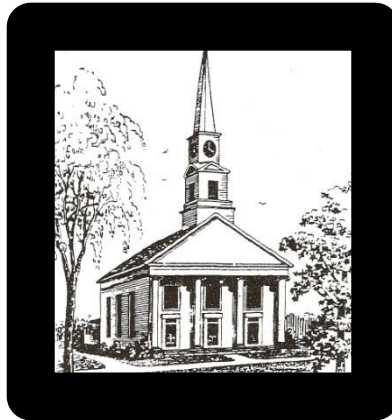


Welcome to Newcomers

An Introduction to Organizations and Officers



We're Glad You Came! We Hope You Stay!

First Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
41 Main Street
Hatfield, Massachusetts

www.hatfieldchurch.org

Facebook: First-Congregational-Church-of-Hatfield-UCC

Our church

The First Congregational Church of Hatfield, United Church of Christ, is located at 41 Main Street in beautiful Hatfield, Massachusetts. The town and church were founded simultaneously in 1670. Ever since our twin birth, the church has valued our place as the community's church. The church has been a beacon of faith and of good works in this small community through many generations. We are blessed with warm and friendly members, a historic place of worship, a lovely home town and an upbeat outlook for our future.

Our vision

- To join together – in Christian worship as a loving community of all those in search of God's purpose in their lives no matter their circumstances or position.
- To work together – in reaching out to our neighbors and our community, and to help those who suffer in body and spirit. In the spirit of the earliest church, we practice a fundamental equality and an honest democracy.
- To learn together – by preaching and studying the Gospel and Christian tradition. We seek in them and through the Spirit's inspiration wisdom, peace, love, and truth in action.

We are *Open and Affirming*

... which means we are a congregation that practices extravagant welcome. We profess in one form or another at the beginning of each worship Service: "Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome here." Being *Open and Affirming* is a public commitment of our acknowledgment and full acceptance of the dignity all who choose to become a part of the body of Christ. The following covenant has been voted and adopted by First Congregational Church of Hatfield.

Jesus teaches us that we are to love one another and to love our neighbor as ourselves. So we pledge to love by listening to what each of us has to say, respecting and embracing every one of our brothers and sisters, and understanding we all have a vital place in the kingdom of God on earth and in heaven. In this way each of us becomes *Open and Affirming*, opening our hearts to the identity of our neighbor and opening our minds to the many lifestyles, ideas and cultures of the world. We affirm the dignity of every person as created by God and in the image of God.

As a congregation of Christians, traveling together on our spiritual journeys, we welcome and invite all persons of every race, age, gender, gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, culture, physical ability, mental capacity and economic condition to become full and respected participants in the life of this body of Christ. We do so in imitation of the boundary defying and moral defining embrace of all people that Jesus revealed in His life.

What is the United Church of Christ and what do we believe?

We believe in God's continuing testament. We try to remain attentive to God's creative movement in the world.

We profess that religion and science are not mutually exclusive. Your head and heart are both welcome in our places of worship. Jesus lived and died to take away our sins, not our minds.

We prepare our members and leaders to be engaged in the varied ministry of church.

We believe in and welcome all into our community of faith. This is why we insist that Christ's communion table is open, not closed.

We teach that evangelism — offering spiritual bread to those in need of it — is our mission. The resurrected Jesus commands us: “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.” (Mark 16:15)

We advocate justice for all. We take pride in our place as prophetic truth-tellers, advocating for causes on their merits rather than their popularity. Our congregations extend hospitality and practice Christian charity as signs of God's inclusive love.

We hold to a global perspective. We work with — not against — people of other churches and faiths.

We believe the church's mission is to change lives — individually, systemically and globally. We work to make transformation possible trusting in the power of God's grace.

We believe churches must be places of vitality in worship, learning and advocacy.

Why?

Because our faith is 2,000 years old. Our thinking is not.



Opportunities for ...

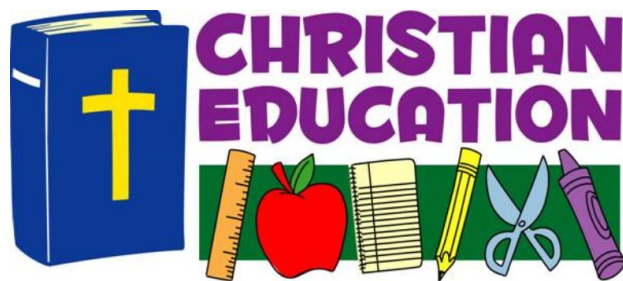


Benevolence

Taking Care of God's Family

Benevolence Committee

Appointed by nomination, members of the Benevolence Committee coordinate our outreach ministries.



Board of Christian Education

Chosen by nomination, church members who serve on the Board of Christian Education are responsible for the religious enrichment of our congregation. They choose curriculum; arrange for Sunday School Youth and Adult program leaders; and organize special events throughout the year including Teacher Appreciation Sunday, Children's Day, crafts for Hanging of the Greens, the Christmas Pageant, and Birthday Party for Jesus.

Deacons



Board of Deacons

Chosen by nomination, church members who serve on the Board of Deacons are responsible for the spiritual affairs of the church. Deacons serve Communion, organize ushers and greeters, host ecumenical church events, arrange for visitation, and supervise the work of the minister.



Members who serve on the Board of Trustees are chosen by nomination. They are responsible for the financial affairs of the church. Trustees manage the upkeep of the church and grounds; arrange for the payment of wages, bills and services; and manage the church budget.



Church Officers

Moderator: Jonathan Bardwell
Treasurer: Mark Gelotte

Asst. Moderator: Amy Novak
Collector: Marty Zigmont

Clerk: Carolyn Forsyth
Delegate at Large: Maureen Burris

Auditor: Paula Mattison



Clergy

Rev. Randolph Calvo

413-824-1630, randyc1897@gmail.com



Music Committee

Members who serve on the Music Committee are chosen by nomination. They supervise the music ministry of our church. Our music groups include the Chancel Choir and the Handbell Choir. Our Music Minister is Anthony Tracia.



Nominating Committee

Members of the Nominating Committee are charged with the responsibility of filling open church positions. If you would like to serve on a committee, they would love to hear from you.



Stewardship Committee

Members of the Stewardship Committee are responsible for coordinating our annual pledge drive and other fundraising activities designed to help us meet our budget.



Anywhere you feel called to minister!

How Can You Become Involved?

There are many ways that you can participate in the life of our church as seen above.
Also ...

The **Real Folks Society** is our women's group. They have a schedule of activities throughout the year.

The **Chancel Choir** meets every Thursday beginning at 7:00pm to rehearse. If you have any questions, contact our Music Minister, Anthony Tracia at 781-738-6284.

The **Hand bell Choir**, "**The Joyful Ringers**," is always looking for new members.

Ushers are arranged by members of the Board of Deacons. Ushers' duties include counting the children/adults who attend and recording the number in the book at the back of the church, collecting the offering, turning the lights on and off, and tidying up the pews after Church.

Greeters are the first ones a person meets as they enter our church. They arrive 15-20 minutes early to assist those coming to worship, and acclimate guests and first time visitors.



Worship Schedule



Worship Service: Sunday mornings from 9:30 – 10:30am.

Sunday School for Preschool through Grade 6: Sunday mornings from 9:45 – 10:30am.

Chat and Coffee follows Sunday morning services in the church dining room on the first Sunday of each month.

If you would like to have your name placed on our mailing list, please either share your name and address in the guest book at the back of the sanctuary or contact the pastor.

