

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](https://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchHadley)

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



The Rooster Crows

October, 2024



Dear First Church Family,

My totally favorite month has arrived. It has more of than a few of my favorite things (thank you, Julie Andrews), such as pumpkins, perfect temperatures, the World Series, and especially, the gorgeous fall foliage that makes me thank God I was born a New Englander! I think God knew I'd be an October lover, and that's why my birthday is this month too!

Our first Sunday service of the month was on World Communion Day, and we also held a special collection that day to help those who have been impacted by the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene. And, of course, the First Church of Hadley responded very generously. If you'd still like to contribute to this worthy cause, go to the Church World Service website (cwsglobal.org) to learn more.

The rest of October also promises to be a busy time at First Church, as we begin to prepare for our always exciting holiday season. We'll keep you posted as to upcoming special events as the month moves along, so don't miss a Sunday. You won't want to miss a thing!

In Christ,
Paster Peter

MODERATOR'S NOTES



This is a reminder that there will be a meeting with the UCC Situational Support Committee on **Wednesday, October 23, at 6:00 p.m.**, in Fellowship Hall.

Sharon Parsons

CHRISTIAN ED NEWS



Happy October!

I always welcome this exciting time of year when God's glory shows us just a fraction of the beauty we will have in eternity with him. ~ I love to say we can experience "Heaven on Earth" if we just slow down, breath, and quiet our minds long enough to truly be grateful for what we have. Of course, the struggles, tragedies, and turmoil that each of us experience or witness whether personal, up close, or from afar certainly take a toll on us, but I believe this is when it becomes even more of our responsibility to quiet our minds and thank God for the opportunity to step up and help in whatever way we can.

There are numerous places currently experiencing destruction and devastation. Although we may not be able to supply all the necessities needed, what we can do is pray for them, send them love and light, and let them know that people are with them. The Christian Education Committee will begin a campaign in hopes of providing a ray of light to their darkness. We are asking for small notes containing uplifting words of hope and encouragement which will be sent to North Carolina to be distributed among those that are currently cut off from the rest of the world and feeling so alone. Many times, it's the small words of encouragement or small act of kindness that can provide a spark of hope and determination to keep going, even in the most desperate times. We will be sending these notes to the First Congregational United Church of Christ of Asheville to disperse within the community.

Our curriculum focus for October will be the "Pumpkin Parables" and how God is better than any treasure we have. The importance is to stay connected and spread God's love like the vines of pumpkins that are connected to larger vines which help each other grow big and strong. This is a perfect opportunity for us to share our "vine of hope and love" that are in need of it most right now.

Blessings,
Shannon

MISSION NEWS



We are presently accepting donations for "Blessing Bags." These will be filled after church on October 20th and there are still many items to sign up for. Please look at the list in the dining room or contact Judy Stone. These will be brought to Amherst Community Connections to be distributed to their clients who need them.

Please remember our support of the Hadley Food Pantry and add a bottle of juice or box of cereal or crackers or coffee to your own grocery list!

Thanks for all you do!

Mission Committee

MUSIC NOTES



Fall is here, and the bells are ringing and the choir is singing! An October Choir highlight is a gospel arrangement of Jesus Loves Me. There'll be some lovely hymn tune settings for organ, including Fairest Lord Jesus, How Great Thou Art, and This Is My Father's World.

As always, Ring of Joy (the bell choir) practices Tuesday at 6:00 PM; Choir practice for singers is Thursday at 7:00 PM. Both practices are in the Sunday School room behind the Sanctuary. New faces are always welcome!

Mike Stancill, Music Director

BELL CHOIR NEWS



The day: September 17

The time: 4:00 p.m.

The location: the front steps of the church

The occasion: Constitution Day, the day on which we recognize the value and history of this guiding document of our democracy

We were invited to join the celebration by ringing our tower bell, which is out of commission just now. So we rang handbells instead. Lisa West, the Dragon family, and Ruth Morse were the ringers. Lots of noise was made and fun was had by all.

FALL TUNE-UP workshop:

First Church is hosting a handbell workshop on Saturday, October 26, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This event has both a beginner track and an advanced track. It's a perfect opportunity for anyone who has never tried handbells to learn some basics. If you've ever thought you *might* like to try handbells *sometime*, sometime is here.

The morning portion of the workshop will consist of a selection of classes. After a break for lunch, attendees will work through two of the Festival Conference 2025 massed ringing selections. (What's Festival Conference? What's massed ringing? You'll be hearing more about those from me soon enough.)

For more information or to register: <https://area1.handbellmusicians.org/state-and-local-events/>

Ruth Morse
Handbell choir director
ruthmorse@aol.com

October

1	Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
2	Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
3	Thursday	4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal CHOIR REHEARSAL
4	Friday	4:00 p.m.	Take & Eat Prep
5	Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Take & Eat
6	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED
7	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Leader Meeting
8	Tuesday	12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Hampshire Association Clergy Luncheon HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING GROUP
9	Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
10	Thursday	4:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal Men's Club CHOIR REHEARSAL
13	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED
15	Tuesday	4:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Constitution Day Bell Ringing HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
16	Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
17	Thursday	4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal CHOIR REHEARSAL
20	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED
22	Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
23	Wednesday	6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	SSC & CONGREGATIONAL MEETING Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
24	Thursday	4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal CHOIR REHEARSAL
26	Saturday	8:30 a.m.	HANDBELL WORKSHOP
27	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED
29	Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
30	Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
31	Thursday	4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal CHOIR REHEARSAL

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