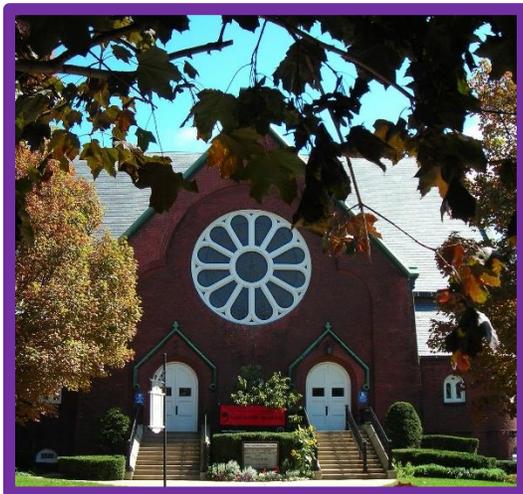


CHURCH AT THE CENTER

’ **APRIL 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.*

The weekend of March 24-25 blew me away. Why? The Holy Spirit was alive in all ages speaking out for justice, praising God and acting with great compassion. It began Saturday morning as 50 people assembled for the Gun Safety Vigil. Horns honked in support. Faith filled and civic minded folks made a statement that gun safety is a priority, especially for our children. One of the Outreach Team's goal for this year is to offer "Front Lawn Ministry." It's effective! I'd say almost half of the people who appeared were community/civic minded friends.

Then a few travelled to Springfield for the *March For Our Lives* where youth continued to inspire us, youth from nearby cities, youth who are courageous. The poster I crafted read, "*This Mom wants all children to come home after school.*" It's a simple truth. And the Spirit was alive when Stephanie Strand spoke to the large crowd about the goals of the nonprofit, Mom's Demand Action.

On Palm Sunday the choir got us rocking as they sang, "The Rocks will Shout Out." Then the youth and a few adults gathered to make American Chop Suey and other goodies to serve to those who are temporarily homeless for Cathedral in the Night in Noho.

Was it God I sighted or the Holy Spirit or the footsteps of Jesus? I do not know but with Easter just a few days away, hope is already upon us.

Easter Blessings, *Lori*



PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

Situational:

Betsy Bergen
Lesley Dunbar, Betsy Bergen's sister
Martha Guild's father, Curt Guild
Judy Hemingway
Eunice Howes
Eunice Howes' son Steve
Eunice Howes' friend, Sarah Boynton
Sharyn Kovalesky and family and friends of
Pete Kovalesky who passed away March 28th
Family and friends of Miriam Markarian
who passed away March 17th
Edward Matuvhunye
Joe Nelson
United Congregational Church in
Holyoke following a fire.

We keep those serving in the military in our prayers including Kevin Waller who recently completed Air Force Basic Training and is now attending Technical School.



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

Please help us **update our list of Medical Personnel and CPR/First Aid trained** members: Our new Safety team is up and running – putting together plans for emergency situations. If you are medically trained or certified PLEASE share this info with us so that we can know where to turn in an emergency. Call Thia in the Church office or share your information with Al Duffy. Thanks!

Center Church is planning on offering a public forum on "KEEPING FAITH AT THE END OF LIFE." If interested, let Lori know. We are thinking we would offer it during the day for those unable to drive at night.

A public forum to promote awareness and understanding of critical decisions, caregiving choices and how our faith can guide us.

How will we respond when our family members are faced with a serious life-threatening illness and the medical system offers a baffling array of choices involving medications, life-sustaining treatment and interventions that might prolong life but possibly bring about greater suffering? How do we understand and balance the quality of life, the sanctity of life and our freedom to choose according to our deeply held values and beliefs? What are our questions and concerns about caregiving for our loved ones nearing end of life?

These are some of the questions typically discussed at our public forums in faith communities. We usually have two members of our hospice team – Ben Tousley, our spiritual counselor, and one of our nurses or social workers – serve as speakers/resource people. Participants clarify the difference between hospice and palliative care, the advantages of seeking hospice care earlier rather than later, the importance of advanced directives and how faith and spiritual care play an important role in caregiving at end of life.

The first half of the 90-minute program is a presentation of information and resources for caregiving and the second half provides time for participants to break into small groups in order to discuss in a more personal manner their situations, questions and concerns. We find that the small group time often helps people feel less isolated as they hear one another's stories.

CONTACT: Ben Tousley, M.Div., Spiritual Counselor, Cooley Dickinson Hospice
[413-582-5384](tel:413-582-5384), BTousley@Cooleydickinson.org

CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

March in the Promised Land Sunday School ended on Palm Sunday with an array of joyful activities: a Holy Week re-enactment, hot cross bun eating, and Easter egg hunting! Now we are moving forward to April and a celebration of spring and new life. Christ has risen! The Sunday school classes will take a look at the Living Christ, his messages and teachings of love and service. We will also embark on another walking field trip to enjoy the budding gardens of Mount Holyoke College. Thank you to all our parents who have entrusted Center Church to educate and nurture the Promised Landers on their faith formation journey.

Peace and Blessings, Martha Guild, Director of Children's Education



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**Summer Camp for You!**  
Silver Lake  
Progressive Christian Values  
Community • Inclusion • Justice • Love  
Connecting with something bigger than ourselves  
OPEN HOUSE  
Saturday, May 26  
9-11 AM  
www.silverlakeect.org

Church Council will again be offering partial **scholarships for children and youth who plan to attend a religious based camp this summer.** The awards will be for \$150.00 per child/youth. If interested in applying, please give your name to Thia Jubinville in the church office or to Rev. Souder.

**The deadline to apply is May 1, 2018**

**Star Gathering UCC Family & Youth Conferences**  
Live Green, Love Green: Ecology, Faith & Justice

|                                                          |                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Star Gathering UCC 1 Family<br>July 28 to August 4, 2018 | Star Gathering UCC 2 Family<br>August 4 to August 11, 2018           |
| Star Gathering UCC 1 Youth<br>July 28 to August 4, 2018  | Star Gathering Family Weekend<br>August 31 or September 1 to 3, 2018 |

## Youth Group



The Youth Group was very busy this past month! We made sympathy cards for Lori and taped them to her office door, talked about the history of the UCC, our values, symbols, and famous members (did you know Barack Obama is a UCC member?), and learned all about the New Century Hymnal and compared it to the Pilgrim Hymnal. In April, with it being such a holy month, we will be refreshing our knowledge on the Holy Week. We will also have a lesson on generosity; tying in the story of the poor widow in Mark 12:41, Jesus's and God's generosity to us, and the book Love Let Go by MHC grad Ami Campbell. Ami's church gave each member \$500 and told them to "do God's work". Love Let Go is a narrative of what the members did, and the positive health effects giving gives us.

Warmly, Emily Carle

## Bible Study

On **April 26 and May 3 and 10** we will again offer a **Bible Study**; there will be two different topics. On the 26th we will discuss, "What happens when we die?" Please read John 3:16, John 5:24, Hebrews 9: 27-28, Rev 20: 11-15, and Ecclesiastes 12:7. On May 3 and 10th we will talk about how hospitality is one of the cornerstones of our Christian Faith, drawing from Luke 5, 27, 14:12-14, 18:15-17, 24: 13-35, Mt 25:31-46 on the 3rd and on the 10th Acts 27, 2 Romans 16:21, Ex 20:8-11. **All are welcome. Join us for one or all three studies.** Hosts TBA.

## News from the Trustees for April 2018

The Trustees had a visit from Adam Suska, our amazing rose window restorer, who updated us on his progress on the south window and issues that he has found. He noted that he is almost ready to finish the inside work and should hopefully be out by Easter. He has been repairing two of the wood layers around the stained glass in spots where he found that the nails were not biting into any wood when he tried to re-use them. As mentioned before, the frame wood around the windows is composed of three layers. He has now replaced some of the two interior layers and will complete that final layer's wood work when he returns later on to work on the window's outside surface. At that point, he is going to also check the outside of all of the other smaller windows in the sanctuary. We received word that, at the end of February, we should be at about 17% of our budget for both income and expenses. The income at 25.96% is a bit high because, thanks to several of our pledging units, they have already paid their entire 2018 pledge and to them we say a huge **THANK YOU**. On the expense side, our utilities are a bit high and I'm sure that many of you are finding your gas bill higher too. We have had some furnace-related expenses and the Simplex contract (that covers our elevator). We also agreed that a final amount which has come from the Merritt bequest will be added to the current window restoration fund which will fully fund the south rose window restoration work. (hooray!) There is still some work to be done on the inside of the west rose window but none of that is crucial to its safety.

We hope that you had the chance to meet Tanya Tarail, the physical therapist who is now sharing a room on the third floor of the education building, after church on the 25th. We are pleased that she has joined us. Al Duffy updated us on the new ad hoc "safety" meeting. He was very pleased that 28 folks came to one or the other of the informational meetings and he is encouraged as we move forward. The group's first meeting will happen on March 28, before this CAC is actually published.

**Request from the Trustees** --As I am sure you are all aware, the Trustees are responsible for all building expenses and as such, we really need to keep track of any expenses incurred by members which need to be reimbursed. We ask that you check in with Thia in the office (she already has several of us on speed dial!) or any one of the trustees before you purchase any item. You can contact Eliot Chartrand or Al Duffy who are co-chairs or any other members (Art Coffin, Bill Giles, Cindy Morrell, Kiki Tipton or Carol White).

*Cindy Morrell, secretary*

## Notes from Church Council

Council met on March 6 with moderator pro-tem Joyce Tomlinson, from the Usher Team presiding. Rev. Souder posed some interactive questions about what is holy and how we define it? Also, have we encountered holiness and what is sacred to us? More questions were if we have had a meaningful experience or felt the presence of God? Lori also reported that the gathering at Mount Holyoke College for the viewing of the film *The Sultan and the Saint* was well attended by students, Center Church members and our Muslim friends from the West Springfield mosque. A gun safety front lawn vigil is slated for Saturday, March 24.

Activities is accepting donations for the 2018 Columbus Day Fair. Item marking will begin in April. Adult Ed "all-church read" will conclude with discussions on March 12 and March 18. Deacons are continuing their discussion about whether to have two services on Christmas Eve. The *Hallelujah Chorus* will be sung at the end of the Easter service. Trustees have addressed the roof leaking over the coat room. The new "tenant" on the third floor of the Lancaster Wing has moved in and donates \$300 monthly to use the space for her therapeutic massage business. Membership continues to prepare info pamphlets about our teams. These are to be placed in the sanctuary pews. Outreach is helping to welcome eight new Americans from the Congo to Springfield. They are investigating the possibility of a joint Habitat for Humanity build in Northampton. Stewardship is looking into partnering/collaborating with the Planned Giving Team. It was **MSV** to appoint an ad hoc team (Lori Souder and Bobbie Ayers) to oversee the choosing of candidates and the distributing of "Summer Camp" funds.

## Center Church in Transition

Deaths: March 6, Frances W. Collins 93 years of age.  
March 17, Miriam (Kachadorian) Markarian 92 years of age  
March 28, Peter Kovalesky

David C. Morrell, clerk

# Outreach Partners of the Month

*"Hearts to Hands to Home"*

**New Americans...** A new family has arrived in Springfield from the Democratic Republic of Congo, a mother with her seven boys. They are receiving resettlement support from Jewish Family Services in Springfield, an organization that we have supported in the past. The family has many needs; we have been asked to provide backpacks and supplies for the children: Kerikija (18), Mohammed (15), Hassan (12), Shaban (10), Ramadhan (9), Tumusime (93), and David (2). We anticipate that this family will need more support and we know we can count on the Center Church community when the call comes.

**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. Informational brochures and application forms for awards are available through the Church office.

**Donations to the Peterson Memorial Education Fund...**During a worship service in February we learned more about the history and successes of the Fund, shared stories about the Petersons, and heard how to join in helping very worthy students. Generous donations of \$629 have been received to date!

Please see the March edition of Church at the Center for the text of the Moment of Concern that was given by Bobbie Ayers last month. If you have not had a chance yet to donate, there is still time to make a contribution. Thank you to all who have made contributions.

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Friends~ We are scheduled to have an overnight **Urban Challenge in Springfield on July 21-22**. We will spend an overnight at Trinity United Methodist Church and do mission work in the city. Check out their **website: Urban Challenge Trinity United Methodist Church**

Originally, we were just focused on a youth trip, however, we have some spaces available for adults to create an intergenerational opportunity. There will be a fee but we will also be doing some fundraising. Please see Art Proctor, Emily Carle, or Lori Souder if you have questions or wish to attend.

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**A Community Outreach request.....** Our food pantry garden is in need of tools. If anyone has unwanted items, we would greatly appreciate donations!

**Hand tools:** box cutters (for cardboard), trowels, forks, pruners, shears, rakes, hoes, shovels, anything useful to gardeners. **Large items:** wheel barrow, wagon

The tools we have are not in good shape. They get a lot of use. Often, we need several sets of tools for our volunteers to use. I will be glad to pick up any tool donations - at churches or at people's homes. Or, if convenient, tools can be dropped off at the garden shed any time in April.

If it is possible for you to share this request, the crew at the garden will be very grateful.

Thanks very much, Sue Brouillette

## Tell Me the Stories - April 2018

*Praise Ye (to) the Lord, the Almighty* (PH 15, NCH 22) is based on the opening words of Psalm 103. Joachim Neander, born in 1650 and a German from a long line of preachers, wrote this powerful hymn in 1680, also the year he died from tuberculosis. He wrote about 60 hymns considered “triumphant expressions of praise” and also composed many hymn tunes. One source called this hymn his “noblest contribution.” A “noted scholar in theology, literature and music,” he personally decided which hymn tune to use and these particular words have only been used with this tune. Sometimes he was called the “first poet of the German Reformed Church.” Even though he had a wild youth, he became a tutor when he was older and served as a grammar school headmaster and then as assistant preacher at his local church. Today, there is a valley, south of Dusseldorf where he was a pastor, named after him as it was one of his favorite spots to walk and compose hymns. Neander has four other hymns in the NCH. The tune, *Lobe Den Herren*, was first published in 1665, but first appeared in England in 1904’s *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. The melody was well loved by the Germans. This tune was used only once in both the PH and the NCH. The translator, Catherine Winkworth, an English woman born in 1827, was a pioneer in women’s higher education who was considered as one of the finest German-to-English translators. In fact, her translations helped popularize German hymnody during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. There are actually ten translations by Winkworth used in the NCH. The NCH hymn *Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped* uses a slightly different translation, done by Madeleine F. Marshall from 1993. (updated from CAC 4/05)

Our second hymn this month is *Lift High the Cross* (NCH 198). George W. Kitchin wrote this hymn’s precursor text for the “festival of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel” in 1887 – that’s sure a mouthful! It was revised by Michael R. Newbolt in 1916, with the intent of making it less militaristic. Although it did not appear in any U.S. hymnal until 1974, it has been included in a number of denominational hymnals since then. Sydney H. Nicholson composed the tune for the 1916 hymnal supplement of *Hymns Ancient and Modern*. The tune name “Crucifer” signifies cross-bearer. We don’t know much about the two authors except that they were Church of England ministers, but Nicholson, knighted for his contributions to English church music, was an organist in a number of prestigious English churches before founding the School of English Church Music at St. Nicholas College. (CAC 4/07)

Our final hymn this month is a relatively new one to us. A communion hymn, *Graced with Garments of Great Gladness* (NCH 334) is based on a German text by Johann Franck about 1649. German churches have used it in their communion services for many years. Franck served as a Lutheran lay person, was active in politics, and his hymn texts were grounded in nature. It is said that he introduced mysticism into Lutheran and Reformed hymnals. This text was translated into English many times and ours is an adaptation of one in 1863 by Catherine Winkworth. Franck has only one other text in the NCH. The tune “Schmücke Dich” was composed by Johann Crüger in 1649, specifically for this German text and the two men worked together many times. The tune name comes from the opening words of that original German text. Born in 1598, Crüger is considered “one of the most creative musical talents” of his time, even though the Thirty Years’ War interfered with his musical composition then. He did compose five major hymn collections.

Cindy Morrell, associate in music

Resources used: Robert McCutchan’s *Our Hymnody* (1937); *Handbook of the Church Hymnary*, ed. James Moffatt (1927); Kenneth W. Osbeck’s *101 Hymn Stories* (1982); Ronald Thomson’s *Who’s Who of Hymn Writers* (1967); and *The New Century Hymnal Companion*, ed. Kristen Forman (1998).



## From the Historian – April 2018

### EASTER CELEBRATION



Over the years, questions have been asked about the origin of the word Easter. Other questions are: why rabbits? eggs? flowers; etc.? Many of these “symbols” can be associated with the coming of Spring. There’s joy that we feel and hear in Spring. Those of us living in the northern hemisphere are glad when the snow melts and the temperatures begin to rise.

The name/word Easter has ancient origins. The Hebrews used Pesach for Passover. The countries with Latin origins used Pasqua (Italian), Pascua (Spanish) and Paques (French). The Germans used Ostern. Anglo-Saxons had a goddess of spring called: Ostare, Ostara, Eastre or Eostre. The month of April was attributed to her and called Eastur-Monath. Some texts say that the old heathen feast of Eostur (because the spring sun had its “new” birth in the East) was the true original name for Easter.

The New Testament has no record of the celebration of Easter. Scholars feel certain that Easter celebrations began shortly after the writings of the New Testament became known. Jewish Christians first celebrated both the Feast of Passover and the resurrection of Jesus. They wanted to celebrate both, regardless of the day of the week. It was the Gentile Christians who insisted on the first day of the week (Sunday) for the resurrection, with Friday as the day of the Crucifixion. The Emperor Constantine in 325 A.D., assembled all leaders of the Church at the Council of Nicea. They decreed that Easter should fall on Sunday and also the same Sunday for all Christendom. Here’s where the calendar comes into play. In 1582, the Gregorian Calendar made it possible to determine a finite date for Easter. The Western Churches follow this method, but the Eastern Churches do not. For us, Easter falls on the first Sunday after the full moon following the vernal equinox and this can be between March 25 (earliest) and April 25 (latest). Simple!

Easter Sunday is well known to us. Some churches prefer having an Easter Sunrise Service. Most practice a regular Sunday morning worship. Our service uses the choir, organ and trumpets to resoundly greet Easter morn! Many Christians travel to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre (site of Jesus’ tomb) in Jerusalem to receive a special blessing.

Easter rabbits have their origin in Egypt. Their word “hare” means open. They believed, since rabbits are born with their eyes open and since the moon “was the eye that never closes” they associated the rabbits with Spring. They believed them to be egg layers. The Germans taught their children that a white rabbit brought them brightly colored eggs for Easter. They made the celebration into a game by hiding the eggs in the woods for the children to find.

The lily is the most common flower used to symbolize the Easter resurrection. It is considered the emblem of purity. Legends as far back as Egyptian and Roman times tie the lily in with Easter. The daffodil is tied in through Mohammed who taught that “He, who has two loaves of bread, let him sell one, and buy flowers of the narcissus (family); for bread is food for the body, but the narcissus is food for the soul.”

It is through faith and hope that came into the world on that long ago Easter that the Christian Church had its birth. From that small beginning, we have grown! Through Easter we believe it will continue to grow until we are all drawn into the one family of Christ, because we are always looking for new beginnings!

*David C. Morrell*, Center Church historian

## **Plant Sale - 2018**



*Spring is on its way* and we are starting to get ready for our 19th 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 *TENTATIVELY* take place (watch for any changes!) on **Saturday May 26<sup>th</sup>** from 9 am to 1 pm (*we want to chose a later date this year to accommodate the April temps*). 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 May 12<sup>th</sup> 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.**

## **Columbus Day Fair - 2018**

It's not too early to start thinking about our traditional Columbus Day Fair. This is 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 during September. We will be starting the Tuesday morning marking in May. We traditionally mark Tuesday mornings from 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 6<sup>TH</sup>, 7<sup>TH</sup>, 8<sup>TH</sup>  
PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW ....AND THANKS**

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 skies, 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.



- 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



## CENTER CHURCH PLANT SALE

May 26<sup>th</sup>  
9am – 1pm



Need a beautiful gift for your favorite gardener?  
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**  
(Note Change of Date from past years)

Please save the date to attend the **Hampshire Association Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 6th from 2-5PM at South Congregational Church** on South East Street in Amherst. Remember, we are a covenant people.



### 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 May, 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!

### 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: Emily Carle  
 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

The Hampshire Association of the  
MACUCC  
and the Members and Friends of  
Church of Christ Congregational, UCC  
request the honor of your presence at the

Service of Ordination for  
*Mr. Lawrence Humphrey*

Saturday, May 19th, 2018  
at three o'clock in the afternoon

Under the Tent on the Church Commons  
Church of Christ Congregational, UCC  
235 State Street  
Granby, MA 01033

*Music Mondays Café*



*Berkshires Music Academy  
Performance Troupe*

Monday, April 23, 2018

*Gaylord Memorial Library  
47 College Street ~ South Hadley*

Doors open at 6:30 pm ~ Music starts at 7:00 pm  
Admission \$10 / Students \$5 ~ Music & Refreshments \*

Our generous Music Mondays Café in-kind sponsors...



\* All proceeds benefit the many programs and services of the Gaylord Memorial Library.

**KEEPING HOPE ALIVE**

An Interfaith Service for Syria



**Sunday, April 8**  
3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
First Churches of Northampton  
129 Main Street  
Northampton, MA

**Sponsors include:**  
Beth Ahabah  
Congregation B'nai Israel  
Critical Connections  
Edwards Church  
First Churches of Northampton  
Grace Episcopal Church Amherst  
Hampshire Association of the Massachusetts  
Conference of the United Church of Christ  
Interfaith Council of Franklin County  
Interfaith Opportunities Network  
Islamic Society of Western Massachusetts  
Peace and Justice Committee of First Churches  
Pioneer Valley Interfaith Refugee Action Group  
Refugee Support Project of Temple Israel  
Second Congregational Church of Greenfield  
Social Action Committee of the Unitarian Universalist  
Society of Amherst  
Sojourner Truth School for Social Change Leadership  
Tiklan Olan Committee of the Jewish Community  
of Amherst  
Trackrock Center for Peace and Justice.

**INVOCATION**

Reverend Todd Weir, Pastor of  
First Churches of Northampton

**GUEST SPEAKERS**

Ahed Festuk, a Syrian refugee, will  
speak about her experiences. Ahed  
will be interviewed by Mehlaqua  
Samdani of Critical Connections.

Professor Steven Heydemann,  
Director of Smith College Middle East  
Studies Program, will speak briefly  
about the current situation in Syria.

Students from the Amherst Regional  
HS Refugees in Distress Committee  
will speak about their work on behalf  
of Syria.

**SERVICE**

The program will include readings  
(prayers, poetry, stories)

Music by the First Churches Choir,  
with audience participation

Closing benediction by  
Naz Mohamed of the  
Hampshire Mosque

**ACTION**

Those who come to the service will  
be given the opportunity to take an  
action and make a donation to the  
Syrian Emergency Task Force (SETF)  
in support of their humanitarian  
efforts, particularly in Idlib. Soup  
for Syria cookbooks will also be  
available - proceeds will go to SETF.

This event is free and open to the  
public.



This event is sponsored by the Valley Syrian  
Relief Committee (VSRIC): Michael Kane,  
Sara Weinberger and Debbie Sherer.  
For further information e-mail VSRIC at  
valleysyrianrelief@gmail.com, or call  
413-598-0453.

**BE THE CHURCH**  
*Protect the environment. Care for the poor.  
Forgive often. Reject racism.  
Fight for the powerless.  
Share earthly and spiritual resources.  
Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.*

Please help us keep our food pantry stocked. The items listed below are needed:

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.

Thank you for your compassionate response!

# How Times Change.....

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH SOUTH HADLEY, MASSACHUSETTS



## Proposed Combined Funds Budget For 1958

### Our Ministry, Leadership and Service

|                                 |                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| Minister's Salary               | \$ 6,600        |
| Pulpit Supply                   | 50              |
| Minister's Annuity              | 800             |
| Car Allowance                   | 600             |
| Director of Christian Education | 1,000           |
| Organist and Choir Director     | 1,100           |
| Music and Choirs                | 525             |
| Organ and Pianos                | 1,450           |
| Church School                   | 250             |
| Weekday Church School           | 322             |
| Deacons' and Deaconess' Fund    | 300             |
| Denomination Per Capita Tax     | 300             |
| <b>Total</b>                    | <b>\$12,997</b> |

### Benevolences

|                             |                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Our Christian World Mission | \$ 3,000        |
| Scholarships and Schools    | 400             |
| Interdenominational Work    | 275             |
| <b>Total</b>                | <b>\$ 3,675</b> |

### Reserve Account for Major Projects

|                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Organ Fund             | \$ 1,000        |
| Church Improvements    | 2,500           |
| Parsonage Improvements | 2,000           |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>\$ 5,500</b> |

**Reserve for Contingencies \$ 750**

**Grand Total \$50,472**

### Our Administration and Operation Costs

|                                          |                 |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Church Secretary                         | \$ 1,500        |
| Office Equipment, Supply                 | 850             |
| Printing                                 | 600             |
| Canvas Expense                           | 200             |
| Utilities, Heat, Light, Water, Telephone | 3,600           |
| Custodians                               | 2,600           |
| Social Security                          | 400             |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>\$ 9,750</b> |

### Maintenance and Improvements of Church Property

|                              |                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Payment on Mortgage          | \$11,000        |
| Repairs to Church Properties | 2,900           |
| Interest on Mortgage         | 2,000           |
| Insurance                    | 1,900           |
| <b>Total</b>                 | <b>\$17,800</b> |



The budget goals as submitted by the church are outlined in this brochure. It is up to you to decide your share. If you believe in the Christian way of life through the Church and its work, our goal will be met.

*William H. Claff*

CHAIRMAN OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

WERE THE WHOLE REALM OF NATURE MINI THAT WERE AN OFFERING FAR TOO SMALL.

**Daily Lectionary Scripture References**  
**April 2018 (Year B)**

**Sun., Apr. 1, Easter**  
*Resurrection of the Lord*  
Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts  
10:34-43  
John 20:1-18 or Mark 16:1-8

**Mon., Apr. 2**  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Genesis 1:1-19  
1 Corinthians 15:35-49

**Tues., Apr. 3**  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Genesis 1:20-2:4a  
1 Corinthians 15:50-58

**Wed., Apr. 4**  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Song of Solomon 3:1-11  
Mark 16:1-8

**Thurs., Apr. 5**  
Psalm 133  
Daniel 1:1-21  
Acts 2:42-47

**Fri., Apr. 6**  
Psalm 133  
Daniel 2:1-23  
Acts 4:23-31

**Sat., Apr. 7**  
Psalm 133  
Daniel 2:24-49  
John 12:44-50

**Sun., Apr. 8**  
*Second Sunday of Easter*  
Acts 4:32-35  
Psalm 133  
1 John 1:1-2:2  
John 20:19-31

**Mon., Apr. 9**  
Psalm 135  
Daniel 3:1-30  
1 John 2:3-11

**Tues., Apr. 10**  
Psalm 135  
Daniel 6:1-28  
1 John 2:12-17

**Wed., Apr. 11**  
Psalm 135  
Isaiah 26:1-15  
Mark 12:18-27

**Thurs., Apr. 12**  
Psalm 4  
Daniel 9:1-19  
1 John 2:18-25

**Fri., Apr. 13**  
Psalm 4  
Daniel 10:2-19  
1 John 2:26-28

**Sat., Apr. 14**  
Psalm 4  
Acts 3:1-10  
Luke 22:24-30

**Sun., Apr. 15**  
*Third Sunday of Easter*  
Acts 3:12-19  
Psalm 4  
1 John 3:1-7  
Luke 24:36b-48

**Mon., Apr. 16**  
Psalm 150  
Jeremiah 30:1-11a  
1 John 3:10-16

**Tues., Apr. 17**  
Psalm 150  
Hosea 5:15-6:6  
2 John 1-6

**Wed., Apr. 18**  
Psalm 150  
Proverbs 9:1-6  
Mark 16:9-18

**Thurs., Apr. 19**  
Psalm 23  
Genesis 30:25-43  
Acts 3:17-26

**Fri., Apr. 20**  
Psalm 23  
Genesis 46:28-47:6  
Acts 4:1-4

**Sat., Apr. 21**  
Psalm 23  
Genesis 48:8-19  
Mark 6:30-34

**Sun., Apr. 22**  
*Fourth Sunday in Easter*  
Acts 4:5-12  
Psalm 23  
1 John 3:16-24  
John 10:11-18

**Mon., Apr. 23**  
Psalm 95  
1 Samuel 16:1-13  
1 Peter 5:1-5

**Tues., Apr. 24**  
Psalm 95  
1 Chronicles 11:1-9  
Revelation 7:13-17

**Wed., Apr. 25**  
Psalm 95  
Micah 7:8-20  
Mark 14:26-31

**Thurs., Apr. 26**  
Psalm 22:25-31  
Amos 8:1-7  
Acts 8:1b-8

**Fri., Apr. 27**  
Psalm 22:25-31  
Amos 8:11-13  
Acts 8:9-25

**Sat., Apr. 28**  
Psalm 22:25-31  
Amos 9:7-15  
Mark 4:30-32

**Sun., Apr. 29**  
*Fifth Sunday of Easter*  
Acts 8:26-40  
Psalm 22:25-31  
1 John 4:7-21  
John 15:1-8

**Mon., Apr. 30**  
Psalm 80  
Isaiah 5:1-7  
Galatians 5:16-26



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**Edits to the April Calendar:**

April 25<sup>th</sup> 7pm - Church Safety Meeting  
April 29<sup>th</sup> 10:30am - Bible Study at Loomis

Rev. Souder will be away **the afternoon of April 19- afternoon of April 24.**

*In his Easter Message, United Church of Christ General Minister and President the Rev. John C. Dorhauer invites all in the wider church to celebrate the hope of Easter.*

We are an Easter people.

Shaped by the experiences of death, the wells of our enduring faith spring up and speak to us of the eternal.

This fundament, this bedrock, it grounds us.

And, as Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians – we therefore do not grieve as those who have no hope.

I can't tell you how many times over the last year and a half I have had to remind myself that we are, in the end, an Easter people.

No death we experience will be allowed to offer the last word.

Hope will always abide in the shadows that come with grief and loss.

Let us, then, speak of grief and loss - the collective ennui we share with a suffering planet that is smeared with our toil.

We see tens of millions of refugees swarming the globe. We see decades of advances in social justice being erased by a global shift to the political fringes. We watch nations and their leaders play war games with big and very destructive weapons. We know children are being trafficked, women are being violated, and black and brown bodies are continuously treated with disdain by whites.

My mood has shifted and I am not alone. Say what you want about the current political climate in America, but something has happened to our shared narrative.

Immigrants are enemies.

Unarmed black bodies are gunned down with impunity.

Women's bodies are trivialized as solely the object of men's passions and desires.

Fascism is on the rise, creeping into the light after decades lurking in the shadows.

Children go through 'code red' exercises that have them rehearsing live shooter drills, wondering not if, but when.

We talk without shame about arming teachers.

I'm looking for my Easter hope.

I'm asking if this is the dying beyond which God has nothing more to say.

And...

God is not silent.

God's speech resonates not from beyond the madness, but from within it.

On a street corner in St. Louis, a woman preaches at the opening of a child wellbeing center. The preacher has an Easter story to tell. She was left abandoned on that very street corner when she was 9 months old.

In a sanctuary in Madbury, New Hampshire the Maranatha Indonesian United Church of Christ celebrates 14 years of shared life and ministry. They have their own Easter story to tell. Many in the room just weeks ago were detained and threatened with deportation. One pastor's intervention and dogged determination affected their release. On this Sunday, much more than an anniversary is celebrated as families are re-united.

In the aftermath of one of the most violent and ugly chapters of our collective narrative, teenagers produce their own Easter hope by calling a nation to recognize that our love affair with gun violence is destroying the hope of children. Their fierce resistance has an entire nation marching for our lives.

The tomb is empty.

Oh, to be sure, death has its sting.

There was a body. But the body rises.

God speaks, and beyond the seemingly impenetrable tomb a new word is heard.

Let those who have ears to hear, hear.

May the joy of an embodied resurrection call you to see through grief, listen beyond lamentation, and know beyond a shadow of doubt, Jesus lives.

We do not grieve as those who have no hope. Our grief is altered by Easter.

Jesus is risen. He is risen indeed.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John C. Dorhauer". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a dark ink on a white background.