

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

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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June, 2025

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Dear First Church Family,

Ah, June! The Summer solstice, the longest days, the end of the school year, and for us at First Church, the last month before our annual July hiatus. But we'll end our church year in style in June with special services and activities the whole family will enjoy.

In particular, the month will start with a service that is among the most anticipated of the year. Children's Sunday is June 1st, and as you all know, it never fails to deliver a heartwarming (and entertaining!) message to First Church kids ages 1 to 100. I've gotten a sneak peek at what our fabulous friends in Christian Education are planning, and take it from your pastor, you won't want to miss it!

The following week we will hold another of the annual services that is near and dear to the hearts of all of us at FCCH. Baccalaureate Sunday is June 8th, and that is when we honor all the high school graduates in our church family. It is also Pentecost Sunday, but your pastor has decided that our celebration of that holy day can surely wait another week!

So, as we approach the start of summer and all the fun this time of year brings, don't forget that the First Congregational Church of Hadley will be getting the season off to a joyous and inspirational start!

In Christ,  
Pastor Peter

## **PASTOR'S CHAT**

Our Pastor's Chat this month will be on **Tuesday, June 17, at 7:00 p.m.** The topic of the chat will be: As the FCCH 2024-25 church year ends, is there anything in our Sunday services that you would like to see done differently starting in September? Communion, hymns, the pastoral prayer... let's discuss any ideas you may have to change things up a bit. Or feel free to tell Pastor Peter you love things just the way they are!

Please mark your calendar now and join this month's Pastor's Chat!

## **CHRISTIAN ED NEWS**



Happy June To All!

This past week was Children's Sunday, and I want to thank everyone for participating that day and every Sunday of the year! We hope you will keep in mind this summer that if you're not a fisherman or haven't even been fishing before, that you can always be a fisherman for God just by being a good example to others and living a life that represents Jesus' love for everyone!

Next week, June 8th is Baccalaureate Sunday, when we honor those members of the First Church family who are graduating high school this year. So, this is a very busy month for Christian Education, and as we move into summer let us remember to thank God for the opportunities he provides for us to witness to others on a daily basis. Let's seek ways to spread God's good news during this wonderful season of sun and fun!

Enjoy your June, have a blessed July and remember...God catches his fish first, and then cleans them!

We cannot wait to see everyone back here in August!

Blessings,  
Shannon

## **MISSION NEWS**



Thank you to all who donated personal care items for the Amherst Survival Center! They were very appreciative! We also had a large amount of donations for the Hadley Food Pantry!

As we arrive in summer mode, let us remember to help those who need a helping hand! When you're shopping, think of the food pantry now and then!

## **FROM THE MUSIC COMMITTEE**



Today's Children's Sunday service reminded me of what can be so extra special about making music in worship. The pre-service bell rehearsal was not good. Each run-through had a different problem. It felt like we hadn't practiced it before. Then we took our places during the service to play, and music came out! I'm amazed every time this happens, and it happens often, as though we have all channeled the Holy Spirit.

In order for our music ministry to function, we do need some help beyond just the music committee. There are three areas in which we are looking for help:

1. We need several people to serve on the Search Committee for a new Music Director. There are no qualifications beyond an interest in our music ministry. Please let one of us (Barb, Rosalee, me) know if you are willing to take on this task.
2. Our sheet music files are crowded and the folders are getting worn out. I'd like help in cataloging all this music by entering title and composer and maybe publisher into an excel spreadsheet. This is a task that can be done in little pieces and at odd times, once I get people oriented. People could use their own laptops and keep their own spreadsheets. Once we have everything entered, we can put the spreadsheets together and make a master file! If you like orderliness, you'll love this job! Please contact me if you can help.
3. Every time we use a piece of music in a service that is broadcast in any way, we must report its use to CCLI and ONE LICENSE. They take care of the royalties for the copyrighted music so that we don't have to. I'd like to have someone else learn the software for those programs, so that I'm not the only person in the congregation who is able to do the weekly reporting. Tech savvy-ness would be helpful. Please contact me to volunteer.

As we look ahead to summer, there are a few things on the horizon.

On the last weekend in June, I'll be attending the biennial Handbell Festival-Conference, in Worcester, sponsored by Area 1 Handbell Musicians of America. It's a weekend of classes (the conference part) and rehearsals for the closing concert (the festival part). I learn all kinds of new things at these events and meet and network with other ringers and directors. The concert will feature about 300 ringers from many choirs, all playing the same pieces. This year the closing concert will be live-streamed. When I get the link, I'll put it in the Friday email blast.

In July, we'll be worshipping at North Hadley Congregational Church. In August, North Hadley will be worshipping with us.

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

Music Committee: Barbara Andersen, Rosalee Oakley, Ruth Morse



Darrell W. Holland Sr.  
April 30, 1932 to November 30, 2024

*Pastor of FCCH from July 15, 1961 to September 1, 1966  
Pictured is Darrel Holland, Sr. with his son Darrell Holland, Jr.*

Darrell Wendell Holland Sr., newspaper writer, editor, ordained Pastor, marathoner and mountain climber, passed away on November 30th, 2024, in Cleveland, Ohio, where he lived for over forty years. He was 92 years old at the time of his passing.

Darrell was born to Ray E. Holland and Esther (Dean) Holland on April 30th, 1932, in Charleston, West Virginia. He was the oldest of five children. He was preceded in death by his parents, Ray and Esther Holland, his brothers, Carol and Kenneth, and his sister, Linda Sue.



He is survived by his wife of more than 50 years, Ann Holland of Ohio and New York, and his sister, Mary Lou Matson of Ohio, West Virginia, and Arizona.

He leaves behind sons Darrell Holland, Jr. (Dianne) and Paul Holland (Lillian) and daughter Joanna Brown (David Suru). His grandchildren include Michael Holland (Michelle), Timothy Holland (Candace), Emily Holland, Seth Brown (Lorena), Grant Holland, and Olivia Weissman (Ian), and eight great-grandchildren (Connor, Dominick, Lawrence, Trenton, Annabel, Emberlee, Ellianna, and Arrowynn).

He earned his Bachelor's degree, a Master's of Divinity, and a Master's of Science in Journalism. He was the Communications Director for the Massachusetts Conference United Church of Christ, pastored several churches, most notably the North Hadley Congregational Church, and from 1974 to 1997, he was the Religion Editor for the Cleveland Plain Dealer Publishing Company in Cleveland, Ohio.

He was active in and passionate about the Civil Rights Movement and all social justice issues, striving to be a voice for those society sought to silence and diminish.

Darrell Holland Sr. will be missed by all who were fortunate enough to know him, especially those blessed to be his family. His warmth, generosity, and spirit were all part of a man who focused on making the world a better place for all who needed a voice. He has been described as someone who “genuinely engaged with and had so much time and energy for everyone (including strangers).”

“Darrell was always interested in talking with people he met on hiking, biking, and other trips. He was ready to learn from them and share his experiences with them. A great friend, relative, and companion.”

**He never lost sight of his family, as evidenced by this quote from an essay written by his granddaughter, Emily Holland:**

*“His life experiences and adventures have made him into an inspiring grandfather with plenty of wisdom to share, even if he is quick to disagree. Every time we have a conversation I end up learning something new about his life, which ultimately shifts my perception of my own.”*

He met and interviewed Mother Teresa, Pope John Paul II, the Rev. Dr. Billy Graham, and Anatoly Shcharansky. He also participated in missions to El Salvador, Colombia, and Haiti. While marching for civil rights, he was jailed in Alabama.

**Awards:** Noteworthy newspaper religion editor by Who’s Who; Distinguished Service Award, Society of Professional Journalists; Chaver Award, B’nai Jeshurun Congregation; and Special Recognition, House of Representatives, General Assembly of Ohio.

**In memory of Darrell, please consider donating to the  
COAR Peace Mission. [coarpeacemission.org/donate](http://coarpeacemission.org/donate).**



1	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	CHILDREN'S SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED
3	Tuesday	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING GROUP
4	Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
5	Thursday	6:30 p.m.	CHOIR REHEARSAL
7	Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Take & Eat
8	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED
9	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Leaders Meeting
10	Tuesday	12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Hampshire Assoc. Clergy Luncheon HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL DEACONS MEETING
11	Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
12	Thursday	6:30 p.m.	CHOIR REHEARSAL
15	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED
17	Tuesday	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL PASTOR'S CHAT
18	Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
19	Thursday	6:30 p.m.	CHOIR REHEARSAL
22	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED
24	Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
25	Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
26	Thursday	6:30 p.m.	CHOIR REHEARSAL
29	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED

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