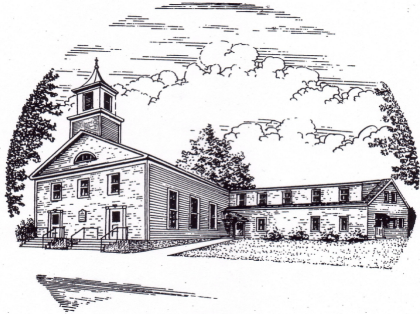


*"So that the Gospel may be preached
amongst us here"*



FEEDING HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Newsletter

January 2026



*"We celebrate and share God's love by connecting people with God and each other
through acceptance, worship, mission, community, and the gospel of Jesus Christ."*

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

Rev. Janet Brown, Pastor

pastorjanetfhcc@gmail.com

Web Site: fhccucc.org

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Newsletter: fhcc.communications@gmail.com



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

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



Wednesday Worship: Now 2x a Month

Starting this month, the Wednesday worship meetings will be held twice a month, on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 7:30pm in the sanctuary.

Everyone is welcome to come-as-they-are.



DATE CHANGE Church Annual Meeting Feb. 22

The FHCC annual meeting will be held Sunday Feb. 22 after worship, and preceded by a potluck lunch. Note that this is a date change from February 8.



Is Your Contact Information Up to Date?

Make sure you receive timely communications from FHCC. Over the next few weeks, church clerk Sandi will be collecting the email, phone, and mailing address for all our members and friends. This will help insure you receive timely information from the church.



What Happens at Church Cupboard?

Are you wondering what happens during Church Cupboard open hours?

Clients are greeted at the back door of Griswold Hall, where they then check-in. If it is a new visitor, the check-in volunteer will work with them to fill out a participant sheet containing their name, address, household size, and other info. This will be kept on file. On each visit, the sheet will be updated with visit date & initialed.

After check-in, the next available volunteer shopper will escort them through the pantry room. There is a checklist to indicate how many of each item category can be selected, based on household size. The shopper will remove the selected items, and note how many of each category were given out. Most clients bring their own bags, but there are also many boxes & bags available in the pantry.

In addition to the shelved items, there is a table of “use at your risk” items. These are mostly recently expired, dented, or perishable. Up to 5 of these can be selected.

Once the shopping is complete, a volunteer will help take the boxes & bags out to a client’s car.

After closing, the shopper’s count sheets are tallied, along with the participant sheets for the day. This provides the report-out of people served, and total items distributed.

Another volunteer task during open hours is to organize and tag donations. Items are tagged by expiration date. Stickers for each month are placed on the item, with the expiration year written on the sticker. Every attempt is made to distribute items closest to expiration first, and the stickers make that task easier.

The next opening is Saturday February 7. Volunteers for all roles are all welcome – please consider offering your time to serve the community. Items especially needed can be found on the church website, on the “Church Cupboard” page. Donations can be brought when the cupboard is open, or by appointment.



Food Drive for Church Cupboard

Once the Thanksgiving/Christmas season has passed, historically donations to food pantries everywhere decrease considerably. To help keep the shelves stocked, there is a planned Valentine’s food drive for the Church Cupboard on February 14 from 9-noon at the church. It will be combined with a Church Cupboard open house, allowing the community to view the Cupboard. More details will be announced later, and will also be posted on the church website.



Stewardship Reminder

Please do not forget to return you 2026 pledge information. The church relies on its pledges for budget planning for the upcoming year. See Matt if you need a card, or for more information.



At the Christmas Cookie Swap

This photo of church cookie elves at the Christmas cookie swap in December appeared in several local papers. Many, many delicious cookies were shared on that day, with Soldier On, and several weeks of worship refreshments. Thanks to all who provided them!





Coming: Rotational Roster of Worship Roles

Concerns were recently raised about the ad hoc nature of worship service roles, namely worship assistant, Communion servers, and refreshment coordination.

As a result, Matt is starting a rotational roster for worship assistant & Communion servers. Refreshments will follow later. The names will repeat in a cycle covering several months in advance. This makes takes the mystery out of each week, and provides more stability to the worship service.

Please add your name to this rotation. You can share with another person if you like. As the saying goes, “many hands make light work”! Matt will be collecting names over the coming weeks. Job descriptions appear at the end of the newsletter, and will also be available in the back of the sanctuary.

THANK YOU!



Thank you Pastor Janet for the Advent Banners

During this past Advent season, the sanctuary was blessed to display Advent banners handmade by Pastor Janet. A new banner for the appropriate week of Advent appeared behind the pulpit, and then later hung from the balcony. They were a beautiful addition to the Christmas décor!



A Look Ahead - Lent Activities

This year Lent begins on February 18. An Ash Wednesday service is planned; the time will be announced later, and will also appear on the church website.

Also planned again this year are daily Lenten Bible readings, and “40 items in 40 days” to support the Church Cupboard.



A Reminder to Close the Doors

On several occasions in the past few months, the church outside doors have been found unlocked, or worse, propped open, with nobody else in the building. Please be sure doors are closed shut when you leave, and if you are the last person to leave, that the doors are locked!

Bible Trivia

For the 1st month of the year, these questions are from the 1st book of the Bible, about the 1st humans Adam & Eve.

How did God create Adam?

- A. From the stars in the sky
- B. From dust on the ground
- C. From the Tree of Life

How did God create Eve?

- A. From Adam's ankle bone
- B. From Adam's hip bone
- C. From Adam's rib bone

(See the correct answers after the prayer requests)

Keep In Our Prayers

- The family & friends of George Kopy
- Kathy
- Rachel
- Deb and her family
- All those experiencing medical concerns

***"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:

How did God create Adam: **B** Genesis 2:7 *“Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being”. (NIV)*

How did God create Eve: **C** Genesis 2:21-22, *“So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.” (NIV)*

FHCC Worship Assistant(s)– Tasks

(Work can be shared with partner!)

Approximately 30 minutes Before Worship Service

- Fill the altar candles with liquid paraffin
 - The jug of liquid paraffin is located on the floor behind the altar.
 - Do the filling near the kitchen sink – it can be messy!
 - If you've never done so before, ask for experienced help!
- Make sure prayer concern votive candles are in order.
 - Extra votives are underneath the cloth.
- Make sure bulletins are out and folded on the side table.
- Get the week's readings from the pastor and review.
- Arrange for a partner to collect the weekly offering.

During Worship Service

- Bring the light to the altar (a lighter is located at the back of the church).
- Read the Call to Worship & Opening prayer from the podium
- Read the designated weekly Bible scripture(s)
- With the selected partner, collect the offering
- Light the prayer votive candles during the joys & concerns portion of service.

After Worship

- Make sure all the candles are extinguished (there are snuffers around the altar)
- Remove any left-behind bulletins and other items from the pews

FHCC Communion Servers Prep/Post Tasks

BEFORE SERVICE

- The Communion elements of bread & juice are typically provided by server volunteer(s) each month.
- All the Communion pieces are located in the worship closet, at the rear of Griswold Hall, to the right of the parlor entrance. The key to the Worship closet is on one of the key hooks inside the cabinet in the office, near the outside door.
- Most items are in a single large white box labelled Communion.
- There is also a silver-tone book stand to hold the pastor's notes and readings.
- To prepare the juice.
 - Place the plastic cups in the aluminum cup trays. ‡
(as of fall 2025, approximate 30-35 cups total).
 - Use the plastic juice filler to fill the cups $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ full (so they don't spill).
 - Cover the juice tray with one of the smooth, lacey covers from the box.
 - Pour around 1-2 cups of juice into the large pitcher for the pastor to pour from.
 - Get out the silver goblet for the pastor to pour the juice into.
- To prepare the bread.
 - Cut the bread into small cubes (approx.. $\frac{1}{2}$ - 1 inch).
 - Place a cloth napkin on one of the silver plates.
 - Put the bread on the napkin, then fold it over to cover the bread.
 - Take the roll (or a chunk of a loaf), and cut it ALMOST all the way through. This allows the pastor to easily break it in half.
 - Locate the gluten-free communion wafers (3-4)
- To prepare the table.
 - Move the table into place if necessary.
 - Cover the table with the tablecloth in the box.
 - Put the book stand from the worship closet in the center.
 - Arrange the bread plate and pastor's bread on one side.
 - Arrange the juice tray, goblet, and pitcher on the other side.
 - Place the gluten free elements to the side of a bread plate.

SERVING COMMUNION

- When ready to serve, the pastor will hand you the elements.
- Distribute the elements to the congregation & the choir. Offer gluten free to those who need it.
- Hand the tray/plate back to the pastor when finished distribution.
- The pastor will then offer the elements to the servers
- At the end of the Communion service, re-cover the elements.

AFTER SERVICE

- Wash & dry the pitcher, goblet, filler, cup trays, and plates.
- Pack silver items in the silver cloth pouches in the box.
- Fold up the table cloth, and put back in the box.
- Check linens for stains; arrange to have them washed if necessary.
- Give away any leftover juice and bread – do not put it in the trash/drain.
- After everything is packed in the box, put it back in the worship closet, along with the book stand. Lock up the closet and put the key back on its hook.