

March 12, 2017

To do the work of others is slavery. To do the work of God is true liberation. – Anonymous

PRELUDE *Cwm Rhondda* F. Peeters
Leoni F. Peeters, S. Kemp

*Before the candles are lit, please greet your neighbors with God's hospitality.
Once they are glowing, please celebrate your prayers with God.
When they are extinguished, carry God's light into the world.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHORAL INTROIT *I Bring My Heart to Thee* David H. Williams

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: O God, you send us out, like Abram and Sarai.

People: We travel by day, in confidence.

Leader: With our hopes and our doubts.

People: We embark on our journeys of faith.

Leader: We pause on our journey to praise you.

All: And rejoice to find you with us, guiding every step.

***HYMN** *The God of Abraham Praise* black # 24

CHILDREN'S CONVERSATION

JOYS AND CONCERNS

At the conclusion of Joys and Concerns the children will leave to go to "The Promised Land" as the congregation sings the first verse of On River Jordan's Banks I Stand.

*On River Jordan's banks I stand, and cast a wishful eye
Upon the fair and happy land where my possessions lie
I am bound for the promised land, I am bound for the promised land
Oh, who will come and go with me? I am bound for the promised land*

MORNING PRAYERS

Prayer of Confession (unison)

Gracious God, there are times we are unsure of the voices we hear, and we ignore them. There are times when we only want to hear God's voice affirming us in what we already think. May we dare to lift our hearts high and wide as we turn to you.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Pastoral Prayer

Silent Prayer

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread

and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Congregational Response

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim

Let all adore and praise that sacred name.

CHORAL ANTHEM *Agnus Dei (Lamb of God)* Ron Nelson

SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 12:1-4a page 9

SERMON **LEAVING THE EGO AT THE DOOR**

***HYMN** *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* red # 93

OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory Anthem *The Road Not Taken* Randall Thompson

***Doxology (unison)**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,

Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low,

Praise Holy Spirit evermore,

One God triune whom we adore. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

***HYMN** *I've Got a Feeling* black # 458

***BENEDICTION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** *Threefold Amen* # 812

POSTLUDE *Cwm Rhondda* A. Viner
We invite you to remain quietly and celebrate the conclusion of worship in the postlude.

*Please stand if you are comfortable.

We hope that you find your worship experience meaningful.
If you are new to the community, we invite you to make this your church home.

*Please stay after worship for refreshments and fellowship
downstairs in the Fellowship Hall.*

In our Service Today

Preacher: Rev. Lori J. Souder
Organist Larry Schipull
Choir Director: Cheryl Cobb
Greeters: June Harris and Bernice Strong
Reader: Helen Gage
Head Deacon: Brenna Anz
Head Usher: Joyce Tomlinson

The **Trustees** will host Coffee Hour during March.

Make Center Church Your Sacred Home

THE MINISTRY AT CENTER CHURCH

Ministers: All Church Members
Senior Minister: Rev. Lori J. Souder
Minister Emeritus: Rev. Charles P. Blakney

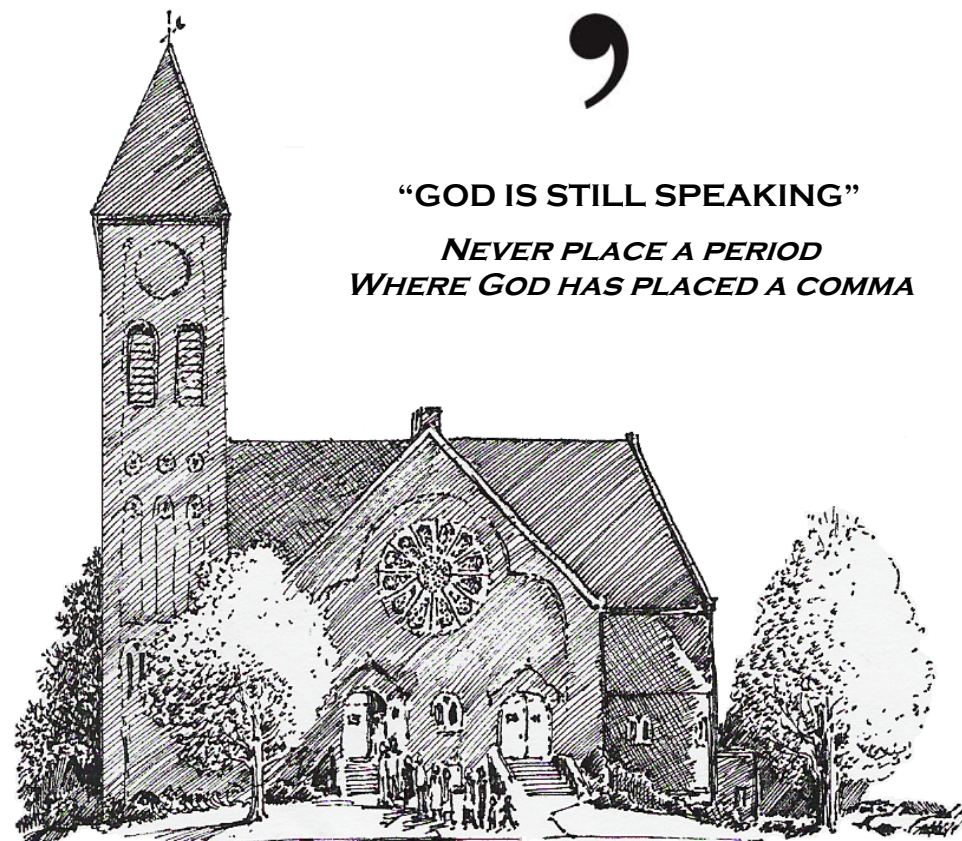
Christian Education Program

Children: Martha Guild
Youth: Claire Houston
Adult: Randy Purinton and
Betsy Bergen, Team Chairs

Music Program

Organist: Larry Schipull
Choir Director: Cheryl Cobb
Associate in Music: Cynthia Morrell

Office Administrator: Cynthia Jubinville
Sexton: Robert Farman



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“GOD IS STILL SPEAKING”

***NEVER PLACE A PERIOD
WHERE GOD HAS PLACED A COMMA***

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ - ONA
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South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075
(413) 532-2262

email: centerchurch@verizon.net

website: www.centerchurchsouthhadley.org



The two center sections of the sanctuary are equipped with a hearing loop. Turn on the T-coil in your hearing aid and sit in one of these sections for better hearing.