



Sunday Worship in May

May 4 – Easter 3, Communion

Revelation 5:11-14; John 21:1-19

May 11 – Easter 4, Mothers Day

Psalm 23; Revelation 7:9-17; John 10:22-30

May 18 – Easter 5

Psalm 148; Revelation 21:1-6; John 13:31-35

May 25 – Easter 6, potential Cong'l meeting

Acts 16:9-15; Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5; John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

Looking Ahead

June 1 – Joint Pride service at First Churches

July – Joint worship at Edwards

August – Joint worship at First Churches

Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ

Annual Meeting

June 7 On-line

Our congregation should have 2 delegates attend this meeting. Any 2 members can serve as delegates. In preparation, there is a budget hearing on May 14th and a delegate training on May 28th, both on-line. If you can serve as a delegate by attending these on-line gatherings, please let the church office know.

Worship Survey

As promised a worship survey will go out soon. Be watching your inbox in the next few week for an email with the subject line “Worship Survey”.

Team Meetings in May

5/4 11AM Outreach Grants - Heritage Room

5/5 7 PM ECM – Zoom

5/8 4 PM Care and Visitation - Zoom

5/8 7 PM Finance – Zoom

5/14 7 PM B&G – Zoom

5/28 7 PM B&G – Zoom

ECM Meeting Minutes April 7, 2025

Attendees: Rev. Geary, Leon, Mark, Adam, Ron, Jeff

Facilitator: Leon

Opening Devotional: Ron

Previous minutes: Unanimously approved

Music Team update

Mark noted that:

Proctor help is still needed for an April 20 concert by Stillwater singers.

A “major” artist is planned for Oct 10

Alex looking into lapel microphone for Rev. Geary. Rev Geary to ask Rev. McSherry which company was involved with setting up sound system.

Light dimming: estimated to cost \$15-20K. Planned for July or August and need help from congregation to move pews

Mark will endeavor to send music meeting minutes to ECM ahead of meetings

Adam added:

Children music for Palm Sunday: Hope is to have 2-3 children but attendance is uncertain.

Adam is looking to add a staff singer (Alto, tenor or base). Job posting in works.

Outreach update

Jen mentioned that Outreach has met a couple of times recently and they have allocated all budgeted money (\$35K) and now looking to designate new way funds

How support LGBTQ+ organizations

Tabled until Sandi is able to attend

Hampshire Support Alliance Gala (Apr 30)

Edwards is a Silver sponsor (\$500) for the Gala. Rev. Geary noted that we are also a sponsor for the Gay Pride Parade

Settled Pastor Transition Planning

Discernment team: Mark and Leon to coordinate delivery of Sandi's letter to the members of the (previously disbanded) Faith Formation Search team.

Office Manager Replacement

Job description posted to Indeed. Rev Geary to send final to Jeff. Interview committee to consist of Rev. Geary, Mark Dion and Janet Tucker

Office Coverage (Transition volunteers): Mana will not use Edwards for month of April (due to staff training at St John's), which reduces need for coverage considerably

Exit interview: Completed. Rev. Geary will put her notes into Kyla's personnel file.

Farewell celebration: Will plan a lunch after church once we know her last date

Church Credit cards and Check Signing

Leon noted that Sabra is traveling through April but Mark Waller can also sign checks. Rev. Geary has not been given signing authority and prefers not to have signing authority. Finance to consider flow of funds and controls (transfer authorization and maximums). Rev. McSherry is no longer authorized to sign and CC destroyed. The Finance Committee is looking to change credit card service provider due to poor customer service from current provider. Credit cards will be issued to go to Sabra, Mark and Rev. Geary. Finance committee to work out details.

Sign in front of church

ECM approves B&G proposal to upgrade sign in front of church. Rev. Geary suggests that ECM consider instituting guidelines for posting to the sign.

City Sidewalk request

City requesting gift of property wedge. Needs congregational meeting to authorize land gift and easement near sign to property during work. ECM plans to call a May 4 Congregational meeting to discuss. Leon to work with John D to get info from City. Announcements needed for two previous Sundays.

Activity Form

Mark reported that the revised Activity Form was finalized. Thank you, Mark, for your work on this project.

Proctor Job Description

Mark presented a Proctor job description and received feedback from ECM. **Mark will update and send a revised description.**

Member transfer request

Rev. Geary informed ECM that Deb Moore has asked to move membership to Central Square congregational church in Bridgewater, MA. The Clerk is to arrange the transfer.

New members joining April 13, 2025

Justin Chick, Steve Fancy and Dawn Scaparotti. Leon and Sandi (Mark is backup) for question and answer portion of the service.

Summer worship with First Churches

Rev. Geary to correspond with Sarah at First Churches to coordinate schedule for the Summer.

Rev Geary Check in

Regarding Time off: ECM requests a couple week notice. Rev Geary to try to find replacement.

Communion by intinction: ECM is OK

Preach from lectern instead of pulpit: ECM is OK to try for a few Sundays

Paper signs in front of church: Rev. Geary to use discretion in taking some down

Keys: Who should have keys and which ones? Tabled to next meeting.

Valerie Tutson (storyteller): ECM OK to invite to speak on a TBD Sunday

Next Meeting Date: Monday, May 5 at 7pm

Gratitude Corner

If you see someone doing something nice, share a gratitude here.

Thank you to Janet Tucker and Mark Dion for serving on the Administrative Assistant Search team.

Thank you to all who helped with the reception following the funeral service on 4/28.

Thank you to all the Sunday morning volunteers.



You're Invited to a Parade!

Join the Edwards Church Pride Parade Contingent at the Hampshire Pride Parade. It's a fun and festive way to spend time together as we march with other area UCC churches and live out our church's commitment to support & celebrate LGBTQ+ folks.

When & Where

Saturday, May 3

9:30 am: Meet at back door of Edwards Church

9:45 am: Shuttle to Sheldon Field, the parade starting point (near the fairgrounds at the corner of Bridge St., & Old Ferry Rd.)

10:00 am: Meet other Hampshire Association UCC churches for the parade line up & fellowship

10:30 am: If you miss our shuttle, join us by 10:30 in the Sheldon Field parking lot (corner of Bridge St. & Old Ferry Rd.)

11-12 noon: Parade steps off & marches up Bridge St. to Main St. ending downtown at the corner of Main & Old South St.

12-5 pm: Optional to attend is the Hampshire Pride Festival in the parking lot behind Thornes featuring booths sponsored by local organizations & businesses, entertainment and speakers.

RSVP by May 1st and direct questions to:

Debbie Davis at debradavis1217@gmail.com or 413-626-5117

***Thank you for considering this invitation
to show our support for the LGBTQ+ community!***

CELEBRATE

Dick Matteson's

65 years as a church musician!
Fill the room with music and cheer.

With Catherine M. Kay
Linda Smith,
Anne Stanek, Gail Weirick, piano
Rebecca Matteson, organ

The First Church Choir,
Singers from Western Mass
and beyond*

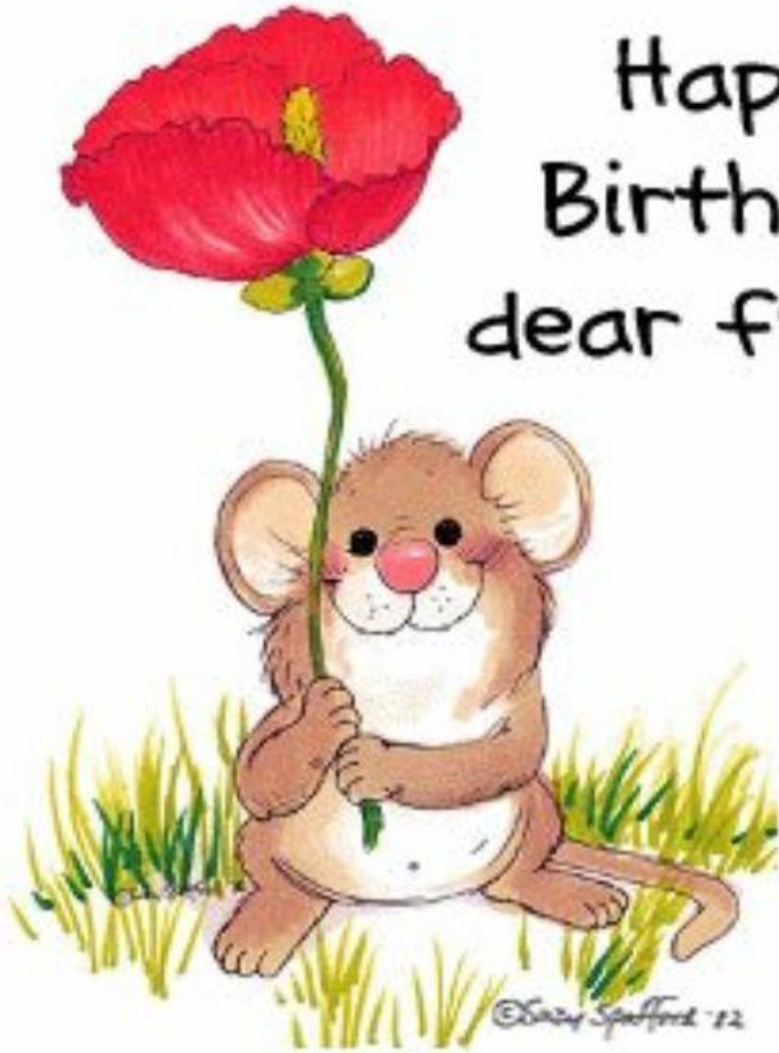
*If you want to sing in the larger choir
email Dick (dickmatteson05@gmail.com)

SATURDAY, MAY 17, 2025
2 O'CLOCK

First Congregational Church
165 Main Street, Amherst, MA

Donations at the door to support the First Church music program.

Information: (413)253-3456



Happy
Birthday,
dear friend!

Jody Gerbasi
Ann Abel
Sarah Briggs
Sally Griggs
Debra Davis
Lynda Kamik
Owen Hutchison
Julia Shapleigh

In Memoriam

Grace Hayden Lively

November 4, 1940 ~ March 31, 2025

J. Eugene Sielski

1927 - April 18, 2025

Pastoral Care

Feel free to contact me at any time. Messages left at the church phone (413) 584-5500 x2 will be emailed to me. You can send an email to minister@edwardschurchnorthampton.org or call or text my cell phone. I am usually at the church on Mondays and have set office hours: Tuesdays 4-5:30 PM in the lobby; Wednesdays 9:30-10:45 AM in my office. I am happy to visit you in your home or at some neutral location. I look forward to getting to know you.

May 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 10 Worship 11 Outreach	28 9:30 NPC 7 ECM	29 9:30 NPC 4 Office Hours 7 GA	30 9:30 NPC 9:30 Office Hours 11 Bible Study 6 Investment 7 AA	1 9:30 NPC 6:30 AA	2 11:30 MANNA 5 YWCA 7 AA 7:30 Pioneer Valley Cappella	3 8:30 YWCA 11:30 MANNA
4 10 Worship 11 Outreach	5 9:30 NPC 7 ECM	6 9:30 NPC 4 Office Hours 7 GA	7 9:30 NPC 9:30 Office Hours 11 Bible Study 6 Investment 7 AA	8 9:30 NPC 4 Care & Visitation 6:30 AA 7 Finance	9 11:30 MANNA 5 YWCA 7 AA	10 8:30 YWCA 11:30 MANNA
11 10 Worship	12 9:30 NPC 1 Improv Class	13 9:30 NPC 4 Office Hours 1 Improv Class 7 GA	14 9:30 NPC 9:30 Office Hours 11 Bible Study 1 Improv Class 7 AA	15 9:30 NPC 1 Improv Class 6:30 AA	16 11:30 MANNA 2 Improv Class 5 YWCA 7 AA	17 8:30 YWCA 11:30 MANNA
18 10 Worship	19 9:30 NPC	20 9:30 NPC 4 Office Hours 7 GA 7 Music @ the Crossroads	21 9:30 NPC 9:30 Office Hours 11 Bible Study 7 AA	22 9:30 NPC 6:30 AA	23 11:30 MANNA 5 YWCA 7 AA	24 8:30 YWCA 11:30 MANNA
25 10 Worship	26 Wedding	27 9:30 NPC 4 Office Hours 7 GA	28 9:30 NPC 9:30 Office Hours 11 Bible Study 7 AA	29 9:30 NPC 6:30 AA	30 11:30 MANNA 5 YWCA 7 AA	31 8:30 YWCA 11:30 MANNA 7 Valley Jazz Voices