

CHURCH AT THE CENTER

APRIL 2017

Happy Easter



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH "CENTER CHURCH"

United Church of Christ
One Church Street

South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075

(413) 532-2262

email: centerchurch@verizon.net

website: centerchurchsouthhadley.org

*ALL ARE WELCOME AT CENTER CHURCH ON THE COMMON,
AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING UCC CONGREGATION,
WHERE THE SPIRIT OF GOD STIRS US TO EMBRACE OUR DIVERSITY,
DEEPEN OUR FAITH IN JESUS, SHARE OUR TEARS AND LAUGHTER,
AND EXTEND GOD'S ABUNDANT LOVE AND JUSTICE INTO THE WORLD.*

Our journey in Lent...towards Light with Courage

Courage is what Jesus wore as he faced his last days. Nelson Mandela once President of South Africa said, *"I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear."* What do you fear and what do you need to do to overcome it?

Courage is not filling up the space but perhaps listening to the sacred space God provides. Winston Churchill said, *"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."* Where is your sacred space and how will you listen?

I do not believe God sent Jesus to die. That would be one sadistic God. However, I believe Jesus was so committed and passionate about his teachings, his love for God, that he was willing to grow to become one who was a threat to many. e.e. cummings the poet wrote, *"It takes courage to grow up and become who you really are; ."* Who are you, not who do you think people assume you are?

Jesus was willing to live through what we know as Holy Week. Eleanor Roosevelt, a diplomat, human rights activist and the wife of President Franklin said, *"You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You are able to say to yourself, 'I lived through this horror. I can take the next thing that comes along.'"* In a recent Bible Study one said it was her sufferings/chaos that ushered her into a deeper understanding of God. Name a recent time of trouble. How did it transform you? How did it move you closer to God?

From the Gospel of John 14:27 we read, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."

Have courage for there is life beyond death as Jesus discovered.

Walking with you, *Lori*



Palm Sunday

April 9 10am
Center Church

Maundy Thursday

April 13 7pm
Center Church

Good Friday

Sanctuary open for
individual meditation
April 14 noon – 2pm

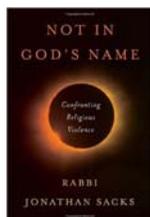
Easter

April 16 10am
Center Church

The Alcohol Guidelines Task Force has completed their draft policy for the potential use of alcohol at Center Church. A sheet with answers to questions from the Congregation and the draft policy, is available on the table in the hall outside the Office and in the Bock crossway. The Task force welcomes any further questions you may have – there will be a Q & A following worship on April 23rd. A Special Congregational Meeting to vote on the policy will be held on April 30th. We hope you can attend both events. The Task Force members are John Anz, Lynne Bertram, Eliot Chartrand, Al Duffy, and Lori Souder.

ALL are INVITED and WELCOME

Discussion about "Not in God's Name - Confronting Religious Violence "
By Rabbi Jonathan Sacks



Wednesday April 5th 6-00 PM to 8-00 PM
At the Islamic Center of Western Mass
377 Amostown Rd. West Springfield, MA 01089
[413-788-7543](tel:413-788-7543)

The presentation will explore the lessons learned from the book, and explore Common grounds to work for PEACE and HARMONY
Program will conclude with dinner and social interaction

The program is co-sponsored by Center Church of South Hadley,
Islamic Society and the Inter Faith Council .

We request pre registration:

Email : Masjidma@Gmail.com or msbajwa@hotmail.com

Or let Lori know you will be attending with the group from Center Church

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

Situational:

Ruby Carver
Suzanne Cordes mom **Doris**
Lesley Dunbar, Betsy Bergen's sister
Bob Giles
Judy Hemingway
Kate Hoffman
Eunice Howes son
Lucinda Kidder's son in law with cancer
Peter Kovalesky
David Ryder Barbara Hubbard's brother with cancer
Larry Schipull on the passing of his father



Continual:

Emily Bangs-Orsini (at Mt. St. Vincent)
Chuck Blakney
Luke Bradley
Elinor Burnett
Marjorie and Carl Buschner
Wayne Cowan
Ed Dzuris
Tim Garrett's friends **David Drummond & Sterling McAndrew**
Muriel Graham
Lou Hamilton
Jane Hazen
Phyllis Lacoste
Bob Merritt
Anita Sarro's son **Michael** in need of a transplant
Jill Therrien, Linda Wolf's niece
The Tipton family



We keep all those serving in the military in our prayers



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday
April 9 10am
Center Church

Maundy Thursday
April 13 7pm
Center Church

Good Friday
Sanctuary open for
individual meditation
April 14 noon – 2pm

Easter
April 16 10am
Center Church

CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

In March our Sunday School students put Jesus' teaching in action and served our community with small, kind outreach projects. Our classrooms made handcrafted Easter cards that Rev. Lori will deliver to her fellowship group at Wingate nursing home. We also served our feathered friends by making bagel bird feeders smothered in peanut butter and coated in birdseed! The Promised Land classes also enjoyed a walking field trip to the Mount Holyoke College Greenhouse flower show. What a welcomed relief to see blooming flowers and smell their sweetness while snow still covers the ground -- Our faith is blooming here! Also, our students packed up school supplies they collected for refugee children in western Massachusetts. Two backpacks are filled with new supplies for 1st and 2nd graders! Thank you to the Outreach Committee and Stephanie Strand for donating the backpacks. In April students will continue learning about Lent and Holy Week. The Christian Education Committee is organizing an Easter Egg Hunt! A big shout out goes to Randy Purinton, Jennifer Weeks and Rachel Alley for volunteering their time and talents in the Promised Land in March. And thank you for all that ALL of you do to support the teachers and students of the Promised Land Sunday School as we journey in faith together.

~ Martha Guild, Children's Christian Education Director



A Field Trip to the MHC Greenhouse Bulb Show



Planting grass seeds to witness God's miracle of growth



making bagel bird feeders for our feathered friends

News from the Trustees for April 2017

After the first two months of reporting, we were pleased to hear that our income and expenses, which should be at 17% of the year's annual budget, are right about on target. And in fact, both totals are a little over the projection. We also heard that for yet another month, our endowment funds were doing well, and that we should be able to meet the projection we approved to move a certain amount of interest from those funds into the operating budget as we usually do twice each year. The investment team is, however, keeping close track of the stock market. We were also thrilled to hear that the elevator inspection has actually happened and we are good for another year!

We heard about a couple of Lancaster wing building concerns and acted to correct them. However we first discussed the leak issue which keeps happening over the old coat closet. That flat roof, which was probably last replaced about 20 years ago, is again of some concern and it has been recommended that we replace that flat membrane roof at a cost of \$8,400. We will continue exploring that over this month. You may have seen staging alongside the Fellowship Hall windows on Church St. That is because the ornamental cement blocks which are on either side of those long windows are no longer firmly attached in the window frame area. One had actually already come loose and fallen out. Each block weighs 50-60 lbs. each and there are four for each of the ten windows. We have contracted with mason Tom Johnson to remove those blocks, clean them, then anchor them back to the windows' walls and cement them. He has already taken most of them out and they should be replaced within the month of April. Once that is complete, he will remove the scaffolding. We will be using the Graham Fund to cover that expense. The same issue is true of the windows on the Park St. side of the building and those will be tackled later in the spring. While checking out this cement block issue, he noticed that there were gaps underneath all the windows on the two upper floors, again on both sides of the building. He will caulk those on the south side once the large window work is done. He will do the north side ones later in the spring as well.

We now have a quote on plumbing work for the new lavatory on our ground floor and are waiting for an electric quote before proceeding. We are fortunate to have a volunteer who will be doing the carpenter work. This new lavatory will give us an additional option when events are happening in the church. In regard to that, and thinking ahead a bit, the Trustees voted to create a temporarily restricted – "building preservation fund" – to allow us to accumulate funds to specifically accomplish this lavatory work. If anyone is interested in contributing to this specific fund, please speak with Thia in the office. We estimate that it will cost around \$10,000 and we already have one financial commitment. We will let the congregation know once we have a real total for this work.

Cindy Morrell, secretary

Notes from Church Council

Council met on the 2nd Tuesday due to inclement weather and the fact that there has been no formal election of a moderator to date. John Anz, chair of the Stewardship Team, agreed to be moderator pro-tem for this meeting. The basic structure of Council was discussed. Leadership of Council is to be chosen prior to each meeting. Various tasks will be assigned on an "as needed" basis. All members need to support our Council. The questions asked: "What do you want from Council?" Should we become a "project- oriented church"?

Lori reiterated that there is a need to "pump things up." She will be focusing on developing "lay leadership". The Alcohol Task Force will have a draft policy copy out in April for a May vote. Maundy Thursday services at Center Church will be on April 13, at 7 p.m. and the Easter service at 10 a.m. will be on April 16. Combined summer services will have Granby with us in July and Center Church at Granby in August. Council will not be meeting in July.

The teams discussed their various goals. They should be printed in their individual reports.

David C. Morrell, Clerk



Outreach Partners of the Month

"Hearts to Hands to Hope"

Outreach Partner for April - Girls Inc

The Outreach Team is sending a \$500 contribution to Girls Inc of Holyoke. Several of members of our congregation will attend the Girls Inc breakfast on April 4th and Don Sibley is hosting a table.

The mission of Girls Inc is to inspire all girls to be **strong, smart and bold** by providing them the opportunity to develop and achieve their full potential. Their purpose is to provide girls ages 5-18 with engaging and educational youth development programs that are cutting edge, research driven and designed to meet the specific needs of girls. Girls are at the center of everything they do.

Girls Inc advocates for and provides an environment in which:

- Girls explore career choices that are not limited by their gender.
- Girls think critically about their economic, social and political environment.
- Girls actively work for positive change as leaders in the community.
- Girls explore their creativity and self-expression in a supportive setting.
- Girls respect and care for themselves in mind, body and spirit.
- Girls embrace all types of diversity within and outside of their community.
- Girls value education as a means to achieve economic independence.

Girls Inc listens to girls, responding to their needs and providing them with the opportunity to make positive change in both their community and in their own lives.

Seeking Applicants for the Peterson Memorial Education Fund

The Peterson Memorial Education Fund of the First Congregational Church, South Hadley was established in 1985 to help people who want to pursue their education, but whose financial situation makes it difficult for them to do so. In the spirit of making the world a better place through education, the Fund has assisted members and friends of our congregation, area high school students headed for college, and students enrolled at local colleges with a variety of education and religious endeavors that they were having difficulty financing.

Applications for the upcoming school year are due by July 1st. Applications for other educational opportunities, such as workshops, religious conferences, etc., may be submitted at any time. If you would like to contribute to the Fund, please write "Peterson Memorial Education Fund" on your envelope or check and send it to the church office or place it in the basket on Sunday. Informational brochures and application forms for awards are available through the Church office.

Coffee Hour



Coffee Fellowship

Thank you, Trustees, for being just wonderful hosts during March (especially Tom Waller who was there every week). In April, the coffee hour hosts will be the Usher Team. This team provides support for all church services. You will see them each Sunday helping with a variety of tasks that coordinate and allow the service of worship to go smoothly. They are also available at special services that are held in the church. Members of this team are: Ken Bozek (adjunct), Bill Giles, Beverly Howells, Randy Hyvonen, Doug Smith,

Joyce Tomlinson and Terri Waller.

PLANT SALE ALERT



Spring is on its way and we are starting to get ready for our 18th annual plant sale. This is a reminder to those of you who are garden enthusiasts. As you are starting to look at those perennials that are coming back to life after a long cold winter, please think about which ones need dividing and what you might share.

Our annual Plant Sale will take place on **Saturday May 13th** from 9 am to 1 pm. In order for this to be successful, we need **lots of plants**. We hope that all of those who garden will support the Activities Committee and share your plants for this event. Plants should be potted 2 weeks prior to the sale (by April 29th to look their best. Composed soil is available at the SH Landfill if needed. You may drop your plants off at Karen Anderson's home (10 Wright Place SH) – leave them at the end of the drive near the garage. PLEASE be sure they are LABELED with plant name.

The community looks forward to this event, so let's be sure to have a wide variety and large number of plants to sell.

**Help the committee know what to expect
by returning the form below acknowledging your involvement.**

Thank you in advance!!

_____ I want to help the day of the sale

_____ I need help with potting



_____ I need pots

_____ I will donate plants

Name

***Call Karen Anderson(536-0005) or David Morrell (532-1864)
if you need pots or help with anything!***

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***Want an easy way to help the church raise funds? Bake a dozen muffins – it's that simple. The Activities Team will sell muffins and coffee at the Plant Sale on May 13<sup>th</sup>. Please let Thia in the Church office know if you could bake a dozen muffins for the sale – we would need them at the Church by 8:30am Saturday morning – you can bring them in on Friday or even before.***

# Columbus Day Fair – Thinking ahead!



The Activities team has voted to continue the tradition of our all-church Columbus Day Fair!! It's a wonderful opportunity for good Christian fellowship and an opportunity to make new friends as you work with them side by side during preparation, clean-up or selling! Of course, it is also a major fund raiser for our church. These are all very positive reasons why we have the fair...BUT it takes lots and lots of time and energy! No matter what part of the fair appeals to you, we NEED that commitment from you to continue our history of success!

Below are some of the areas where we need many hands and time:

**Marking of items-** join us on Tuesday mornings for 2 ½ hours of putting the items in their proper category and marking the price on each item. Sidelight: Tues. morning may not fit your schedule, so we are working on additional alternative times. We will be starting the marking this month...April after Easter- Tuesday mornings at 8:30-9 A.M. and stop at 11:30

**Setting up the fair-** many hands make for shorter hours....but the week before the fair, we'll need people to set the items out on the tables

**Cleaning up-** the week after the fair there is a big need to pack up all the unsold items AND help to take the boxes to places such as Salvation Army and Goodwill.

**Working the days of the fair (Sun. P.M. and Mon)-** This is an area that we have been lacking the number of people needed! We recognize that it is Columbus Day weekend....but if at all possible, we need you to volunteer to help during the time that the public is viewing and hopefully buying the items. Remember, we also have a very successful café and children's activity time.

**Bringing in items for the Columbus Day Fair-** what we sell is what you have brought in...so basically, it's up to us as to the quantity and quality of our Columbus Day Sale. Please bring the items in clean...and please help us by following our list of what we can and cannot accept.

**COLUMBUS DAY WEEKEND IS OCTOBER 7<sup>TH</sup>, 8<sup>TH</sup>, 9<sup>TH</sup>**

PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW ...AND THANKS

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## **FOR APRIL**

Book Discussion/Dinner at W. Springfield Mosque April 5<sup>th</sup> 6pm

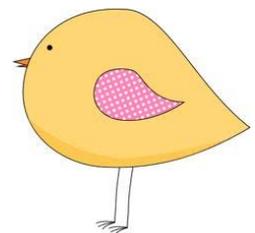
Palm Sunday April 9<sup>th</sup> – Easter Egg hunt during Fellowship time

Easter Sunday Worship April 16 10am

The Church Office will be closed April 14, 17 and 18.

Rev. Souder will be away April 18 – 25<sup>th</sup>.

There will be a call to a Special Congregational Meeting for April 30<sup>th</sup> with a one item agenda of voting on a proposed Alcohol Policy for Center Church



## Taize: The Story



The founder of the Taize Christian ecumenical community was born in 1915, baptized Roger Schutz, of Swiss Protestant parents. Roger Schutz's grandmother and father were Swiss Protestants but his grandmother would often attend Mass and his father would pray privately in Catholic churches even though he was a Protestant minister.

In college, Brother Roger organized retreats for students because he believed that young people are often searchers-in-faith. When Brother Roger was a child, he imagined being a welcoming and generous host to many diverse people in a large house in the country. This lifelong ambition was realized when he established a monastery in Taize, France, during WWII (1940).

Brother Roger's childhood home was filled with classical music and he had a beautiful singing voice. He carried this love of music and voice into the liturgy of the monastery he founded in Taize, France. Now, people connect Taize with singing.

Brother Roger bought property in Taize, France, in 1940, soon after France surrendered to Germany, during the early years of WWII. He was 25 years old and fully intended to found an ecumenical, monastic community with broad faith interests. Though the property for the community was bought in 1940, a community of brothers was not formally created until 1949. In 1953, the rules for monastic life at Taize were finalized. Aiding war refugees was Brother Roger's first act of outreach after he bought the property in 1940.

Brother Roger's monastery in the village of Taize, France, has always been ecumenical, meaning that it is Christian without being associated with a particular church.

Even without any explicit invitation, young people started to visit Taize by the thousands, making necessary upgrades in sanitary facilities and sleeping accommodations. They continue to visit in great numbers. Taize calls them "young people".

In August 2005, while leading around two thousand young people during a prayer service, Brother Roger was assassinated by a knife-wielding assailant. Brother Alois became Brother Roger's successor and the Taize community continues to thrive. In coming weeks, this Adult Ed contribution to the Sunday bulletin will explore the Taize prayer service that has become popular worldwide.

(Compiled from the weekly announcements of Randy Purinton. Randy will continue the story and will be looking for a Taize experience for us in the future – stay tuned!)



# Kick up your heels...Come to the Spring Fling!

Join us for  
**Potluck and a little "line dancing"**

**Friday May 5<sup>th</sup> – at the Church  
6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall**



**BRING SALADS OR SIDES...  
We'll prepare some barbecue**



**And Sponsor a "Youth"ful dessert challenge**

**Our own Jeannette LoPresti, Dance Mistress...  
Will bring us to our toes!**

**For more information speak to Corinne Chartrand**



**All ages welcome!**



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## ANNOUNCING THE RIVER ROLL & STROLL FESTIVAL!



**SAVE THE DATE FOR SUNDAY, MAY 7<sup>TH</sup> FROM 11 AM TO 3 PM!**  
You won't want to miss this amazing, first-time-ever event—the  
**River Roll & Stroll "Open Streets" Festival!**

The South Hadley Bike-Walk Committee invites you to have lots of fun on the **Rt. 116 Vietnam Veterans Memorial Bridge**, a bridge that spans the CT River between South Hadley and Holyoke.

An Open Streets festival is a vehicle-free event and **River Roll & Stroll** will bring together everyone on the Bridge to celebrate and commemorate the shared and individual history and culture of the CT River for South Hadley and Holyoke. All without cars and trucks!

Come to the Bridge to indulge in old-fashioned activities, listen to music, see street buskers perform, have a bite to eat, stand in the middle of the bridge to enjoy the incredible 360-degree view you can't get anywhere else, and participate in a poignant Veterans' Parade.

If you're interested in volunteering for at least 2 hours that day, and we do need folks for this to make it an even more successful and fun festival, please email: [riverrollandstroll@gmail.com](mailto:riverrollandstroll@gmail.com).

It's all free—so please spread the word and bring your friends, families, kids and grandkids. Come have a blast with us!

# Columbus Day Fair - 2017

It's time to remind you that, as you do your spring housecleaning.....please keep the tag sale part of the Columbus Day Fair in mind!!! ***We are accepting items NOW!!***

Over the years we have learned what sells and doesn't sell...and where left over items can graciously find a new home. Following the sale, we also have recognized that the members of the congregation do not appreciate items left in Fellowship Hall for several weeks after the fair. The items are there because we are attempting to locate agencies and/or people who will accept these items at no cost to either them or to the church! These negotiations cannot be made until we have an inventory of what is left!

We have received feedback from folks outside our church community indicating that people look forward to our event and return year after year. What is frequently heard is that we are the best tag sale in the area due to having good items, organized, clean articles, fairly priced and friendly people selling! We sure don't want this to change. So, we anticipate another great fair.....but let us tell you what "works" and what "doesn't work."

## **WHAT DOES SELL....we look forward to your donations**

**Dishes   Glassware   Knick knacks   Jewelry   Lamps   Artificial flowers**  
**Linens   Decorative pillows   Vases   Small appliances in good condition**  
**Pots and pans   Hardware items   Pictures   Frames   Purses & bags   Baskets**  
**Toys   Games   Puzzles   Stuffed animals   outside children's toys**  
**Decorations (indoor or outdoor)**

**other than Christmas...save that for the Holiday Bazaar**

**Hard cover books   Paperback books**

**Small furniture items such as end tables, small dressers, chairs  
(but NOT beds, couches, recliners, for example)**

This is not an all inclusive list. If any questions, give us a call!

Thanks so much for your cooperation. Again, we will start accepting donations NOW!  
We can't wait to see the wonderful items that will be donated this year!!!!

## **WHAT DOES NOT SELL – PLEASE DO NOT donate these items**

**Electronics**- (such as computers, radios, CD players, speakers). These are usually outdated and, although in working order, do not sell. Our agency contacts do not take such items. Again, these electronics often end up at the dump....AND some items cost us a fee for disposal.

**Household replacement items** (such as medicine cabinets, kitchen stove hoods, bathroom and kitchen fixtures, chandeliers, blinds)- These are so specialized....and often a very specific size, that they simply do not sell and once again, agencies will not take these items.

**Sporting goods** (such as skis, boots, golf equipment other than bags, exercise machines of any sort).  
***Golf bags and bicycles DO SELL!***

**Records, reference books, old magazines** (such as National Geographic, encyclopedias, school textbooks) ....same story...once again, they don't sell and it is difficult to dispose of them.

**Note:** If a friend or neighbor wants to contribute to our tag sale, PLEASE share with them about what is NOT accepted AND please ask them to make sure items are clean and in working order

For more information, talk to Bobbie, Karen Anderson or one of the markers - or call the church office.



## Getting to know you – Rachel Alley, Greer Clarke and their family April 2017

**Rachel** was born and raised on Martha's Vineyard where many of her family still reside. She graduated from Martha's Vineyard Regional High School. Rachel is the daughter of parents who both worked in the school system and she has an older brother and older sister. Rachel was raised in the Catholic Church. After earning a BS in Rehabilitation Counseling from Springfield College, she began her career at Baystate Children's Hospital as a child life specialist. She has been there for almost 25 years now. Her profession aims to use play, education, advocacy, and support to assist children and families as they navigate through the healthcare system. Rachel is also certified in Infant Massage. Although it took several years for her to admit she no longer lived on the island, she is now an active member of the South Hadley community. She enjoys time with family and friends, sports, and any day spent on a beach!

**Greer** grew up in Queens, New York, but her parents are from Trinidad and Tobago. Greer has a younger brother as well as a younger sister who visits often and can be seen around town attending her niece and nephew's school or sporting events. She may also be out and about walking the family dog, Oliver. Greer graduated from Brooklyn Technical High School and then earned a BA in chemistry from Wheaton College. She followed her mother into the medical field and went on to medical school at SUNY-Syracuse. Greer arrived in this area when she completed her medical residency at Baystate Children's Hospital. She is now a local pediatrician and part owner of Redwood Pediatrics in East Longmeadow. Greer has always been an active member in any of the churches she has attended, from her childhood through now. She has taught religious education, served on committees, and participated in various programs. As many of you may have noticed Greer is a devoted knitter. She enjoys an active lifestyle including running and swimming.

Rachel and Greer met at Baystate Children's Hospital as they both completed educational requirements and began their careers working with children and families. Both lived in various areas within the Pioneer Valley before settling in South Hadley. Greer purchased her home in South Hadley in 1996 and Rachel moved to town in 2000. Rachel joined Greer in her home in 2003. They were members of another church in town for a number of years, but there came a point where they were looking for something new. After spending a few Sundays visiting other churches, they found Center Church. They joined the church in March 2013. It has been a welcoming and supportive environment where they, and their children, can continue their spiritual journey as a family.

Rachel and Greer have 2 children. **Jonas** is 13 years old and is a 7th grader at Michael E. Smith Middle School. He is a strong student, accelerating in math especially. He is part of the Peer Leadership and Tiger Honor Society groups at school. Jonas can figure out many electronic devices, with video games as his specialty. He is a strong athlete especially enjoying soccer, basketball, skiing, and running. Jonas thinks he may be interested in pursuing a career in the medical field. **Drew** is 11 years old and a great student in the 5th grade at the Middle School, as well as part of the Student Council. She participates in many sports including basketball, soccer, lacrosse, and snowboarding. Drew is talented in art and spends much of her time creating masterpieces, especially cartoon characters. She has an incredible sense of humor which keeps the family laughing all the time! Both of them have been active in the Promised Land and the youth group.

Last, but definitely not least! Greer's mom, **Yvette Clarke**, recently relocated from Queens, New York, to be closer to her family. She and her husband (Leslie) of 47 years both immigrated from Trinidad and Tobago as young adults. She went to work as a nurse (only retiring with this

relocation) and he as an accountant for a construction company as they built a life in Queens for their growing family. After many years of Yvette caring for Leslie, who suffered from Alzheimer's disease, he passed away in 2011. Yvette has always been a faithful and spiritual woman. She was very involved in the family's church, Saint John's United Methodist in Elmont, Long Island where Yvette was the director of Sunday school and Vacation Bible School for numerous years. She occasionally attended Center Church when in town visiting Greer and the family, so it was a natural transition for her once moving to the area. The church has served not only her religious needs but also been a great social connection for her as a new member of the community.

*Cindy Morrell (with thanks to Rachel too)*

Watch for a picture of the Alley-Clarke family in the next issue of C@C....

## FYI



You may have noticed the caution tape running along the easement on the south side of Fellowship Hall. Seems the concrete that sits aside each side of the windows is rotting away – Center Nursery folks notified us of a fallen piece one morning. The Trustees have hired a mason who will take down each piece – clean it – cement it back up and then anchor it to the building. The mason has begun the work but we are not sure of a timetable. SOOOO in the meantime....if you wish to bring items in for the Columbus Day Fair we will work around the situation. If you call ahead Thia can open the kitchen door or the door on Park Street that leads into Fellowship Hall. If you have a key and drop things off when the office is closed please use the Park Street entrance and **BE SURE THE DOOR IS LOCKED BEHIND YOU WHEN YOU LEAVE.** Hopefully the situation will be cleared up soon.



**The Trustees** have started a fund – with a generous donation from one of our members – that will grow to cover the cost of a **much needed second restroom** on the offices floor of the building. If you would like to help this happen please consider making a donation – any and all gifts are most welcome.

### April is Holy Humor Month – hope you enjoy!



© 1994 Harley L. Schwadron



"I just asked it for a list of scriptural verses commonly quoted out of context."

© 1992 Wendell W. Scott

## Tell Me the Stories – March 2017

*When Like the Woman at the Well* (NCH 196) was written by Edith S. Downing in 1992. A Californian whose Scottish parents came to the U.S. in their twenties, her father was a Baptist minister first, but then moved to the Presbyterian Church later on. She has a master's degree in both religious education and theology. Edith did not start writing hymns until her 60s. The hymn was written for a contest which asked for new texts about this New Testament story. Edith believed strongly in women's role in the church and in religious service. Both she and her husband were associates in ministry in the Presbyterian Church. She was also an organist and children's choir director. The hymn tune "Craven" was composed by Celene Welch in 1990. She is a Texan with master's degree in both music and divinity and is an ordained Lutheran pastor. Celene originally composed it for *A Woman in a World of Men*, a text by Brian Wren. It was composed at Texas Christian University's divinity school during a "minister's week." The name celebrates Toni Craven, a professor of Hebrew and Hebrew Bible there.

*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say* (NCH 489) is actually an older hymn with the text written by Horatius Bonar. He was called the "prince of Scottish hymnists" who was also considered one of "Scotland's most gifted and powerful evangelical ministers." Born in Edinburgh in 1808, he studied religion at the Univ. of Edinburgh and was ordained in Kelso where he actually began writing hymns. In Edinburgh, his church only allowed children to sing his hymns and he wrote this song for them. He has a second hymn in our book (336) *Here O My Lord I See You Face to Face*. When there was dissension in the Church of Scotland (Presbyterian), he moved to the Free Church of Scotland and remained there for the rest of his life. He received a D.D. from Aberdeen. He ended up writing over 600 hymns, but this hymn is considered one of his finest. The hymn has been paired with several tunes over the years, including "Evan," (the one used here) and an alternative in our hymnal of "Kingsfold." I suspect that latter tune might have been more familiar for us. William Havergal, an ordained minister who studied music later in life, composed "Evan" in 1847, originally for a poem by Robert Burns, and Lowell Mason made this arrangement which Havergal disliked. Havergal was also the father of another more famous hymn writer, daughter Frances Havergal, who actually has two hymns in our hymnal.

*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* (PH 93, NCH 18) actually came to us from Wales. It was written during a time of 18th century evangelistic revivals that were spreading also in England. A dynamic young Welsh preacher named Howell Harris, gave a sermon which so affected William Williams, that he gave up plans to become a doctor and decided to enter the ministry. Although he first served in two Anglican parish churches, he felt uncomfortable there, so spent the next forty-three years traveling almost 100,000 miles preaching and singing in Wales. He wrote about 800 hymns, all in Welsh. This is the one for which he is most well-known, partly because most of the others have not been translated from the Welsh. This hymn was originally titled *Strength to Pass Through the Wilderness* and consisted of five six-line stanzas. It has been translated into more than 75 languages. We sing only three of those verses. Images in the hymn trace the "march of the Israelites from Egypt to Canaan." The tune by John Hughes, who was also from Wales, was written in 1907 for an annual singing fest at "Cwm Rhondda". The NCH says the tune's name refers to the "low valley" area and the river surrounding this southern Wales district. This text and tune is one of today's "most popular and widely used hymns" today in Wales. One source said that it is not uncommon today for crowds at some public event, even rugby matches, to burst into spontaneous singing of this hymn.

Cindy Morrell, Associate in Music

Resources used: Kenneth W. Osbeck's 101 Hymn Stories (1982) and Amazing Grace (1990); Robert J. Morgan's Then Sings My Soul (2003); Ronald E. Thomson's Who's Who of Hymn Writers (1967); and The New Century Hymnal Companion, ed. Kristen Forman (1998).

## From the Historian - March 2017

### SABBOTH (Sunday) SCHOOL 1820



Typical Sabbath School Room in 1820

In 1820, the Philadelphia Sunday and Adult School Union appealed to Center Church (and others in the area), urging us to establish a Sabbath School. Our pastor at the time, Rev. Joel Hayes, brought the request before the congregation and it was agreed to introduce this new method of teaching our young (and older) folks. There were 300 potential Sunday schoolers! South Hadley was little known to the outside world. Its rudimentary educational, social and religious condition was fledgling, mirroring many of the rural communities. There was no Mount Holyoke Female Seminary at that time. Sabbath Schools have been around since the 2<sup>nd</sup> century. They were universally established wherever the Christian Religion prevailed. After a time, they declined and ceased to exist, but Martin Luther reestablished them in Germany and John Knox in Scotland. Here in America, the Pilgrims very early

(1674) opened Sabbath Schools. In our area, a Sabbath School was opened in Hadley and Northampton by 1817, Amherst and Granby by 1819, and in May of that year South Hadley followed suit. We really have no written history of those early years of Sabbath School here. Ours was called both Sabbath/Bible School. The children held "Bible verse recitations" competitions.

During the research for this article, historic information came to light. The population of South Hadley was a mere 1,047. There were no paper or woolen mills. A small saw mill and grist mill occupied Moody Corner (where Gagne's package store now stands). There was even a grist mill behind our church! There were two distilleries or Malting and Brewing businesses in different parts of town along with several cider mills. We also had three school houses. At that time, all the residents worshipped in our church! We were governed by seven selectmen. Farming was the major occupation of our residents.

Merchandise for the town came up the Connecticut River on flat-bottomed boats and landed in Canal Village where there was a large distribution "warehouse". Many neighboring townspeople purchased or traded for their groceries and other dry goods there. There was a stagecoach "station" located near the warehouse for the stage which traveled between Amherst and Springfield twice a day! South Hadley thrived because of the canal system and the inclined plane which opened in 1795!

We have evolved a great deal from nearly 200 years ago. There are many more churches and businesses here. Our population hovers around 22,000. Mount Holyoke College has put South Hadley on the map far and wide! We have had many distinguished theologians grace our pulpit. We even have our first woman pastor! The Promised Land has remarkably changed the way Sunday School is taught today!

*David Morrell, Historian*

# BIRTHDAYS THIS MONTH

- 01 Barbara Blank
- 02 Tom Hazen
- 05 Richard Howe
- 06 Nolan Gage
- 10 Tom Waller
- 15 Karen Sabbs
- 21 Terry Waller
- 25 Izzy Cordes
- Eileen Halkyard



Look who showed up to give a weather lesson to the children of Center Nursery School. Heard they had a lot of questions and we may have an aspiring meteorologist or two.



## DANCE LESSONS

**YOU** are invited to join those having lots of fun and learning new dance steps each week.

**Thursday's 6:30 pm**

**Fellowship Hall Center Church**

**No experience – No partner necessary!**

**Just \$5 per class**

## Come Join Us...



In April, we're going to start marking for the Columbus Day Fair tag sale. We meet from 8:30-11:30 every Tuesday morning. Come every week or come when you can. We price each article (yes, it is a big job) amidst friendly talk and laughter.

For more information, talk to Bobbie, one of the markers or call the church office. We really need more folk so please consider joining us!

**On the first Sunday of each month,  
please bring any of the following items to worship:**

Canned vegetables

Canned fruits

Cereals

Soups

Dried Pastas

Rice

Canned beans

Tuna Fish

Peanut Butter

Jam/Jelly



**Food Pantry  
Ministry**

Juices

Crackers

Spaghetti sauce

Meals in a can

The monthly offering is used for direct appeals to Center Church and for donation to local food pantries.

Our gifts are extended to the hungry and the poor - those who need them most! Food offerings may be left inside the Church Street entrance at other times.

**Thank you for your compassionate response!**



## Why choose Silver Lake?

Silver Lake is a place to...  
 ...[nd your voice.  
 ...grow roots.  
 ...become a leader.  
 ...experience God's unconditional love.



Summer 2017  
 Conference Dates:  
 PreCamp: June 18-24  
 Week 1: June 25-July 1  
 Week 2: July 2-8  
 Week 3: July 9-15  
 Week 4: July 16-22  
 Week 5: July 23-29  
 Week 6: July 30-Aug. 5  
 Week 7: Aug. 6-12

Join Us for  
 OPEN  
 HOUSE  
 May 21st

facebook.com/SilverLakeCT  
 @silverlakeconfcenter

Summer Camp for grades 4 through 12; register online at

# silverlakect.org

Friendship Leadership Independence Deepening of Faith

# FEST FORWARD

## POP UP DANCE PARTY & FUNDRAISER

**April 1, 2017**  
 7-10 pm, South Hadley Town Hall  
*We're transforming the auditorium into a night club!*

Support the MASH mission of promoting the arts in South Hadley while you enjoy a fun night of live music, dancing and food! Proceeds will benefit FallsFest 2017.

Live Music & Dancing with local band favorite  
**Midlife Crisis**  
 Plus cocktail music at 7pm by the Berkshire Hills Music Academy Performance Troupe

Food stations by Log Rolling Catering & The Yarde Tavern.  
 Cash bar with beer, wine & soft drinks.

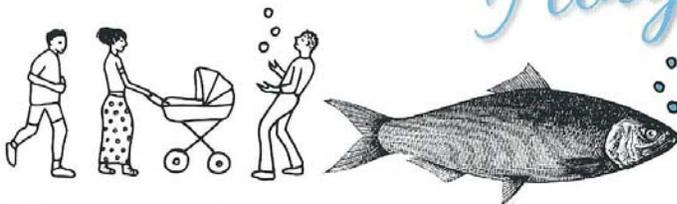
**TICKETS: \$20 advance or \$25 at door**  
 Available at South Hadley Recreation Department at Town Hall, Gerry's Music Shop, Village Eyecare, Odyssey Bookshop, or from MASH members.  
 Email: contact@shfallsfest.com Phone: 413-219-5577  
 Website: musicandartssouthhadley.org

# Holyoke-South Hadley

# River ROLL+ STROLL

## STREET FESTIVAL

Come together on the bridge that connects Holyoke and South Hadley for a vehicle-free, care-free Sunday celebration. Experience the Connecticut River in a whole new way!



www.facebook.com/riverrollandstroll

**SUNDAY**  
**MAY 7, 2017**  
 11:00am to 3:00pm



Music, Activities, Art,  
 Food and Fun for All Ages!

# Holy S. Had!



ON THE VIETNAM VETERANS  
 MEMORIAL BRIDGE (Route 116)  
 Between Holyoke and South Hadley

**FREE ADMISSION • RAIN OR SHINE**

**CENTER CHURCH  
PLANT SALE  
May 13<sup>th</sup>  
9am – 1pm**



Need a beautiful gift for  
Mother's Day???  
Or some herbs or annuals  
for your garden??

**Plus**  
**hundreds of perennials**  
will be available  
at bargain prices

**Don't miss  
the Annual Plant Sale**



**UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**



Now is the time to make known the Open and Affirming spirit of the United Church of Christ, which celebrates the diversity of ALL of God's children. It is the time to bring to life one of the UCC mottoes:  
*"No matter who you are, no matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here."*



**WHEN**  
May 6, Saturday - Northampton, MA

**WHERE**  
The STARTING LOCATION is Hampton Ave. in the parking lot which is directly across from the Northampton Brewery.  
We will gather at 11:00 AM

**REGISTER**  
[Godandep@yahoo.com](mailto:Godandep@yahoo.com) - subject: **NOHO Pride Parade**  
Registration must take place by April 10. Please include your church's name, approximate number of marchers and the name, cell phone number, and email of a contact person.



Hope you were able to attend the **Springfield Mandolin Orchestra** concert held at Center Church on March 4<sup>th</sup>. A great concert was enjoyed by all. If you missed it be sure to watch for the next opportunity. The orchestra donated their proceeds to the **Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Pantry in South Hadley.**



Hampshire Association  
of the MACUCC

## Annual Meeting

April 30, 2017  
2 - 4PM



Plainfield Congregational Church  
356 West Main Street  
Plainfield, MA 01070

Each church is represented by four delegates and clergy to conduct the business portion of the meeting.

There will be worship, a brief business meeting and discussion about the resolution to form a new Conference by combining the MA, CT and RI Conferences. The wording for this can be found on the MACUCC website.

There will be a time for socializing and refreshments following the meeting.

All are welcome and encouraged to gather to share time with their brothers and sisters of the UCC in one of the most picturesque places in Hampshire County.



## SPRING AT HEIFER FARM HAS SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

### WOMEN'S LAMBING | April 3-6 and April 7-10

This is a 3-night immersion experience for women to learn about Heifer's work and experience farm life. The births of sheep and goats, workshops, yoga with goats, and delicious farm-to-table meals make this a truly unforgettable experience.

Cost: \$425 (includes meals and lodging) | Minimum age: 14

### YOGA WITH GOATS | March 31, April 4, & 8 from 7:00-8:30 pm April 22 & May 13 from 10:00-11:30 am & 12:00-1:30 pm

At this yoga class designed for all levels you will be surrounded by our loveable goats! The class includes breathing techniques, yoga postures and guided meditation to ground yourself and connect to Mother Nature.

Cost: \$20 per class | Minimum age: 12 | Childcare available April 22 & May 13 | No pre-registration required

### NEW FARM CAFÉ AND EXPANDED GIFT SHOP | Opening March 1 | 9:00 am—5:00 pm

Stop by our gift shop for Heifer Farm's meat and produce along with food and drinks, and fair trade items from around the world. Hot, farm-fresh soup available daily!

## Daily Lectionary Scripture References April 2017 (Year A)

**Sat., Apr. 1**  
Psalm 130 58:1-12  
Ezekiel 36:8-15  
Luke 24:44-53

**Sun., Apr. 2**  
*Fifth Sunday in Lent*  
Ezekiel 37:1-14  
Psalm 130  
Romans 8:6-11  
John 11:1-45

**Mon., Apr. 3**  
Psalm 143  
1 Kings 17:17-24  
Acts 20:7-12

**Tues., Apr. 4**  
Psalm 143  
2 Kings 4:18-37  
Ephesians 2:1-10

**Wed., Apr. 5**  
Psalm 143  
Jeremiah 32:1-9, 36-41  
Matthew 22:23-33

**Thurs., Apr. 6**  
Psalm 31:9-16  
1 Samuel 16:11-13  
Philippians 1:1-11

**Fri., Apr. 7**  
Psalm 31:9-16  
Job 13:13-19  
Philippians 1:21-30

**Sat., Apr. 8**  
Psalm 31:9-16  
Lamentations 3:55-66  
Mark 10:32-34

**Sun., Apr. 9**  
*Palm/Passion Sunday*  
**Palms:**  
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
Matthew 21:1-11  
**Passion:**  
Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 31:9-16  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Matthew 26:14—27:66 or  
Matthew 27:11-54

**Mon., Apr. 10**  
Isaiah 42:1-9  
Psalm 36:5-11  
Hebrews 9:11-15  
John 12:1-11

**Tues., Apr. 11**  
Isaiah 49:1-7  
Psalm 71:1-14  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
John 12:20-36

**Wed., Apr. 12**  
Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 70  
Hebrews 12:1-3  
John 13:21-32

**Thurs., Apr. 13**  
*Maundy Thursday*  
Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14  
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26  
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

**Fri., Apr. 14**  
*Good Friday*  
Isaiah 52:13—53:12  
Psalm 22  
Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews  
4:14-16; 5:7-9  
John 18:1--19:42

**Sat., Apr. 15**  
*Holy Saturday*  
Job 14:1-14 or Lamentations  
3:1-9, 19-24  
Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16  
1 Peter 4:1-8  
Matthew 27:57-66 or John  
19:38-42

**Sun., Apr. 16**  
*Easter*  
Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah  
31:1-6  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts  
10:34-43  
John 20:1-18 or Matthew  
28:1-10

**Mon., Apr. 17**  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21  
Colossians 3:5-11

**Tues., Apr. 18**  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Exodus 15:1-18  
Colossians 3:12-17

**Wed., Apr. 19**  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Joshua 3:1-17  
Matthew 28:1-10

**Thurs., Apr. 20**  
Psalm 16  
Song of Solomon 2:8-15  
Colossians 4:2-5

**Fri., Apr. 21**  
Psalm 16  
Song of Solomon 5:9—6:3  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11

**Sat., Apr. 22**  
Psalm 16  
Song of Solomon 8:6-7  
John 20:11-20

**Sun., Apr. 23**  
*Second Sunday of Easter*  
Acts 2:14a, 22-32 ; Psalm 16  
1 Peter 1:3-9  
John 20:19-31

**Mon., Apr. 24**  
Psalm 114  
Judges 6:36-40  
1 Corinthians 15:12-20

**Tues., Apr. 25**  
Psalm 114  
Jonah 1:1-17  
1 Corinthians 15:19-28

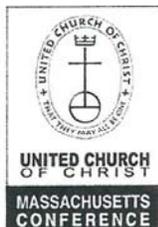
**Wed., Apr. 26**  
Psalm 114  
Jonah 2:1-10  
Matthew 12:38-42

**Thurs., Apr. 27**  
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19  
Isaiah 25:1-5  
1 Peter 1:8b-12

**Fri., Apr. 28**  
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19  
Isaiah 26:1-4  
1 Peter 1:13-16

**Sat., Apr. 29**  
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19  
Isaiah 25:6-9  
Luke 14:12-14

**Sun., Apr. 30**  
*Third Sunday of Easter*  
Acts 2:14a, 36-41  
Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19  
1 Peter 1:17-23; Luke 24:13-35



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