church (June 19-22). As a UMC pastor, I am appointed every year and will certainly be appointed to Federated Community Church again. Due to this annual appointment system, my heart and passion for Christ are renewed yearly.

My passion has never changed. It's always been evangelism, church growth, and the next generation. We've experienced a lot of great things during the last year since July 2023. However, this is not the end. It's just a new beginning. We will see God's abundant

blessings and mighty works upon our congregations and our church continuously. God will use us for His kingdom. This is how we are called as His people and the body of Jesus Christ. Let's have great expectations of God's ministry. Let's see how a mustard seed, which is the smallest one, grows bigger than any other tree in the garden!

“Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 3:13-14)

Pastor Kwan Kim



Pastor Kwan will be away in North Carolina from May 29th – June 13th. He is always available by phone or text at 301-978-1512 or email @ pastorkwankim@gmail.com. If you have an urgent need you may call Deacon Elsie Bradway at 413-566-5017.

From the Deacons' Bench

We tend to think of the family and the cozy tight-knit community as being firmly in God's territory. And insofar as we are bound together by love, it is. But God's territory extends beyond that as well. The Bible is replete with stories of wanderers, outsiders, and people in exile; total strangers to the community they find themselves in or else people who've been away so long that they now feel like strangers returning to the place they once called home.

I think of the tribulations faced by Jacob and later Moses roaming through harsh foreign lands, the treacherous missionary voyages of the apostle Paul, the parables of the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son, and of course Jesus himself: Born in the manger of an overcrowded inn in the strange city of Bethlehem, whisked away to refuge in Egypt by his parents, and finally returning to the family's home town of Nazareth. Where compassion can be found for people who aren't sure if they've quite found their place, that is God's territory too.

When I first came back to the US after several years of living in Canada and began discussing spirituality with Pastor Pat in spite of my long-held lukewarm distrust in Christianity, I felt like a kind of exile. Now I know a good chunk of the congregation and consider the church family one of the core elements of my life. I feel welcome and integrated, and grateful for the help I've received to do my best at walking in faith.

But rather than getting too comfortable in my own little corner of the community, I prefer seeing our congregation keep the door open for even more exiles: People who've been out of the habit of visiting for a long time, people who are new to the area or new to church, people who are unsure of their denomination or even their religion, and people who don't know if they fit in and are afraid of being a burden.

When Pastor Kwan joined us, moving up from North Carolina and having to leave precious members of his family behind for a year, his arrival was warmly met by our congregation and his personal sacrifices deeply appreciated. We've all been glad to be able to

spend some time with his son Tom this month as he visits us, as I'm sure we will also be when his wife Sue arrives and his son Teak Kim comes to visit with her. I'm confident our congregation is up to the challenge of making them feel at home in a relatively new place.

Under Pastor Kwan's guidance, I've seen our church work to grow in our spirit of welcoming, because we want everyone to feel free to worship with us, eat with us and not worry about being left out, share their personal stories and ideas, study with us even if (or especially if) they have a thousand questions, and dabble in volunteering for any of the church's teams, committees, and projects they have a passion for when and how they are able to.

As the summer begins, I look forward to the fellowship that will come along with our usual seasonal activities. Let's remember that whether we partake in them with well-known or unfamiliar faces, we're doing it in God's territory.

Deacon Justin Fontaine





June Birthdays

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



Karen Anable	06/05
Kimberley Mercure	06/08
Jacqueline Brusa	06/10
Miyani Tessier	06/10
Samuel Castellano	06/11
Betty Sutcliffe	06/14
Jennifer Fisher	06/15
Bobbi Grant	06/19
Alison Castellano	06/19
Alicia Richter	06/20
Janet Modlish	06/20
Paul Cilley	06/23
Alexandra Smith	06/23
Michael DeSanti	06/24
Jacob Trevallion	06/25
Owen Godin	06/25
Penny Dibble	06/26
Elena Green	06/27
Nancy Nelson	06/27
Elizabeth Cilley	06/29
Matthew Sterling	06/29

Wedding Anniversaries

Richard & Sharon DeSanti	06/02
Joanne & David Gernux	06/07
George & Gail Romano	06/12
David & Jane Wyman	06/12
James & Beverly Brant	06/21



Prayer Corner



Joyce Brooks
Beverly Barrett &
family
Phyllis
Lois Pixley
Dennis Connor
Andrew
Carl
Earl
Rory
Joanna
Connie
Ellen
Karen
Peter
Jacob
Howard
Ryan
David
Linda

Bill Cunningham
Judy
Charlotte
Rick
Glenn
Harry
Paul
Dennis
Sheila
Cheryl Fonda
Mary Beth
Susan
Chantel
Greg
Pete
John
Judy
George
Diane
Laurie Schoolcraft

Jonathon
Phil
Joanne
Jane
Scott
Steve
Ann Beroth
Glen
Laurie
Kelly Family
Rebecca
Claire
Justin
Linda Hornig &
family
Glenn
Jimmy
Norman
Jim
Brian

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

Thank You!

Thank you to **Bobbi Grant** for sponsoring our June 2024 Newsletter.

Dear Friends of FCC...

My Grateful Thanks to all of you for the lovely gift I received of the doll made from a hymnal that was purchased on the trip to the Amish Country.



I have kept it on the organ in the sanctuary and would encourage all of you to take a look and see how it was made. It is truly a work of art.

Thank you again for being so supportive of the Music Ministry and to all that are involved in that Ministry. Your friendship and love are truly a blessing to me.

Sandy Tilander

Thank You from the Community Survival Center....

Thanks to everyone who donated food for the Emergency Pantry. Someone brought over 70 lbs. yesterday for a total of 105 lbs. donated this month.

At a time when we, like many pantries around the nation, are seeing an increase in visitors to the Pantry, your gift is timely and appreciated.

Gratefully,
Mary Cassidy
Executive Director
Community Survival Center

Scholarships

This year's scholarships will be presented on Sunday June 23rd during our regular service. If you or someone you know will be attending college in the fall, please leave your name and address with Kristen in the church office to obtain an application. Applications will be accepted until June 16, 2024. Any questions, please call Janet Libby 413-626-5833.



Board of Directors

We are lacking two members of the Board of Directors at this time. If you have an interest in becoming a member, please speak with any Board member, Pastor Kwan, or Kristen in the office.

Christian Education / Children's Ministry

As we welcome the warm days of June, we also embrace a season of growth within our church community. The longer days and blooming flowers remind us of God's continuous work in our lives, nurturing us to grow in faith, love, and service.

There's a joy that I feel every time I attend Sunday Service, Children's Moment, Sunday School classes, Fellowship, & Christian Education meetings. What is this joy? I realized it's the joy of community, & connection that our society is so desperately searching & longing for. We cannot get it from the news, social media, school or our workplace. I've never felt the Holy Spirit as vibrant in FCC as it has been the past year. The sense of community & connection is growing deeper in our church family. The joy of being all in this church family together has never been stronger.

I see & hear it through the conversations with the congregation about how they enjoy Children's Moments, Bill & Lynn Cunningham's props, the CE team working together to make sure our children have the support & Christian education they need, the list goes on. The

love of Christ that the children have is so profound. Their deep faith inspires all of us to understand the Bible.

Together, let us continue to build a church family that reflects the love and grace of Jesus Christ in all we do. May God bless you and your families abundantly this month and always.

Important Dates:

**6/16/24, Father's Day, will be a day to celebrate fathers. It will also be Children's Sunday where the children will conduct the service. There will be a make your own ice cream sundae during fellowship.

**6/23/24, Family Sunday; There will be a picnic after church service.

**Wednesdays @ 10:30am Bible Study: The Gospel of Mark

In Christ's love,

Jocelyn Smith
Christian Education Coordinator

Worship Team

The Worship Team is one of the new teams created with the guidance of Pastor Kwan. We relieve a lot of the duties related to sanctuary setup and worship services that used to make it a bit daunting to be Deacon of the month.

Being on the Worship Team means fussing over a lot of fine details. I can be awfully good at that in my day-to-day life: parking the truck three times because it wasn't perfect the first time, looking up that word I used six hours ago in my International Phonetic Alphabet dictionary to make sure I didn't mispronounce it, and under no circumstances allowing the labels on the spices in the spice rack to face the wrong way. Somehow none of that is as

gratifying to me as what we do in Worship Team.

And when all the fussing is over and we're in the middle of service, those details of life fade into their proper place in the background. I consider that the job of our team: To help set up the sanctuary as a place where there's not a lot to worry about and the things around you are all reminders and tools for focusing on Jesus.

In working with Elaine DeGray, Dave Spencer, and Karen Paton, I've been grateful for how considerate and cooperative everyone has been, and impressed to learn about little things that certain individuals have long been quietly keeping up on behind the scenes of the church.


It's been a blessing being able to help Bear, River, and Olivia do the candle acolyting ceremony. They're always so hyped and very flexible about doing it, and I know the whole congregation enjoys seeing the kids illuminate the light of Jesus and take it out into the world. The Worship team is also grateful to their parents Laura & Matt and Eric & Dawn as well as to Jocelyn Smith of the Christian Education Team for helping us out with that.

Our team has had a good start, and moving forward we pray for unity, synergy, and communication with every other part of the church community so we can walk together on God's path.

Justin Fontaine



June 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 2 10:00 AM Worship	3 10:00 AM Line Dancing	4 10:00 AM Line Dancing 6:00 PM AA 6:00 PM Bells	5 10:30 AM Bible Study 1:00 PM Knit, Stitch, Pray	6 7:30 PM AA	7 7:30 PM AA	8 8:00 AM Men's Mystery Breakfast
9 10:00 AM Worship	10 10:00 AM Line Dancing	11 10:00 AM Line Dancing 6:00 PM Bells 6:00 PM AA 7:00 PM Finance	12 10:30 AM Bible Study 1:00 PM Knit, Stitch, Pray	13 4:00 CE Meeting 7:30 PM AA	14 4:00 CE Meeting 7:30 PM AA	15
16 Father's Day 10:00 AM Worship followed by Ice Cream Social	17 10:00 AM Line Dancing	18 10:00 AM Line Dancing 6:00 PM Bells 6:00 PM AA 7:00 PM BOD	19 10:30 AM Bible Study 1:00 PM Knit, Stitch, Pray	20	21 7:30 PM AA	22 8:00 AM Men's Mystery Breakfast
23 10:00 AM Worship followed by Picnic	24 10:00 AM Line Dancing	25 10:00 AM Line Dancing 6:00 PM Bells 6:00 PM AA	26 10:30 AM Bible Study 1:00 PM Knit, Stitch, Pray	27 4:00 PM Deacons Meeting	28 7:30 PM AA	29
30 10:00 AM Worship Missions Meeting						