

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

Facebook.com/FirstChurchHadley

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



The Rooster Crows

October, 2025



Dear First Church Family,

Ah, October! The month when all the colors of New England are at their brightest. This month is a favorite of many of us who were born and raised in this six-state slice of heaven because the natural beauty on display is unmatched anywhere. It truly is God in glorious expression.

One thing I've learned since living in western Mass is that you can take all the leaf-peeping trips Yankee Magazine recommends but you really can't do better driving more than 20 minutes away from your home. For us in Hadley, this means a leisurely drive down Route 47 in peak season gives us every bit of the spectacle of color that can be seen anywhere else.

God has graced the entire planet so that people all over the world have something where they live that they can look at in awe of God's amazing creation. So, let's never take what we have around us for granted. The divine in nature is there to enrich our souls and fill our hearts with the joy our heavenly Father wants us to have.

In Christ,
Pastor Peter

MISSION NEWS



The mission committee had a meeting recently and Barbara Andersen agreed to be our leader!

We are still supportive of the Hadley Food Pantry and will be printing new cards for you to have with the items most needed at the pantry! We have some shopping bags available for you to use when shopping for the pantry.

On November 9th we will be making a meal for Cathedral in the Night. As part of that event we would like to donate used warm clothing for those who attend the service. Sleeping bags are also needed if you have any that you are no longer using. We will have a sign-up sheet in a few weeks for food items that are needed as well as helping hands to prepare and serve the meal.

Thank you for your willingness to help others!

FROM THE MUSIC COMMITTEE



We've been doing a lot of sorting and cataloging of our vocal music. (Thank you Rosalee Oakley and Delores Harper for all that typing!) We now have a huge database of all our music, and a far easier way to search through it than actually rifling through the drawers. An unexpected result is that I'm aware of just how much Christmas music we have. And now that I'm thinking about Christmas, it really is not that far away.

The Christmas Eve choir will begin rehearsals on November 13. The rehearsal will be from 6:30 to 7:00, followed by the regular choir rehearsal. Anyone is welcome to be a part of just the Christmas Eve choir, without being pressed to stay and sing every Sunday.

If anyone would especially like to hear some particular Christmas music this season, please email me at the address below.

We are desperately in need of more people to be on the Music Director Search Committee. We can't do this by ourselves. If you are willing to help, please contact me or Barbara Andersen or Rosalee Oakley.

Ruth Morse
RuthMorse@aol.com
413-561-1280

CHRISTIAN ED NEWS



BOO!

Is it just me or does anyone else think it's SPOOKY how quickly October has arrived?

Over the past month many of us enjoyed a variety of fall festivals and fairs, which we are blessed to have an abundance of in this area. Something else we are blessed with here at FCCH is being surrounded by such an amazing and loving community. Let's all continue to be present and aware of how we can make a difference in one another's lives, even if it is just by offering a smile or a quick hug to let each other know that we care!

During October, we will focus on the many miracles Jesus performed and how sometimes we might need to be like detectives who seek out the little miracles we receive daily. This is certainly not always easy, especially when we are going through a difficult time; however, this is when we need to really turn our attention to God and focus on even the littlest of joys.

Each month, each week, each day, and down to each second and every single breath we breathe is a blessing and a miracle; we just have to be aware and acknowledge what a gift our life is.

THANK YOU, GOD!
Blessings,
Shannon

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Looking for a meaningful but TEMPORARY way to serve your church? Why not join a Search Committee?

The Music Committee is looking for more people to join them in the search for a new Music Director. Please contact Ruth Morse, Rosalee Oakley, or Barb Andersen for more info. No music knowledge is needed.

If you're interested in helping the Deacons and Pastor Peter move towards an official call as settled pastor here at First Church Hadley, please reach out. We will need to appoint an official search committee to move through this process. This was discussed at our recent Quarterly Meeting, and the Deacons and Peter have more info if you're interested in helping out.

We will be holding a **Membership Sunday** within the coming months, to welcome members seeking permanent membership in our church. If you are interested, please reach out to Pastor Peter or Lila West, Clerk (lilawest87@gmail.com).

Take and Eat is seeking **DRIVERS!** This once-a-month commitment (or less, right now we really need subs!) involves a quick CORI check, driving to clients' homes here in Hadley, and delivering meals. This is also a wellness check for our clients (meaning drivers report any uncomfortable findings to Lila and she takes appropriate action). Routes are written out for you and the whole event takes about an hour. Email Robin Kellogg (robin.kellogg@hotmail.com) if you can help!

Save the Upcoming Dates:

October 5: World Communion Sunday

November 2: All Saints Day

November 9: Cathedral in the Night

November 30: Quarterly Business Meeting

December 7: Annual Christmas Pageant

Stay tuned for the Cookie Walk, Annual Christmas Party, and Membership Sunday - Dates TBD!

October

1	Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
2	Thursday	4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal CHOIR REHEARSAL
4	Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Take & Eat
5	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED
6	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Leaders Meeting
7	Tuesday	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING GROUP
8	Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
9	Thursday	4:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal Men's Club CHOIR REHEARSAL
12	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED
14	Tuesday	12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Hampshire Association Clergy Luncheon HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL DEACON'S MEETING
15	Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
16	Thursday	4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal CHOIR REHEARSAL
19	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED
21	Tuesday	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL PASTOR'S CHAT
22	Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
23	Thursday	4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal CHOIR REHEARSAL
26	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED
28	Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
29	Wednesday	6:30 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
30	Thursday	4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal CHOIR REHEARSAL

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