

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

November, 2025



Dear First Church Family,

We're now in the last days of October as this is being written, and it's likely the first days of November when this is read. Halloween is over and hopefully you were at our All Saints' Day service on November 2nd. And if you were, I hope you didn't arrive an hour early because you didn't reset your clock the night before! Don't forget, Fall Back and Spring Forward!

With November comes earlier sunsets and longer nights, which for many of us is one of the sure signs the year is drawing to a close. And some of us may feel a touch of melancholy from these longer nights. It's certainly understandable. But it's important to remember that this is just a natural cycle in God's Creation. As Earth rotates on its axis and orbits our sun, sunlight is distributed evenly all over the planet in the course of a year. It's all a part of God's design, and it's worked very well for billions of years now. 😊

Most importantly, God is every bit as present in the longer nights as God is in the sunshiny days. Every day is precious and blessed no matter what time the sun rises and sets. So, don't postpone your joy until Spring! God is always there to fill your heart, 24 hours a day and 365 days a year.

In Christ,
Pastor Peter



Reminder: Daylight Saving Time ends on Sunday, November 2. Please remember to “fall back” by setting your clocks back one hour on Saturday night.

Save the Upcoming Dates:

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!

CHRISTIAN ED NEWS



November NOW !

NOW is the time for us to be GRATEFUL
NOW is the time for us to be KIND
NOW is the time for us to be HELPFUL
NOW is the time for us to REACH OUT
NOW is the time for us to PRAY

NOW is the time for us to THANK GOD

NOW is the time for us to COUNT OUR BLESSINGS

Let us all take this month to really focus on the NOW, the present and how we can make a difference NOW!

November is such a fabulous month because it is when we tend to focus more on family and food and gathering together, nothing more than being present and grateful for what we have, what we have been given and even a time of reflection for what we have had in the past. It is also a time when we begin to prepare for the harsh winter ahead, but are still grateful for our glorious and colorful surroundings NOW!

In Sunday School we are studying the many miracles Jesus performed and discussing how we can focus and notice even the littlest miracles in our everyday lives. May we all use this November to look around at the miracles we have been given and be grateful for what we have NOW!!!

Happy November & Happy Thanksgiving,
Blessings,
Shannon



MISSION NEWS



Thank you to all who have donated to the food pantry! This is an ongoing mission and we hope to get donations monthly!

November 9th we will be making a meal for Cathedral in the Night and as part of that event we would like to donate used warm clothing, warm socks and hand warmers for those who attend the service. They also need sleeping bags if you have any that you are no longer using.

We have learned that Jesse's House has been permanently closed. We are looking for other ways to give during December!

Thank you for your willingness to help others!

FROM THE MUSIC COMMITTEE



We've got a Music Director Search Committee! Janet Barstow, Tom Giles, Delores Harper, Sharon Howard, and Betty Thayer, have agreed to serve. How can you help with the search? You can mention it to anyone you know who might have the remotest connection to music. You can post our ad in your workplace and other places that you frequent (ask first, some places don't allow just anyone to post on their bulletin board). Below is the ad, and we'll have them available in church next week.

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 join us for Christmas Eve choir, without being pressed to stay and sing every Sunday.

Perhaps you'd like to sing but won't be available for most of the rehearsals. We'd still like to have you. There are a couple of possibilities. I can mail you copies of the music that we'll be using and you can learn/review the pieces on your own. Or, we can meet right after the service on some Sundays and sing through the music.

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

First Congregational Church of Hadley Music Director – Want ad

Part-time Church Music Director

The First Church of Hadley is seeking a Music Director to lead our music ministry. Founded in 1659, First Church of Hadley is an open and affirming congregation located in Hadley Massachusetts, and housed within our historic 1808 church. We have a beautiful J.W. Steere and Sons organ which was installed in 1902.

The Music Director will be responsible for coordinating, directing, and accompanying our church's volunteer choir which ranges in size from a handful of dedicated singers on Sunday to larger choirs on holidays. The Director must be available to accompany the choir and congregation for 10:00 A.M. Sunday services as well as for Christmas Eve and Maundy Thursday. This includes prelude, postlude, hymns, etc. The choir meets to rehearse weekly (Thursday evenings).

Qualifications: proficiency in piano and/or organ and in choral directing.

Salary commensurate with qualifications; 2 references required.

To apply: Please send a brief cover letter and resume highlighting your relevant experience to: rooster@firstchurchhadley.com

Subject Line: Music Director Application – [Your Name]

or mail to: First Congregational Church of Hadley
102 Middle Street
Hadley, MA 01035



1	Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Take & Eat
2	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	ALL SAINTS SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED
3	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Leader Meeting
4	Tuesday	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING GROUP
5	Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
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 CATHEDRAL IN THE NIGHT
10	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Hope Grange
11	Tuesday	12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Hampshire Association Clergy Luncheon HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL PASTOR'S CHAT
12	Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
13	Thursday	4:30 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal Men's Club CHRISTMAS EVE CHOIR REHEARSAL CHOIR REHEARSAL
16	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED
18	Tuesday	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL DEACONS MEETING
19	Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
20	Thursday	4:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal CHRISTMAS EVE CHOIR REHEARSAL CHOIR REHEARSAL
23	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	THANKSGIVING SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED
25	Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
26	Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
30	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED QUARTERLY BUSINESS MEETING

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