

First Congregational Church, U.C.C.  
102 Middle Street  
Hadley, Massachusetts 01035-9429



#### **CHURCH STAFF**

##### Deacons –

Lisa West

Ken Parker

Jonathan Morel

Donna Brewer-McGahie

Mara Breen

Bob Andersen

Director of Music – Dr. Roger W. Farnsworth

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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May, 2026



## CHRISTIAN ED NEWS



May is such a joyful month in our church life. Everything feels fresh and full of energy, and we have several wonderful celebrations ahead that remind us how blessed we are as a community.

This month we give thanks for the women who nurture, guide, encourage, and love with such steady grace. Mother's Day on May 10th is always a beautiful reminder that God's love often reaches us through the people who care for us day after day. Whether it's a mom, grandmother, aunt, mentor, teacher, or friend, we honor all who help shape our lives with kindness and strength.

On Mother's Day this month we'll also celebrate Confirmation Sunday, when our confirmands take an important step in their faith. Watching them reach this milestone and claim their faith as their own is one of the great joys of Christian education. Please keep Rochelle Bouthet and Deanna Aloisi in your prayers as they continue their journey.

We close out the month with one of the happiest days of the year: Children's Sunday on May 31. The energy and faith of this congregation, in both children & adults, reminds us what Jesus meant when he said the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. It's always a Sunday that leaves us smiling and feeling like a kid again, so make sure to join us on May 31st!

I'm so thankful for each of you and for your support. Let's step into this season with open hearts and a spirit of celebration for all God is doing among us.

Blessings,  
Shannon

## QUARTERLY MEETING

The next Quarterly Meeting for the First Congregational Church of Hadley is scheduled for May 17, 2026. Any member of the Church who wishes to put an item on the agenda should do so by May 10th. The chairs of boards and committees should be prepared to present a report either in writing or orally. It's a busy time of the year for our Church, so I will do everything possible to keep the meeting brief which means we will have the meeting in the sanctuary and forgo refreshments so that the Fellowship Committee can remain with us.

I hope your spring has blossomed wonderfully,  
Blessings,  
Shari Parsons

## MISSION NEWS



We had a successful collection of personal items for the Amherst Survival Center and were able to deliver several bags to them. Thanks to everyone who donated. Your generosity is much appreciated.

We have an ongoing need for food donations for the Hadley Food Pantry at MHR; small cards are available near the church entry and in the back of the sanctuary listing items needed. We will have new (decorated) shopping bags soon, complements of our Sunday School kids and Shannon.

Our next Missions Committee activity will be over the summer, collecting supplies to fill school bags prior to the start of school. We still plan to identify a Sunday at the end of August to have the congregation 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. We will need the following: pencils (144 total for 24 bags), colored pencils (12 count boxes), glue sticks, blunt scissors (rounded tip), 2-pocket folders, rulers, crayons (24 count boxes), spiral bound notebooks (70 page), large erasers (not pencil cap type), handheld pencil sharpeners, pencil pouches. We will set up an area to collect everything and will share more info as we get closer to summer.

Please let us know if you have any questions (Barb Andersen, Judy Parker, Judy Stone, Cindy McQuestion).

Barb Andersen

## HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION NEWS

Upcoming important dates for the Association:

Installation of Rev. Susan Cartmell at South Amherst Congregational Church - May 17th at 3 pm

Installation of Lay Pastor Larry Picard at North Hadley Congregational Church - May 24th at 3 pm

Hampshire Association Annual Meeting at Plainfield Congregational Church - June 7th at 3 pm

All are welcome to attend these events! It is a great time to meet with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ!

Peace, Judy Stone, scribe of the Association

## Welcome Dr. Roger W. Farnsworth, Director of Music



Please welcome Dr. Roger Farnsworth to the First Congregational Church of Hadley as our Director of Music. He brings a treasure trove of talent and accomplishments to our Church. He is married to Anne, a retired reading specialist in the South Hadley Public schools. He is also the proud father of five boys, David, John, Paul, James, and Joseph.

Roger, is a graduate of Ohio Wesleyan University, a Master of Music from Cincinnati Conservatory of Music in Trumpet performance, and has a doctorate in Music from Boston University. As the result of a family that required piano lessons starting in second grade for both he and his sister, he became fairly proficient on the keyboards and has been a church organist and choir director since his high school days. Dr. Farnsworth has been honored to play the organs and direct choirs in UCC churches in Holyoke, South Hadley, and Granby.

Roger first taught music courses and band at Howard College in Birmingham, Alabama. Then received a Fellowship to teach at Ohio State University. During that time Roger met a minister who became the Assistant Minister at South Hadley UCC Church who convinced Roger and his family to move to South Hadley. Starting with 20 kids in the South Hadley High School band, he developed the program to 250 when they went to play in Pasadena in the Rose Bowl Parade and then Tijuana, Mexico. The Tiger Marching Hundred did numerous things such as playing in Tralee, Ireland twice for the Rose of Tralee Festival, then Edinburg Festival in Scotland, finally at Stone Henge, England before returning to South Hadley. They performed at many NE Patriot football games when half-times were televised, Pres. Nixon's Inaugural and many other such performances. Not to be outdone, the Vocal ensembles were invited to be US representatives and perform at the World Exposition in Montreal, the State House in Boston and many other performances.

Roger was also a swimming and diving coach who developed two young men to be All-American divers at South Hadley and was a noted tennis coach. Roger left teaching in South Hadley to become music department chairman for the City Schools of Pittsfield. He then traveled to Jakarta Indonesia to teach for two years and did a few remarkable things there such as living with a stone-aged tribe in Irian Jaya (New Guinea) for two weeks during a Christmas vacation. That started and grew to doing things such as climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania and climbing Machu Pichu in Peru. That followed with tenure at West Springfield where Farnsworth duplicated there what happened both vocally and instrumentally in South Hadley.

Welcome aboard, Dr. Roger.

# **SUMMER 2026 ADULT MUSIC CAMP JULY 23-26**

**CRAIGVILLE CONFERENCE CENTER,  
CENTERVILLE, MA**



**JOIN OTHER ADULTS FOR CHOIR SINGING, WORSHIP,  
BEACH TIME, RELAXATION AND FELLOWSHIP! LEARN  
MUSIC TO SING FOR A SUNDAY MORNING SERVICE ON  
THE 26TH IN THE HISTORIC CRAIGVILLE TABERNACLE.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER, CONTACT ERIK ELA,  
ELAERIK@MAC.COM**



2	Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Take & Eat
3	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED
4	Monday	7:00 p.m.	Girl Scout Leader Meeting
5	Tuesday	6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING GROUP
6	Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group Meeting
7	Thursday	4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal CHOIR REHEARSAL
10	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	CONFIRMATION SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED
12	Tuesday	12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Hampshire Assoc. Clergy Lunch HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
13	Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group Meeting
14	Thursday	4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal CHOIR REHEARSAL
17	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED
19	Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
20	Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group Meeting
21	Thursday	7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	CHOIR REHEARSAL Hampshire County Farmers Bureau Meeting
24	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED
26	Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
27	Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group Meeting
28	Thursday	7:00 p.m.	CHOIR REHEARSAL
31	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	CHILDREN'S SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED

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