

September 2, 2018

“We have lately wasted a lot of words in this town doing and being everything that John McCain was not,” he said. “We would do well to allow this moment to affect us in ways reflected not merely in our words but also our deeds.” Senator Jeff Flake

PRELUDE

*A Song in Summer
Bread of Life
Pleading Savior*

G. Peterson
V. D. Thompson
D. Paxton

*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

Gloria

Berthier

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: What does God seek of those who seek the Lord?
People: To walk with a clear conscience and do the right things;
Leader: To speak truth from the heart and do no harm to neighbors;
People: To stand by one’s word even when waffling might be advantageous.
All: Those who do these words will be found in the One they seek.

***HYMN**

Jesus, Thou Divine Companion

red # 409

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

MORNING PRAYERS

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, it can be easy to coast on the words of faith, basking in your grace-and neglect that those words and that grace come with a purpose for our lives. Forgive us when we separate faith from service, grace from ministry. Amen

Assurance of Forgiveness

Pastoral Prayer

Silence

Lord’s Prayer (debts)

*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

769

*Hear our prayer, O God, Hear our prayer O God
Incline your ear to us, and grant us Your peace. Amen*

***HYMN**

O God, as with a Potter’s Hand

black #550

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

page 874

SERMON

WHAT DEFILES US?

OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory Anthem

Simple Gifts

arr. A. Beck

***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**

Come, Gather in This Special Place

black # 335

COMMUNION

Invitation

Communion Prayer

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Bread and Cup

It is our tradition to hold each of the elements until all are served so that we may partake together. [Rice cake pieces are offered for those with allergies to gluten.]

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

Bread of Life, Cup of Hope, you restore us to wholeness when we turn to you and confess what separates us from you. We are grateful for how over and over you bless us with new beginnings. Now may we be courageous in sharing Jesus’ peace, truth and light. Amen

*HYMN *Take My Life and Let It Be* red #404
 *BENEDICTION
 *CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Threifold Amen* # 812
 POSTLUDE *My Story, My Song* J. Mansfield
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/Choir Director: Cynthia J. Morrell
Head Deacon: Lynne Bertram

The Membership and Adult ED Teams will host Coffee Hour during September.

THE MINISTRY AT CENTER CHURCH

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

Christian Education Program

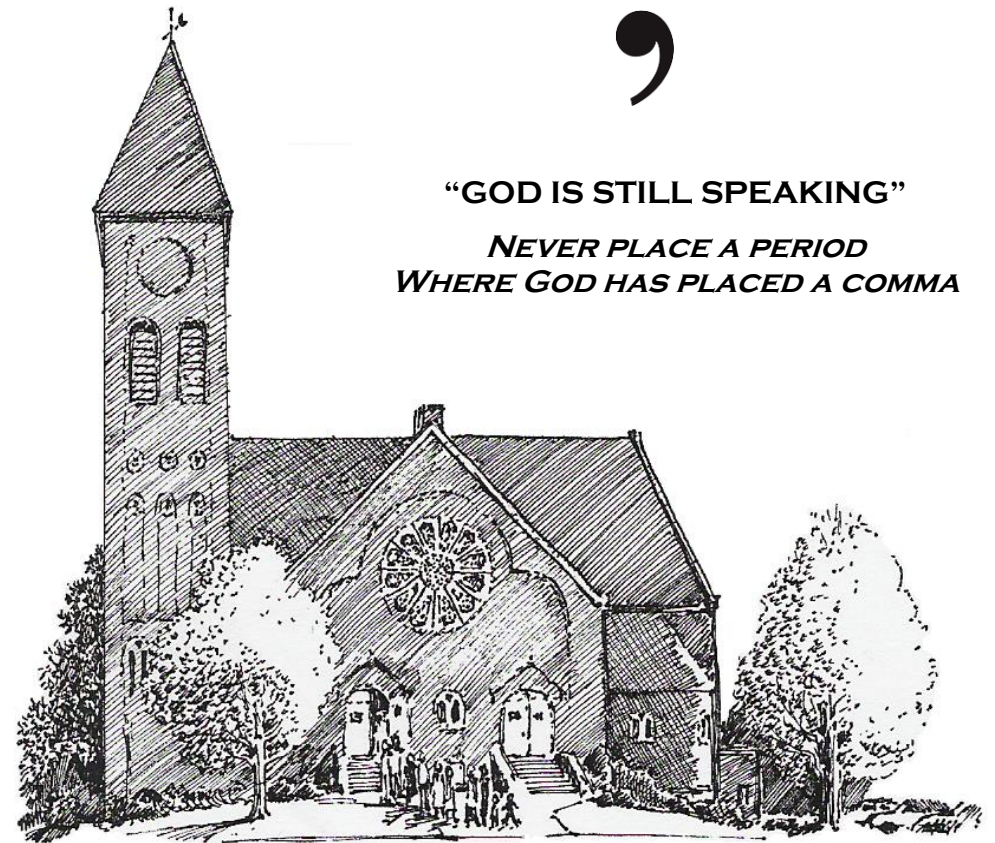
Children: Martha Guild, Simone Jacob
 Chelsea Korzeniowski

Youth: Emily Carle, Claire Houston
 Adult: Randy Purinton and Betsy Bergen, Team Chairs

Music

Organist: Larry Schipull
 Choir Director: Cheryl Cobb

Office Administrator: Cynthia Jubinville
 Sexton: Robert Farman



“GOD IS STILL SPEAKING”
NEVER PLACE A PERIOD
WHERE GOD HAS PLACED A COMMA

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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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.