

The Messenger

April 2018

The First Church of Monson, Congregational/UCC

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**The Church Office is usually open on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays
from 9 AM to 1 PM.**

Please visit our website and calendar at www.firstchurchmonson.org.



Easter Sunday, April 1



Great news from your Pastoral Search Committee!!!



We have chosen a candidate to be our next settled Pastor, and he has accepted our call!

After reading many profiles, listening to countless on-line sermons, visiting other churches to listen to candidates' sermons and conducting several interviews, we have unanimously concluded that Peter Johnston has been called to serve First Church of Monson. After our first interview with Peter, it was clear that he would be a very good match for the needs of our Congregation. Our second interview proved that our first impression was spot on! He was excited about what he saw in us and we were thrilled with what he would bring to First Church.

We are now preparing the call agreement and contract for him. We are also working with him on the date of candidating weekend, when Reverend Johnston will lead Sunday's worship service for us and the Congregation will vote on his candidacy. There will be a time during this weekend before Sunday's worship service for everyone to meet him and get to know him.

Every member of the Congregation will receive a letter announcing the date of the candidating weekend, which may be as soon as the end of April. Please make every effort to attend both the "meet and greet" with Reverend Johnston and the Sunday service. This will be your time to vote on accepting him to be our next settled Pastor.

Thank you for all of your prayers during this time--we know they were answered!!!

Pastoral Search Committee,

Lisa, Emily, Brian, Lyn, Paul, Judie, Bill, Anne, and Bill



On the Christian calendar, Easter is not just one day but a fifty-day season from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday. During this time period, it is appropriate to celebrate the Creation. Both Earth Day (April 22) and Arbor Day (April 27) occur during Eastertide. First Church will be hosting three special events to honor creation and promote environmental stewardship. Everyone is welcome to attend any or all of these programs.

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof -Psalm 24:1a

Craft Away for Arbor Day!

As part of their Continuing Education and Community Outreach efforts, the Christian Education and Outreach Committees invite you to join them for a complimentary fun-filled morning with kids' crafts and free breakfast in celebration of Arbor Day. This family event will be held Saturday, April 28 from 8 to 10 a.m. Crafts include a finger painting, making your own bird feeder, and a plant project. Join us for some tree-mendous fun!

Save the Date

Monson Town-wide Cleanup Saturday, April 21 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

First Church is taking leadership in this town-wide event.
Details to follow.

“The time is always right to do the right thing.” – Martin Luther King, Jr.

Hearts Willing Club
April 25, 2018
7 p.m.

"Monarch Butterflies"
by Rachelle Smola, Master Gardener



"The Lord is good to all, and His compassion is over all that He had made."
-Psalm 145.9

Guest Night – Guests are most welcome to attend this program.

Refreshments will be served.



Thanks to the many who helped make the Easter Egg Hunt so successful!

Members and friends of First Church donated eggs and candy, filled about 3,500 eggs, provided snacks, decorated Fellowship Hall, supervised the hunt, and very generously gave gifts and money to benefit Baystate Children's Hospital. Special thanks to Kristy who secured a large donation of candy from Walgreens.

Your help and your donations are greatly appreciated!
Thank you,
The Christian Education and Outreach Committees

The Monson Open Pantry Challenge for April will be canned tuna, canned chili and canned hash -- the can, can festival! Collection baskets are located in the Narthex. Thank you!



Please note this change: **Our new member information sessions** planned for April are currently on hold in light of First Church's actions to call a new settled pastor.



Fellowship Hosts are needed for the month of May. Hosting fellowship time is an important part of the church's hospitality ministry for members and friends. Any Deacon can help you if you have any questions. There is a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall.



Please notify Lee in the Church Office (413-267-3312 or office@firstchurchmonson.org) of any changes in your contact information. Are you receiving emails from First Church? If not, you are not on our all-church email list. We only use email for First Church communications, like upcoming events or last minute changes. Please consider adding your email to our list; we will not share your email address.



Printer Cartridges No Longer Being Collected

Staples has changed its recycling policy on used toner and printer cartridges and it is no longer economical for First Church to continue recycling these cartridges. There, the Church Office will no longer be accepting used cartridges. If you are interested in taking over the recycling of used cartridges, please let the office know. Thank you.



Our Administrative Assistant will be on vacation the week of April 30 through May 4. Telephone and email messages will be answered.



The Daily Lectionary Scripture References for April can be found at <https://www.macucc.org/files/files/documentsdailylectionary/apr+2018.pdf>



Anyone interested in managing this season's Monson Farmers-Crafters Market?



The market can't operate without a manager or co-manager. The manager's responsibilities include contacting vendors, managing the market's finances, and supervising the market weekly or bi-weekly from late May to early September. In the past the market was held Thursday afternoons; that could change depending on vendor availability. Please contact the Church Office at office@firstchurchmonson.org or 413-267-3312 if you are interested or have any questions.

STATEMENT
Our Mission
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The Mission of the First Church of Monson is
to praise God through prayer,
to share the Word and love of God by promoting fellowship in the community,
and to serve as stewards of God's creation –
all in a manner that glorifies God and emulates Christ.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS



The Dorcas Society H. Leonora Stiles Thomas Educational Trust is offering scholarships to members or affiliates of the First Church of Monson who meet the following qualifications:

1. Member of a current high school graduating class who has been accepted at a school of higher learning,
2. Member or affiliate of The First Church of Monson who has provided some type of meaningful service to the programs of The First Church of Monson.

All applications must be completed and returned to a Dorcas Society Trustee by **11:00 am on the second Sunday of April**. Scholarship payments will be made in two equal parts. Part one will be paid upon receipt of student's first semester college grades and part two will be paid upon receipt of student's second semester grades.

Applications may be obtained from the *Messenger* mail slot, First Church's website <http://www.firstchurchmonson.org>.

Wanted: Director of Music Ministry



This part-time position will be available in September, 2018. Responsibilities include playing for one Sunday service, directing one adult choir, leading a Thursday evening rehearsal, and coordinating the music program of the church with the liturgical year. The instruments available are a three manual 1891 Johnson pipe organ as well as a Yamaha grand piano. Salary is commensurate with qualifications and experience. Send resume or inquiries by April 15, 2018, to First Church of Monson, 5 High Street, Monson, MA 01057.