

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

**[Facebook.com/FirstChurchHadley](https://www.facebook.com/FirstChurchHadley)**

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



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# *The Rooster Crows*

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February, 2025

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Dear First Church Family,

My dear sister has always said it's a good thing that February is the shortest month, because it's the month that people hope goes by as quickly as possible. Poor February! It's the Rodney Dangerfield of months; it gets no respect at all!

Well, I guess it's true that people think once February is over so too, pretty much, is winter. But there will still be a lot of good things going on this month at the First Congregational Church of Hadley. We will celebrate the last four Sundays in the season of Epiphany and begin our preparations for Lent, which is a sure sign Spring is just around the corner.

Then we have what I think has become a new annual event at FCCH, and that is our trip to see the UMass hockey team and cheer on the Minutemen. The game is Saturday, February 15<sup>th</sup> (the day after Valentine's Day, so I'm sure we'll all be feeling the love!). Then on Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup>, we will hold our first monthly Pastor's Chat, in which we can discuss anything pertaining to the FCCH that you'd like. So, let's give February a bit more of the respect it deserves!

In Christ,  
Pastor Peter

## PASTOR'S CHAT

Our first Pastor's Chat is here! On Tuesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM, Pastor Peter will host a casual get-together at FCCH where we'll discuss topics pertaining to the life of our church. The theme for this month's chat is what should the role of the Church be in our nation's political culture, and how do you think First Church of Hadley should respond to some of the issues where religion and politics are intersecting today. Of course, anything about our church you want to talk about we want to hear about! See you on the 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00!

## MUSIC NOTES



What a blessing to see new faces in the choir and bell lofts!!! We have room for more... Choir practice is Thursdays at 7:00, Ring of Joy practice is Tuesdays at 6:00. Due to my surgery, there will be no choir practice on Thursdays February 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, and March 6<sup>th</sup>.

I will miss all of you this month!

Mike Stancill

## ANNUAL MEETING



Meeting  
Reminder

Our annual meeting is February 23, 2025. There will be a brunch following the service, so please bring something to share. Our meeting will follow the brunch. There are still openings for a number of positions, so please consider participating in one of those. I am still in the process of preparing the agenda, but most of the meeting will be reviewing and accepting reports. If at all possible, please review those reports so we can move along at a good pace.

Sharon Parsons,  
Moderator

## CHRISTIAN ED NEWS



God's immense love for us is beyond all understanding but how can we begin to reciprocate our love back? We start by leading with love and kindness to others in all situations, even in the most difficult situations. February will be focused on God's love and loving like Jesus did, by witnessing to others.

*Each time anyone comes in contact with us, they must become different and better people because of having met us. We must radiate God's love.*

Mother Teresa

In January we enjoyed a teen group outing to Pinz Bowling where we shared pizza, bowling and arcading and look forward to providing more opportunities in the future to come together!

*The great thing to remember is that though our feelings come and go God's love for us does not.*

C. S. Lewis

We are excited to come together on February 15th for our second trip to UMass for the Boston College and UMass Hockey game, WOO HOO! (No matter who you want to win, this will be a wonderful time for cheering and camaraderie!)

*Though we are incomplete, God loves us completely. Though we are imperfect, He loves us perfectly. Though we may feel lost and without compass, God's love encompasses us completely. ... He loves every one of us, even those who are flawed, rejected, awkward, sorrowful, or broken.*

Dieter F. Uchtdorf

This month, let us lean on what we already know... **GOD IS LOVE** and let's spread the word and his love in every opportunity we can!!!

*There is no pit so deep, that God's love is not deeper still.*

Corrie Ten Boom

# FEBRUARY

1	Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Take and Eat
2	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED
4	Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
6	Thursday	4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal CHOIR REHEARSAL
9	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED
11	Tuesday	12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Hampshire Assoc. Clergy Luncheon HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
13	Thursday	4:30 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal
16	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED
18	Tuesday	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL PASTOR'S CHAT
20	Thursday	4:30 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal
23	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED BRUNCH FOLLOWING WORSHIP ANNUAL MEETING
25	Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
27	Thursday	4:30 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal

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