

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 78 4

April 2025

From the Pastor's Desk

Invitation to the upcoming meaningful services

As April arrives, Easter is just around the corner. Trees and flowers that looked dead during the winter are revived with green leaves and charming flowers, making the world beautiful. This reminds us of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Easter is the day when Jesus overcame death. It is the day when all believers received hope for eternal life. Jesus, the Son of God, died for sinners like you and me. Jesus' ministry, his teaching, and his equipping of disciples point out the cross. All his ministries were to prepare his people for the cross and resurrection. Therefore, Easter should be when we give our greatest thanksgiving and love to our Heavenly Father, who gave His only son to us as a sacrifice for all, and to Jesus, who was nailed and died on the cross to cleanse our sins.

Jesus didn't stay there in death. He is risen. Because Jesus resurrected from the dead, we will also live. Death cannot defeat us anymore. Because he lives, we can face tomorrow. Because he lives, his light shines upon our darkness, depression, and sorrow. That's why we celebrate Easter with the greatest joy.

In order to keep this Lenten Season meaningful, we have several services and plans as follows;

On April 6th (Sun), Rev. David Abbott will come and preach about Mary breaking the Alabaster Jar. He will give us a seminar titled “Estate Planning for All Ages” after worship.

April 13th (Sun) will be Palm Sunday, when we will welcome Jesus, waving Palm branches.

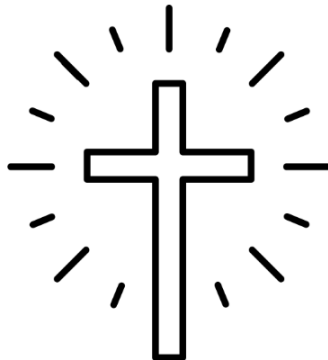
On April 17 (Thur), we will have the Maundy Thursday Service at 5 pm. We will remember Jesus’ last supper, reading the scripture with the candlelight, and having the Holy Communion. Also, we will offer our Lenten Box to the altar with a prayerful heart.

April 20th (Sun) is Easter Sunday. We will have the Sunrise Service at the Old Cemetery at 6 am, Breakfast at church at 7 am, and Easter Service at 10 am. At the end of the service, children will give you a special Easter gift and a flower. We will go out, march to the cross prepared outside, and decorate the cross with the flowers you receive. There, we will take a group picture as we did last year.

Easter is only four weeks away. Let’s make this season of Lent as meaningful as possible by focusing on Jesus’ love and sacrifice and finding ways to love God and our neighbors. I hope to see you all in these upcoming meaningful services.

Blessings,

Kwan



From the Deacons' Bench

I enjoy the anticipation of acquiring nice things. In fact, I'm not all that thrilled to be living in the age where vans or even drones race your product to your door the day you order it. I feel nostalgic thinking about when "Estimated Delivery: 3 weeks" was commonplace: I remember rushing to the mailbox every day after school for over a month to see if a book from a foreign vendor had finally arrived, curious as much to crack open the book itself as to examine the exotic postage stamps on the crinkled brown paper wrapping which had passed many hands in many countries. I would regularly think excitedly about that book during my morning shower, as I fell asleep at night, and probably a few times in between each day until finally it was mine.

Lent is also a period of anticipation, in which we reflect on Christ's final days in the leadup to our celebration of his resurrection on Easter. But there's something very challenging about the Lenten season. For me, it poses two serious questions. The first is: What should I be anticipating? Am I anticipating when it's over and done with so I can go back to drinking coke and eating sumptuous dark chocolate bars? Or am I anticipating a spiritual transformation where these ephemeral little personal pleasures aren't so central to my life anyway? Maybe I'm anticipating a time when our community and our world are more faithful, more giving, and more caring. Maybe I'm hazy about what the future holds, but I anticipate when God in His wisdom will guide me to the path of peace which transcends all understanding.

The second question is: Can I find joy in the anticipation? Can I stand strong in my faith in a world which has in many ways not fundamentally changed since the time in which Jesus was rejected and crucified? We still see and experience illness, poverty, pettiness, corruption, and idolization of people and things which don't love us or do anything positive for us. But if I can find joy in the anticipation of something like that book I was so excited for—which, by the way, turned out like so many worldly things we put our hopes in to be a major disappointment that I wouldn't recommend to anybody—then surely I can find joy in the

anticipation of the promised triumph of the prince of peace. Where we see hints of God's kingdom, glimmers of opportunity to connect and to love, we must chase after those things with worshipful gratitude. And, at least at times, we will find joy in that chase.

These are the questions I'm praying on as Lent turns to Easter. I'm deeply thankful to be part of a congregation in which we strive to support one another along our paths of spiritual growth, and eager for all the opportunities we'll have to connect in the exciting church events or quiet weekday get-togethers of the coming weeks and months. I pray the Lord continues to guide our aspirations, renew our hopes, and deliver us joy which we can spread among and outside our community.

With gratitude,

Justin Fontaine





April Birthdays



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

Elizabeth Nelson	04/02	Brittany Fisher	04/19
Steven Elliot	04/02	Karen Leger	04/19
Judith Hatch	04/04	David Anable	04/20
Matthew Fisher	04/06	Melanie Bliss	04/23
Richard Patullo	04/07	Sarah Blain	04/25
Abigail Tulloch	04/08	Sally Badillo	04/27
Gretchen Warner	04/10	Jeanne Westcott	04/27
Joyce Burt	04/12	Kim Cummins	04/28
Benjamin Blain	04/16	Alice Wilcox	04/28
Jane Wyman	04/16	Mason Kennedy	04/28
Richard Regnier	04/17	Annabelle Tulloch	04/29
David Quill	04/18	Roger Tirrell	04/29
Maurice Dezan	04/19	Anne Collins	04/30
Matthew Doyle	04/19		

Congratulations

Wedding Anniversaries

John & Barbara Panek	04/11
Mitch & Mary Drozdowski	04/21
Matt & Diane Fisher	04/21



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 **Sterling/Elliot** family for sponsoring our April newsletter!



April Ushers

4/6	Sheila Hess & Joyce Ogonowski
4/13	Beverly Barrett & Penny Dibble
4/20	Bruce Libby & Janet Libby
4/27	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 Justin Fontaine.



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

APRIL 13 10 AM
Palm Sunday Service

APRIL 17 5 PM
Maundy Thursday
Candlelight Service

APRIL 20 6 AM
Sunrise Service
at Old Cemetery

APRIL 20 7 AM
Pancake Breakfast

APRIL 20 10 AM
Easter Service

Federated Community Church



April Missions

Missions for April and May will be to collect donations for the Shriner's Children's Hospital in Springfield, MA. This organization helps children in numerable ways. Dr. Phil Stoddard supported Shriners as did Frank Watson. In their memory we carry on to make children's lives better.

Thank You for Household Items Donations

I've moved five times in the last seven years. Two of those times I had to start over with only the bare essentials, bringing with me only what I could fit into a rolling luggage case. We take the little hoard of household items we use in our day-to-day lives for granted, but when you have to go out and acquire them all for yourself, it's actually quite an exhausting process and a pretty hefty expense. And it's definitely no fun getting half-way through making boxed mac & cheese only to realize you don't own a strainer.

For the people served by the Springfield Rescue Mission, these are often additional burdens under the already trying circumstances of being transferred to a new home after living on the streets, recovering from drug addiction, learning to manage debilitating mental health issues, or landing in a new country with few local connections or resources. Your donations have surely been a blessing for those going through such difficult times, easing their stress and demonstrating that someone out there in the world is extending Christian goodwill toward those who are struggling.

Volunteers at the Rescue Mission have repeatedly extended their gratitude to our church congregation for its generosity. And it's been a joy to see how enthusiastically so many people have marched into Libby Hall lugging a waffle-maker or a cast-iron frying pan under their arms. While this particular mission formally ends for our church on March 31st, the Springfield Rescue Mission collects household items for those in need year-round, and all are welcome to drop off household donations on the Libby Hall donation table beyond the end-date of this mission if they would like.

For the months of April and May, our church mission will be to support Shriners Hospitals for Children. Announcements with further details are forthcoming.

Thank you for supporting this mission,

Justin Fontaine, Missions Committee member

Children's Ministry Moment

The Mission of the Federated Community Church is to create a safe place to know and experience God's love; to learn the stories and ways of Jesus, and to carry faith, hope, and love into the world.

What a joy and a privilege it is for the Children's Ministry Team to gather each month to plan our church's program of Christian education and faith formation! Intentionally Opening ourselves to the leading of the Holy Spirit allows us to:

- **collaborate harmoniously** within our shared Mission framework.
- create **meaningful and accessible learning experiences** for children of all ages, within the classroom and in the Children's Moment of worship time.
- choose curriculum components (print and digital, for differing learning styles), props, and hands-on classroom learning aids to **meet the children where they are in their physical and spiritual development.**
- **Connect with our families** to support their family faith experiences.
- engage in a process of **ongoing welcome to new families**, and support their integration into our church family.
- encourage one another to **model what we teach!**

It takes a lot of **time, love, and prayer** each week from Jocelyn Smith (CE Coordinator), Bill and Lynn Cunningham, Pastor Kwan, the teachers, and all of the volunteers, to "*let the little children come to [Jesus]*" (*Matthew 19:14*) by preparing, guiding, and nurturing them as we walk with them and their families on their spiritual journeys.

How blessed we feel when we see the fruit of these efforts in the growing connections among the children, staff, parents, pastor, and congregants, **all leading to growing connection with Jesus!**

And isn't that what we're all about?

Feeling blessed,
Linda Hornig, CE Committee Chair

Meet Our New Members

Meet our new members: Rösli Glista (99-year-old grandmother), Chris Glista (father), and Samuel Glista (son). Today, they became our members even though they need to drive over 45 minutes from West Hartford to join our worship.

They decided to join us because of our congregation's welcoming and loving care. Justin's transformative life story may also help them make decisions. Please welcome the Glista family with wide-open arms!



From left to right, Justin Fontaine, Ben Glista, Sam Glista, Rösli Glista, Chris Glista & Pastor Kwan Kim.



Estate Planning



FOR ALL AGES

SPEAKER
REV. DAVID ABBOTT
DIRECTOR OF
THE UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION

**APRIL 6TH
11:30AM**

**FEDERATED COMMUNITY CHURCH
HAMPDEN, MA**

April 2025

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



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

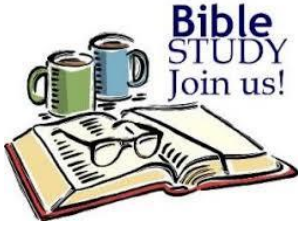
NAME _____

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 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

Federated Community Church
590 Main Street
P.O. Box 246
Hampden, MA 01036
Church Telephone: 413-566-3711
www.hampdenfederatedchurch.org