

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

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organization  
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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

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October 2024

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## *From the Pastor's Desk*

### Standing in Awe of the Nature

October is the most beautiful month of the year in New England. Yes, I can tell, as I've experienced a whole year. The weather is perfect. The foliage is spectacular. Everything looks rich and abundant because it's the harvest season. As we celebrate the beauty, October also brings us into the tranquil mind to ponder spiritual maturity and thanksgiving. Trees and plants give us the best color of leaves and the fruits they made throughout this year. Standing in awe of nature's color and self-giving love, we cannot but humbly look inside us.

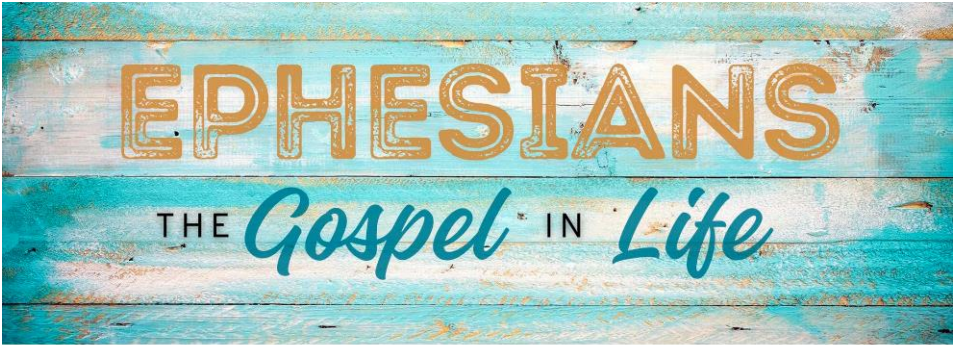
With that in mind, I am preparing a 4-week Bible Study of Ephesians starting from Oct. 27th (Sun). Ephesians is Paul's letter to a church that he wrote at the end of his life. Therefore, we may hear the words from his most mature Christian faith. The book tells us how we can live the best of ourselves in a secular world. So, Ephesians may guide us in very specific ways according to our own situations.

We will use some video clips and visual slides. However, the Bible will be our leading textbook. You will watch my pre-recorded videos during the previous week, one YouTube video (15 minutes) per week. We will read the Bible on Sunday and think about its

application in life. The title is “Bible *Study*.” However, I expect it will be enjoyable.

If possible, I would like to meet with some light food, such as sandwiches and chocolates. Because we will gather at noon, we need some energy to move on.

You don't need to register. Please feel free to come as you want, as many times as you are available. You may come by yourself or with friends. They are more than welcome to join our delightful Bible study. Enjoy the most beautiful season. And I will see you at the Ephesians Bible Study at the end of this month.



- 12 pm at the Isham room
- 4 Sundays from Oct. 27th to Nov. 17th
- No registration needed

**\*\*Please note that Pastor Kwan will be on vacation from Monday, 9/30 through Sunday, 10/6\*\***

## *From the Deacons' Bench*

So often we think that the work of the church is to be left to the Deacons or the Board of Directors, but that is furthest from the truth. We are all intertwined in the fabric of our church. We are what makes the warm, friendly, God blessed congregation. One missing person impacts the integrity of the fabric. Every voice is important; every share is important. What affects one person affects us all. We are family with lots of offspring, and there are others who need to be enfolded into our blanket of God's love.

So, share your faith with others. Invite your neighbors and acquaintances to join us in fellowship at worship, Bible Studies, Knit, Stitch & Pray. There is a spiritual food that many are seeking and don't even now that the church is what they are missing in their lives. To quote a phrase from the hymn "Amazing Grace", "I once was lost, but now I'm found; was blind but now I see".

Help others find their way to the table of love. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

Bobby Schofield, Deacon





## October Birthdays

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



Barbara Dunwoody	10/03
Jacene Germain	10/05
Joseph Eagan	10/05
Jennifer Jernigan	10/05
Carmel Grant	10/04
Madison Cadieux	10/08
Cameron Walulak	10/14
Joyce Brooks	10/14
Laurie Schoolcraft	10/17
River Lillibridge	10/18
Casey DeGray	10/20
Rebecca DeSanti	10/20
Rebekah Doyle	10/23
Justin Jernigan	10/24
Bruce Westcott	10/29
Beatrice Officer	10/30
Gillian Smith	10/30
Olivia McKeone	10/31

*Congratulations*

## Wedding Anniversaries

Allen & Laurie Schoolcraft	10/04
Paul & Elizabeth Cillely	10/09
Nancy & Richard Nelson	10/09
Bruce & Jeanne Westcott	10/15
Michael & Karen Kielb	10/18
Joshua & Sarah Blain	10/24
Erik & Dawn McKeone	10/27



## Prayer Corner



Charlotte Rounds  
Doreen  
Dawn McKeone  
Joyce Brooks  
Karen Paton  
Beverly Barrett &  
family  
Phyllis  
Lois Pixley  
Dennis Connor  
Andrew  
Carl  
Earl  
Rory  
Joanna  
Connie  
Ellen  
Peter  
Jacob  
Howard  
Beverly Burnell

Ryan  
Linda  
Judy  
Charlotte  
Rick  
Glenn  
Harry  
Paul  
Dennis  
Sheila  
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 people impacted by the typhoon in the Philippines  
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



## Sympathy to

*family & friends of  
Evelyn Schoolcraft  
who passed away on September 3<sup>rd</sup>.*



## Thank You

Thank you to **Elsie Bradway** for sponsoring our October newsletter!

## Prayer Shawls

I am looking for people who love to knit or crochet. When someone is ill and recovering or has had a loss or just needs cheering up, we can give them a soft prayer shawl which has been prayed over and can bring them comfort. There is some yarn at the church and also a pattern, which you can follow or choose a pattern of your choice. If you are interested in this wonderful ministry, please contact Elsie Bradway or call the church office at 413-566-3711.



Thank you and God bless you, Elsie Bradway

## *Christian Education / Children's Ministry*

As we enter October, the season of harvest, we are reminded of the abundant blessings and opportunities to nurture faith in every season of life. Just as farmers carefully cultivate their crops, we are called to sow seeds of spiritual growth within ourselves, our families, and our communities.

This month offers a fresh opportunity to deepen our connection with God and with one another. Whether you are involved in teaching, parenting, or simply seeking personal growth, we encourage you to reflect on how you can plant and water seeds of faith, trusting that God will bring the increase (1 Corinthians 3:6-7).

October is a wonderful time to engage in meaningful conversations with your children about God's provision and the importance of being rooted in Christ. As the world around us changes, the truths of Scripture remain constant. Share stories of faith, discuss the beauty of creation, and reflect on how God's faithfulness sustains us through every season. Consider making time for family devotions or service projects as a way to model Christ's love to your children.

As educators and ministry leaders, this season challenges us to inspire those we lead to take ownership of their faith. Whether you're teaching Sunday school, leading a small group, or mentoring, think about how you can encourage others to grow deeper in their walk with God. Create spaces for questions, discussions, and real-world applications of faith that connect the gospel with the everyday lives of those you serve.

In the midst of fall activities and busyness, let's not forget to tend to our own spiritual gardens.

Spend time:

1. in **WORSHIP** – Pastor Kwan's Sunday service sermons are very inspiring and will spiritually fill you up for the coming week.



2. in **PRAYER** – FCC Prayer Meetings 30 minutes before Sunday service are powerful.
3. study **GOD’S WORD** – Wednesdays @ 10:30 am FCC Bible Study are insightful & the discussions are profound.
4. seek **FELLOWSHIP** – Please consider fellowship after Sunday service. It’s a wonderful way to take a few moments to relax, strengthen connections and get to know our church family and community!

God desires to draw near to each of us, and this season offers a rich opportunity to experience His presence more fully.

As we celebrate the harvest season, let’s remember that the seeds we plant now—in our hearts and in the hearts of others—will bear fruit in God’s perfect time. Let’s commit to growing in grace and helping others do the same.

Blessings to you and your family this October, and may we continue to harvest faith together!

In Christ’s love and light,  
Jocelyn Smith  
Christian Education Coordinator



# October Missions

The October Missions project is to bring awareness to domestic violence.

The “Clothesline project” began in 1990 in Hyannis Mass. by Carol Chichetto.

## *The Clothesline Project*



They hung clotheslines across the Village Green, with T-shirts designed by survivors of domestic violence. Carol died in 2023 and was promised her project would continue.

Your donations of five dollars for a purple ribbon to be worn during the month or checks made out to FCC will help the local Carol Rivest Memorial foundation. They bring awareness to domestic violence, raise funds to provide education and to promote happy and healthy relationships.



Thank you so much for your support.

Janet Modlish

# Message from the Pulpit

Again, Love

Mark 12:28-34

Sermon on September 22nd

When I was in Divinity School, a professor told me this. “When you teach something in 2 hours, you must prepare it for four hours. If you want to teach the same thing in an hour, you’ve gotta prepare it for 8 hours. Because you need to make it concise. And, if you want to summarize the same thing in one sentence, you must master it.” Do you agree with it? Yes, it is true. In any subject, either business, history, or the Bible, whatever it will be, if you can summarize something in one sentence, you are a master of the area.

Today, Jesus received a question from one of the teachers of the law. V. 28, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?” If you summarize the whole Bible in one sentence, what would you say?

The teacher of the law who asked the question today seems to have a different purpose from the former visitors. The former visitors came to jeopardize Jesus with wicked, cunning plots. The first group was the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders.

They came after Jesus flipped the table of the coin exchanger. The second group was the Pharisees and the Herodians, who came and asked a sensitive tax question. The third group was the

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*Jesus received a question from one of the teachers of the law. “If you summarize the whole Bible in one sentence, what would you say?”*

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Sadducees, who asked about the resurrection. Of course, Jesus answered all those questions, making them unable to say anymore. Then, today’s teacher of the law is different. He didn’t come to Jesus to trap him. Instead, he wanted to learn from Jesus.

After listening to all the previous debates, the teacher of the law (today’s main figure) was impressed with Jesus’ wisdom and knowledge of the Bible. So, he asked Jesus a question that he couldn’t solve. “What is the most important commandment in the Bible?”

The Old Testament contains 613 commandments based on the Ten Commandments. In Jesus’ time, there was a debate about which commandment was the most important. The strongest opinion was worship and offering. No wonder. In that way, their market-front businesses, such as exchanging coins and selling doves, would be even more prosperous.

However, Jesus answered the question differently without hesitation. V. 29-31, “The most important one is this: ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. **Love the Lord your God** with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘**Love your neighbor as yourself.**’ There is no commandment greater than these.”

**The first one**, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength,” is Deuteronomy 6:4-5. Every Israelite knew this because they wrote this word, put it in a little box, and tied it on their forehead or wrist to remember it. “Love the Lord your God.”

Our lives are decided according to what we love. We give our time, money, effort, and passion to something or someone we love. You know my second son, Teak, loves to play drums, right? When he was a high school student, my wife and I counted from the moment he returned from school: One, two, three, four, five. Drrrrrrrr.

When I dated my wife 25 years ago, we met at the church for early morning prayer at 6 a.m., ate breakfast, lunch, and dinner, studied together,

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*Our lives are decided according to what we love. We give our time, money, effort, and passion to something or someone we love.*

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walked on the street, and talked until the last bus came near her house about midnight. Most of the time, I passed out on the way, snoring hard. But, on the following day, we started all over again. Why? Because I loved her.

I know you have your own love stories, much more than I do. When we met our child or a grandchild, when we bought a dream house, or when we did something we liked (fishing, camping, golfing, knitting, playing Majong), we put in the time, money, effort, and whatever was needed. Why? Because we love it. It is so natural. No one forces us to do so. There's no regret in giving ourselves or our possessions.

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*It is also true when we love God.*

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It is also true when we love God. We want to spend more time with Him, chatting in prayer, singing in praise, giving our gifts, and walking together in ministries. When I heard God's voice in prayer for the first time, my heart was full of love. I read the Bible for hours and hours because it was so sweet. I wanted to pray constantly, so I had to get in the car because I was afraid of people thinking I was weird if I prayed loud and long in the middle of the grocery or the street. It is natural when we love.

These days, I have seen many congregations come to church anytime (day and night) and devote their time and energy to the Lord, planting flowers, cleaning the classrooms, making brochures, joining ministries, and ringing the bells. You name it. We need some bunkbeds at church. Why do you do that? Because you love the Lord. Why are you here today? Because you love the Lord.

Love the Lord your God. Is this an obligation or a forced commandment? No, no one forces it. It doesn't work that way. We naturally love Him when we know who He is and how He has loved us. We may forget for a while how much love we received from God, how happy we were with God, and how many blessings we received when we devoted ourselves to Him. Sometimes, worldly desires may distract us. However, we all know deep inside

our hearts that the true joy is in the Lord. Being loved is so good. But loving is even happier. And loving each other is the best.

Deuteronomy 10:13 says that God gave us the law (the Bible) **for our own good**. When we love God, everything will be in the perfect position. That's why St. Augustine said, "Love God and do whatever you please: for the soul trained in love to God will do nothing to offend the One who is Beloved." When we love God, every law will be kept naturally. Therefore, **love the Lord your God** with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength. That was the first one.

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*St. Augustine said, "Love God and do whatever you please: for the soul trained in love to God will do nothing to offend the One who is Beloved."*

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And Jesus said **the second one** was, "Love your neighbor as yourself." It is from Leviticus 19:18 ("...love your neighbor as yourself. I am the Lord"). It was not new for the Israelites, either. Every Jew would have known it.

Let's look into it. Loving our neighbor has a detailed condition: "as yourself." Think about it. There is no commandment to love ourselves. Because everybody does it very well. When we feel cold, we clothe ourselves. When we feel hungry, we feed ourselves. We clean our bodies, brush our teeth, and entertain ourselves. We give skincare lotions on the face, eye cream, hand cream, foot cream, body lotion, and wrinkle-free cream. That's how we love ourselves. The Bible says, "Love your neighbor in the same way."

After listening to this, the teacher of the law replied, "Well said, teacher... You are right in saying that God is one, and there is no other but him. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." (v. 32-33)

Jesus was happy to hear him, so he said, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.” (v. 34) The law teacher received a compliment from Jesus. That was the end of all debates in Mark’s gospel. “And from then on, no one dared ask him any more questions.” (v.34)

That’s the end of the story today. Now, it’s “So What” time. We will ponder the scripture and apply it to our lives. Are you ready? On three. “SO WHAT~?”

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Today’s “So What” has three short things.

### **1. Loving God and loving others are one.**

The law teacher asked about the most important one. But Jesus answered with two things: loving God and loving others. Why? Because those two are one in Jesus. Loving God is loving others and vice versa.

Then, why did Jesus say this is first, and this is second? Because it has a cause-and-effect relationship. If you love God, it is naturally exposed as loving others. Just like the two sides of a coin, loving God and loving others are one.

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*It has a cause-and-effect relationship. If you love God, it is naturally exposed as loving others.*

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1 John 4:20-21,  
“Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen,

cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.” Therefore, loving God and loving others are one.

### **2. The way of loving God and others is the same.** Jesus said you should love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. In short, “Love God with all yourself.” We don’t give him only a small portion of our heart, decision, or life and do whatever we want with the rest of it. No. We give Him all. That’s how we love God. // Likewise, when we love others, we should love them as

ourselves, meaning “with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind, and all our strength.” We love God and others in the same way.

1 John 3:18 says, “Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.” Loving others with words is easy. Loving others with actions is hard. And loving others in truth is holy. Therefore, brothers and sisters, let’s love God and others with words and actions in truth.

Loving words without love are vacant. Charity without love doesn’t have power. Even worship without love is meaningless. That’s why Jesus told us in Matthew 5:23-24, “Therefore if you are offering your gift

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*Loving words without love are vacant. Charity without love doesn’t have power. Even worship without love is meaningless.*

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at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. First, go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift.”

What does that mean? Loving in truth is more important than actions/rituals. In today’s scripture, the law teacher told Jesus, “Well said, teacher... You are right... To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, and with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is **more important than all burnt offerings and sacrifices.**” (worship and offering) Jesus was pleased with his words.

So, that’s the last “So What” today. **3. Love is more important than worship.** Our worship is to give our love to God in praise, prayer, and offering. Think about it: a proposal without love, a serenade without love, dating without love, or sacrifice without love. Does it sound like happy? No. Not at all.

So, God told the Israelites in Amos 5 like this. “I hate, I despise your religious festivals; your assemblies are a stench to me. Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them.” (v.21-22). “But let justice roll on like a river,



righteousness like a never-failing stream!” (v.24) Let the powerful take care of the weak instead of exploiting them. Let the rich help the poor. Let judges work in righteousness. Love others as yourselves, and come to me and worship.

The world doesn't say we are the disciples of Jesus when they see we worship. Jesus said, “By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples **if you love one another.**” (John 13:35). There is a reason. We worship here for an hour at the sanctuary. But, after this worship, when we leave the sanctuary, our worship in life starts. Most of the time, we worship God in our ordinary lives. And the way of worship is love. Therefore, everyone will know whether we are the disciples of Jesus or not by looking at our worship in life.

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*The world doesn't say we are the disciples of Jesus when they see we worship. Jesus said, “By this, everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another.”*

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Today, Jesus said that the most important commandment is to love God and others. Jesus lived that way. He didn't love only with words and speech. He loved us until he died on the cross. My beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, let's love

God and others with all our hearts, mind, soul, and strength. Let's worship the Lord at the church and in life so that God may be pleased with us. Let everyone know we are the disciples of Jesus through our love so that we may live in the fullness of joy wherever we are.

In the name of the Father, Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



Federated  
Community Church  
of Hampden

# WINTERFEST HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH**  
**9:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

**Pancake Breakfast 9:00 AM -10:30 AM**

**A variety of items made by local crafters!**


**Lunch available for purchase!**

Federated Community Church  
590 Main Street  
Hampden, MA 01036  
413-566-3711



Interested vendors please call 413-566-3711 or email [hampdenfederated@gmail.com](mailto:hampdenfederated@gmail.com) for more information and a vendor application.

## October 2024

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