

*"So that the Gospel may be preached
amongst us here"*



FEEDING HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

November 2025



Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

Rev. Janet Brown, Pastor

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[Feeding Hills Congregational Church UCC](http://FeedingHillsCongregationalChurchUCC)

(The latest newsletter is also available on the church website)

Dear Friends,

The season of giving thanks is upon us and I am so grateful for our faith family and our larger community! Seeing everyone come together this year has been absolutely amazing to support the families who benefit from the Church Cupboard. At the time I write this, we are serving 48 families comprised of 95 individuals. Many of these families have had a very stressful month with the freeze on assistance for food, and what a gift we were able to receive food and get it back out as quickly as it came in! Many thanks to everyone who gave their time to help stock and distribute the food, as it truly is a team effort. I am so thankful for each of you and the unique ways that you contribute to our church. Many thanks to Sean and the choir for leading us in worship each week, to Dave & Tom for their help with the property and for all of the lay leaders for all that they do.



We had a special council meeting earlier this month, because we have a very uncertain future. It is bittersweet at a time when we are becoming absolutely essential in the community to consider all of the options for our future, but it is also completely necessary. As you are giving thanks this month, consider what parts of FHCC you are most thankful for. This is also the month we do stewardship, which is the time we as individuals make financial commitments to the church for the next year. While this can be a difficult topic, it is essential that we can begin to plan our budget and reduce the amount we are drawing on the endowment. Please hold the leadership and each other in your prayers as we do this.

We have a very busy month ahead! And many good things to look forward to.

11/13 – Church Cupboard open 9-11 AM

11/14 - FRIENDSGIVING – Sunday, after worship we will gather for a new fellowship opportunity with lots of delicious food!

11/23 – Jeff will be leading worship.

11/24 – Thanksgiving Meal Pickup for the Church Cupboard 5-7 PM

11/25 – Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at 1st Congregational Church in Westfield.

11/26 – Thanksgiving Wednesday Worship @ 7:30 PM

11/29 – Greening of the Church @ 3 PM

12/6 & 20 – Church Cupboard open 9-11 AM

12/6 - Holiday Cookie Swap

12/13 - Christmas Party & Caroling

12/24 – Christmas Eve Worship

Advent will soon be upon us, and perhaps now more than ever we can all use some time to hold Hope, Peace, Joy and Love in our hearts and lives. I pray that this will be a time that draws us together in a time of discerning what God holds for us as His Church. Many blessings as we bundle up and share this next season together.

Pastor Janet (617) 640-2061 (call/text) PastorJanetFHCC@gmail.com



In Memory of Betty Kopy

Our longtime friend Betty passed away this week. All who knew her know that she was a woman who truly loved the Lord. Your newsletter editor has recollections of her cooking in the kitchen for the Big E meals, church suppers, and many other occasions. She delighted in working with young people, serving in the Sunday School for many years. Even in her final months she relished coming to worship services when she was able, and she still always lit up the room. Please keep her husband George, her son David, and the rest of her family and friends in your prayers.



Friendsgiving Potluck Nov. 16th

Friendsgiving is a Thanksgiving-like meal shared with friends, typically prior to the actual holiday. We're going to have a potluck Friendsgiving after worship this Sunday. Bring a dish or dessert to share.

Special Thanksgiving Services



What Does Advent Mean to You?

How are the 4 themes of Advent a part of your life? Pastor Janet is looking for personal reflections from people on how the four are woven into our lives. These can be short or long, for all four themes or one in particular, anonymous or signed. Get your stories to Janet before the respective Advent Sundays

1. **Hope** – November 30. Represents the anticipation of Christ's coming.
2. **Peace** – December 7. Symbolizes the tranquility that Jesus brings.
3. **Joy** – December 14. Reflects the happiness of the season and the birth of Christ
4. **Love** – December 21 Emphasizes God's love for humanity.



Stewardship Month

November is a time when many churches, including FHCC, conduct their stewardship campaigns. **Please prayerfully** read the Stewardship Sunday letter at the end of the newsletter.



Upcoming Christmas Events

Mark your calendars with these dates. Any updates to events will appear on the church website Events page.

Nov 29 – Greening of the Church, 4:00pm

Help decorate the church for the Advent season.



Nov. 30 – Bernice's Giving Tree begins

During Advent, bring in a winter hat or gloves to share with our neighbors in need. These will decorate the Christmas tree in the sanctuary. It is named after the late long-time member Bernice Burton, who made enough hats & mittens to cover the entire tree each year!

Dec. 6 – Cookie Swap after Church

Bring some cookies (homemade or made-elsewhere!) to share.

Dec. 13 – Christmas Caroling & Holiday Party

In the afternoon, we will visit & sing carols to shut-ins who could use some holiday songs.

It is followed in the evening by a potluck dinner & Christmas party. A Yankee gift swap has always generated lots of laughs!

Both times TBD.

Dec. 21 – Blue Christmas Worship, 7:00pm at the Church



Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Worship, 10pm





Church Cupboard Update

Many thanks for the Agawam Lions Club & Agawam Rotary Club for their generous donations!

The Rotary Club prepared a grant to provide family-sized shelf-stable packaged meals for a variety of area food banks. The Church Cupboard received over 1,150 packages!

The Lions Club held a food drive, collecting the items shown in the photo.

The community has been very generous during the



The Church Cupboard continues to operate on the 1st and 3rd Saturday mornings of the month, 9-11 am. Volunteers are always needed both during the open hours, and doing donation inventory tasks during the week.

Donations can be brought starting at 8:30am when the cupboard is open, or by appointment.



Parish Cupboard Collection/Mission

Our relation with the Agawam/West Springfield Parish Cupboard is still ongoing. The collections are held the 2nd Sunday of the month.

All non-perishable, unexpired food items can be used. Cash/check donations are always welcome also. Items especially in need can be found on their latest wish list at <https://theparishcupboard.org>.



Church Space Rental Availability

As a reminder to all – the church is available to rent out for events like parties, meetings, etc. The Hall, either 1/2 or both sides, and the kitchen, are available.

Longer term space rentals can also be discussed.

Please pass along to people you know looking for a venue for a function. More information, including rates, is available on the church website (fhccucc.org)

Church Facility Support thru January

For the next 6-8 weeks, Tom will be out of commission to help out at the church. Please feel free to pitch in for any church facility needs.



Bible Trivia

In Luke 17, Jesus heals 10 lepers. How many of the 10 return to express their gratitude to Jesus?

- A. 1
- B. 5
- C. 9

(See the correct answer after the prayer requests)



Prayer Requests **Keep In Our Prayers**

- The family & friends of Betty
- All those experiencing food insecurity

***“In HAPPY moments, PRAISE God.
In DIFFICULT moments, SEEK God
In QUIET moments, WORSHIP God
In PAINFUL moments, TRUST God
In EVERY moment, THANK God”***

Please send any prayer concerns to include in future newsletters.

Bible Trivia Answer:

The correct answer: **A**

Only 1, a Samaritan returned This story serves as a reminder to take the time to give thanks and cherish God’s blessings.

This Thanksgiving, aim to be like the one who returned – grateful for every gift.

Every year in November, during this month of Thanksgiving, we engage in Stewardship Sundays, where we set aside a couple of weeks to pray about how we can support the ministries of The Feeding Hills Congregational Church, especially financially. We make a commitment to God and to each other to envision what it means to be a part of the Body of Christ.



This past Wednesday, the Church Council held a special meeting about the fiscal situation of Feeding Hills Congregational Church. In a nutshell, it doesn't look good. As of the end of September, the church had ~\$225,000 in endowment funds, which we calculated to mean that within 2-3 years, these funds, which we rely on to balance our budget every year, would run out. One thing that I personally took away from the meeting is that everyone who was in attendance is deeply passionate about the future of the church.

The Widow's Offering

He (Jesus) looked up and saw rich people putting their gifts into the treasury; he also saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins. He said, "Truly I tell you; this poor widow has put in more than all of them, for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on."

The rich people gave out of their abundance, meaning that after they took care of their own needs and after all their bills were paid, they gave from what was left over. They put themselves first. Meanwhile the widow made her relationship with God the most important part of her life. She trusted that God would provide for her needs. I am asking you to be like that widow.

During these Stewardship Sundays, I come before you to ask for your financial support of our ministries such as outreach to AA groups, the people at Soldier On, and our own Church Cupboard.

Most, if not all, of you are probably thinking that I am going to stand before you and ask you to increase your pledge. I'm not. What I am going to ask you to do instead is to pray about how you can best support the church. We all love this church, the people in it and the building itself. We must be open to what God is going to do for our future, and as life always brings changes, our future may not look like our past. November 17th is the 262nd birthday of our church. We have a long and important story here in Feeding Hills. And I pray we have a future story that is only beginning to unfold. Over these next two weeks, please prayerfully consider why you are passionate about Feeding Hills Congregational Church and its goal of Celebrating and Sharing God's Love for All.

God has more work for us to do in this world. During this Stewardship Pledge Drive, may our hearts be open to discern the ways that can happen, and our hands be ready to do the work that will make it so.