

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

Bob Andersen

Director of Music – Michael Stancill

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

January, 2025



Dear First Church Family,

2025! If you're like me, you wonder how these dates keep popping up so much faster than they seemingly used to. But just as time keeps marching on, so do we at the First Congregational Church of Hadley. We just completed a fabulous Christmas season and now we're moving into a new year full speed ahead.

Among the new offerings being introduced in 2025 is a monthly get-together with yours truly, Pastor Peter, where we can casually talk about anything pertaining to FCCH that's on your mind. The inspiration for this came from a post-service conversation in which it was mentioned it would be nice to further discuss things that came up in that day's sermon, or anything else involving our dear church, and I thought it was a fabulous idea! The details for this are still being worked out, but we hope to fill you all in on it soon.

Thanks to everyone who helped make our Advent and Christmas Eve services so wonderful in December, and to all those who filled our pews to enjoy them. And you can all look forward to more great things happening at FCCH in 2025!

In Christ,
Pastor Peter



MUSIC NOTES



This month, not only do I want to express appreciation for the wonderful musicians who added so much to our Christmas services, but also appreciation for the constant support of the singers and ringers throughout the year! Our worship would be drab, indeed, without the above-and-beyond gifts of time and talent you share with us, and I'm sure we ALL are grateful!

I would be remiss, however, not to single out Ruth Morse for the wonderful work she does with Ring of Joy, our bell choir. Countless hours of preparation and practice go into what she does, and we owe her a debt of thanks! I will miss playing with them...

...which leads a bit to the personal.

I was diagnosed with Carpal Tunnel Syndrome in my right hand this fall. In order to not miss any services, surgery was initially scheduled for July 3rd. Unfortunately, the delay was only approved if the condition didn't worsen, which it has. My surgery has been moved up to February 13th. In light of all this, I won't be able to play bells, and I will miss services in February and March (Ruth, wearing one of her many hats, is arranging subs, so no fear). Please keep me in your prayers!

SO... we're ALWAYS welcoming new members in both the voice and bell choirs, and now the bell choir will be down one... please let Ruth know if you'd like to try!

Blessings!

Mike Stancill

I want to begin my part by making sure that all our readers have had a chance to read the great article on Mike that was in the Daily Hampshire Gazette on Christmas Eve. Just follow this link: <https://www.gazettenet.com/First-Congo-Church-Hadley-will-have-an-organ-Christmas-Eve-58566989>

As Mike said, we are always looking for more ringers. Right now we are only playing two octaves of the three octaves that we have. We really need 11 people to play all of them, and we have some pieces that require even more ringers.

This is a good time of year to begin. We relax a bit after the Christmas. We try new (to us) techniques and refine familiar ones.

You don't need to be able to read music.

You do need to be able to count to four.

You do need to know your right hand from your left.

You do need to be able to laugh at your mistakes.

We practice on Tuesday evenings, from 6:00 to 7:00, in the large classroom upstairs in the annex. You can come to a rehearsal and test drive us without making a lifetime commitment.

If you need more information, email me. Or talk to me right after worship; I don't usually stay for coffee hour because I have to get home to walk the dog.

Ruth Morse

ruthmorse@aol.com

CHRISTIAN ED NEWS

New Year = New Month = New Day = New Chances = New Beginnings = New You!!!



Some may be in disbelief at how quickly it seems 2024 flew by and others may happily be bidding farewell and welcoming 2025 with open arms! Either way, the Christian Education Committee would like to thank you for all the support you have shown us this past year, participating during our services when we needed you, watching our little skits or plays, joining us on our “camping journey” for Children’s Sunday, etc. It means so much and we are so grateful for your support!

In Sunday School we will continue to focus on our journey with God and how he is always our true constant in life, no matter what! **GOD WILL ALWAYS BE THERE FOR US!** Let’s take this opportunity to joyfully look forward to all of our many blessings ahead, but also to do our part to spread God’s love!

In 2025 let us seek ways to help others, to treat each new day as a new beginning! Let’s not focus on yesterday, but instead the future and ways we can make things better... for ourselves, for our neighbors, for each other, for our community and for our world! One small act of kindness almost always has a ripple effect, so we ask God to help us be a disciple and share the love like Jesus did.

New You = New Beginnings = New Chances = New Day = New Month = New Year!!!

**** Feb. 15th, Mark your calendars for the UMass and Boston College Hockey Game****

MISSION NEWS



Thank you so much for your donation of Christmas gifts for the children of Jesse’s House! Your generosity is greatly appreciated! For the next couple of months it would be great to donate items for the Hadley Food Pantry. Personal care items are welcome as well as food items such as crackers, cereal, coffee, tea, juice, peanut butter, canned meats, canned fruit and vegetables (carrots, corn, peas, tomatoes.)

Happy New Year,
Mission Committee



January

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| 2 | Thursday | 4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. | Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal CHOIR REHEARSAL |
| 3 | Friday | 4:00 p.m. | Take and Eat Preparation |
| 4 | Saturday | 8:00 a.m. | Take and Eat |
| 5 | Sunday | 10:00 a.m. | SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED |
| 7 | Tuesday | 6:00 p.m. | HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL |
| 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 Luncheon HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL |
| 16 | Thursday | 4:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m. | Fiddle Orchestra Rehearsal CHOIR REHEARSAL Hampshire County Farm Bureau Meeting |
| 19 | Sunday | 10:00 a.m. | SUNDAY WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN ED |
| 21 | Tuesday | 6:00 p.m. | HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSAL |
| 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 |
| 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.