

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

December, 2025



Dear First Church Family,

For many of us, the month of December and season of Advent is the most important time of the year, which is why at First Church we honor this season and hold it in the highest regard. Our church has a special glow about it in December. The decorations give us a sense of warmth and spark of excitement that heightens the anticipation of all the joy the month brings, and we see that joy reflected in the eyes of one another as we worship each week.

Advent actually begins on November 30th, but I think many of us feel the annual Christmas Pageant is what gets the season off to a rollicking start. This beloved event is on December 7th, so if you've ever dreamed of playing a wise man or camel, let the folks in Christian Ed know as soon as you can.

Services for the third and fourth Advent Sundays will be on the 14th and 21st, and will lead to the greatest celebration of the season, the annual Christmas Eve service at 7:00 p.m. Being at First Church at night and seeing it in all its glory is an unforgettable experience for everyone. It celebrates what makes Christmas so fulfilling and meaningful for all of us at First Church, so you won't want to miss it!

In Christ,
Pastor Peter



WORSHIP SERVICES IN DECEMBER

- December 7 – Outdoor Christmas Pageant
- December 14 – Communion Sunday
- December 21 – Christmas Sunday and Poinsettias
- December 24 – Christmas Eve Worship Service
- December 28 – Breakfast Potluck and Short Worship Service with Christmas Carol Sing-a-Long

WEATHER CANCELLATIONS

You will receive an email blast if Hadley is experiencing poor weather on Sunday and we decide to cancel worship. Cancellations will also be posted on the channel 22 news weather cancellations page. You may also call Lisa West 413-695-4943 or Bob Andersen 413-687-3121 if you have questions regarding worship cancellation.

CHRISTIAN ED NEWS



DECEMBER HAS ARRIVED!

As I sit here writing this from inside my warm cozy space, outside there is a beautiful delicate snowfall as if right on queue. Hey, no complaints since this year Mother Nature waited until the morning after Thanksgiving!

This December we will be kicking off the season with our amazing outdoor live nativity, once again our Christmas Pageant is sure to bring joy to all that can attend and participate, so please put December 7th on your calendar! Following the pageant a celebration in the fellowship hall with a birthday cake for Jesus. (Bring friends along too if you can!)

We will be learning more about Advent in Sunday school and the meanings behind HOPE, PEACE, JOY & LOVE in anticipation of the ultimate gift... The birth and arrival of JESUS!

THANK YOU GOD!

We hope to see everyone not only for our church services but the Christmas pageant as well as our blessed Christmas Eve Candlelight Service!

Blessings to all,
Shannon



MISSION NEWS



We have a new way to give for Christmas this year! We are buying for six children (angels) in Hadley as part of the Hadley Police Association's "Operation Deck the Halls." There will be a list at church if you would like to purchase a gift for an angel. Gifts will need to be unwrapped and returned to church by

December 14th!

We always need items for the food pantry as well!

Merry Christmas to all from the mission committee!

FROM THE MUSIC COMMITTEE



It's not too late to join the Christmas Eve Choir! Rehearsals are from 6:30 to 7:00 on Thursday evenings in the upstairs classroom. Anyone is welcome to join us. The more the merrier!

Our Music Director Search Committee has card-sized posters that we would like to have posted on bulletin boards in the area. That could be in your workplace, local gathering places, and places that musicians are likely to frequent. Ask first, as some places don't allow just anyone to post on their bulletin boards. Get your cards from Janet Barstow.

Enjoy the season!

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

CHRISTMAS PARTY

The annual FCC Christmas Party will be held on Saturday, December 27th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All ages are welcome to attend. Attendees should bring a dessert or a snack and a gift for the Yankee Swap. Please come and enjoy good fun, good food, and good camaraderie.



Congratulations to all of the 50+ year members
of the First Congregational Church of Hadley!

December

1	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Leader Meeting
2	Tuesday	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING GROUP
3	Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
4	Thursday	4:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal CHRISTMAS EVE CHOIR REHEARSAL CHOIR REHEARSAL
6	Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Take & Eat
7	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS PAGEANT & WORSHIP
9	Tuesday	12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Hampshire Association Clergy Luncheon HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
10	Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
11	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
14	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED
16	Tuesday	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL PASTOR'S CHAT
17	Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group AA Meeting
18	Thursday	4:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal CHRISTMAS EVE CHOIR REHEARSAL CHOIR REHEARSAL
21	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED
23	Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
24	Wednesday	7:00 p.m.	CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE
27	Saturday	7:00 p.m.	CHRISTMAS PARTY
28	Sunday	9:30 a.m.	POTLUCK BREAKFAST & CAROL SING

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

