

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



July - August

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor – The Reverend Peter Stilla

Deacons –

Lisa West

Ken Parker

Jonathan Morel

Donna Brewer-McGahie

Mara Breen

Bob Andersen

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

July-August, 2025



Dear First Church Family,

It was quite a fabulous church year, wasn't it? From Homecoming, to Advent, to Christmas, to Epiphany, to Lent, to Easter, and through to Pentecost, our church family made every service, every event, so meaningful and rewarding. And I would like to thank all of you for all you have done for me, your pastor, and for everything else that makes the First Church of Hadley such a fantastic place to worship. I think we have created a very special faith community here and we can take a lot of pride in what we have done together.

This is the last edition of The Rooster Crows for the summer, but First Church will resume its Sunday worship schedule in August downstairs in the dining hall. Homecoming is scheduled for September 14, and we'll start this wonderful ride all over again! May you feel God's loving presence with you all summer, and don't forget to have a fabulous time!

In Christ,
Pastor Peter

UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

We will be the guests of the North Hadley Congregational Church, 243 River Drive, for worship service on Sunday, July 6, 13, 20 and 27.

WORSHIP SERVICE AT THE PARKER'S

Sunday, August 17, is our annual worship service at Ken and Judy Parker's house, 118 Mt. Warner Road, Hadley. We will gather in Ken and Judy's backyard for a 10 a.m. service with a potluck brunch following worship. Please bring your favorite potluck dish to share and bring a chair to sit on. Parking is available on the lawn inside the hedge to the left as well as on adjoining Hawley Street. All are welcome to join this great time of worship and fellowship.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS SERVICE

On Sunday, August 24, we will have a Blessing of the Animals service outside on the back lawn behind the church at 10 a.m. If there is inclement weather, we will hold the Blessing of the Animals in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to bring your pet(s) or farm animals, or a picture of your pet if you prefer, for a blessing and/or for healing prayers.

Traveling light

*Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests,
but the Human One has nowhere to lay their head.*
—Luke 9.58

Humble One,
to follow you I have to unpack more than I carry;
not much fits in my little bag of faith.
Here is my sense of entitlement, my expectation
that I will belong and be accepted and tended to.
I leave it behind.
Here is my attachment to comfort and security,
and my favorite things. They don't fit.
Here's my expectation that I'll accomplish great things.
Way too heavy. And look—
crammed in the bottom of my overstuffed trunk,
my secret belief that I'm at the center,
that the children of Gaza or the immigrant
or the uncertain trans kid or the MAGA radical
are not mine—that I have a separate place,
a little nest, a safe foxhole. Nope. Gone.
All that fits in my little bag of faith is you,
and your passion for the whole world, all of it.
All that fits is trust, and kindness.
OK. I've unpacked. I'm ready.

Steve Garnaas-Holmes
Unfolding Light
www.unfoldinglight.net

On vacation

To honor the Sabbath is not just to take the day,
but to honor the holiness of open time,
pausing, holding your hands empty of all but God.

Empty your time: give room for God to act,
for grace to enter, for wonder to surprise,
for what is becoming to become.

Vacate your importance. Sweep clean
the world's dependence on you. Accomplish
nothing; make room for the infinite Unseen.

Even amid the cries of the world and the fireworks
of Pentecost, you can step aside and be still.
Others will sing while you take a breath.

The greatest sign of hope is to act for love;
the second greatest is to let God. Vacate,
take sabbath, and the emptiness will be divine.

Steve Garnaas-Holmes
Unfolding Light
www.unfoldinglight.net

CHRISTIAN ED NEWS



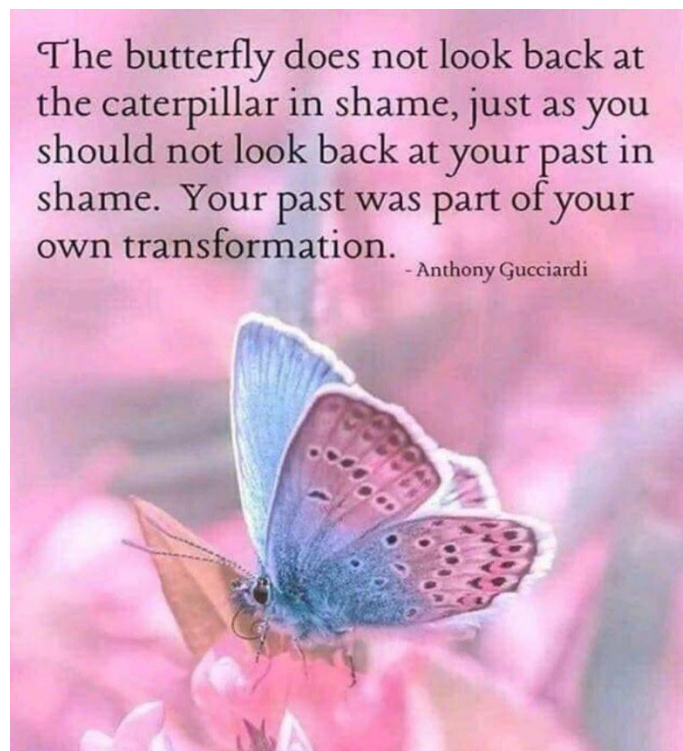
Happy Summer !

It is hard to believe that we are already half way through 2025, but it is also hopefully a perfect time to re-evaluate what we would like the rest of the year to look like! Life definitely seems to be slower paced for those in certain fields of work like education, but for others it may seem much busier. Either way it's wonderful to have these longer days of sunshine and hopefully each of us can put aside some time during our daily routines to quiet our minds, stop to look around and thank God for the many blessings he has provided!

Your assignment over the summer is to release and let go of something you have been holding onto from your past, truly take some time to revisit it and decide to **LET IT GO, RELEASE IT** and **LOOK FORWARD** to the freedom of no longer carrying that with you!

Enjoy your July, and we can't wait to see you back in August with a fresh new outlook!
(August will be Sunday School lite with fun activities & games offered.)

****August 24th, we have planned a Youth Summer Fun Afternoon of Games, Water activities & Snacks with the Hadley Congregational Church and Wesley United Methodist Church to kick off the new school year. This will be held at the Wesley Church in Hadley from 1-3 p.m., after our "Blessing of The Animals" service.**



Blessings,
Shannon



2025 Fall Retreat REGISTRATION FORM

SNE Women's Connection Team Fall Retreat

Reynolds and Meyer Retreat Centers Camp Wightman
207 Coal Pit Hill Road N, Rte. 201, Griswold, CT 06351

**After 4 p.m. Friday, September 19, 2025 until
4 p.m. Saturday, September 20, 2025**

Return form with check payable to CTWUCC to:

Martha Lape, 20 Towpath Lane, Cheshire, CT 06410

\$100 by September 1, 2025 – Overnight

OR

\$40 by September 1, 2025 - Saturday

or use this QR code to pay by PayPal.**



Scan. Pay. Go.

****If you are paying using PayPal, please email the information requested on this form to: susanlindley521@yahoo.com**

NAME _____

NOTE: If you are completing this form for someone else, please include your contact information.

TELEPHONE _____ (Home) _____ (Cell)

ADDRESS _____ **ZIP:** _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

CHURCH AND TOWN: _____

Emergency contact: _____
NAME **PHONE**

Please list any medical conditions including allergies:

Indicate if Gluten Free _____ **or Vegetarian** _____

If you have any questions regarding ADA accommodations, please contact Pam Roberts, at drpampt@gmail.com or 860-428-2406



**THE SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND WOMEN'S
CONNECTION TEAM INVITE YOU
TO JOIN US FOR:**

***An overnight retreat for Women
of the Christian Faith***

Recognizing The World

We Live In!

Friday, September 19 at 4 pm until

Saturday September 20, at 4 pm

**Reynolds and Meyer Retreat Centers Camp Wightman, 207 Coal
Pit Hill Road N, (Route 201) Griswold, CT 06351**

Led by Rev. Sue LaTourette

Pastor of Congregational Church of North Stonington

Enjoy the natural setting at camp with women of faith and
be inspired to discover the blessings of our natural world,
and exciting ways to care & share.

**Register for the event using the
attached registration form**

**Cost is \$100 per person* for overnight
(Includes Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch)**

**Cost is \$40 per person* for Saturday only
(Includes Saturday breakfast and lunch)**

***Scholarship help is available.**



2	Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
5	Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Take & Eat
6	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	WORSHIP SERVICE NORTH HADLEY
7	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Leaders Meeting
9	Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
13	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	WORSHIP SERVICE NORTH HADLEY
16	Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
20	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	WORSHIP SERVICE NORTH HADLEY
23	Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
27	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	WORSHIP SERVICE NORTH HADLEY
30	Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting

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



2	Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Take and Eat
3	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	WORSHIP SERVICE
4	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Leaders Meeting
6	Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
10	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	WORSHIP SERVICE
13	Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
17	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	WORSHIP SERVICE AT PARKER RESIDENCE POTLUCK LUNCHEON
20	Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
24	Sunday	10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m.	BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS WORSHIP Youth Summer Fun at Wesley Church
27	Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
31	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	WORSHIP SERVICE

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