

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

September, 2024



Dear First Church Family,

Well, here we are in a new month, and it's not just any new month either. The month of September represents a transitional time for most of us. It marks the passage from summer to fall, and at FCCH, that means a new church year is getting underway. Our last service in fellowship hall was on September 1st, on the 8th we are back in the sanctuary, and the 15th is Homecoming Sunday, the day our new year will officially begin.

This particular passage of time does not go unnoticed by most people. Some experience a touch of melancholy with the arrival of shorter days and cooler temperatures. But on the other hand, there are folks like yours truly. It seems as if I have gotten older, autumn has become my favorite season. Maybe it's because I'm in the "September of My Years," as Frank Sinatra once sang!

However, regardless of the season and our personal preferences, at FCCH we believe there is joy to be experienced in each one. And that's why we're planning a month of vibrant worship in September and all autumn long. When we make the most of all of our seasons, we celebrate with God the glory of Creation, and we feel God's happiness 12 months a year!

In Christ,
Pastor Peter

QUARTERLY MEETING



The next quarterly meeting will take place on September 22, 2024. Please let me know if you have any agenda items to put on the agenda. Boards and committees can prepare a report prior to the meeting and/or present one at the meeting.

Happy Autumn,
Sharon Parsons

CHRISTIAN ED NEWS



Happy September!

We are so excited to begin this new season of learning, growing and strengthening our faith together through Sunday School. Christian education is committed to providing a safe, loving space for all children to learn more about God and explore their personal journey of faith that is both fun and meaningful.

Each Sunday we will continue to engage in Bible stories and spiritual growth through crafts, games and interactive lessons to keep learning about God exciting.

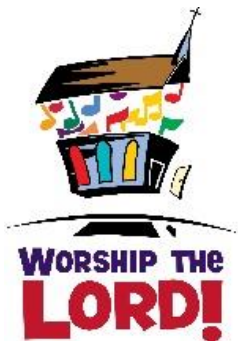
Our church has outstretched open arms for everyone and we would love to welcome more children to our Sunday services. Please be sure to invite family, friends or neighbors with youth to our church so that we can spread God's word of LOVE to all!

We are looking forward to a wonderful year filled with faith, fun and fellowship but want to first express our gratitude for being back together and discovering all the blessings that God has in store for this year!

Welcome Back!



MUSIC NOTES



Thanks to those who came out for pick-up choir in August and the first Sunday of September!!! We were especially blessed by some "North Hadley" visitors. Now we return you to our regularly scheduled programming LOL!

Thursday, September 5, will be the first regular Choir Practice of the season, 7PM in the Choir Room (upstairs by the nursery). Practice lasts an hour and change... All are welcome! The only prerequisite is loving to sing. We've got some traditional favorites and new surprises coming up the Sundays in September, such as Awesome God; Lord of the Dance; Jesus Loves Me; Praise to the Lord; and more. Please join us!

For all the Bell Choir information you need, please see Ruth Morse's article!

In Christ
Mike Stancill, Director of Music

FROM THE BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR



Ring of Joy will be back on Sunday, September 8! Rehearsals will begin on Tuesday, September 10. Rehearsals are held Tuesday evenings, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Anyone who is interested in learning to play handbells is welcome to try us out by attending a rehearsal. We can't teach you everything in one hour, but we can give you a taste of what it's like.

Tuesday, September 17, is Constitution Day. Churches in our area will be ringing their bells for four minutes at 4:00 p.m. to commemorate the signing. We can't ring our steeple bell, so we will ring our handbells on the front steps instead. Anyone who is interested, please contact me. We aren't going to "play" anything; we're just going to make noise.

We are hosting a handbell workshop on Saturday, October 26, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Anyone is welcome to attend. The workshop will have a basic track and an advanced track. So it's a perfect opportunity to get started ringing. I'll have more information for you in the October newsletter.

Ruth Morse
ruthmorse@aol.com
413-461-1280

SEPTEMBER

1	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP
4	Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
5	Thursday	4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal CHOIR REHEARSAL
8	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP
10	Tuesday	12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Hampshire Association Clergy Luncheon HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
11	Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
12	Thursday	4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal CHOIR REHEARSAL
14	Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Regional Handbell Governing Group Meeting
15	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	HOMECOMING SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED
17	Tuesday	4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Constitution Day Bell Ringing HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
18	Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
19	Thursday	4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal CHOIR REHEARSAL Hampshire County Farm Bureau Meeting
22	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED QUARTERLY MEETING FOLLOWING WORSHIP
24	Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
25	Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
26	Thursday	4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal CHOIR REHEARSAL
29	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED

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