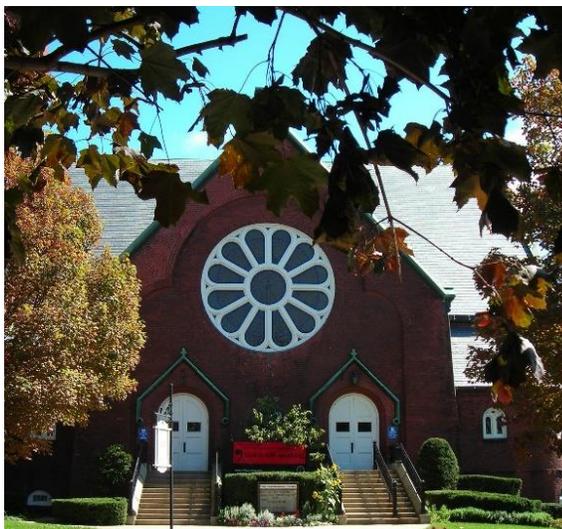


CHURCH AT THE CENTER

JANUARY 2018



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.*

Recently I sat down with a colleague I barely have had many conversations with over the past nine plus years. He needed to share a burden. I listened. What was initially heavy-hearted became a mystical sacred moment between us. How come?

We both opened ourselves to being vulnerable. We were present with each other. While we took each other seriously, we didn't assume any airs. I imagine that was what the earlier followers of Jesus experienced

As this year ends and a new one magically emerges, I invite us all to be vulnerable, present, and humble. Perhaps when we are, the Beloved Community will grow.

Joyfully, *Lori*

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Any 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and older who are interested in the **Table Fellowship Class** (learning about communion) please let Lori know. In our church all can receive communion, whatever your age. However, during the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade we offer a class about the meaning of communion/table fellowship. After completion of the class we will celebrate First Table Fellowship with the students in worship.

**Bible Study** will resume at Loomis Village on Thursday January 18 and meet for four Thursdays - 10:30 am. **ALL are INVITED** - speak to Lori if you want to carpool from the Church. Topic TBA - watch for more info.

We invite you to join us for **supper and a movie on Monday January 15**. Along with good fellowship and delicious food, we'll be watching a movie that will invite us to *Walk in the Steps of the Other*. That is, to consider what it is to live in our culture from another's perspective.



We will be watching the movie *Fences*. A trash collector (played by Denzel Washington) in 1950s Pittsburgh struggles to raise his family (Viola Davis as his wife) while trying to transcend the bitter experience of being a talented baseball player denied the opportunity to play in the majors because of his race. It's not an epic story, but it is a story told epically. It's a story of the creaks and cracks and tiny hairline fractures that deepen and expose within a family, almost without notice, until they're beyond repair. It's also one with a singularity of perspective, that of a working-class African-American family in the 1950s.

We will provide a simple supper of soups and breads. We envision the evening this way:

6:00 -- supper in Fellowship Hall

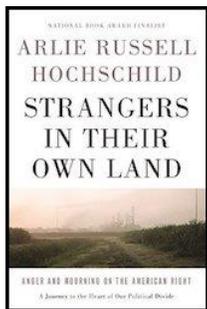
6:45 -- movie begins in the Meeting House Room, followed by discussion (better projection technology this time!)

9:00-ish -- homeward bound

Feel free to speak to any of us of your interest in coming: Don Donihue, Lorain Giles, Karen Hyvonen, Randy Purinton, Anita Sarro.

**We hope you'll join us movie buffs!**

**You are invited to participate in an All-Church Read this coming winter.**



We will read *Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right*, by sociologist Arlie Hochschild, from Berkeley, California. Opportunities for group discussion of the book led by Lorain Giles and Don Donihue are planned for late winter or early spring.

In this book, the author embarks on a thought-provoking journey from her liberal hometown deep into Louisiana bayou country—a stronghold of the conservative right. As she gets to know people there, Hochschild finds common ground and quickly warms to the people she meets—among them a Tea Party activist whose town has been swallowed by a sinkhole caused by a drilling accident—people whose concerns are actually ones that all Americans share: the desire for community, the embrace of family, and hopes for their children. Hochschild finds lives ripped apart by stagnant wages, a loss of home, an elusive American dream—and political choices and views that make sense in the context of their lives. Her book was chosen to help us better understand and heal the divisions so obvious our country today. A study guide/Questions for discussion will be available.

We will purchase the books through the Odyssey Bookshop. We will most likely order after the first of the year, and we will have them in the church office then for you to pick up. The cost per book (hardcover) will be in the neighborhood of \$20.00. You may reserve a copy in advance by signing up on one of the sheets - in the Bock Crossway and in Fellowship Hall—by early January.

**We hope you will join us reading and discussing this book**



**The Annual Meeting of the  
First Congregational Church of South Hadley Massachusetts,  
aka Center Church, will be held on February 4<sup>th</sup> 2018  
at approximately 11:30 AM.**



Business shall include, but not be limited to, the hearing and acting upon reports of appropriate church committees and teams; hearing and determining the budget for 2018; and other matters relevant to the church body. All members of the church are encouraged to attend this meeting.

A light lunch will precede the meeting and childcare will be available.

The 2017 Budget Report and the 2018 proposed Budget will be available January 21<sup>st</sup>

## PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

### Situational:

**Winston, Lori and the Baldwin family on the passing of Winston's mom Mildred.**

**Betsy Bergen**

**Fran Collins**

**Lesley Dunbar**, Betsy Bergen's sister

**Hal Harris**, following surgery

**Judy Hemingway**

**Kate Hoffman**

**Eunice Howes**

Eunice Howes' son **Steve**

**Donna Johnson**, Cindy Morrell's cousin

**Peter Kovalesky**

**Sharyn Kovalesky**

**Miriam Markarian**, following surgery

**Edward Matuvhunye**

**David Ryder** Barb Hubbard's brother

**Garnette Sherry**, following surgeries

Family and Friends of **Evelyn Simpson**  
who passed away on Christmas Eve.

### Continual:

**Emily Bangs-Orsini** (at Mt. St. Vincent)

**Chuck Blakney**

**Luke Bradley**

**Marjorie and Carl Buschner**

**Karol Coffin's mother**

**Wayne Cowan**

**Daniel Dempsey**

Tim Garrett's friends **David Drummond & Sterling McAndrew**

**Muriel Graham**

**Lou Hamilton**

**Jane Hazen**

**Phyllis Lacoste**

**Hector Reyes**

**Anita Sarro's son Michael** in need of a transplant

**Jill Therrien**, Linda Wolf's niece

*We keep those serving in the military in our prayers including Kevin Waller who is serving in Air Force Basic Training*



It's been a wonderful success!! Thanks to all who donated time and who bought items from the wonderful selection of holiday and gift tables! There were two major categories...that of food items and that of tag sale items. Both categories were a success AND no wonder, the food was delicious and the tag sale items a bargain of lovely (and useful) items.

Special thanks go to Karen Anderson, David Morrell and Corinne Chartrand for the hours they spent coordinating this bazaar. Their vision and their determination and time spent certainly was evident and resulted in our best Holiday Bazaar ever! Thank you, and may you know you are appreciated!

It certainly was an extremely successful Holiday Bazaar. Our gross was \$3,426.85 with a net profit of \$ 2718.46! Thanks again to all who participated!

*And from Karen Anderson:* We had a great bazaar!! Could it be better? We think so! So give us your ideas...evaluations...remarks...general feedback. What else could be offered? We are thinking of forming a craft group to create items to sell next year - would you be interested in participating? And...what did *not* work - what could be improved? We REALLY want to know, positive or negative! Speak with Karen or David Morrell and let them know your thoughts!

# CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

January is the month of King's and Queens in the Promised Land Sunday School! Our classrooms will greet the three Magi who came from lands afar to honor the new born Jesus. We will also devote time to learning about and honoring the contemporary King, Martin Luther King Jr. The second half of January we will explore the history of Biblical Queens....who were they and what are their stories?.....

Thank you to all our volunteers who make our classrooms vibrant and full of spirited lessons and activities. And thank you to all our Promised Land families for your support and involvement!

Happy New Year Everyone!  
Martha Guild  
Director of Children's Education

## Some Photos from December Activities



## Youth Group

Youth Group will resume later in January – watch for info!

Invitation to Promised Land Children, Youth and Accompanying Adults

To A BOAR'S HEAD FESTIVAL

Trinity United Methodist Church, Springfield, MA

Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018 2:00 - 6:15 PM

The Center Church Christian Education Committee is pleased to invite Children, Youth and accompanying adults from our church to attend a spectacular performance called a Boar's Head Festival in Springfield. The festival is a medieval dramatization of the Epiphany story that is presented to the community by the Trinity United Methodist Church in Springfield. The production includes engaging drama, music, dancing, and amazing costumes. It is offered as a gift to the community by a cast of well over 100 children and adults, plus live animals. It is presented as an engaging drama and processional, depicting a medieval village's celebration of the Messiah's arrival.

This year, the Christian Education committee has purchased tickets for 10 children, youth or accompanying adults to attend this performance on Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:45PM. (The performance is not recommended for children under the age of five.) Priority will be given to families affiliated with the Promised Land or Youth program, but if tickets are still available after 12/30/17, additional church members may be able to attend. We will plan to leave Center Church at approximately 2:00PM, and return at approximately 6:15PM. The performance is about 3 hours in length, and travel time is about 25 minutes each way. Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup> is during MLK weekend. The tickets are available at no charge, as this opportunity has been made possible by the CE team.

Please contact Kate Hoffman by 12/30/17 if you or your children are interested in attending this performance - ([khoffman0203@gmail.com](mailto:khoffman0203@gmail.com)). Promised Land and Youth families will be given first priority, but others may attend if there are still tickets available after 12/30/17.



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Coffee Hour- Thank you, Activities Team , for being such wonderful hosts for the December coffee hour. The week of the pumpkin pie and doughnut holes was special!!

During January, the Outreach team will be our hosts. This team is responsible for programs that promote human welfare and justice, seek peace, and build community. It exercises this responsibility through research, education and activities that engage the church with its neighbors in surrounding communities and around the world. The team raises money and allocates budgeted funds for mission disbursement. It administers the Peterson Fund awards, which are given for educational purposes. The vigils to raise & support awareness of social issues are an outgrowth of this team.

Present members of the Outreach team are: Winston Baldwin, Elizabeth Griffin, John Hoffman, Karen Hyvonen, Betty Innocent, Arthur Procter, Don Sibley, and Stephanie Strand. Del Borah has also stayed very involved as an adjunct member.

News from the Trustees for January 2018

This month is, by far, the hardest CAC article to write because you will read this in the new year but we won't actually know our final numbers until the books close on December 31st. As I noted in the December CAC, we are cautiously optimistic about our end of year numbers. At the end of November, the figures available for our December meeting, said that we should be at about 91.67% of our total 2017 budget income and expenses. Our overall income stood at 98.67% with the entire month to go. Our plate income and user donations are over 100% and our pledges need only \$13,221 to meet our budgeted goal. Our expenses are at 89.06% of what we expected to pay out. Thanks to all of you who are making this projected outcome possible!!! We will have the final figures at our January 9 meeting.

We have been continuing to work on some building issues and trust that they are now repaired. We want to thank the Activities Team for providing us with money to replace the toilet in the handicapped restroom which has been giving us trouble for quite a while. We are also working on getting some window issues resolved in the education building. We are also accumulating additional funds to help move forward with the needed work on the south sanctuary rose window and plan to have that begun as soon as we can in the new year. We received extensive notes which Al Duffy had taken at the recent forum held at Hampshire College about public safety especially in our houses of worship and thank him for those comprehensive notes. There is much to digest in them.

We were able to put our new snowblower to the test very recently and are delighted that it did very well in its inaugural outing. Thanks also to the trustee "worker bees" and our sexton who do additional work needed in connection with snow cleanup and salting of the walkways.

We look forward to reporting back to you in January and February about our financial health. We hope to have an almost final reporting from the Stewardship Team at our next meeting and will be continuing to work on fine tuning our 2018 proposed budget before the February annual meeting.

Cindy Morrell, secretary

Notes from Church Council

Council met on December 5 with moderator pro-tem Corinne Chartrand, chair of the Activities Team. Because Rev. Souder was on vacation, there was no pastor's report. Activities reported that the Holiday Bazaar grossed \$2,750.50 and that the sale would continue until Epiphany. Adult Education has invited everyone to participate in an "all church" reading. The title is: "Strangers in Their Own Land" by Arlie Russell Hochschild. The cost per book is approximately \$20. CE has asked Emily Carle to take over the youth group for Clare Houston. Clare will be taking a semester abroad in Scotland. Deacons has been dealing with microphone issues in the sanctuary. A new less-used frequency is being used to control the static. Membership will be adding fewer names of former members to the Historical record. Outreach donated \$500 to the Food For Friends program and also donated \$500 to Child Haven for orphans and destitute persons in nine homes and four countries...Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Tibet. Stewardship reported that 75 pledge units have pledged \$134,658 and that there are 10 new units that have pledged a total of \$13,250. There are 32 units outstanding. Trustees are working on the budget. Furnace issues are being corrected. Church security was discussed about locking doors, etc. Council **MSV** to accept the title change to CE as: Christian Education Team for Children and Youth.

David C. Morrell, clerk

Center Church in Transition:

Death: Evelyn (Edge) Simpson December 24, 2017

Outreach Partners of the Month

"Hearts to Hands to Hope"

Thank you to everyone who knitted, shopped, and cleaned closets for this year's **Mitten Tree!** We were delighted to bring the beautiful mittens, scarves, and hats to the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Pantry in South Hadley Falls, to be given to local residents who need them. We appreciate the busy hands that made all this outreach possible.

One of the **Outreach Team's** goals for this year is to strengthen relationships with our outreach partners.



Connections with **Jewish Family Service in Springfield**, one of the lead agencies tasked with refugee resettlement, have taken several forms. Center Church provided household kits, used bicycles, and clothing for new Americans. This year a refugee family was burned out of their home, and Center Church helped with financial support to get them started again.

In a recent letter, JFS staff expressed thanks to supporters and outlined some of its major accomplishments. "Despite the many attempts by our government to halt the U.S. Refugee Resettlement program, we resettled 143 people fleeing religious and political persecution. Almost half of those resettled came to join family members who had already been resettled by JFS. **YOU HELPED REUNITE FAMILIES!**

We worked with more than 1,700 New Americans to help them learn English, find apartments, employment, and career paths. **YOU HELPED PEOPLE BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT!**

Thank you for being a part of our JFS family." Signed Maxine J. Stein, President & CEO



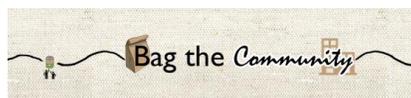
The next **Front Lawn Ministry Vigil** will be held January 20th – Topic TBA. Join us as we show support for Social Justice issues. Watch for more info to follow!

Outreach Opportunities

The startup meeting for the **new local chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America** has been set for Tuesday, January 9th, 6:30PM at the South Hadley Public Library. "MA Moms Demand Action is hosting a New Member Orientation and Recruitment event that is open to the public and Moms living in and around the South Hadley-Amherst area (or beyond) in Western MA. Come learn about Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America and what you can do to reduce gun violence in America everyday and especially during this mid-term election year."

There's an RSVP form here: <https://northeast-moms.ngpvanhost.com/ngpvanforms/6813>

Please feel free to share this with area folks who might be interested. Moms Demand is open to everyone, not just moms.



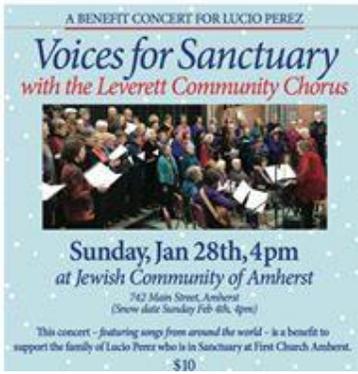
The 8th Annual Bag the Community event is in the planning stages! We need the continued support and efforts of the entire community to make this event such a success each and every year! Please consider how you may contribute ... by joining the committee, volunteering your time, making donations, spreading the word/awareness, etc...

We need YOU! Please look for a bag on your doorstep on January 13th, 2018, which will include a tag with instructions and suggested donations. You can then place your filled bag on your doorstep early on January 15th (no later than 8 am). Volunteers will come to pick up your generous donations.

We always need volunteers ... to help organize, drive, run the bags, sort the donations, etc... Please consider how you can help! For more info on how to get involved, please contact Sue at brouillettesusan73@gmail.com.

Let's all come together again and share in a wonderful day of service that benefits MANY/ALL!

Thank you, in advance, for your time and participation!



Dear Interfaith Sanctuary Network friends,

On Sunday January 28th, 2018, at 4 pm the Leverett Chorus, directed by Anne Louise White, will perform a **benefit concert, "VOICES FOR SANCTUARY"**, in collaboration with the First Church Amherst's Immigrant Sanctuary Fund, at the Jewish Community of Amherst, 742 Main Street, Amherst, MA.

This concert is a benefit to support the family of Lucio Perez who is in Sanctuary at First Church Amherst.

In addition to raising much needed funds for Lucio's family, struggling economically without Lucio's income, the concert will celebrate through song

the loving, generous, strong community that continues to grow in support for Lucio, immigrant justice and resistance to cruel deportation policies.

Suggested \$10 donation (or more if inclined) at the door. Donations will go to the First Church Amherst's Immigrant Sanctuary Fund, are tax deductible, and will go to Lucio's family.

Additional donations can also be made online at <https://tinyurl.com/ImSanctuaryFund> .

*snow reschedule will be posted at: <https://www.leverettchorus.com>

A contingent from Center Church will attend - Please speak to Lori if you would like to attend with them.

Stewardship 2017 -18

We have almost reached our Goal for 2018 pledging – can we surpass it? If you have not yet submitted your pledge card please do so as soon as possible so the Trustees can create the 2018 Budget based on an actual pledged amount. Let's continue living out our motto –

Center Church is Stepping Up...So We Can Step Out!

Also know that you may complete your 2017 pledge in the new year if you have not done so. There is a budget line for Past Year Pledges. 2017 Pledge Statements will go out mid-January.

From the Deacons....A Request

We are already starting to think ahead for next Christmas – and future Christmases - eve services. We are discussing if only 1 service should be held – what do you think? And if just one service – what time?? Overall the 4pm service is expanding – and the 7:30 attendance is down – and so maybe blending the two may be the way to go. Again, we are **ONLY DISCUSSING** this since conversations arose this year when we had three services on December 24th. We don't want to wait until next fall to be bringing this up for discussion...so....let a Deacon know your thoughts!



Tell Me the Stories - January 2018

Our December hymn of the month has been *Return My People* (NCH 114). This hymn text was written in 1981 by James Martin, who was in only his second year as an ordained UCC minister. As he and his wife were expecting their first child, advent's admonition of obedience and patience took on a new meaning for them. At age five, he had already decided he was going to be a minister, just like his grandfather, also a UCC minister. The text which he composed is quite lovely. The tune "Repton" was composed by Britain's Charles Parry originally for his oratorio *Judith* in 1888. It was later adapted as a hymn tune and given its current title. Parry was a teacher and composer who was director of the Royal College of Music, as well as a professor of music at Oxford. Parry also composed symphonies, cantatas and other organ works.

Joy to the World (PH 130, NCH 132). It is definitely one of our most joyous hymns because it focuses on the "deep and solemn realization of what Christ's birth has meant to mankind". Isaac Watts wrote this carol as a "paraphrase of the end of Psalm 98". When it first appeared, it was titled *The Messiah's Coming and Kingdom*. The hymn tune itself "Antioch" was adapted from some of Handel's *Messiah* phrasing by American Lowell Mason. One of my sources says "through the combined talents of an English literary genius of the eighteenth century, a German born musical giant from the same period, and a nineteenth century American choir director and educator, another great hymn was born". If you compare the two hymnals' versions of the carols, you will note that the changes have been mostly to update the male pronouns. This carol is a glorious way to end our Christmas Eve celebrations and go out into the night exhilarated by the event we celebrate. (CAC 1/08)

Sheep Fast Asleep (NCH 137) is one of our newer carols, even though Genzō Miwa wrote the text in 1907. It was first published in a Japanese hymnal in 1954. It was translated by John Moss in 1957, a UCC missionary serving in Japan who coincidentally has spent some time here in South Hadley (according to Larry Schipull). It speaks about the shepherds and Magi who came to visit the baby Jesus. Chūgorō Torii composed the tune "Korin" in 1941 and it was first used with this hymn in 1954. It was first introduced in the UCC English-language hymnal published in Japan. The missionary movement was a strong influence in Christianity in Japan. Western harmonies were very much a part of the Japanese church music but the music also maintained "unique Japanese flavor". This hymn actually has two verses in Japanese and then the two English translations of the same.

The First Nowell (NCH 139, PH 141) is one of our beloved carols. It tells the story of Jesus' birth and all who played a part, especially a star! Both hymnal versions have five stanzas and differ mainly in a few spots where language has been updated. Music historians really aren't sure who wrote it. They think it came about, perhaps in France during the 15th century, and it was first published in England in 1823. Noel is French for a Latin word meaning birthday. One of my sources lists two additional stanzas which do not appear in either hymnal. This carol became a favorite for Christmas Eve celebrations in England. The tune "The First Nowell" is listed as a traditional English melody and its descant was composed in 1937. (CAC 1/10)

What Child is This, Who, Laid to Rest (PH 140, NCH 148) is the last one for this month. The two hymnal versions differ more than most of the carols, and so I encourage you to check them out! The original text was written by William Chatterton Dix, an Englishman who, following his education, became manager of a marine insurance company in Glasgow. His father was a poet and William inherited a "gift for writing, especially hymns." He actually wrote over 40 hymns including many Christmas and Easter carols, but this one, written in 1865 is the most well-known. One source says that he contracted a serious illness at age 29 and was confined to bed for quite some time until he experienced a "conversion" resulting in many of his hymns. The words were actually taken from "The Manger Throne" a poem which he had written in 1865. The tune "Greensleeves" dates back to 1580 when it was first licensed to be used and the carol and tune appeared together for the first time in 1871. (CAC 1/10)

Cindy Morrell, Associate in Music



Resources used: Robert J. Morgan's [Then Sings My Soul](#) (2003) and [TSMS Book 2](#) (2004); Kenneth W. Osbeck's [Amazing Grace](#) (1990), [101 Hymn Stories](#) (1982) and [101 More Hymn Stories](#) (1985); Daniel Partner [The Carols We Love](#) (2002) and [The New Century Hymnal Companion](#), ed. Kristen Forman (1998).

From the Church Historian

CENTER CHURCH IN 1918

The year 1918 was a momentous year for Center Church and the world. The “War To End All Wars” had come to an end! Military personnel (my grandfathers Reed and Morrell among them) were returning home. Because of a raging flu epidemic, many church meetings were curtailed, but Center Church lost only five members to death. South Hadley, as a whole, fared relatively well through the influenza epidemic. It didn’t hinder our 363 members to continue the ongoing church outreach programs and fund raising. Our church budget was \$3,294.47.

Our pastor was Jesse Gilman Nichols (1906-1935). In his annual report, he praised Center Church for weathering the many demands pertaining to the War and hailed the coming of peace to our nation and the world! Center Church gained strength as we helped the destitute refugees in Western Europe and sent \$156.06 to the Armenian and Syrian Relief Fund. Rev. Nichols wrote about how the social and industrial changes would affect our nation with the thousands of returnees from war. He advised the congregation that all these “changes will be challenging” for the “work” of our membership. He remarked how the principles of Jesus were needed then more than ever. He wrote: “We must show our confidence in the Gospel of Jesus and support all the agencies that give evidence of our Christian leadership.” And “War alone never destroys war...after war is reconciliation.” Rev. Nichols believed that because of “pressing needs of Center Church and parish life, the congregation must be thoroughly ready for service day by day!”

Center Church did meet many “obligations” through our Foreign Missionary Society which was headed by Rebecca Smith. Ms. Smith was also a former Center Church historian. They actively followed a variety of issues in Africa. They studied conditions in Russia with outside speakers from Mount Holyoke College and worked with an orphanage in China! Outreach has been an ongoing legacy of Center Church. Other organizations connected to Center Church at the time were the Boys Scouts of America and the Girl Scouts. The Boy Scouts were very active and sold Liberty Bonds. Three members won a medal from the U.S. Treasury Department for their efforts. They also helped to find black walnut trees which were used to construct airplanes. Through their efforts, they maintained a sizable “war garden” that supplied fresh vegetables to members and townspeople. The Girl Scout troop, which was led by Mount Holyoke students, did their part by raising money for the Red Cross. The Youth Fellowship which consisted of 73 members wrote letters to soldiers and raised money for the Red Cross and the American Library Association!

I am always gratified and amazed when I seek out historical information about our Center Church. We have consistently been a church of “eager and happy” givers and a source of outreach to our members and the greater community. We are now in our 285th year of that noble calling. May we continue to do God’s work and adhere to the teachings of Jesus on which Center Church was founded.

David C. Morrell, Center Church historian



happy
birthday!

- 04 Thia Jubinville
- 06 Anita Sarro
- 08 Jim Noonan
- 09 Rich Buckley
Randy Purinton
- 14 Nancy Bozek
- 15 Madeleine Burke
David White
- 17 Jean Lacoste
- 25 Rookie Tipton



FELLOWSHIP HALL STORE...

**OPEN YEAR ROUND FOR YOUR
SHOPPING CONVENIENCE**

**CHECK OUT OUR GENTLY USED
ITEMS FOR SALE**

**WE HAVE AN ASSORTMENT OF
WINTER TREASURES
AWAITING YOU NOW.**



Please plan to submit any article or notice for the next
Church at the Center by the deadline date of January 14th.
Team Annual Reports are needed by then also!!
This is a busy month in the office! Your cooperation is *greatly* appreciated!
Thanks !!!!!!!!!!!!!



On December 31st, during worship, we shall ring in the New Year and Christ's birth by singing On This Day Earth Shall Ring. This is done best only if everyone has a bell to ring! So, when you come to church for worship on December 31st, remember to bring with you a bell, any kind of bell: jingle bell, dinner bell, cowbell, whatever kind of bell you have that rings.

**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



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!

Christmas poinsettias were given in honor of
the following special people:

Their family and friends by Jean and Bob Hazen

Cheryl Cobb by Linda Laderach

Larry Schipull by Linda Laderach

Lori Souder by Linda Laderach

Chloe, Lucy and Cora Hough, their granddaughters
by Cindy and David Morrell

Their Grandmother Lou Hamilton
by Chloe and Aaron Sabbs

Kevin M. Waller
by Thomas and Theresa Waller

*Christmas poinsettias were given
in loving memory of the following special people:*

Carl E. and Mary A. Abbey by Robin Abbey Murphy

Richard Anderson by Karen Anderson

Their parents, Helen and Howard Ayers,
by Bobbie Ayers and Nancy Lutes

Janet Bresee by Bobbie Ayers

Bill Baston by his family

Ralph Blank by his family

Joy and Warren Bock by their family

Marion and Virgil Hussey by Cheryl Hussey Cobb

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert S. Crossland by their family

James by his family

Lawrence A. Graham by Nancy and Barry

George (Chuck) Halkyard
by Eileen Halkyard, Thia, Kate and Laura Jubinville

Charlie Hamilton by Lou Hamilton

Charles Heaphy by the Heaphy family

Donn Worth, Kathy Follo and Jim Sterling
by John and Kate Hoffman

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Hooton by Donald and Grace Hooton

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Reyer Jr. by Donald and Grace Hooton

Paul and Marion Laderach by Linda Laderach

Stanley and Donna Schipull by Linda Laderach

Ruby Carver by Bryarly

Elsie Smalley Lehmann by Bryarly

Ralph C. Lutes by his wife, Nancy and children

Pat and Bob Merritt by their family

B J and James White, her parents, by Cindy and David Morrell

Ruby Carver by the Morrell family

Ray J. Narey by Chelsea, Kayla and Tyler

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Bangs by Emily (Bangs) and Chris Orsini

Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Orsini by Emily and Chris Orsini

Peter and Suzanne Pilskaln by Hal and Isabelle Pilskaln

Janice Robertson by the Robertson family

Ginney Russell by Bob Russell

Their Grandparents, Charles Hamilton and Frederick & Mary Sabbs
by Aaron and Chloe Sabbs

Harriet "Mimi" Skipton by Marley Skipton

Richard Souder, Lewis Daniels, Jan Daniels and Morris Baldwin
from the Souder, Daniels and Baldwin families

Mr. Navinchandra Shroff
by Dr. and Mrs. Hitesh Shroff and family

Ruth and Herman Bock by Bernice Strong

Fred Strong by Bernice Strong

Her parents, John and Dorothy Orłowski
by Joyce and James Tomlinson

Thomas, Eleanor, Thomas Jr. Egan
by Thomas and Theresa Waller

George, Elaine and Diane Waller
by Thomas and Theresa Waller

Ann and Richard Williams by Wendy Williams

A poinsettia was given by Brenna and John Anz



65 Elliot Street
Springfield, MA 01105
Telephone: 413-452-0605
Fax: 413-452-0647
www.diospringfield.org

Roman Catholic
Diocese of Springfield
December 7, 2017

First Congregational Church, Inc
Rev. Lori J. Souder
1 Church Street
South Hadley, MA 01075

Dear Rev. Lori:

We at Catholic Charities Agency thank you for your recent and generous gift of \$80.00 to our Welcoming Refugees Resettlement Project.

Thanks to benefactors like you, we continue to provide life giving and critical assistance to some of the least fortunate of our sisters and brothers, many who struggle to provide for their families.

Through your generous gift we can help extend the loving hand of God to those most in need, continuing a tradition that dates back since the foundation of our diocese over 125 years ago.

Our staff and the many refugee families are extremely grateful for your personal generosity and help in making a difference. Please keep our ministry and those we serve in your prayers as we will keep you in our prayers.

Best wishes,

Kathryn Buckley-Brawner
Kathryn Buckley-Brawner
Executive Director



Cathedral in the Night Thank You



Thank you for another amazing year at Cathedral in the Night. I can't believe we have been word-tying for almost seven years; we couldn't have done it without you. This year has brought so many new and exciting things. Having completed the second round of leadership training, one of our leaders, Robyn Wronski, has created his own recovery support group, is working to open a community center in Northampton, and is attending the Lay School of Theology in the Lutheran Church. The ELCA, national Lutheran Church, made a beautiful video of Robyn's story <https://youtube/gkYoToyM0w>.

We have expanded the Cathedral in the Night staff by two, and four legs. First, we welcomed Dawn to our staff earlier this year (she's the two-legged staff addition). Dawn is currently a United Church of Christ seminary student at Andover Newton, and has brought so many gifts to our community - specifically in the areas of preaching and pastoral care. Our four-legged staff addition is Tessie, the Cathedral in the Night ministry service dog. Tessie lives with Pastor Sieph, and goes wherever the Pastor goes. She started with us at the end of October, and has been a huge gift of healing and love to the community. Tessie comes to us through a service dog organization called NEADS, located outside of Worcester. We are still fundraising for her cost, and you can donate to Cathedral in the Night or directly to NEADS <https://neads.org/get-involved/sponsor-a-client/stephanie-smith>.

This year we began a new training institute in partnership with our two sister communities - Cathedral in the Light in Greenfield, and Cathedral of the Beloved in Hinsdale. The institute provided a tremendous opportunity to share the work we are doing with other community leaders doing similar work. The next Cathedral in the Night Training Institute will be held April 20-22, 2018, you can sign up at www.citntraininginstitute.org. We have scholarships available, so please don't let the cost deter you, and help us to spread the word. The Institute is for anyone wanting to learn more about Cathedral's model; either to create a new outdoor community, or to enhance an existing ministry among those experiencing homelessness, poverty, mental health challenges, or addiction. Can't make the whole weekend? Then join us just for Saturday!

Your support of Cathedral in the Night makes it possible for us to create a life-saving spiritual community for many who feel they are on "the edge of the edge." We connect with some who aren't served by any other services in town, and we continue to act as a bridge for other members to get increased services in the context of this safe, nurturing community. Your financial contribution makes it possible for us to provide 60-100 meals a week, supply coffee and bagels for our weekly Coffee Hour (in place to check in and receive prayer and support) as well as a weekly bible discussion at Bruigger's bagels. Please consider making a gift to keep our ministry thriving and growing. Through the support of the Lutheran, Episcopal and UCC denominations, as well as thanks to several grants, we have been able to grow the ministry to the benefit of our growing community. With your invaluable gift, or the gift of your congregation, we will be empowered to do even more great ministry. You can donate on our website <http://cathedralinthenight.org/getinvolved> or mail a check to 867 N. Pleasant St. Amherst, MA 01002. Hope to see you soon!



This acknowledgement will serve as your 2017 tax letter.
No good or services were provided for this donation.

United Way
Social Services • Immigration, Migration & Refugee Services



December 7, 2017

First Congregational United Church of Christ
1 Church St
South Hadley, MA 01075-1527

Dear Friends in Christ:

Thank you for your gift of \$3,520.00 received on 11/15/2017 to support Hurricane 2017 Relief Efforts. Your donation will help address the emergency now, as well as the long-term recovery that will be needed to get communities restored and people back into their homes. We are asking for prayers for everyone impacted by the storms, and for your continued support as the long-term recovery takes shape.

On behalf of the United Church of Christ, thank you! Thank you for being inspired by God's grace, for partnering with us in loving our neighbors and uniting with us to build a just world for all.

Should you have any questions regarding your donation, please contact us at giving@ucc.org or at 800-846-6822.

Faithfully,

Martha Paxton

Martha A. Paxton
Director, Office of Philanthropy and Stewardship

Officers of the Church
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700 Prospect Avenue East, Cleveland, Ohio 44115 | 1100 866.822.8224 ucc.org

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: Bob Farman

Daily Lectionary Scripture References January 2018 (Year B)

Mon., Jan. 1

New Year's Day
Ecclesiastes 3:1-13
Psalm 8
Revelation 21:1-6a
Matthew 25:31-46

Tues., Jan. 2

Psalm 148
Proverbs 1:1-7
James 3:13-18

Wed., Jan. 3

Psalm 110
Proverbs 1:20-33
James 4:1-10

Thurs., Jan. 4

Psalm 110
Proverbs 3:1-12
James 4:11-17

Fri., Jan. 5

Psalm 110
Proverbs 22:1-9
Luke 6:27-31

Sat., Jan. 6

Epiphany
Isaiah 60:1-6
Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14
Ephesians 3:1-12
Matthew 2:1-12

Sun., Jan. 7

The Baptism of Christ
Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

Mon., Jan. 8

Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36
Genesis 17:1-13
Romans 4:1-12

Tues., Jan. 9

Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36
Exodus 30:22-38
Acts 22:2-16

Wed., Jan. 10

Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36
Isaiah 41:14-20
John 1:29-34

Thurs., Jan. 11

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Judges 2:6-15
2 Corinthians 10:1-11

Fri., Jan. 12

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
Judges 2:16-23
Acts 13:16-25

Sat., Jan. 13

Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Samuel 2:21-25
Matthew 25:1-13

Sun., Jan. 14

Second Sunday after the Epiphany
1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

Mon., Jan. 15

Psalm 86
1 Samuel 9:27—10:8
2 Corinthians 6:14—7:1

Tues., Jan. 16

Psalm 86
1 Samuel 15:10-31
Acts 5:1-11

Wed., Jan. 17

Psalm 86
Genesis 16:1-14
Luke 18:15-17

Thurs., Jan. 18

Psalm 62:5-12
Jeremiah 19:1-15
Revelation 18:11-20

Fri., Jan. 19

Psalm 62:5-12
Jeremiah 20:7-13
2 Peter 3:1-7

Sat., Jan. 20

Psalm 62:5-12
Jeremiah 20:14-18
Luke 10:13-16

Sun., Jan. 21

Third Sunday after the Epiphany
Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

Mon., Jan. 22

Psalm 46
Genesis 12:1-9
1 Corinthians 7:17-24

Tues., Jan. 23

Psalm 46
Genesis 45:25—46:7
Acts 5:33-42

Wed., Jan. 24

Psalm 46
Proverbs 8:1-21
Mark 3:13-19a

Thurs., Jan. 25

Psalm 111
Deuteronomy 3:23-29
Romans 9:6-18

Fri., Jan. 26

Psalm 111
Deuteronomy 12:28-32
Revelation 2:12-17

Sat., Jan. 27

Psalm 111
Deuteronomy 13:1-5
Matthew 8:28—9:1

Sun., Jan. 28

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28

Mon., Jan. 29

Psalm 35:1-10
Numbers 22:1-21
Acts 21:17-26

Tues., Jan. 30

Psalm 35:1-10
Numbers 22:22-28
1 Corinthians 7:32-40

Wed., Jan. 31

Psalm 35:1-10
Jeremiah 29:1-14
Mark 5:1-20



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
MASSACHUSETTS
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Happy
New
Year

