

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

Mara Breen

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](http://www.firstchurchhadley.org)**

**Facebook.com/FirstChurchHadley**

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



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# *The Rooster Crows*

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April, 2025

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Dear First Church Family,

Yea for April! Is there any among us who doesn't appreciate when the calendar turns to this page? As a big baseball fan I've always loved it, but even for those who don't share my lifelong Red Sox obsession (or affliction, as is the case some years), April is when the promise of Spring comes more fully into view. I think we can rule out any more significant snowfall at this point, right? 😊

Making April even better this year is that we are celebrating Easter in a few weeks. Easter is a joyous and glorious holiday no matter when it falls, but perhaps April adds to its resonance in ways March does not. Trees are budding, flowers are blooming, and the rebirth that Easter signifies is more fully evident in the world around us.

But regardless of what Mother Nature has in store for us this month, First Church will celebrate Easter in the sacred and meaningful way it does every year. Palm Sunday is on April 13, and Holy Week activities will include our annual Maundy Thursday service. Then, on Easter Sunday, we will hold our outdoor Sunrise service in addition to our traditional 10:00 AM service in our beautiful First Church sanctuary. Come to either one (or both, as many folks do!), but either way, we look forward to sharing the joy and rebirth of Easter with you on this most sacred of days.

In Christ,  
Pastor Peter



## PASTOR'S CHAT

Our Pastor's Chat this month will be on **Tuesday, April 15, at 7:00 p.m.** Pastor Peter will be discussing the meaning of Easter at this month's Pastor's Chat as well as any other topics regarding First Congregational Church of Hadley that you would like to discuss with him. Please mark your calendar now and join this month's Pastor's Chat!



## **UPCOMING EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES**

### **MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE**

Maundy Thursday service will be held on April 17 at 7:00 p.m. If you would like to participate by reading a passage, please speak to Pastor Peter. A light supper of soup and bread will precede the service at 6:00 p.m. There will be a sign-up sheet during coffee hour for those planning to attend. If you would like to offer to make or bring soup, bread or a beverage for the Maundy Thursday supper, please speak to Lisa West.

### **GOOD FRIDAY BIBLICAL PASSAGES**

First Church will not be holding any services for Good Friday, but if you would like to spend some time on Good Friday in contemplation of Christ's passion, our lectionary recommends some Biblical passages that will lead you in worship and reflection. They are Isaiah 52:13-53:12, Psalm 22, Hebrews 10:16-25, and from the Gospels, John 18:1-19:42. May God bless you in your reading and meditation this Good Friday.

### **EASTER LUMINARIA and CANNED FOOD DRIVE**

The Board of Christian Education will once again be hosting a canned food drive and luminaria display on Easter Eve. White bags will be available soon at church. Decorate as you'd like and return with a canned food donation for the Hadley Food Pantry by April 19. We will display the luminaria on our front steps on April 19 and be encouraging other churches to join us in celebrating the light of Christ's resurrection.

### **EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE**

Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday, April 20, will begin at 5:45 a.m. on the North end of the Hadley Town Common on West Street. Please plan to bring a folding chair if you'd like to have one. If there is poor weather, we will meet at the church.

### **EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP**

We will also have a traditional Easter Sunday worship service at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary where Easter flowers will be displayed in memory or in honor of family and loved ones. If you would like to order flowers, please contact Shari Parsons, Lisa West or Jeremy Thayer by April 1st. As a reminder, those who purchase flowers are asked to take them home after worship service on Easter Sunday.



*Lisa West, Chair 413-695-4943*

*Ken Parker 413-549-3530*

*Jonathan Morel 413-549-3958*

*Donna Brewer 413-364-6463*

*Mara Breen 617-543-1999*

*Bob Andersen 413-687-3121*

## CHRISTIAN ED NEWS



Welcome April!

We will be reflecting and remembering the importance of the most remarkable story this month! The ultimate gift of God's **LOVE** for us, the sacrifice Jesus made for **US** and his extraordinary resurrection. Palm Sunday we will wave our palms high in the air to remember Jesus arriving in Jerusalem. We are also looking forward to once again having our Easter luminaries displayed for Holy Saturday, so please remember to take a drive that evening to see our church beautifully lit representing the light of Jesus, which we can rely on even in our darkest times. On Easter Sunday, let's come together to rejoice in his resurrection and the life we have been given because of God's unwavering love for us!

*“Holy Saturday is the pause between sorrow and joy, the quiet before the dawn. In the stillness, the light of Christ is already shining, guiding us from the darkness of the tomb to the glory of resurrection. It is the night of waiting, where hope flickers like a candle, reminding us that even in the deepest silence, God is at work. Soon, the stone will roll away, and the radiant light of Easter will break forth, filling the world with the victory of life over death.”*

Blessings,  
Shannon

## MUSIC NOTES



Excitement is building as the musicians at First Church get ready for Easter Sunday! In addition to the choir and Ring of Joy, we will have not one but two trumpeters! You won't want to miss this year's celebration of the Resurrection of Our Lord.

Sunday, April 27, will be my last at First Church. After much thought and prayer, I have decided to "really" retire. Although I have enjoyed my time as organist and music director, the travel and responsibilities have proven to be too much.

I wish you all blessings for the future!

Mike Stancill

## FROM THE MUSIC COMMITTEE

We are saddened by Mike's decision to retire. We have been so blessed to have him with us.

In other news, Music Sunday will be **May 18**. More details coming soon.

## MISSION NEWS



Our Lenten mission project this year is to collect personal care essentials for the Amherst Survival Center! These items include toilet paper, soap, toothpaste, shampoo, menstrual products and diapers for all ages. There will be boxes and bins in the small vestry to collect these items.

Judy Stone

Mara Breen

Cindy McQuestion

Barbara Andersen

Judy Parker

## SAVE THE DATE!

Hadley's Town Meeting is May 1 - please come and support the vote for CPA funding for our steeple renovations.





1	Tuesday	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING GROUP
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
5	Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Take & Eat
6	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED
8	Tuesday	12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Hampshire Assoc. Clergy Luncheon Meeting HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
9	Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
10	Thursday	4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal CHOIR REHEARSAL Hampshire County Farmers Bureau Meeting
13	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED
15	Tuesday	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL PASTOR'S CHAT
16	Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
17	Thursday	4:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal MAUNDY THURSDAY LIGHT SUPPER MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE
19	Saturday	Dusk	EASTER LUMINARIA EVENT
20	Sunday	5:45 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	EASTER SUNRISE WORSHIP SERVICE EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED
22	Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
23	Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
24	Thursday	4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal CHOIR REHEARSAL
27	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED
29	Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL

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