

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



CHURCH STAFF

Deacons –

Bob Andersen
Mara Breen
Jonathan Morel
Ken Parker
Lisa West
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, 2026



MISSION NEWS



Happy October from the Board of Missions!

Our next big Missions activity will be Cathedral in the Night on November 8th. We will have signups soon for donations and for volunteers to help make and deliver the meal.

We will be working on Christmas gift collection for local families in December, in conjunction with the Hadley Police and Fire Departments. More info to follow as we get closer to the holiday season.

There is an ongoing need for donations to the Hadley Food Pantry at Most Holy Redeemer Church. We have new reusable cloth shopping bags (beautifully decorated by our wonderful Sunday School!) which have been placed near the main church entry, along with the small cards which list items needed. You can take a cloth bag, fill it with food and return it to this church (we will deliver donations to the Pantry at MHR). Please donate if you can!

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

SAVE THE UPCOMING DATES

October 3: Take and Eat

October 4: World Communion Sunday

October 25: Bowling at Spare Time Northampton hosted by CE

November 1: All Saints Day

November 7: Take and Eat

November 8: Cathedral in the Night

November TBD: Quarterly Business Meeting

December 6: Annual Christmas Pageant

CHRISTIAN ED NEWS



Happy October !!!

Fall has arrived and the quickly changing colors on the trees is a gentle reminder that our lives are ever changing also, so make sure to be present and enjoy each moment! There's something about this season — the cooler air, the changing leaves, the return of routines — that reminds us how good it is to gather, be with one another, pray for each other and help someone who may be in need.

As we settle into autumn, I want to extend a reminder that If you know someone who's been thinking about coming back to church, or someone who might be looking for a place to belong, please let them know that **our Sunday School is open for all ages**, and we have a **nursery available for infants and toddlers**. We love seeing new faces, familiar faces, and every face in between.



Fall Bowling Outing – October 25th!

Saturday, October 25th 1:00–3:00 PM

Spare Time Bowling in Northampton

Costumes are **encouraged for fun** — but absolutely not required. Whether you come dressed as a superhero, a scarecrow, or simply yourself, we'll be thrilled to have you there. **Food and drinks will be provided**, and it promises to be a joyful afternoon of laughter, community, and maybe even a few friendly bowling rivalries.

As we move through this beautiful season, may we continue to welcome one another warmly, support one another generously, and enjoy the simple blessings God places in front of us each week.

Looking forward to seeing you — in worship, in Sunday School, and hopefully on the bowling lanes.

Fall Blessings,
Shannon

First Church Hadley Community Announcements

Everyone is welcome!



Sunday School & Nursery

We offer creative, hands-on Sunday School each week for all ages, plus a nursery for infants and toddlers.



All-Church Bowling Event

Spare Time Bowling • October 25 • 1–3 PM.
Food and drinks will be provided. Costumes are encouraged, so come have fun with us!
You do not need to bowl to participate.



Annual Christmas Pageant & Live Nativity

December 6 • 10 AM • Front lawn.
Join us for the greatest story ever. If you would like to participate, please arrive before 9:30 AM to get your costume. Bring a friend, participate, or just watch the magical story of Jesus' arrival.

Bring a friend and join us!



Rev. Dr. Raphael G. Warnock preaching in front of the Conference Choir on Sunday.

7th Annual Meeting Re-Cap

Editor's Note: In lieu of the usual edition of the 5 Things to Know & Share Newsletter, we are sending this Annual Meeting re-cap to subscribers and attendees. Next week's newsletter will include a more detailed look back at the meeting.

The Southern New England Conference had record attendance at its 7th Annual Meeting Sept. 25 - 27 at the DCU Center in Worcester, MA, and online. At least 800 people attended in person despite the nor'easter, and more than 200 were online.

The following is a brief recap of event highlights that delegates are invited to share with their congregations. Detailed articles, videos, presentation decks and photos will be shared over the next two weeks as staff pull them together. They will all be posted at www.sneucc.org/2026AM as they become available.

Business

On Saturday, delegates were asked to consider three separate motions accepting the legal mergers of the historic Rhode Island Conference, the historic Massachusetts Conference, and the Missionary Society of Connecticut into the Southern New England Conference. Each historic board and the SNEUCC Board had previously approved the proposed mergers. Approval by SNEUCC's voting membership was an additional required step.

The Rhode Island motion was considered first. A proposal to postpone consideration for one year, with conditions concerning additional listening and healing, did not pass. Delegates then voted on the merger itself. In total, 381 delegates voted yes, 259 voted no, and there were 19 abstentions. Because the resolution required approval by a two-third margin, it did not pass.

Delegates next considered the Massachusetts motion, with amendments and further amendments offered during discussion. During a pause in business, the SNEUCC Board decided to withdraw both the Massachusetts and Connecticut merger motions from further consideration, meaning neither merger proceeded to a final vote.

On Friday, delegates approved the election of the new slate of officers and Board of Director members. [That slate can be seen here.](#)

Rev. Raphael Warnock

U.S. Senator the Rev. Dr. Raphael Warnock spent an hour with the 35 youth attending the Woven Youth Collective program on Saturday morning, gave a rousing keynote address on Saturday afternoon and participated in a book signing, and on Sunday preached at Conference-wide worship service. That service was livestreamed, and was viewed by more than 1,100 people on Vimeo and the SNEUCC website - in many of those cases, the viewing was by congregations and groups - and was seen by another 3,400 people on Facebook.

The recording is available here: www.sneucc.org/worship.

Rev. Warnock's address received press coverage in the Worcester Telegram & Gazette, an article that can be seen on Yahoo News: [Georgia Sen. Rev. Warnock says nation lacks moral will to help poor.](#)

Strategic Vision Report

Delegates heard a presentation by the strategic planning consultants Yvette Wynn and Dr. Edith Guffey, who walked through the four priorities for the SNEUCC moving forward that they said surfaced most among participants in listening sessions and a survey. A detailed article about the report [can be found here](#), and the [report itself here](#).

Those reviewing the report are being asked to fill out a questionnaire by Oct 1 - that can be found at: www.sneucc.org/stratplan.

Other Highlights

Other highlights of the meeting included a busy Marketplace, a screening of *Walking the Journey with You: Imani Village*, a packed house for a storytelling event, and multiple workshops. Delegates also received printed [Impact Reports](#) - two for each delegate, and they are asked to share in their local congregations.

Executive Conference Minister the Rev. Darrell Goodwin and outgoing Board Chair Persephone Hall also gave addresses. Recordings, transcripts, videos, articles and other materials about the meeting will be posted here as they are prepared: www.sneucc.org/2026AM.

But wait, there's more...

- Subscribe to our other newsletters at: sneucc.org/subscribe
- [Visit our newsletter archive](#)

Have your church administrator (or whoever handles your church's email account) visit the [Church Dashboard](#) to make sure we're connecting with all the current leaders in your church.

Southern New England Conference, United Church of Christ

Toll Free: 866-367-2822

Fax: 866-367-0860



October

1	Thursday	4:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal CHOIR REHEARSAL
3	Saturday	8:00 a.m.	Take & Eat
4	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED
6	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING GROUP
7	Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group Meeting
8	Thursday	4:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal CHOIR REHEARSAL
11	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED
13	Tuesday	12:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m.	Hampshire Association Clergy Luncheon HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
14	Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group Meeting
15	Thursday	4:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal CHOIR REHEARSAL
18	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED
21	Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group Meeting
22	Thursday	4:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal CHOIR REHEARSAL
24	Saturday	2:00 p.m.	Farm Museum Meeting
25	Sunday	10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m.	SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED SPARE TIME BOWLING - HOSTED BY CE
27	Tuesday	6:00 p.m.	HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL
28	Wednesday	6:00 p.m.	Hadley Women's Group Meeting
29	Thursday	4:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal CHOIR REHEARSAL

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