

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

**Nonprofit  
organization  
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# *The Federated Courier*

Federated Community Church  
590 Main Street  
Hampden, MA 01036

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## *From the Pastor's Desk*

We are entering the season of Lent, which lasts 40 days (excluding Sundays) and is during which Christians prepare for Easter. This year, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (March 5th) and ends on Holy Saturday (April 19th), the day before Easter Sunday (April 20th). The number 40 symbolizes the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness, as described in the New Testament.

For this reason, during Lent, Christians often give up certain foods or habits to focus on spiritual growth, self-discipline, and reflection. It's also a time for charity, prayer, and helping believers connect more deeply with their faith and others in need. It is a time to be reminded of our sinfulness and God's everlasting love.

God gave us his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ. He chose to let him die on the cross to give us life. He chose him to be beaten and broken to make us whole. And God's work of salvation had been concluded on Easter Sunday with his resurrection, giving us hope for eternal life. How can we describe the depth, length, width, and height of God's love toward us?

So, I recommend a couple of things to make this season meaningful. First, let's have an intentional quiet time to ponder our weaknesses and God's mercy. Reading scripture or devotionals and praying for the beloved and those in need would also help you develop a deep relationship with God.

Second, let's give ourselves to the Lord by volunteering in various ministries or charity works. Lent is a time to remember that Jesus gave himself up for us. Therefore, it is also right for us to give ourselves to others. Calling or texting those who are sick and delivering food to those in need would be a good start.

Lastly, let's worship the Lord with our whole heart. What would our Father want us to do most during this season? It is to be with Him with a loving heart. As a father, I want to spend more time with my children. I hope they think of me sometimes. I am glad when they love to be with me. God's heart is the same. That's why He named His only Son Jesus "Immanuel: God with US." Come to worship and give your love to your Heavenly Father.

Lent begins this Wednesday (March 5th). Let this season guide you to a deeper relationship with God. Let your service reflect Christ's self-giving love. Let your worship overwhelm God's joy.

Sincerely Yours,  
Kwan



# *From the Deacons' Bench*

Laity Sunday Service February 23, 2025

Pastor Kwan was on vacation visiting his family in Korea and the Deacons organized the service with all aspects of it carried out by the church members.

Bruce Libby did the Greeting and announcements followed by Bobby Schofield's short report of items needed for the Springfield Rescue Mission. The congregation welcomed Paster Kwan via the internet with the Korean hello (Annyeonghaseyo).

Sandy and Dale provided the wonderful music throughout the service.

Karen Paton led us in the call to worship

Bill Cunningham presented the Children's Moment with a history of prayer throughout the ages starting when it was banned until it was commonly open for all.

Bill read the first Scripture James 1:19-27 and led us in the reciting of the Apostles Creed.

The choir sang "Love Grows Here" with Sandy and Dale accompanying them.

Diana Cobble gave a very moving story of her personal faith journey. We thank her for sharing her lifelong walk with God. We are so happy that she is here with her family now worshipping with us.

Dale read the familiar scripture Ecclesiastes 3:1-6.

Josh Sterling and Bruce Libby talked of their involvement in the church from childhood to actively serving on different committees today.

Penny Dibble did the Joys and Concerns and we celebrated Josh's and Mary Lou Black's birthdays.

Penny offered the second prayer upholding those mentioned in Joys and Concerns and finished with the Lord's Prayer.

During the offering the bell choir played and the congregation sang the Doxology in thanks.

Bev Barrett received the offering and gave a prayer.

Our final hymn was "We've a Story to tell the Nations."

Bruce Libby closed the service with a benediction.

After service fellowship was well attended in Libby Hall.

It has been many years since we have had a Laity service and everyone enjoyed doing their part.

Thank you to all from the Board of Deacons.





## March Birthdays



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

Matt Lillibridge	03/01	Anne Collins Jr	03/22
Bonnie Watson	03/02	Elizabeth Warner Godin	03/23
Elizabeth Taylor	03/02	Emily Warner	03/23
Joseph Tessier	03/06	Lauren Hummel	03/23
Kellie Hummel	03/11	Ronald Richter	03/24
Beverly Brant	03/11	Sandra Richter	03/24
Laurel Carman	03/14	Jarrod Smith	03/26
Geoffrey Sterling	03/15	Erik McKeone	03/27
Dennis Chaffee Jr	03/15	Jollette Germain	03/28
Virginia Richter	03/17	Glenn Olesuk	03/28
Jesse Lee	03/17	Patricia Ritz	03/30
Karen Paton	03/19	Dale Varney	03/31
Mary Drozdowski	03/20	Barbara Panek	03/31

# Congratulations

## Wedding Anniversaries

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



## *Prayer Corner*



Joan Day  
Rita Spencer  
Sally Badillo  
Dawn McKeone  
Joyce Brooks  
Phyllis  
Lois Pixley  
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 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 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 **the Smith Family** for sponsoring our March newsletter!



## March Ushers

3/2	Sheila Hess & Joyce Ogonowski
3/9	Bruce Libby & Janet Libby
3/16	Beverly Barrett & Linda Hornig
3/23	Beverly Burnell & Regina Martin
3/30	Penny Dibble & Justin Fontaine

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 Justin Fontaine.





# *Missions Committee Update*

## **Requesting Home Essentials to be Donated**

Throughout March, we are collecting home essentials to be distributed to those in need by the Springfield Rescue Mission.

We are requesting cutlery, pots and pans, bowls and plates, mugs and glasses, can openers, kettles, soap dispensers, toothbrush holders, towels, and anything else you can think of which would be useful to someone starting from zero in a new home. Donations may be dropped off on the donation table in Libby Hall. Items may be new or used as long as they're in decent condition. For safety reasons, please do not donate sharp knives. Butter knives are acceptable. Due to space constraints, please do not donate microwaves or any large appliances.

As part of their program, the Springfield Rescue Mission supplies people in need with basic home necessities. Many of these people have recently been homeless and in rehab, and will be moving into a home of their own for the first time in a long time. Many are also refugees or immigrants from a poor background trying to land on their feet as they start their lives in the US with almost no material possessions.

We thank you for your support of this mission to help people going through difficult transitions in their lives get the aid they need and know that they matter to us as beloved children of God.



# *Christian Education*

As we enter the season of Lent and prepare for the celebration of Easter, it's a perfect time to reflect on the rich meaning of the **acolyte**. Often, we see acolytes lighting the candles at the beginning of the service and extinguishing them at the end, but the deeper significance of these actions invites us to consider how we are called to carry the **Light of Christ** with us into the world.

## **Lighting the Candles: Welcoming the Light of Christ**

In Christian symbolism, light represents **Christ as the "Light of the World"** (John 8:12). The acolyte, by lighting the candles, symbolizes Christ's presence in the service. Just as light dispels darkness, Christ brings light into our lives, guiding us through the journey of faith.

As the acolyte walks forward with the candle lighter, it's a visual reminder for us to prepare our hearts for worship and to acknowledge Christ's presence among us. The light represents spiritual illumination that Christ brings to our lives—revealing truth, hope, and salvation.

## **Extinguishing the Candles: Carrying Christ's Light into the World**

At the end of the service, the acolyte extinguishes the candles, symbolizing the conclusion of our time of worship. But here is the key detail: **one candle is left burning** as the acolyte exits the sanctuary with the pastor right behind. The remaining light reflects our calling as Christians. We are to take that light with us, sharing it with the world through our actions, words, and love. **Christ's light continues to shine in the world through us.**

## **The Acolyte: A Symbol of Service and Discipleship**

As young people serve as acolytes, they learn the importance of reverence, responsibility, and being an active part of the worshipping community. They take on the responsibility of assisting

with the sacred rituals of the service and, in doing so, deepen their understanding of the significance of Christ's light in their lives.

### **Conclusion: Taking the Light of Christ into the World**

This March, let us remember that we are bearers of the Light of Christ. May we be inspired by the acolyte's role to serve with humility, reflect on Christ's presence in our lives, and shine His light to others, bringing hope and love to a world in desperate need of Christ's love and light.

Blessings,

The Christian Education Team



## **FCC Spring Trip**

March 20th  
Mercantile Center  
Worcester, MA

**“The Immersive  
Experience”**

10 am Depart from the church  
11 am Arrive at the Center  
1 pm Lunch  
3 pm Arrive at the church

Cost: \$40/person (including lunch)  
For more information, contact the church  
office at **413-566-3711**

# WOMEN OF WORSHIP (WOW)!!!

YOU'RE INVITED TO  
THE 5<sup>TH</sup> 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, March 15, 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/>

Website: <https://www.hampdenfederatedchurch.org>



# Estate Planning


FOR ALL AGES

SPEAKER  
REV. DAVID ABBOTT  
DIRECTOR OF  
THE UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION

**APRIL 6TH  
11:30AM**

**FEDERATED COMMUNITY CHURCH  
HAMPDEN, MA**

## March 2025

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



## *Easter Flowers*

The Flower Committee will be ordering plants for Easter. The deadline for ordering plants is April 13th, 2025. 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

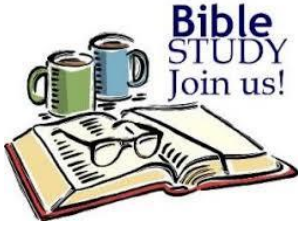
NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Plants may be picked up after the 10:00 am Easter Service on April 20th, 2025. Plants that are not picked up after the service will be left in the sanctuary for the following week's services.

## Join us For....



Bible Study- Wednesday 10:30 AM



Knit, Stitch & Pray – Wednesday 1:00 PM



WOW – every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month  
at 10:00 AM



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



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

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