

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

Facebook.com/FirstChurchHadley

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



The Rooster Crows

May, 2025



Dear First Church Family,

As I write this May is still a couple of days away, but today is absolutely the best day weather wise we've had all year. It's a perfect example of why the Temptations once sang, "When it's cold outside, I've got the month of May." Youngsters can look up the song "My Girl" to see what I'm talking about!

We had a wonderful April at First Church, highlighted by our Holy Week services on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and our traditional two services on Easter morning. It got a wee bit chilly at our outdoor sunrise service, but the high spirits of all those who attended made it feel warm and cozy. Thank you to everyone for helping make our sunrise service such a special event. Our final Sunday in April was somewhat "bittersweet," as we bid farewell to our dear music director Michael Stancill, but our service was still filled with love and gratitude. Michael, you will be missed!

May is also shaping up to be a busy month at First Church. We'll start with a celebration of the 10th anniversary of our O&A statement on May 4th, and our Mother's Day service a week later will include a baptism. How's that for saluting motherhood! Music Sunday is set for May 18th, and we'll wrap up May with our annual Memorial Day Sunday service. That's four very special May Sundays you won't want to miss. See you there!

In Christ,
Pastor Peter

PASTOR'S CHAT

Our Pastor's Chat this month will be on **Tuesday, May 20, at 7:00 p.m.** The topic of the chat will be announced at a later time. Please mark your calendar now and join this month's Pastor's Chat!

SUPPORT CPA FUNDING

Important reminder: Please attend the upcoming **Town Meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 1st** to support our request for CPA funding needed to repair our steeple. We need everyone's vote! The CPA committee approved the request, but it has to be approved by a vote at the Town Meeting.

QUARTERLY MEETING

Our next quarterly meeting date has been changed to **Sunday, May 25**. Subsequent quarterly meeting dates will be on September 7 or 14 depending upon which day is not Homecoming Sunday, and November 30.

From the Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide

EASTER SUNDAY

God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

– Genesis 1:3

In 1965 I was a US Navy pilot serving aboard an aircraft carrier. I was on a plane that returned to the ship just before sunrise — when that narrowest sliver of light begins to separate the ocean's invisible horizon from the black sky. As I walked from my plane toward the debriefing room, I noticed a group of sailors setting up chairs on the flight deck — normally a bustling scene of people and planes. It suddenly dawned on me that it was Easter morning! Under the direction of our chaplain, the crew was creating a temporary chapel for a sunrise service. The usual earsplitting flight deck had been transformed into a peaceful sanctuary where a group of Christians worshiped the risen Christ — just as dawn broke over the sea.

As we celebrated the resurrection of Jesus, I was reminded that sunrise is a never-ending event. As the Earth turns, the sun peeks over the horizon — inch by inch, moment by moment, day by day. Although I was experiencing a very private moment, millions of other Christians would witness the same miracle of dawn in their own corner of the world. The sun's daily ritual speaks to Christianity's most fundamental belief: *The Lord has risen!* God's creation of land, sea, sun, and sky serves as the never-ending sunrise experience shared daily around the globe. Each moment is a testament to the risen Christ.

Prayer: Worldwide God, thank you for being everywhere around this planet Earth that all your children call home. We give you thanks for the risen Christ! Amen.

John Alter (Florida, USA)



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



Wow, right on cue Mother Nature has done it again with the beautiful weather ~
THANK YOU GOD!

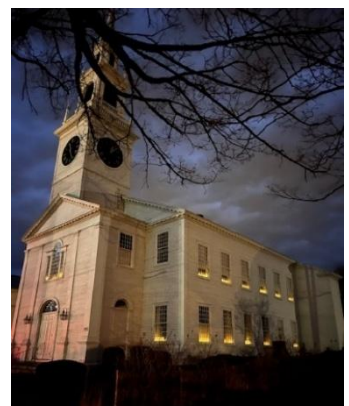
April was a mixed bag of a few beautiful warm days and then waking up to sleet and snow the very next day...which is a perfect representation of LIFE in general! We never really know what is in store for us on a day-to-day basis, therefore, let's try to really LIVE BIG by opening our eyes wider to appreciate the small blessings that we receive every single day!

We have been actively trying to coordinate some youth get-togethers and were blessed to find another local church to do a group meet up to see the movie "King Of Kings," (an animated story of the life of Jesus), the day before Easter! ~ What a wonderful way it was to witness his story and the sacrifices that were made for each one of us! After the movie we headed to the church where our Easter Luminaries were placed inside this year because of the rain. It certainly did not put a damper on how beautifully lit our church was, representing the light of Jesus on the eve of Easter. The North Hadley and Hatfield churches joined us this year in lighting their churches on this special evening also, hopefully next year we will have even more that want to join us!

Last week we celebrated and recognized Michael for sharing his wonderful gift of music over the last year with us, and then we headed outside for an easter egg hunt! (Meg and Chuck found every single one, all 30 of them!)

May we all have a month of small, sweet surprises and bountiful blessings ahead!

Blessings,
Shannon



FROM THE MUSIC COMMITTEE



As I write this, we are preparing for Mike Stancill's final service as our Music Director. By the time you read this, we will have said our good-byes. We've learned a lot in the short time that Mike was with us:

Choir rehearsals will always start on time.

Mike's sense of humor is as sharp and boisterous as his musical talents can be.

Fermata ☺ is Italian for "Look at Mike."

Trust that your practice has prepared you for your performance.

It's amazing how fast two feet can move over the pedals on the organ.

For the immediate future: We have substitutes in place for all the Sundays in May and June, and we have a substitute to conduct choir rehearsals as well.

I will be taking over the weekly reporting of the music that is used at each service. We do this so that copyrights are not violated and composers receive the royalties they deserve when their compositions are streamed or posted on YouTube. I'd like to have someone else learn to use the software, too. If anyone is willing to take this on, **please speak to me or email me** at the address below.

We will ask to have a Music Director Search Committee appointed at the quarterly meeting at the end of May. If you are interested in being on that committee, **please speak to me or email me** before the meeting.

Music Sunday will be May 18. The Belchertown Community Handbell Choir will be our musical guest for the event. Because we will be having a substitute accompanist, we won't be able to do our usual hymn-sing-by-request. Instead, **please email me your choice of hymn**, and we'll select the ones to be used from those submissions.

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

Call to Attend an Ordination

Members of the Hampshire Association are invited to
attend the ordination of

Nathan Patti

First Congregational Church Amherst, UCC
165 Main Street
Amherst, MA 01002

Sunday, June 22, 2025
3:00 PM

A church is represented by clergy and four delegates.
Clergy are invited to meet at 2:30 PM to robe and process.

Visitors are welcome.

HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, June 1, 2025
1:30 PM

at

Easthampton Congregational Church
12 Main Street
Easthampton, MA 01027

All are welcome!

Annual Reports will be sent two weeks prior to the meeting.
Churches are represented by up to four delegates and a pastor.



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| 1 | Thursday | 4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. | Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal Town Meeting CPA Vote |
| 3 | Saturday | 8:00 a.m. | Take & Eat |
| 4 | Sunday | 10:00 a.m. | SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED |
| 6 | Tuesday | 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. | HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING GROUP |
| 7 | Wednesday | 6:30 p.m. | Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting |
| 8 | Thursday | 4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. | Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal CHOIR REHEARSAL |
| 11 | Sunday | 10:00 a.m. | SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED |
| 13 | Tuesday | 12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. | Hampshire Assoc. Clergy Luncheon Meeting HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL |
| 14 | Wednesday | 6:30 p.m. | Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting |
| 15 | Thursday | 4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. | Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal CHOIR REHEARSAL |
| 18 | Sunday | 10:00 a.m. | MUSIC SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED |
| 20 | Tuesday | 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. | HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL PASTOR'S CHAT |
| 21 | Wednesday | 6:30 p.m. | Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting |
| 22 | Thursday | 7:00 p.m. | CHOIR REHEARSAL |
| 25 | Sunday | 10:00 a.m. 11:00 a.m. | SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED QUARTERLY MEETING |
| 28 | Wednesday | 6:30 p.m. | Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting |
| 29 | Thursday | 7:00 p.m. | CHOIR REHEARSAL |

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