

First Congregational Church, U.C.C.
102 Middle Street
Hadley, Massachusetts 01035-9429



CHURCH STAFF

Pastor – The Reverend Peter Stilla

Deacons –

Lisa West

Ken Parker

Jonathan Morel

Donna Brewer-McGahie

Bob Andersen

Director of Music – Michael Stancill

Christian Ed Director – Shannon Stilla

Office Administrator – Cathy Samson

Custodian – Bryan Harper

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday Morning – 10:00 a.m.

Worship services & past events can be accessed on Facebook and YouTube.

CHRISTIAN ED

Sunday Morning – 10:00 a.m.

Telephone: 413-584-4117

Website: www.firstchurchhadley.org

Facebook.com/FirstChurchHadley

YouTube: <https://youtube.com/c/FirstChurchHadley>



The Rooster Crows

June, 2024



Dear First Church Family,

And down the stretch they come (as they say at horse races)!

In the UCC and other liberal Protestant churches, the church year is much like the school year, in that it's thought to start after Labor Day and run until June, ending about when the kids start their summer vacations. There's long been a motto among UCC clergy that expresses this, and that's "God goes to the Cape for the summer," which while irreverent, still reflects how most UCC churches do things.

And there's nothing wrong with this. In fact, the church year in the UCC is longer than the Christian year, which starts the first Sunday of Advent and runs until Pentecost. This time period is, at most, no longer than six months, usually going from the start of December until the end of May, as it did this year.

All that being said, the First Church of Hadley is ending our church year with a bang in June. On June 2 we'll be holding our annual Children's Sunday, in which yours truly will get out of the way and let the Christian Ed committee put on a fabulous kids-oriented service that everyone will enjoy. On June 9 we'll hold our annual Baccalaureate Sunday, in which we honor our students for completing another school year or graduating from their schools. Then on the last day of June we'll hold one of the most highly anticipated services of the year. Music Sunday, on June 30, will end our month and year with a beautiful salute to the music that makes our hearts sing all year long! Don't miss it (or any) of our June 2024 services!

In Christ,
Pastor Peter

QUARTERLY MEETING



Our next quarterly meeting will be on June 30th immediately following worship service. If you have any items to consider for the agenda, please let me know. I currently have two items which are a new church directory and the status of a search committee. Boards and committees can either send me a written report or provide an oral report at the meeting.

In Christian fellowship,
Shari

CHRISTIAN ED NEWS



Happy June!

Wow ~ It's unbelievable that we are almost half way through 2024, but here we are and how wonderful it is to be enjoying longer days, more sunshine, warm breezes, blooming flowers and the sound of birds chirping. Mother Nature has been hard at work so let's show her some love by enjoying our surroundings and all the beauty she has provided for us!

During May we recognized the important committees and people that are so integral to our church through a fun game of Bingo, we witnessed a beautiful baptism, learned about the Holy Spirit, celebrated Mother's Day and talked about the power of our thoughts!

We have a busy month ahead which includes Children's Sunday, Baccalaureate Sunday and Music Sunday, how exciting!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone for the show of support for Christian Education which you provide each Sunday morning. It is truly touching to feel the love and support that envelops the youth of our church, what an amazing way to grow up!

Enjoy June and July as we can't wait to see you all when we return in August!

Blessings,
Shannon

MISSION NEWS



Thank you to those who helped with the personal items collection for Amherst Survival Center! These are such important items for those with limited funds. As we get ready for summer days, let us not forget to help others! It is good for your heart and soul to put others before yourself! Think about random acts of kindness as you try to wind down and have some relaxation time for yourself and your family.

Peace to you all,

Judy Stone

Mara Breen

Cindy McQueston

Barbara Andersen

NEWS FROM THE MUSIC COMMITTEE



First, we have an update on the Music Committee itself. Deb Ward resigned from the committee in April. As she was the chair, we were left with two members and no chair. Barb Andersen and I held a meeting, and I agreed to serve as chair. Deb did a phenomenal job as chair under some very trying circumstances. I have big shoes to fill.

Rosalee Oakley has graciously agreed to join the committee. She will be appointed to fill out Deb's term at the next congregational meeting.

Next, Music Sunday is on June 30. It's a service at which we celebrate our music program, enjoy some special music, make some music ourselves, and feel the presence of the holy spirit. There will be lots of congregational-choice hymns, so start thinking now about the ones you want to request. The only restriction is that the hymns must come from the Pilgrim Hymnal. So, if you want to sing a Christmas Carol, go for it!

And finally, there is summer music. When the services in August are at First Church, the regular and handbell choirs aren't rehearsing. If you are interested in offering your musical talents for a Sunday service, contact Mike Stancill at michaelstancill1959@gmail.com. Sing the anthem, play something on the piano that you last played in public in sixth grade, or tune up your guitar and accompany the congregation on a hymn.

Ruth Morse, for the music committee
Barbara Andersen
Michael Stancill



1	Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Take & Eat
2	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	CHILDREN'S SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
3	Monday	7:00 p.m.	DEACONS MEETING
4	Tuesday	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING GROUP
5	Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
6	Thursday	4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal CHOIR REHEARSAL
9	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY WORSHIP
10	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Hope Grange Meeting
11	Tuesday	12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Hampshire Association Clergy Luncheon HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
12	Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
13	Thursday	4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal CHOIR REHEARSAL
16	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP
18	Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
19	Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
20	Thursday	4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal CHOIR REHEARSAL
23	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP
24	Monday	6:00 p.m.	Grange
25	Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
26	Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
27	Thursday	4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal CHOIR REHEARSAL
30	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	MUSIC SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE

Events listed in ALL CAPITAL LETTERS are church-related events.