

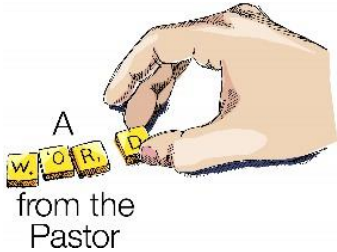


The APRIL 2023 Messenger



Newsletter of the First Congregational Church of Lee, Massachusetts
An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

PASTOR'S PIECE – Rev. Cara Davis



I am delighted to be invited to minister along side of you bridging the time between Rev. Dr. Jay Terbush and your new settled pastor (coming soon...) Many of you know me as a longtime member of your church, but others of you may be new. So let me introduce myself.

Since arriving in the Berkshires in 1971 I have lived in Lee, Stockbridge and currently in Great Barrington. I joined this church sometime in the '80s, was graciously supported while "in care" (going to seminary) and was ordained in this church in 1990 with my first call to a small church in North Pomfret, Vermont.

After two small churches, both of which were a significant commute, I decided parish ministry was not for me and went to work, with people who are unstably housed, at Construct Inc in Great Barrington. Together with volunteers from the community and a dynamic Board of Directors we developed an emergency fund, a transitional shelter and affordable housing in the southern Berkshires. This generous congregation has supported Construct since the late '80s, if not since its inception in 1969, for which I am most grateful. Lee Congregational has been a major donor that allowed Construct to develop a supportive housing project called Genesis House for people who are often unsuccessful in housing for one reason or another and want to begin again.

After retiring from Construct 6 years ago, I came to Lee as your Sabbatical Minister for three months while Rev. Bill Neil was away. This experience then propelled me into Great Barrington Congregational Church as their Bridge Minister for eight months where together we prepared for a warm welcoming of their new pastor. Most recently I completed a three-year Designated Term as minister of First Church of Christ in Pittsfield. Our work together included seeking a reuse of their building and ultimately putting the building on the market while they explored consolidating with South Congregational to form one unified UCC presence in Pittsfield. While it was heartbreaking to let go of a beautiful and historical building, it was also quite exciting (and challenging) to *found* something altogether new with friends in Christ.

My passions include (in no particular order) contemplative prayer and action for economic, racial, and environmental justice, my children and grandchildren, my extended families, and of course my dogs, Sula and Pi, from whom you will hear if we Zoom. And how can I not add, the natural world around us and beauty of the Berkshires. All of which is to say: I come to you as a grateful and longtime friend, minister and former member of this church, excited to bridge this time with you.

"It is the aim of this church to present a religion as considerate of persons as the teachings of Jesus; as devoted to justice as the Old Testament prophets; as responsive to Truth as science; as beautiful as art; as intimate as the home and as indispensable as the air we breathe."

STATEMENT BY THE FOUNDERS



Rev. Cara Davis; Jim Morrison, Music Director; Jason Matthews, Sexton;
Tari Wheeler Roosa, Administrative Assistant

First Congregational Church of Lee, United Church of Christ, 25 Park Place, PO Box 395, Lee, MA 01238
413.243.1033 | uccleechurch@gmail.com | www.ucc-lee.org

It might be good to know that I am an early riser and subsequently early to bed. I welcome phone calls as early as 7am up to 8pm (emergencies excepted) any day of the week, and I am almost always reachable by email. Office hours will be posted as well as my contact information.

I pray that this time together will be rich. And I thank you for entrusting me with your spiritual well-being for this interim period.

With care, Cara, Bridge Pastor

Deep Gratitude. I want to tell all of you how much I appreciated our last Sunday together. You were generous in your affirmation of our shared ministry and gracious in your good bye—ing with me. The rendition of the church, drawn by a local artist, is a lovely reminder of the two years we shared in ministry for Jesus Christ.

The picture of the church building will be hanging in my new office, as a visual remembrance of the fun we had, the good worship of God, the spiritual growth we experienced and the ways in which we reached out to the wider community with God's love. I will whisper a prayer for you when I look at this special gift.

Beloved people of God, keep going, keep growing, and keep doing the good things that share love in the world.

Dr. Jay, Former Transitional Pastor



**HOLY WEEK SERVICES
LEE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**



Palm Sunday: April 2 at 10:30 AM

Maundy Thursday: April 6 at 7:00 PM

Easter Sunday Service: April 9 at 10:30 AM

Family Friendly – All are welcome!

25 Park Place, Lee, MA | ucc-lee.org | 413.243.1033



Below is our income and expenditures through March 15, 2023

Jane Gleason, Treasurer

Financial Recap through March 15, 2023		
	Actual YTD	Budgeted YTD
Income		
Pledges & Donations	\$39,341.00	\$33,627.00
Fundraisers	\$75.00	\$2,877.00
Rental Income	\$2,860.00	\$4,500.00
Missions & Misc.	\$2,551.00	\$498.00
Memorial Donations	\$0.00	\$249.00
Investment Transfer	\$0.00	\$5,001.00
Total Income	\$44,827.00	\$46,752.00
Expenses		
Payroll & Benefits	\$31,667.00	\$34,818.00
Facilities & Finance	\$12,821.00	\$10,620.00
Mission & Ministry	\$1,702.00	\$5,070.00
Total Expenses	\$46,190.00	\$50,508.00

“Thank You” from the Bell Choir

On behalf of the Lee Bell Choir, I would like to “THANK YOU SO MUCH” for all of your support and encouragement. The “Cabin Fever” Concert with the Ham Dinner was such a wonderful success.



I have to say Joe Sorrentino is an amazing chef and person. He was at the church by 10am. Also, I hope you enjoyed the selection of songs that we did. So far, the total is \$1635.

I am so blessed!! We have wonderful members of the choir, which include both the singers and the congregation. I also am extremely thankful for Jim Morrison, Maria Colli and Tari Roosa for all their help. Some churches that have bell choirs only have members of the church. It is wonderful that this choir is ecumenical.

The dinner was to raise money for a set of handchimes. The two-octave set is \$1500 and the three-octave set is \$2500. We were fortunate that the All Saints Berkshires Bell Choir let us borrow their handchimes for this concert and I hope you heard the difference. The handchimes have a “mellow” tone. Hopefully we will end up with the three-octave set.

The bell choir has planned to be the main “instrument” on Mother’s Day for the Sunday morning service. Please come and enjoy.

Peace,

Judy Olds, Head Ding-A-Ling

CONDOLENCES to the families of:

Becky Bliven who passed away on March 22 after a long battle with cancer.



Marie Brazee who passed away on March 21. A memorial service and reception for Marie will be held on Sat, April 15th at 11:00am.

Dorothy Fraser who passed away on March 27. A memorial service will be held on Thurs, April 6th at 11:00am.

All three women have been on our prayer list for quite a while. Please remember these families in your prayers.

Coffee Hour: Do you enjoy having coffee and refreshments available after Sunday morning church services? We like to offer beverages and a LIGHT snack each week, BUT... we need your help. Please consider signing up for one, two or three Sundays to serve.

It doesn’t take a lot of time and is enjoyed by many. You can team up with another person as well.

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board near the church office or contact Wanda Klahn, organizer. 413-243-3269



MISSION & MINISTRY



Do you enjoy posting to Facebook? We are looking for someone who would enjoy posting photos of church life and announcements of church events on our Facebook page, which has become a very important part of our church's outreach. We could also use some help keeping our website up to date. If you have skills and/or interest in either of these, please let Tari or Dorothy know. Thank you!

Children are invited to participate in an Easter egg hunt following the church service on Easter Sunday, April 9th. Bags will be provided.





Happy Easter. What a great time of year to be a Music Director in a great church! The snow is gone (almost), spring is in the air, and Palm Sunday is upon us which means Easter is only a week away. As I reflected upon Palm Sunday, I realized that my first official Sunday in this church was Palm Sunday. It was also Rev. Bill's official first Sunday. When we talked about the service, he said well really neither one of us know what to expect, so let's just do the best we can. HE was nervous. I was nervous. But after the service, Bill said I guess we did okay.

The reason I bring this up is ironically my first day when I started with St. Georges here in Lee was also Palm Sunday. I find that strange. Really, what are the odds? I cannot tell you what my first official day in Housatonic was because I was only 14 years old!! My girlfriend asked me to play in church as a favor to her since she was the head of the youth group. Seven years later she became my wife and we will celebrate 50 years of marriage in August. I think God had a plan? In addition, Palm Sunday was the day my dad always sang "The Holy City". Although he died in 1983, I still do the arrangement I did for him that last year of "The Holy City". And I thank my choir for learning it and putting up with me.

We have a very full newsletter this month, so I will close with my congratulations to Judy Olds and the Lee Bell Choir. As I have mentioned before, when I was interviewed for this position, I was asked if I would be willing to teach a "Bell Choir". I respectfully said "No" because I did not have the knowledge to teach a Bell Choir. BUT, I did have a friend that was a great Bell Director and I could most likely convince her to do it. I did. She did. And the rest is history. Kudos to the Lee Bell Choir. They have come so very far in the past years. That is completely due to Judy and her ability to teach. And, to the dedication of the "ringers".

Thank you ALL for supporting the Choir and the Bell Choir. They are all a wonderful group of people that show up when called upon. Also for supporting my Christmas Concert singers and band. No one gets paid to do this. Your support, attendance and applause is their compensation. And again, for that, I thank you. Happy Easter!

Jim Morrison



- **Theme:** Safe Passage
- **Date:** Saturday, April 15, 2023
- **Place:** First Congregational Church of Hadley, 102 Middle St., Hadley, MA 01035; <http://www.firstchurchhadley.org>
- Group Activity
- 2023 Recognized Women Awards
- Worship and Communion
- **\$25 BEFORE APRIL 1, 2023;**
- **\$30 AFTER APRIL 1, 2023**
- See Tari in the church office to register or contact Sue Lindley at susanlindley521@yahoo.com.

LEE'S 7th ANNUAL GREENER GATEWAY CLEANUP
Let's clean up our corner of the planet to honor the 53rd EARTH DAY!
NEW THIS YEAR: EARTH DAY CELEBRATION
Saturday, April 29, 2023
10 am-12 pm cleanup and pizza reception
12-2 pm Earth Day celebration-live music, local exhibitors, reusable bag making
(Rain Date: Saturday May 6th)



~ Almost 1000 nip bottles collected at the 2022 Annual Cleanup ~

To volunteer, email: valerie4748@gmail.com
Meet at the gazebo by the Post Office for sign in/instructions and then photos, pizza, and the Earth Day celebration

Lee Greener Gateway Committee

PLEASE bring your own gloves And dress tick-smart.



First Congregational Church of Lee Prayer Ministry

Bible verse of the month: "I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20: verse 35.

The Prayer Ministry meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 11:00 am in the Parlor to pray for each person whose name appears below. Everyone is invited to participate in this Prayer Ministry. Please take this prayer sheet home. If you have names for the prayer list, complete the request form and place it in the offering plate or give to the church office. Names remain on the list for 2 months unless otherwise advised.

WE PRAY FOR

(updated 3.16.23)

Our Friends and Neighbors:

- Colleen Adams (mother-in-law of Brian Matarazzo)
Rev. Dawn Adams (friend of Cheryl Beeman)
Gloria and John Arnold (members of church)
Joan Bertelli (friend of Sandra Cozzaglio)
Pat Bracco (friend of Laura O'Shaughnessy)
Carol Bugley (daughter of Robert Bugley)
Jill Cozzaglio (daughter of Sandra Cozzaglio)
Margie Farnham (sister of Judy Morehouse and Marilyn Fennelly)
Isabel Fassell (member of church)
Janice Fassell (daughter of Isabel Fassell)
Mary Franchere (relative of Ruth Melbourne)
Ray Gangloff (friend of church)
Christine Hamilton (friend of Barbara Mahony)
James Harwood (brother-in-law of Denise Harwood)
Johnny Harwood (family member of Denise Harwood)
Mike Jordan (friend of Tari Roosa)
Michael Koperek (friend of Jill and Dave Topham)
Andrea Lalor Kosowsky (friend of Sandra Cozzaglio)
Lexi Lloyd (member of church)
Loralei (friend of Judy Morehouse)
Yannette and Thomas Lucas (friends of church)
Chris Ludwig (mother of Jessica Drenka)
Betty Massidda (friend of Ruth Melbourne)
Judy McNutt (member of church)
Allison Miller (friend of Paul and Joyce Monachina)
Joyce and Paul Monachina (members of church)
Judith Monachina (daughter of Paul and Joyce Monachina)
Paul Monachina, Jr. (son of Paul and Joyce Monachina)
Terri Moore (friend of church)
Rochelle O'Gorman (friend of Monda Driscoll, and Melissa and Karl Myers)
David Ohman (son of Conrad and Margaret Ohman)
Suzanne Sheaffer (cousin of Dave and Margaret Markham)
Jean Spalinger (member of church)
David Stone (member of church)
Brody Tackus (grandson of Isabel Fassell)
Jessica Terbush (daughter of Jay Terbush)
Lainey Thomas (great niece of Ellen Krupka)
Donna Toomey (friend of Peg Biron)
Eileen Torraca (friend of Laura O'Shaughnessy)
Susan Tucker (member of church)
Trevor Tucker (grandson of Nancy Tucker)
Claire Way (Paul and Joyce Monachina's daughter-in-law's mother)

- Robert Wespiser (friend of church)
Jane Maroni Williams (relative of Sheila Maroni)
Debby Wright (friend of Wanda Klahn)

Sympathy

- Extended to the family of Becky Bliven
Extended to the family of Marie Brazee
Extended to the family of Dorothy Fraser
Extended to the family of Barry Hawley
Extended to the family of Kenneth Herlihy
Extended to the family of Missy Mosca

Our Church: My prayer and yearning for this church is _____ (please fill in the blank) Cara Davis, our staff, our congregation, ministries, Council, children around the world supported by our church.

Our Local Community: For those who are in need of employment, food, shelter, financial assistance, friendship.

Our Country: For our citizens and our elected officials to have the courage to carry out the message of the gospel of Jesus to trust in God's love to overcome all fears and hatreds; to bring justice to refugees, undocumented immigrants, unaccompanied minors, veterans, the unemployed, and all persons in need.

All Those Who Serve & Protect: Military, police, fire fighters, EMS, and their families.

Our World: For the victims and their families of Covid-19 pandemic, victims of persecution based on sexual orientation and identity, people displaced by ethnic violence, all who are suffering the results of catastrophic climate change, and all those whose lives are affected by war.

PLEASE PRAY FOR:
PLEASE PRAY FOR _____
Requested by: _____
Tel: _____
Reason for request (will not be printed on prayer concerns):

APRIL

The First Congregational Church of Lee, 413-243-1033, on the web: www.ucc-lee.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service & Communion 11:30am Coffee Hour 5:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	3 7:00pm AL-Anon via: berkshirealanon.org	4 12:01pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 3:00pm Bible Study at Story's	5 9:30am Lee Chamber Meeting 5:30pm Community Dinner	6 11:00am Memorial Service for Dorothy Fraser 5:00pm Trombone Ensemble 7:00pm Maundy Thursday service 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	7 9:00am BRIDGE food distribution 9:30am M&M meeting 11:00am Pilgrim's Way	8 8:00am AA SOS
9 EASTER SUNDAY 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Coffee Hour 5:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	10 7:00pm AL-Anon via: berkshirealanon.org	11 3:00pm Bible Study at Story's	12	13 5:00pm Trombone Ensemble 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	14	15 8:00am AA SOS 11:00am Memorial Service for Marie Brazee
16 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Coffee Hour 5:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	17 7:00pm AL-Anon via: berkshirealanon.org	18 12:01pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 3:00pm Bible Study at Story's	19 5:30pm Community Dinner 7:00pm Council Meeting	20 11:00am Prayer Ministry 5:00pm Trombone Ensemble 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	21 9:00am BRIDGE food distribution 11:00am Pilgrim's Way	22 8:00am AA SOS 9:30am Food Pantry
23 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Coffee Hour 2pm Bowling Banquet	24 Messenger articles due into office 7:00pm AL-Anon via: berkshirealanon.org	25 3:00pm Bible Study at Story's	26	27 5:00pm Trombone Ensemble 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	28	29 8:00am AA SOS 10am Greener Gateway Cleanup (town gazebo)
30 6:45am AA/IDHAC 9:15am Choir Rehearsal 10:30am Worship Service 11:30am Coffee Hour 5:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	1 7:00pm AL-Anon via: berkshirealanon.org	2 12:01pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 3:00pm Bible Study at Story's	3 5:30pm Community Dinner	4 5:00pm Trombone Ensemble 7:30pm AA Lee Park Place	5 9:00am BRIDGE food distribution 9:30am M&M meeting 11:00am Pilgrim's Way	6 8:00am AA SOS

If you have a meeting/event to schedule, or would like to rent space, contact the church office.

Worship Attendance (Facebook count):

Mar 5 – 67 (144);
Mar 12 – 78 (103);
Mar 19 – 47 (146)
Mar 26 – 59 (166)



Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 8:30am-12:30pm

Daily Lectionary Readings: Copies may be picked up in the church office or visit the Vanderbilt Website at: <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>

Do you have someone graduating this spring?
Please send the information to the church office for publication in the June Messenger.
Please include name, school graduating from, any honors, and future plans (college or work).