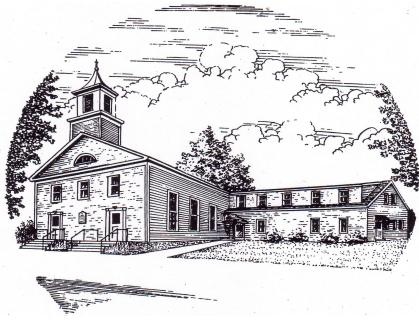


"So that the Gospel may be preached amongst us here"



FEEDING HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

NEWSLETTER

April 2025



Upcoming Events

**** SEE THE FULL CHURCH CALENDAR on PAGE 3 ****

Worship Assistants

Apr. 13 Sandi
Apr. 20 O P E N
Apr. 27 O P E N

Social Time Refreshments

Deb & Sue
EASTER
O P E N

May Communion

O P E N

Add your name to any of the signup sheets in the blue book in the hall !
As the song goes, WE are the church together!

Sunday Worship: 10:00 am

Rev. Janet Brown, Pastor

pastorjanetfhcc@gmail.com

Web Site: fhccucc.org

21 N. Westfield St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030-1672 413-786-5061

Newsletter: fhcc.communications@gmail.com

 [Feeding Hills Congregational Church UCC](https://www.facebook.com/FeedingHillsCongregationalChurchUCC)

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

Dear Friends,

We are quickly approaching the end of Lent, which brings the joy and celebration of Easter! My current can count is 18, so I guess I need to finish out my 40 Cans in 40 Days donation.

I pray that the remaining days of Lent will continue to draw us together in fellowship, support, acts of kindness, encouragement and personal reflection.

This month is sure to be busy! On Maundy

Thursday of Holy week, we will gather with First

Congregational UCC in West Springfield at 5:30 for dinner and worship at 6. Good Friday, we will worship at 7:30 together, and Easter morning we will greet the sun at 6:15 am and worship again at 10 am.

As spring flowers begin to bud and bloom, may God bring hope and joy to us! New things are happening, here at FHCC. Many thanks to our visioning team for their leadership and new ways of growing and participating in serving our neighbors! Be sure to see their update for more info! Together, we are the church, and we are needed more than ever in our world. This Easter, and always, may God bless you with grace and light! Blessings,

Pastor Janet

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



April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Early Intervention AA CHOIR 7:15 PM	2 Early Intervention	3 AA	4	5 CROP WALK MTG 9 AM FHCC
6 LENT 5 - Communion Worship & Coffee Hr. GROW Event Westfield 1 st Cong 2 PM	7 PRACTICAL FAITH 7 PM	8 Early Intervention AA CHOIR 7:15 PM	9 Early Intervention VISIONING Mtg 7:15 PM	10 AA	11	12 SOCCER OPENING DAY & FOOD COLLECTION MAYNARD & SCHOOL STREET 12-3 PM
13 PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP & COFFEE HOUR	14	15 Early Intervention AA CHOIR 7:15 PM	16 Early Intervention VISIONING Mtg 7:15 PM	17 AA	18	19
20 SUNRISE WORSHIP 6:15 AM & Breakfast EASTER WORSHIP 10 AM	21	22 Early Intervention AA COUNCIL 7 PM	23 Early Intervention CHOIR 7:15 PM	24 AA	25	26 SOCCER JAMBOREES Westfield/Wilbraham FOOD COLLECTION ALL DAY
	<i>Pastor Janet out of town</i>					
27 Worship & Coffee Hour 10 AM - Andrew Moorehouse Speaking CROP WALK	28	29 Early Intervention AA CHOIR 7:15 PM	30 Early Intervention WED WORSHIP 7:30 PM	1	2	3 FOOD DRIVE @ FHCC 9-12



Upcoming Easter Services

Easter Holy Week begins on with Palm Sunday on April 13. There will be palm fronds decorating the altar to commemorate Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday Worship



First Congregational Church UCC
108 Park St. West Springfield, MA

Thursday, April 17 @ 5:30 PM

Join us for dinner & a service of
Tenebrae.

**GOOD
FRIDAY
WORSHIP** April 18th at 7:30 PM

Feeding Hills
Congregational Church
21 North Westfield St.
Feeding Hills, MA

Join us as we reflect and prepare our hearts
for the joy of Easter!

Easter Worship Services at FHCC

Sunday, April 20, 2025

SUNRISE 6:15 AM
&
10 AM



Easter sunrise service will be followed by a potluck breakfast.

All are welcome to all Holy Week services.

Check the church website for any Easter service updates.



CROP Walk 2025

Crop Walk is Sunday April 27 at West Springfield United Methodist Church.

The Lion's Club will be providing hot dogs, chips and beverage for walkers.

There will also be a Raffle/sales table, and live music.

The CROP Walk Goal is to raise \$10,000 overall, and the FHCC goal is \$1500.

CWS has had significant funding cuts from the federal government. They will no longer be able to provide refugee assistance, along with other emergency aid. Money raised from CROP Walk will be split 75% to CWS, and 25% to Parish Cupboard.

FHCC has 8 walkers this year that will need sponsorship. Please reach out to anyone on the team to provide your support, or on the website

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/event/agawamma>. Search for team

Feeding Hills Congregational Church. The 8 walkers are:

- Team Captain- Linda Heinze
- David Barton
- Sandi and Dave Pitzer
- Sean Rose & Kim
- Janet Brown
- Rachael Kowal



CWS Painting Fundraiser

A Paint Craze event to benefit CWS will be held Saturday afternoon April 12. See the flyer at the end of the newsletter for details.



Coming Soon: Church Cupboard

See the article at the end of the newsletter on the newly planned Church Cupboard, a new mission put together by the Visioning Committee to help our local community, including some upcoming food collection drives in partnership with local youth soccer events!

FHCC LENTEN MISSION PROJECT....
40 Cans (or boxes) in 40 Days.
Can you commit?



To benefit the West Springfield Parish Cupboard

Once again, there will be a challenge project to donate 40 items for Parish Cupboard between Ash Wednesday & Easter Sunday. They welcome non-perishable foods, personal care products (they love travel sizes!), and even pet food.

You can bring items in over the course of the 6 weeks, or all at the end. Even if one doesn't reach 40 items, the important thing is a practice of giving back during this period of spiritual preparation before Easter.



Guest Speaker Andrew Morehouse

Pastor Janet will be taking her “5th Sunday” on April 27. Rather than a sermon, Andrew Morehouse, executive director of the Western Mass Food Bank, will be talking about the amazing work done at the Food Bank. Please extend a warm welcome to him at worship that day!



Church Clearing Out

A group of folks have been clearing church closets, nooks, cranies, and shed. There is a lot of stuff stored away! Thanks to Chris, Tom, Dave, Matt, Evelyn, and others who are sorting out all the various stuff. Over the coming months it will be decided how to dispose of obsolete items.

? Bible Trivia

How did Judas identify Jesus to the soldiers & mob sent to condemn him?

- A. A cloak
- B. A kiss
- C. A crown



Keep In Our Prayers

- Betty, George, and David
- Paul & David
- Mimi & Lily
- Bob at the former church parsonage

Please feel free to send any prayer concerns to include in future newsletters.

Bible Trivia Answers:

B, A kiss

Read Matthew 26:47-52.

Visioning Team Update

Our visioning team has been hard at work to figure out what God is calling us to do next here at FHCC! As you know, we spent some time planning fellowship events, and now that we have had a chance to connect and celebrate together, it's time to serve! We as a congregation have a long of concern for food insecurity in our community and have decided it's time to address it. In May, we will be opening the Church Cupboard, a food bank for all people to come and receive supplemental food once a month.



What will this look like? On the first and third Saturdays of each month, the Church Cupboard will be open for individuals to come in and select from a menu of items we have available. We will ask for their information, including the number of people in their household, which will determine the number of non-perishable items they can select. At this time we will only be collecting non-perishable items, but we hope to expand in the future.

Is this sustainable? Where will the food come from? We are working with Agawam Soccer and Roots Soccer League as our initial kick of collection drives. We will also be seeking help from a variety of local organizations, hoping that each will take a month of the year to support our efforts. We are applying for a grant from the Hampden Association to cover some initial financial costs and looking into membership with the Western Mass Food Bank which provides a significant amount of non-perishable food for local organizations to distribute.

How can I help? Great question! We have several opportunities coming up!

April 12th – We will have two food collection stations at Agawam Soccer's Opening Day (School St. & Maynard St. Fields) from 12-2 PM as each player in town brings a non-perishable item to contribute.

April 26th – We will have two food collection stations at Root's Soccer Jamborees (Westfield & Wilbraham Roots) all day on this day.

****We need individuals to sign up to attend and thank families for their contributions. This is a great opportunity to share who we are and that we care about the community as a whole. You can bring a chair and enjoy the fresh spring air and time together as well.****

May 5th – We are hosting a Food Drive at FHCC. It will be similar to the Undies Collection Drive for Soldier on as we gather near the road and receive food donations.

May 17th – Church Cupboard Grand Opening for the community!

Please see Pastor Janet, Jeff, Cindy, Matt or Sean if you want to sign up! Everyone who helps on one of these days will get a new FHCC t-shirt!

How come I haven't heard about this? Have you been to church? We have talked about it for the last few weeks, and will be continuing to as plans come together. This ministry

needs YOU...your time, prayers and support to succeed. In these modern days, churches that survive are busy serving, so we need to get in gear!

There are more details coming, and more plans for marketing seeking both support and to let the community know about this new resource. Thank you for your continuing support and prayers as we do our best to make sure that no one goes hungry in our community.



**FUNDRAISER FOR CWS
CHURCH WORLD
SERVICES**

“Coastal Flowers”

**Feeding Hills
Congregational Church
21 N Westfield Street
Feeding Hills MA**

**Saturday, April 12, 2025
1 pm - 3:00 pm**



\$35 includes everything to paint an 11x14” canvas to take home!



**Contact MaryBeth Reed at 413-426-2319 or
cmbreed@comcast.net to register.**

Deadline closes on 4/10/25.