

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

HAMILTON, MA

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2019

One Hour of Prayer Tonight

Many good and encouraging things are happening in the life of our church, but there are lots of challenges and decisions to be made as well as we continue this time of transition in the life of the church. The pastors, along with the elders and the search committee, invite you to a time of prayer **tonight from 5:00-6:00 pm**, in the Chapel. We want to pray specifically for our search process, our annual meeting (tomorrow night) including our budget, and for other concerns in the life of the church. Please come and pray with us.

Annual Meeting Tomorrow

You are invited to our Annual Church Meeting tomorrow night, Monday, November 18 at 7:30 pm in Heritage Hall. While only members are able to vote, we would like as many people in our church family as possible to be a part of this meeting.

Operation Christmas Child

The Women's SonLight Bible Study has packed over 100 shoe boxes for *Operation Christmas Child*! Any other filled shoe boxes and \$9 donations are due in the Café **today**.

Krisie Brown, krisiebrown@gmail.com

Thanksgiving Eve Service

Join us on Wednesday, November 27 at 7:00 pm for our annual Thanksgiving Eve service featuring scripture lessons, songs of thanksgiving and stories of God's faithfulness. We hope you'll join us for a wonderful evening of worship and thanksgiving!

Join the Choir for Advent Singing

Now is a great time to join the choir as we begin to prepare music for the Advent season. We practice Thursday evenings in the sanctuary from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. If interested, please contact Choir Director, Jonathan VanderWoude at woudey@gmail.com.



Stephen Ministry at FCCH

It has been almost a year since FCCH became an official *Stephen Ministry* congregation. For those not familiar, *Stephen Ministers* are laypeople—Christian men and women—trained to provide one-to-one care to people experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or relocation. *Stephen Ministers* come from all walks of life. Their commonality? A passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need. In December, nine members of FCCH will complete the *Stephen Ministry* training series. As we continue to grow this ministry, we will be offering another training session beginning in January. *The ministry is especially in need of men to be trained as Stephen Ministers*. If you have questions or would like to know more about *Stephen Ministry*, reach out to anyone on our leadership team: Pastor Kevin, Andrea Brown, Cece Gough, Steve Heintz or Kathy Lindsay. Members of our leadership team will be available in Fellowship Foyer today following both services.

Welcome Visitors

If you're joining us for the first time today, we're glad you're here! We look forward to connecting with you. Please join us at the Welcome Desk downstairs in Fellowship Foyer today after each service to enjoy a cup of coffee and to pick up your welcome gift.

Please Slow Down in the Parking Lot

You may have noticed the new paint on the speed bump in our driveway. This is our way of reminding one another to *slow down* when entering our campus, so please take note. The blind curve around the Barn is very dangerous for our pedestrians on Sunday mornings and throughout the week. On weekday evenings our middle and high school students frequently play active games all over campus. Please help to ensure that no one is hurt by taking the driveway and the turn very slowly. Thank you!

Missions News

• *Amirah* Missions Moment Today

Amirah is a multi-faceted aftercare organization for survivors of sex trafficking, providing residential, outreach, and education services.

Michael Distefano is the Regional Impact Director for *Amirah's* newest safe house in Connecticut. As a pastor for more than five years in both Houston, TX and Washington, DC, Michael's heart is to see God's love for humanity and His passion for justice reflected in the church. Michael was a volunteer at *Amirah* while acting as the Justice Student Committee Chair at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary from 2014-2017. You may remember Mike when he attended FCCH during his time at GCTS; he and Pastor Kevin taught a Sunday School class on social justice. He joined *Amirah's* staff in 2019 through what he felt was a direct call from God to minister to survivors and elevate the church. Mike will be here to share during a Missions Moment in both services this morning.

Amirah volunteer, Linda Forsyth will be downstairs in Fellowship Foyer before and after both services with information on how you can become involved.

• *Missions Spotlight:*

Lavida Outdoor Education Gordon College

Lavida prepares participants for adventure and life with custom challenge courses and rock climbing at Gordon College, to multi-day backpacking or canoeing expeditions in the Adirondacks of New York and the White Mountains of New Hampshire. *La Vida* offers a broad range of outdoor programs for Gordon students, youth, families and a wide variety of groups. These experiential learning environments foster character and leadership development to prepare you to contribute to the greater good in your community and the world.

Nate Hausman is the *La Vida* Center's Director of Education and Program Development, Director of *La Vida's* Adirondack Expeditions and professor at Gordon College. He is certified as a *Wilderness Education Association* instructor, *Leave No Trace* Master Educator and *Wilderness Medical Associates* Wilderness First Responder. He is also an active member within the *Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education*, the *Center for Outdoor Ethics*, and the *Wilderness Education Association*. Nate lives in Gloucester, MA with his wife Amber, daughter Evalyn and beloved canine Colden.

Children’s Ministries:

- **The Nursery is a Delightful Place to Serve!**
You are invited to serve in the nursery at 8:30 am or 11:00 am! Students and young adults; men and women of all ages make up our rotating volunteer team. It’s a great way to nurture the youngest shoots in the garden, and to meet others in our church family. All new volunteers are pre-screened and receive training before their first day. Feel free to check the nursery bulletin board to view the schedule, and contact Lauren Sager or Christine Hendrickson to join.
Lauren Sager, Nursery Coordinator
lbmsager@gmail.com
- **Save the Date! New Bethlehem Experience, December 14**
See, touch and feel Christmas like Mary and Joseph did at this year’s reimagined Bethlehem Experience. Come and see live animals to pet and feed, and costumed Nativity characters and indoor sets that harken back to the time of Jesus’ birth. This is a free Christmas family event, open from 9am–12noon (note: slight time change). Plan now to invite your friends! We are seeking 14 costumed volunteers as Nativity characters, greeters, refreshment hosts, and welcoming craft table assistants. Interested? Inquire with Christine or Jared, or sign-up today on clipboards in the foyers.
- **Collection Items for Bethlehem Experience**
We need 450 toilet paper tubes by December 1 for our family craft project. Thank you in advance for donating to this collection! Donation bins are in the foyers. After Thanksgiving, we would appreciate borrowing artificial floor plants for our event decorations (we will need plants by Wednesday, December 11). Plants may be picked up after 12:00 pm on December 14. Thank you for welcoming our friends and neighbors and helping with our collections.
Christine Hendrickson, Early Childhood Director
chendrickson@fcchamilton.org, 978-468-1940
Jared Larson, Elementary Children’s Director
jlarson@fcchamilton.org, 978-468-1940



Follow Us!
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Youth Ministry:

- **Youth Sunday School 9:45 am – 10:45 am**
 - High School: Barn
 - 7th and 8th Grade: Café
 - 6th Grade: Room 11
- **High School Youth Group**
Getting you through the week since 2015!
Please note that we will not meet November 26 due to Thanksgiving. We invite students and their families to join us for our annual Thanksgiving Eve service, Wednesday, November 27 at 7:00 pm
A student leader recently described HS Youth Group as “a bright spot in a dark tunnel” because it’s a time when we lift one another up in the joy of the gospel. Join us Tuesdays from 6:45-8:45 pm for games, food, and Bible discussion for a bright spot in your week! This year we’ll be looking at the Book of Exodus to see how God rescues His people. We begin each night in the Ministry Center and end in the Barn.
- **Middle School Youth Group**
The best night of the week!
Please note that we will not meet November 27 due to Thanksgiving. We invite students and their families to join us for our annual Thanksgiving Eve service, Wednesday, November 27 at 7:00 pm
Join us for high-energy games, music, and Bible teaching from 6:45-8:30 pm every Wednesday night! This year we’ll be talking about what it means to have new life in Christ through our series *ALIVE!* We begin and end each night in the Ministry Center.
- **Deep Freeze 2020 at Berea**
Registrations are now live for our winter retreat, Deep Freeze! High school and middle school students are invited to join us for winter activities and speaker sessions to help us grow in our faith. \$250 covers transportation, lodging, meals, and all activities (optional paintball costs extra). Payment plans and scholarships are available upon completion of a simple form. Space is very limited, so sign up today! [For safety reasons, we are not able to include students with whom we haven’t first interacted at FCCH.]

Chelsea Erickson
978-468-1940
ckerickson@fcchamilton.org
Instagram: @hamilton_ym

Warrant
2019 Annual Meeting

To the Members and Friends of the First Congregational Church of
Hamilton, Massachusetts

Greetings. You are hereby notified of the Annual Church Meeting to be held in Heritage Hall at
7:30PM, Monday November 18, 2019, to consider the following articles:

- Article 1:** To receive the 2019 Annual Report of the Church Clerk and to take any action thereon.
- Article 2:** To receive the 2019 Annual Reports of the standing committees and take any action thereon.
- Article 3:** To receive the report of the Nominating Committee and take any action thereon. Approval is requested for the following officer and committee nominees to be effective immediately due to current vacancies: Treasurer; Stewardship, one position.
- Article 4:** To receive the Annual Reports of the Stewardship Committee and Treasurer and receive the proposed 2020 Operating Budget and take any action thereon.
- Article 5:** To receive the report and recommendations of the 12 Cutler Road Subcommittee and take any action thereon.
- Article 6:** To receive the Annual Report of the Missions Committee and receive the proposed 2020 Missions Budget and to take any action thereon.
- Article 7:** To receive recommendations by the Board of Elders for revisions to the Bylaws, as identified in Bylaws Draft Dated 11/4/2019, and take any action thereon.