

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

April, 2026



Dear First Church Family,

April is going to be a fabulous month at FCCH. No fooling! Our Easter weekend events begin right away, with our Maundy Thursday service on April 2 at 7:00 PM. And on Sunday morning, First Church will hold its annual Easter doubleheader. Our Sunrise service will be held at the site of the original First Church on West St. and will start at 6:15 AM (so we can hopefully bask in the 6:27 sunrise!). Then at 10:00, we'll be back in the sanctuary for our traditional Easter Sunday service. First Church always does Easter right, and there's no better place for you and your family to celebrate Christ's resurrection.

April 12 will also be a special day at FCCH, as that is when Pastor Peter will host Sunday worship at First Church for the final time. As I write this, I'm not sure what is planned for the service, but I'm sure it will be a very memorable occasion for everyone, so please don't miss it!

And as you may imagine, this is also my final From the Pastor letter for The Rooster Crows, the world's greatest church newsletter. I've really enjoyed these monthly opportunities to share some thoughts with you about life at First Church. They weren't always profound (OK, they were very seldom profound), but being able to touch base with you in such a casual way made me feel closer to all of you. It truly is an extraordinary group of people that makes up our First Congregational Church family, and to you I offer my unending love and gratitude.

In Christ,
Pastor Peter

CHRISTIAN ED NEWS



Easter is almost here, and what a joyful Sunday it's going to be. But one of my favorite parts of the Easter story actually comes *after* the big moment. Jesus didn't rush off or disappear—He walked with friends, visited homes, shared meals, and spent time simply being present with people who needed comfort, hope, and a reminder that they mattered.

As we head into April, may we all be mindful that this is a great month to reach out, go for a walk with someone, check in on a neighbor, share a laugh, or lend a hand. It's a wonderful time to reconnect, enjoy one another, and lean into friendship, fellowship, and the good gift of warmer weather. Little moments of friendship can shine just as brightly as the big celebrations.

And speaking of shining—on **Easter Eve**, everyone is invited to **drive by the church** and enjoy the beautiful luminaries that will be lighting up our spiritual home here at FCCH. It's a simple, peaceful way to welcome Easter and remember the light Christ brings into our lives.

Wishing you a joyful, hope-filled Easter season.

Blessings,
Shannon

FROM THE MUSIC COMMITTEE CHAIR



The Music Director Search Committee is pleased to announce that Roger Farnsworth has accepted our offer to be Music Director, beginning on April 6.

Roger has many years of experience as a church organist and choir director, as well as a high school band and choral director.

Weekly choir rehearsals on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. will begin on April 9 in the upstairs classroom. This would be a perfect time to join the choir! Anyone is welcome to try us out.

Happy Easter!

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

MISSION NEWS



The Board of Missions is continuing to collect personal care items during Lent; after Easter we will be donating the collected items to the Amherst Survival Center. Reminder that these items may include: toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, shampoo, soaps, lotion, deodorant, hairbrushes, combs, feminine hygiene products, Depends (or similar), toilet paper, tissues.

We also have an ongoing need for items for the Hadley Food Pantry at MHR; new shopping bags are coming soon (with decoration complements of our Sunday School kiddos and Shannon)!

Our next Missions activity will be over the summer, collecting supplies to fill school bags prior to the start of school. We hope to identify a Sunday at the end of August to have the congregation help fill the bags with the donations we receive. We are hoping to fill up to 24 bags. Keep your eyes peeled for school supplies once the sales start up!

As always, we appreciate the generosity of our First Church family as we work together to help our community.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Barb Andersen





1	Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group Meeting
2	Thursday	4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE
4	Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Take & Eat OUTDOOR EASTER LUMINARIA EVENT
5	Sunday	6:15 a.m. 10:00 a.m.	EASTER SUNRISE WORSHIP SERVICE EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED
6	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Leader Meeting
7	Tuesday	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING GROUP
8	Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group Meeting
9	Thursday	4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal CHOIR REHEARSAL
12	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED
14	Tuesday	12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Hampshire Assoc. Clergy Lunch HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
15	Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group Meeting
16	Thursday	4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal CHOIR REHEARSAL Hampshire County Farmers Bureau Meeting
19	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED
21	Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
22	Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group 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	6:00 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group 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.