

# The Bell Tower

Newsletter of the First Congregational Church of Hatfield, United Church of Christ

2024

May

No. 5

## The Continuing Pentecost Church

Take a look at this month's church calendar and see that our church life is a positive microcosm of the world we live in.

Let's begin with the obvious. Church is when we gather for worship and community. This year May includes many important Christian celebrations. The Acts of the Apostles informs us that the resurrected Jesus appears to His disciples for 40 days "speaking about the kingdom of God." (Acts 1:3) Then, on that 40<sup>th</sup> day, Jesus ascends into the heavens to assume His rightful place in glory, and His final words are, "You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

The disciples have been charged with evangelism, sharing the gospel with all the world, but for ten days they are incapable of doing anything of the sort. They do not know how to begin or are too fearful to begin. That is until Pentecost, the 50<sup>th</sup> day after Easter. On this occasion, the Holy Spirit descends upon those first believers in Jerusalem. Now inspired and empowered by the Spirit they rush out into the streets of Jerusalem and begin to preach Jesus and His gospel. This is the birthday of the church. This is when the Spirit-filled members of the church carry forward the work of Jesus. This is the work that continues still today through us as church. We remain the Pentecost church.

On that first Pentecost Sunday, Acts shares with us some of the earliest of the Christian proclamation. Scholars tell us that this is an example of primitive Christian theology. Peter preaches that "God raised [Jesus] up" from the grave on Easter and that "God has made [Jesus] both Lord and Messiah." This is combined with the abiding presence of God's Spirit who is inspiring Peter's Pentecost words.

Here we have reference to God, Jesus and Spirit, but at this primitive stage they have not yet been recognized as Trinity, as one God in three divine persons. This will actually take the church three centuries more to define. The Trinity is an example of God's continuing revelation, of God's still-speaking Word. The church acknowledges and celebrates this divine self-revelation on the Sunday after Pentecost, which is Trinity Sunday.

As on the first Pentecost, the church ventured out into the world around its sanctuary. As part of my role as pastor, I belong to the Hatfield Equity Alliance and to HEADS Up, a group advocating for mental health awareness in town. Both these organizations are helping engage our community with the national Children's Mental Health Awareness Week. This year's theme is: "Lighting the Path to Social Justice for Children and Youth." Prizes will be awarded for artwork created by students at Smith Academy and Hatfield Elementary, along with submissions from the Senior Center and Service Net. A flier is on page 4.

The congregation also shares in the joy of Mother's Day as we offer prayers for the mothers among us and those called to their heavenly reward. We participate, as well, in our local Memorial Day observance as we remember and pray for all those men and women who offered the supreme sacrifice of their lives defending our nation. These are but three examples, just in the month of May, of how our church lives into the community of which we have been a part since its founding.

I ask that you also look at how we are involved with the larger church as part of our religious covenant with the Association, Conference and UCC. Both the Association and Conference will gather for Annual Meetings next month. These gatherings are testimony that we are part of the larger church. The fullness of church resides in each congregation, but in covenant we cooperate with one another to expand our outreach, not unlike Jesus' final command to begin in Jerusalem but to eventually reach all the world. Please think about becoming involved in the wider church.

Our congregation helps fulfill a profound need for a deepening, spiritual relationship with God and each other. Worship gives us the blessing of stillness in a busy, noisy world so that we can hear and feel the nearness of God. This then leaves us enlivened by the Pentecost Spirit to bring compassion and justice into a terribly troubled world. And all of this just in the month of May. Church is a blessing that I hope we celebrate and better appreciate during this month of its founding.

## MAY EVENTS

Sun. 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Music Sunday.</b> See flier on page 4. Children's Mental Health Awareness Week: "Lighting the Path to Social Justice for Children and Youth"
Tue. 7 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Randy will attend the monthly meeting of the Association Committee on Ministry at 5:45pm.
Thur. 9 <sup>th</sup>	Ascension Day. 40 <sup>th</sup> day after Easter. Monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees at 7:00pm.
Sun. 12 <sup>th</sup>	Mother's Day.
Tue 14 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Randy will attend the Hampshire Clergy lunch from 12 – 1:00pm in Hadley. Online <i>Exploring the Bible</i> study group from 7 – 8:00pm.
Wed. 15 <sup>th</sup>	Online meeting of the Church Council at 7:00pm.
Thur. 16 <sup>th</sup>	Rev. Randy will attend the HEART/HEADS Up meeting at 6:30pm.
Sun. 19 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Pentecost Sunday.</b> <i>Strengthen the Church Offering</i> will be accepted.
Mon. 20 <sup>th</sup>	Online <i>Exploring the Bible</i> study group from 7 – 8:00pm.
Wed. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Rev. Randy will attend the COM Chairs gathering in Winsted, CT
Sun. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Trinity Sunday.
Mon. 27 <sup>th</sup>	Memorial Day.
Tue. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Monthly meeting of the Board of Deacons at 6:00pm.

## REGULAR GATHERINGS

Sundays: Worship Service begins at 9:30am online and in person. Sunday School begins after the children's sermon during the worship Service.

Tuesdays: Yoga classes are offered every Tuesday in the church parlor at 5:30pm.

Thursdays: Choir rehearses in the parlor at 7:00pm, except July and August.

## SERVING THE ASSOCIATION AND THE CONFERENCE?

The Annual Meeting of the Southern place at UMass basically on Saturday, that we had scheduled previously our accordingly, will not be attending the be able to represent our congregation at

The Hampshire Association Annual June 2<sup>nd</sup> from 1:30 – 2:30pm. Would represent our congregation at this the Executive Committee and the Association. If you are interested in please contact Rev. Randy.



New England Conference will take June 22<sup>nd</sup>. This happens to be the day outing to the Woo Sox. Rev. Calvo, Annual Meeting this year. Would you this important gathering?

Meeting will take place on Sunday, you like to join Rev. Calvo and meeting? Also, there are openings on Committee on Ministry of the possibly serving or have questions,

Both the Association and the Conference are ways for us to live into our covenant with the wider church.

## PENTECOST SUNDAY

According to the Acts of the Apostles, on the 40<sup>th</sup> day after Easter, Jesus ascended into the heavens. Ascension Day falls on May 9<sup>th</sup> this year. As Jesus returned to His rightful place in heaven's glory, His parting words to the assembled followers were: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

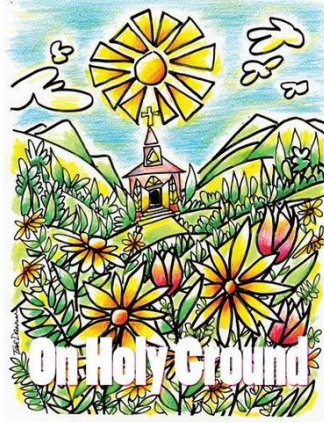
Ten days later, Jesus' followers were gathered together. Luke shares this testimony: "Suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability." (Acts 2:2-4)



As the now Spirit-led followers of Jesus rush out onto the streets of Jerusalem, as they begin to proclaim Jesus and His gospel, the church is born. On Pentecost, God empowers the followers of Jesus from that moment forward to continue the ministry begun by Christ. This is an important holy day in the life of the church. We remember when the church was born and we reaffirm that the Spirit guides and strengths us still. This is a day for us to be together as the church at worship.

**STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING**

As the United Church of Christ birthday and the celebration of the nationwide will accept donations for *The* “This offering reflects the shared United Church of Christ to cooperatively the national setting equally share the through their local congregations. The development, new churches, youth congregations. By your generosity to Christ. As God calls our congregations generosity will plant new churches, churches and develop the spiritual life in **ONLINE BIBLE STUDY GROUP**



celebrates Pentecost Sunday, the Christian church, congregations *Strengthen the Church Offering*. commitment of people across the build up the UCC. Conferences and gifts given by members and friends funds raised support leadership ministry, and innovation in existing this offering, you build up the Body of to be the church in new ways, your awaken new ideas in existing our youth and young adults.”

I invite you to join our online Bible study group. We meet on alternate weeks for one hour. We are reading from the Gospel of John and will then move on to the Johannine Epistles. We would love to have you join us. Let’s read, study, and discuss the book that literally has changed the world. Send an email to [randyc1897@gmail.com](mailto:randyc1897@gmail.com) for the login.

**MEMORIAL DAY**

On Memorial Day the nation takes a solemn pause to remember all those men and women of our Armed Forces who died while serving. Communities across the nation will conduct Memorial Day observances and we will share Hatfield’s details when they are finalized. We will also share Memorial Day prayers in church on Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>.

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

Don’t forget to check in at our website and FaceBook page. The links are directly below. They are updated several times each week and often share information from the larger church that we may not know of otherwise. Please like our pages and posts and share them as you choose.

**GROCERY CARDS**

*Big Y* grocery card sales are a continuing fundraiser of our congregation. Please contact Marty Z. if you would like to purchase any. The church earns 5% on all sales. Thank you.

**JOYFUL RINGERS BELL CHOIR**

Anyone who is interested in joining The Joyful Ringers is welcome to become a part of the Bell Choir. They will be playing on Palm Sunday and Easter. They rehearse on Sunday afternoons at 1:00pm. Younger or older, church member or bell enthusiast, experienced or novice, we would love it if you would come forward and add the gift of more music to our sanctuary. If you may be interested, please reach out to Sue M., the Music Committee Chair.

**CONTACT INFO: HATFIELD CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**

Website: [www.hatfieldchurch.org](http://www.hatfieldchurch.org) Facebook: [www.facebook.com/First-Congregational-Church-of-Hatfield-UCC](https://www.facebook.com/First-Congregational-Church-of-Hatfield-UCC)

Pastor: Rev. Randy Calvo 413-824-1630 [randyc1897@gmail.com](mailto:randyc1897@gmail.com)

Music Minister: Anthony Tracia [anthonytracia@gmail.com](mailto:anthonytracia@gmail.com)

**Committee Chairpersons:**

Benevolence, Amy N.	Music Committee, Sue M.
Christian Education, Anita W.	Real Folks Society, Amy N.
Church Moderator, Jonathan B.	Trustees, Ed M.
Deacons, Jeff F.	



## SUMMER CAMP at Silver Lake

[www.SilverLakeCT.org](http://www.SilverLakeCT.org) **2024**

Standard Program • Tiered Pricing: \$745 / \$670 / \$595  
\*Some programs may have slightly different pricing, or an additional program fee.

<b>PRE-CAMP</b>	<b>FAMILY CAMP WEEKEND</b> All Ages • Saturday-Monday, May 26-27
	<b>PIONEER WORK WEEK</b> Adults, 18+ • Friday-Wednesday, June 21-26
<b>WEEK 1</b>	<b>ALL AGES WEEK</b> Family Camp 1   Counselors-In-Training (CIT) • Sunday - Wednesday Family Camp 2 • Wednesday - Saturday
<b>WEEK 2</b>	<b>PERFORMING ARTS WEEK</b> God Song   Sing Praise   Rocks of Ages grades 4-6 grades 7-9 grades 10-12
<b>WEEK 3</b>	<b>FASTER, STRONGER, FURTHER = TOGETHER WEEK</b> Silver Lake Sampler   Fun in the Sun   Linked by Love grades 4-6 grades 7-9 grades 10-12
<b>WEEK 4</b>	<b>FUN IN THE SHADE WEEK</b> Bring on the Monsters   All Aboard!   Reel to Reel grades 4-6 grades 7-9 grades 10-12
<b>WEEK 5</b>	<b>REGIONAL YOUTH EVENT</b> Grades 7-12, with their adult leaders • Sunday - Wednesday
	<b>ALUMNI &amp; FRIENDS</b> Adults, 18+ • Thursday - Saturday

**SILVER LAKE** Southern New England Conference  
 Camp & Retreat Center United Church of Christ  
 Living the Love & Justice of Jesus **LEARN MORE**

## SILVER LAKE

Camp & Retreat Center

### SUMMER CAMP VOLUNTEERS

**RECRUITING NOW!** **LEARN MORE**

[www.SilverLakeCT.org/volunteers](http://www.SilverLakeCT.org/volunteers)



**Southern New England Conference**  
 United Church of Christ  
 Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

## 2024 Spring Programs at Silver Lake

**LEARN MORE**

<b>Women's Yoga Weekend</b> May 3-5 Women 18+	<b>Spring Action Weekend</b> April 26-28 Grades 6-12, adults
<b>Spring Camp Weekend</b> May 3-5 Grades 3-7	<b>Open House</b> Sunday, May 19 1-5 p.m.
<b>Family Camp Weekend</b> May 25-27 All ages	

**Southern New England Conference**  
 United Church of Christ  
 Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

**SILVER LAKE**  
 Camp & Retreat Center

Hatfield Congregational Church

# MUSIC SUNDAY

Service of 100% musical offerings!

**May 5, 2024**  
**9:30am**

Featuring:  
**Guest Viola**  
**Chancel Choir**  
**Joyful Ringers Bell Choir**

The UCC Church is Open & Affirming.  
 ALL are welcome!

41 Main Street  
[www.hatfieldchurch.org](http://www.hatfieldchurch.org)

Lighting the Path to Social Justice for Children & Youth  
 Children's Mental Health Acceptance Week 2024  
 May 5th - 11th



Person-Centered Support Every Step of the Way

Accept Advocate Act

#AcceptAdvocateAct  
 #SocialJusticeforFamilies

**HEADS Up & HEART Are Sponsoring a Contest for Hatfield Participants. Show Us What Social Justice Means To You Through Your Artwork!**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE**

All artwork must be in by May 3rd and we encourage you to display the artwork at your organization. Send a jpeg of your art to: [hatfieldheadsup@gmail.com](mailto:hatfieldheadsup@gmail.com)

**PRIZES**

Winners will receive a \$50 gift certificate from a local restaurant for the most creative submission.

**WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

All winners will be announced the week of May 13th to May 17th. We will post the name of the winners on our FaceBook pages.

**WHAT WE DO?**

**HEADS Up** - Hatfield Embraces Acceptance and Dismantles Stigma  
**HEART** - Hatfield Equity Alliance is committed to an inclusive, equitable community

[HTTPS://WWW.HATFIELDHEADSUP.ORG/](https://www.hatfieldheadsup.org/)

<https://sites.google.com/view/hatfieldequity/home/>