



# ***CHURCH AT THE CENTER***



**FEBRUARY 2019**



## **FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH "CENTER CHURCH"**

United Church of Christ

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*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.*

Did you know we have a shortage of Bibles in the classrooms and New Century Hymnals (NCH) in the sanctuary? Not all the pew racks have the NCH in them! We would have been out of luck on Christmas Eve if we had to rely on them and not inserts.

The Youth Directors told me this week that they searched all the rooms (minus the sanctuary) and could only find five Bibles! And to top it off, each Bible has a different translation or print. So the Youth Directors, Claire and Emily cannot say, "Turn to page 229" when each Bible is unique.

There is a rumor (begun by the Youth Directors) out there that the youth are eating them. *Yet, even the youth miss having Bibles.* That indeed is heartening. Just when adults are assuming youth are preoccupied with themselves, CC youth are asking for Bibles. They want to read from the Bible and make it relevant in their lives.

Isn't that why we gather, to assist one another in interpreting the scriptures so we can walk the walk of Jesus? Dust off your Bibles and see what intrigues the youth.

Joyfully, *Lori*

## Center Church Movie Night at Loomis Village

We invite you to join us for a Movie Night on Thursday February 7 in Loomis Village's auditorium (please take note of the different venue). The whole Loomis Village community is also invited.

The movie, inviting us toward compassion and transformation, is the comedy-drama *Pride*, based on a true story of an unlikely alliance between striking coal miners in a small Welsh community and a London-based Gay Pride group.

The 2-hour movie will begin at 6:30 p.m., and it will be followed by a brief group discussion.

At Loomis Village, use the parking lots adjacent to the main building. Come in through the front door; the auditorium is on the first floor, straight ahead. Feel free to speak to any of us of your interest in coming: Don Donihue, Lorain Giles, Karen Hyvonen, Randy Purinton, Anita Sarro. Or, just come on over!

We hope you'll join the Loomis Community and us movie buffs for a rich evening.



### *Come with us to the White Continent*

Bill and Lorain Giles voyaged to Antarctica just after Thanksgiving on a National Geographic Lindblad expedition. Flying to Ushuaia, Argentina (the world's southernmost city), they embarked on the National Geographic *Orion*. Two days later, after crossing the high seas of the Drake Passage, the convergence of the Pacific and the Atlantic oceans, they – and 95 other passengers – began daily adventures on the Antarctic Peninsula and surrounding islands.

For the next week, they hiked in deep snow and high winds, kayaked in calm waters around gigantic and small icebergs, zipped around harbors in rubber zodiacs sighting seals and whales and sea birds, and saw (and heard and smelled) zillions of penguins up close and personal.

**Bill and Lorain invite you to join them for an evening's travelogue – with slides, storytelling, and a professionally-made video – of their voyage.**

**Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup> is the new date. We will begin with a potluck supper at 5:30 p.m., followed by the travelogue. Please bring an entree, side dish, salad, or dessert to share. We'll provide beverages. (Please note the change in date and start time.)**

We encourage adventurers of all ages to join us. Young or old, if you've ever been curious about the White Continent, here's an opportunity to travel there.



**Tuesday Club** The **potluck supper and Travel presentation** by Roger Farnsworth will be February 26<sup>th</sup> at the home of Carol White. Roger will present a travelogue on his trip to Flanders, Belgium and Northern France and will say a few words about his recent trip to Russia. We will gather for social time at 6:30pm and dinner will be at 7pm. Bring a pot luck dish – dessert and beverages will be provided. See you there!



Thank you, Outreach team, for being such fine hosts during our January coffee hours! Each week there seemed to be more than one member helping- including staying above and beyond expectations in getting things cleaned up! In February our hosts will be the Flower and Nominating Teams.

Jean Hazen and Beverly Howells were our Flower Team members during this past year. They provided and coordinated the donation of flowers for Sunday worship services. They were also responsible for the arrangement of the lilies at Easter and Poinsettias at Christmas. This year Jean is also providing an arrangement for the “food table” during our coffee hours. This addition has added a very nice touch to coffee hour. Eileen Halkyard, although not an official member of this team, has been responsible for many of the flower arrangements. Both Eileen and Jean have “an eye” for seeing just how the flowers can be arranged in an elegant vase arrangement which is wonderful and appreciated by many of us.

The Nominating Team seeks new members for teams and officers and prepares a list of nominations for approval at the annual meeting. Serving on this team last year were: David Morrell, Kiki Tipton and Linda Wolf.

# PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

## Continual:

Emily Bangs-Orsini (at Mt. St. Vincent)  
Luke Bradley  
Marjorie Buschner  
Cayden, Barbara Blank's great grandson  
born premature  
Wayne Cowan  
Daniel Dempsey  
Tim Garrett's friends David Drummond &  
Sterling McAndrew  
Muriel Graham  
Lou Hamilton  
Jane Hazen  
Phyllis Lacoste, home  
Anita Sarro's son Michael following a liver  
transplant  
Anna Sibley  
Ruth Thornton - Wingate



## Situational:

Debra Bean, Brittany Bryan's mother  
Ruth Cowan, recovering at home  
Carol Ehman as she undergoes cancer treatment  
Shelly Granger  
Tom Hazen, home  
Eunice Howes' friend, Sarah Boynton  
Jean Lacoste, recuperating after a fall  
Rich Normandin, diagnosed with cancer  
Fay Paquette following eye surgery  
Lucio Perez, in Sanctuary in Amherst FCC  
Eduardo Samaniego being held in Immigration  
Detention Center

*We keep those serving in the military  
in our prayers.*

**Bible Study resumed at Loomis Village January 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am. ALL are invited!** We will gather for four Thursdays (skipping Jan. 31) and follow a program of "Post Confirmation" -using the structure of the current Confirmation Class. We should have some stimulating conversations - hope you can join us! You are invited to meet Lori at the church at 10:10 to carpool. Below are the Hosts and Apartment numbers for each gathering:

**Feb. 7** Barbara Blank Apt. 124 **Jesus and the Bible**  
Scripture: Luke 4:31-37, Luke 8:4-8, Luke 24:13-17a

**Feb 14** Betty Kelsey Apt. 225 **History of the Christian Church**  
Scripture: Acts 18:1-4

**Feb. 21** Betty Odell Apt. 126 **How to grow your faith... and.... Tough questions**  
Scripture: Romans 10:17, Hebrews 11:16, and Acts 2:43-47



## **Call to the Annual Meeting.....**



This is a call to the Annual Meeting of the First Congregational (Center Church) Church of South Hadley, Massachusetts that will be held on **Sunday, February 3, 2019 at approximately 11:30 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall of the church.** Business shall include, but not be limited to, the hearing and acting upon reports of appropriate church committees and teams; and hearing and determining the budget for 2019. All members of the church are encouraged to attend this meeting.

A light lunch will precede the meeting and child care will be available.

Copies of the **Annual Report are available for your review.** Copies may be found on the tables in the Office foyer and Bock Crossway and on the table at the foot of the stairs to Fellowship Hall. Please bring your copies with you to Annual Meeting.

**February's Front Lawn Vigil will be held on February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10am - the topic will be Racial Equality.**

# CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Three new Deep Blue Rotation units have been purchased from Cokesbury Publications for Sunday School lessons in 2019! The Promised Landers are finishing up the Creation Story unit and in February will move into a new unit.....it's going to be a surprise (because I'm still deciding which one to teach. They are all so good!) but I'm leaning towards the unit on The Lord's Prayer. 🙏 The Lord's Prayer is important because it is what Jesus taught his disciples when they asked him how to pray. This unit will guide us in exploring the many deep meanings of the Lord's Prayer and how to practice prayer as part of our toolbox of spirituality. Well, it's sounding like I've made a decision. I hope you and your children can join us in February! Thank you to all families and your dedication to enlivening Center Church's Children Education wing with you and your children's presence each week.

~ Martha Guild, CE Director

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**Confirmation schedule for the month:** February 10-11:30-12:30,  
Feb 24 2-6:45 (Cath in the Night - Please dress warmly)  
**First Table Fellowship:** February 9: 10-11:15 **OR** February 13 from 4-5pm Meetinghouse Room

## Youth Group



The youth group got off to an exciting start to the year this past Sunday, by getting the new youth room decorated and ready. There's still some more work to do but it is looking beautiful so far. We will begin a new curriculum on February 3 titled "God is a Warrior." We will be talking about how to balance doing good, and the love we see in Jesus, with the violence we see in the world and in the Bible. We're excited about some great conversations! Lot's of other plans are in the works, so look out for some

events and activities coming in the next few months!

*Claire and Emily*



We will again be preparing a meal for Cathedral In The Night (a worship service and meal with those who are temporarily homeless in Northampton) on Feb 24. Confirmands are asked to participate. What we prepare has yet to be determined, but there will be a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall near the beginning of the month. Confirmands are asked to arrive around 2 and will be dropped off by 6:45pm.

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**Did any of you notice** during Advent that there were balcony figures visiting us for the season? Depending on where you sit during church, you might not even have been aware of them. Lori did mention them at least once during a Sunday service. They were given to the church by Emily (Bangs) and Chris Orsini, several years ago, from their extensive doll collection. The choir had front row seats to see what was going on each week, and so when we came up to Sunday morning practices, we would always check to see their positioning. Someone was having a very good time moving them around up there! There were angels, choir folk, Mary & Joseph and the baby Jesus, a shepherd or two, as well as the three kings who had a great time moving around up there. We send our thanks to Emily and Chris for this contribution!

(cjm 2/19)

## News from the Trustees for February 2019

This message finds us already in the second month of our new year! In the January CAC, we could not say how we would end 2018 financially. But at our January meeting, we heard the news that we had ended the year with a deficit (which was part of the 2018 budget planning). We voted to clear that up using monies from the operating reserve fund which we had created at the end of last year with a budget surplus, and there is still \$67 left in that fund. This will allow us to begin the 2019 with no 2018 deficit hanging over our heads. So what you will hear at the February annual meeting starts 2019 with a clean slate. You will also be able to see how our monies were allocated during the 2018 year, should you wish to read the annual financial reporting carefully. As always, our sincere thanks to Thia Jubinville for the work she does all year keeping the church's books and producing the very detailed financial report!

As usual, the trustees continue to respond to building issues as they come up. Thanks to Al Duffy and Eliot Chartrand for their work during the year dealing with these issues and working hard to keep our aging buildings running in good working order, despite the little curves which seem to crop up. We are so lucky that the two of them can somehow manage to respond quickly and figure out how to deal with any emergencies (broken pipes, no heat, etc.) that arise. We want to thank all Center Church members for keeping up their pledges over the past year - pledge payments came in at 99.4% - a pretty impressive statistic! We thank as well the folks who attend church and use the collection plate for their contribution. We especially must thank John Anz, Brian Lapis and Gretchen LaBonte for their hard work, as the stewardship team, in raising the funds to keep Center Church moving ahead in this new year. Coming up with a proposed budget for any year is always a guessing game for the trustees. And we produce a proposal based on our "best guesses." Who knew that gas prices would move so high last year or what they will do in this year! There is a copy of the 2019 budget available now at several places at the church and it will be available to be discussed and voted on at the annual meeting.

At our January meeting, we said good-bye to Kiki Tipton who has been serving on this Board for six years, as well as our rep. on HR and thanked her for her service. We also thanked Eliot Chartrand for his service on the Board and for his willingness to continue on the Board as an adjunct member, following the footsteps of Harry Crossland and Mike Thornton in years past. Continuing members are: Art Coffin, Al Duffy, Bill Giles, Carol White and Tom Waller, along with myself. New members, as of our annual meeting, who will be joining us in February are: Sandy Belden and Randy Purinton. As always, we also have the continued support of pastor Lori and treasurer John Hoffman at our meetings, and Thia Jubinville (behind the scenes).

*Cindy Morrell, secretary*

## Notes from Church Council

Council met on January 8. Moderator pro-tem John Anz, chair of Stewardship, conducted the meeting. Rev. Souder asked those present to read from slips which had been placed in the netting covering the cross in the Bock Crossway. They are miscellaneous messages stating how the writers "see" Center Church. Activities reported the final numbers for the Holiday Bazaar. The gross was \$3,611.80. The net \$2,818.60. \$1,879.06 was turned over to the Trustees for the Center Church operating budget. Deacons are formulating an intergenerational worship service. They are also hoping to incorporate other gatherings such as potlucks, etc. throughout the year. Christmas Eve at 5:00 p.m. had 303 in attendance with positive feedback about the new time and it being our only service on Christmas Eve. Nominating has completed the 2019 slate of officers and teams. It will be voted on at the Annual Meeting. Outreach has 13 people signed up for the upcoming Habitat Build. The "Did You Know" factoids about immigration, etc. are now in the Sunday bulletins. The team is also making decisions on who will be their 2019 "mission partners." Stewardship has \$160,000 pledged from 102 pledge units. They are hoping to do more education/information conversations about Planned Giving. A "musical event" fundraiser is being discussed for the Fall. Trustees stated that there will be a \$2,000+ loss in the

2018 budget. They are exploring ways to erase it. The 2019 budget could also have a deficit of \$10-15,000. This will be discussed at the Annual Meeting. Heating bills are continuing to spike our expenses. Lori voiced concerns about not having a moderator for the third year. She did agree that the pro-tem moderators have helped. There are areas that a moderator keeps track of which are not being totally covered. Council will continue discussions pertaining to this matter. John Anz agreed to moderate the February 3 Annual Meeting.

### **Center Church in Transition:**

Joining Center Church January 27 Elizabeth Belden, Sanford Belden, Arthur Stanley

*David C. Morrell, clerk*

## Outreach Partners of the Month

*“Hearts to Hands to Hope*

**THE HOUSE THAT FAITH BUILT** is a partnership of interfaith communities and Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity engaged in building 3 energy efficient affordable homes in Northampton and CENTER CHURCH IS ONE OF THE PARTNERS.

The Outreach Team is happy to report that very soon a check will be sent to **Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity** in the amount of \$3,7222. In the fall of 2018 a commitment of money and time was made. We have exceeded our original pledge, and soon we will be participating in a workday at the site. Construction is moving along. Here are some interesting details from the January Interfaith newsletter.

**“Representatives from the James Hardie Company came out on December 19<sup>th</sup> to help with training and troubleshooting the installation of the Hardie Plank and Hardie Panel siding. A large group of volunteers worked with folks from Hardie to get the siding started for the modular home on lot #3. Work on this siding continues as weather allows. While electric lines have been run from the road to a transformer, power has not yet been run to the houses which has limited the amount of inside work that can be done. The slab was poured for lot #2 and is now waiting until spring time to begin framing.”**

A new home owner was asked recently what it will be like to be in her new home this Christmas. She said, **“Christmas in this house likely will not be a silent night but a boisterous gathering, and a joyous one. It’s a chance to celebrate the end of the year and everything to be thankful for.”**

**Bringing strength, stability and self-reliance to new homeowners is what Habitat does. Stay tuned for more details on when our workday will be.**

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### **Did You Know?**

Leviticus 24:22 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

You shall have one law for the alien and for the citizen: for I am the Lord your God.

“A typical “Dreamer” lives in Los Angeles, is from Mexico and came to the U.S. at 6 years old.”\*

DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) program, which had provisions that affect about 800,000 young Dreamers hoping to remain legally in the United States is in legal limbo as court battles in at least 4 different states continue. It seems likely that it will be brought to the Supreme Court if congress doesn’t intervene with legislation first. Would be Dreamers were brought to the US as children, have no criminal records and have completed or are pursuing specific educational requirements. “...Although several versions of [a bill to secure this status] have been introduced in Congress, to date none has passed.”\*

\*<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/09/05/us/politics/who-are-the-dreamers.html>

<https://www.nilc.org/issues/daca/status-current-daca-litigation/>

<https://psmag.com/social-justice/daca-has-not-been-saved-and-it-may-be-in-its-last-days>



*We have been told that Neighbors Helping Neighbors, our local food bank that is strongly supported by Center Church, has seen a sharp increase in demand recently. Whether that is from the weather or the shutdown or both, it points to hungry people. Please consider bringing an extra offering of non-perishable food to leave in the collection box by the church street entrance door. Thanks!!*

## Peterson Fund

We are working with Rev. Souder to plan a date for another Peterson Scholarship Fund Offering - we are looking to schedule for a Sunday later in the month. Please watch for further information.

## Food For Friends

### Food for Friends Volunteers Wanted

"A feel-good job" is how our volunteers describe the work they do. And, with a requirement of just a few hours one Saturday a month, it's an easy commitment to keep (and if you can't make it on a given month, it's OK!). We are adding to our current rotation of about 30 volunteers, with these jobs available:

- Delivery driver (11 am - 1 pm)
- Kitchen clean-up (10:30 am - 12 pm)
- Substitute chef (1 or 2 times a year)
- Assistant program manager (computer skills required)

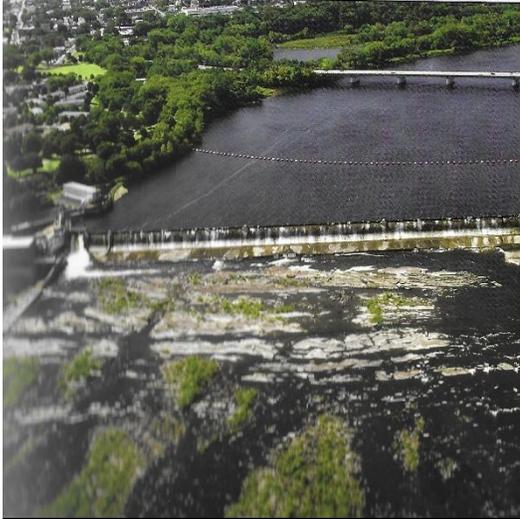
If you are interested in volunteering, or want more information, please contact program manager Charlotte Buijnarowski at 413-374-6022.

Food for Friends is a group of volunteers from Center Church, United Methodist Church, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Living Gate Community Church, Morning Star Baptist Church, and the South Hadley Democratic Town Committee. We prepare and deliver over 100 meals one weekend a month to home-bound elderly clients in the South Hadley and Granby communities. Our clients are generally also clients of the Meals on Wheels program, which delivers meals only on weekdays - creating a significant gap on the weekends. While we share our client list with three other churches who cover the remaining weekends of the month, Food for Friends is solely responsible for all other aspects of our program including organizing our volunteers and generating funding through donations and grants to purchase the food and packaging materials.



# From the Church Historian

## NATIVE AMERICANS IN SOUTH HADLEY ALONG THE QUINNI-TUKQ-UT RIVER



Great Falls area.

While looking through various folders about South Hadley, I came across notes that I had taken when I was associated with the South Hadley Historical Society and the Firehouse Museum. There are displays of artifacts and information about our Native American “fore residents” housed at the museum. If you haven’t visited the museum in the Falls section of town, you should make it a destination when it is open.

Back in the late 1600s and early 1700s, isolated South Hadley was considered the frontier. Hundreds of years before the time of the “white man,” there was a vast and thriving empire of “red men.” In the Quinni-Tukq-Ut (Connecticut) river valley, there were great tribes like the Algonquins, Mohawks and Mohegans. In our immediate area of the “Great Falls” to the north were the Pocumtucks and the Wequamps and the south were the Agawams, Tunxis, Podunks and the Quaboags. To the west were the Woronoaks. “Our” tribal residents were known as the Nonotucks.

All along the river there were many permanent villages. The Great Falls area became a major tribal assembling spot in the region. These gatherings became a regular event for the plentiful food source by the fishing of salmon, shad and trout. Also, nearby in the forested areas was bear, deer and moose, which through their furs and meat helped to feed and clothe the tribes. The richly soiled meadows in what is now Hadley provided ample productive farming of beans, corn and pumpkins. Tobacco was also plentiful. Because of the friendlier tribal contacts through “pow-wows” at the Great Falls, trading became an essential activity. Items such as pottery from the rich clay deposits, beads, copper and even salt were sought. Tools (hoes) and weaponry (bows, arrows and spears) were produced from the quartz deposits, graphite, flint, abundant volcanic stones and trap rock. Even treasured items such as moccasins from doe skin and colorful hair beads abounded. Light weight canoes from the supply of paper birches and the bark of the elm trees were an essential mode of river transportation.

Life was not always tranquil. Murdering, marauding tribes like the Mohawks swept through the region causing mayhem. They raided villages carrying off children and women using them and selling them as slaves. Wars were a frequent occurrence causing the tribes to prepare by building fort like walls, etc. Due to some of these devastating attacks, tribes began to move westward. By 1675 with the advance of white settlers many of our “resident” tribes had moved west of the Hudson River. Some small pockets of the friendlier tribes remained.

On June 5 and 8, 1901, a farmer along Granby Road in South Hadley, unearthed in some sand dunes, native graves. Among the skeletal remains other artifacts of pottery, tools, arrowheads, beads, wampum and fire stones were discovered. These findings set off more research about the natives who lived in our area. It raised awareness that we were not the original inhabitants of South Hadley.

*David C. Morrell*, Center Church historian  
2-19



Artist depiction of Nonotuck Village.

## Tell Me the Stories - February 2019

How many of you remember one of the first church songs you learned? *Jesus Loves Me* (NCH 327) is surely that one. It is also one of the first hymns taught to new converts overseas. It was actually a very simple song that two sisters, Susan and Anna Warner, wrote as part of an 1860 novel. The best-selling novel, *Say and Soul*, was written to help with their family's loss of income during the panic of 1837. It was spoken by a Sunday School teacher to comfort a dying little boy. For many years, the sisters taught Bible classes at West Point and are the only civilians buried in the West Point military cemetery. The composer, William Bradbury, wrote the music in 1861 to go along with the text and added the chorus that we know. It is said that he was "one of the most important contributors to the development of early gospel hymnody in the country. The version in the NCH has two new verses written in 1971 by David R. McGuire, a Canadian Anglican priest. There are also verses in ten different languages in the new hymnal. We do not sing this song very much in our church services anymore and it cannot be found in our Pilgrim Hymnal. (CAC 4/05)

As you can see, *Immortal Love, Forever Full* (NCH 166. PH 232) appears in both of our hymnbooks. One of my resources only gives it four short lines of explanation. It was based on the John Greenleaf Whittier poem "Our Master" which contained 38 stanzas when published in 1866! Born and growing up on a MA farm Whittier discovered poetry at age 20. He became a journalist who was very active in the anti-slavery movement, and was a lifelong member of the Society of Friends. Whittier is quoted as saying "a good hymn is the best use to which poetry can be directed." While it was not his original intent, others of his time decided that it would actually be put to good use as a congregational hymn. The main difference comes in the "updated" wording found in the last three stanzas. Whittier has the text for two other hymns in the NCH. William Wallace composed the tune "Serenity" for a secular Scottish love song in 1856. A Brooklyn church organist, Uzziah Burnap, adapted the first section into a hymn tune. The title captures the sentiment of the poem. Wallace was an Irishman who became a professional musician at 15. He traveled extensively all over the world giving concerts but he also wrote seven operas as well as piano music.

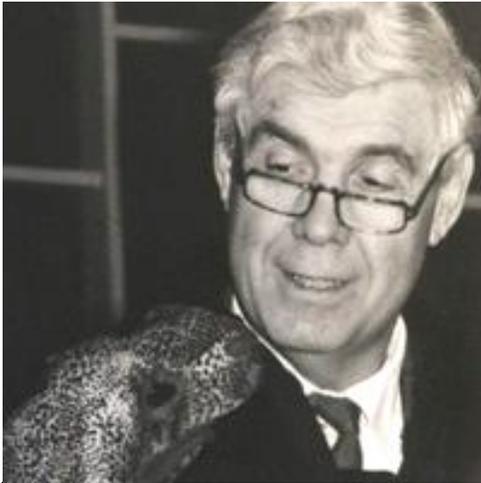
*Little Children Welcome* (NCH 323) is our third hymn for this month and is one of the newer hymns herein. Listed as appropriate for baptism and expresses in simple terms how the sacrament enfolds any child, but really any person. being baptized. Fred P. Green wrote the text in 1973. Green was born in Liverpool and educated in English schools. An ordained Wesleyan Methodist minister in 1928, he served 22 years as a parish pastor before retiring at age 66. He is a noted British hymnwriter and has a total of 12 hymns in the NCH. It is one of the shorter hymns and very easy to learn. The hymn tune "Saipan" was composed in 1988 by Roy Hopp. He wrote it simply so that "even the youngest of singers" could take part, and named it in honor of his nephew who had recently been born there on that Pacific island. Hopp is a member of the Christian Reformed Church and has served as a director of music in Grand Rapids, MI and has two other hymn tunes listed in the NCH.

Cindy Morrell, Associate in Music



Resources used: The New Century Hymnal Companion, ed. Kristen Forman (1998); Handbook to the Church Hymnary, ed. James Moffatt (1927); and Robert J. Morgan's Then Sings My Soul (2003) and Then Sings My Soul (2011); Kenneth W. Osbeck's 101 Hymn Stories (1982), Amazing Grace (1990); and Cecilia Rudin's Stories of Hymns We Love (1934); and Ronald W. Thomason's Who's Who of Hymn Writers (1967).

**We would like to thank all those who helped with the Memorial Service for Chuck Blakney, Pastor Emeritus of Center Church – Chuck served her for 23 years. What a lovely service and reception. Thank you. Below is the obituary provided through the Funeral Home.**



*Rev. Blakney and Dragon*

Minister and Missionary, The Rev. Charles Philip Blakney, died in-hospice at his So. Hadley home, Dec. 18, 2018, his wife, the former Dorrie Alderman, and step-son, Jonathan Wilhelm, at his side. Blakney, age 90, was Minister Emeritus of the First Congregational Church of So. Hadley, which he served as pastor from 1970 until his formal retirement in 1993. Retiring with him at that time, were his two sidekicks, Phineas T. Loser and Dragon, the two hand-puppets that resided in a hatbox which made its appearance every Sunday with Blakney at the pulpit. They were fashioned by his late, first wife, the former Lorryne P. Grimm. Following the onset of retirement, Blakney assumed abbreviated pastoral assignments in Orange, Shelburne, and Wyben, MA., as well as a semester in Hefei, China, where he and his wife Dorrie taught English. Born in Sanford, ME., Blakney graduated in three years from Williams College, where he majored in art and music. Every morning on campus he climbed 46 steps up into the bell tower of Thompson Memorial Chapel, to play the college's Carillon chimes before classes began. Blakney distinguished

himself in wrestling, capturing the title of New England Intercollegiate Wrestling Champion. He received his B.D. Degree from Andover-Newton Theological Seminary, now part of Yale University, continuing his studies at Boston Univ. and the Hartford Theological Seminary, from which he holds a Master's degree in linguistics, specializing in African languages. After ordination in the Congregational Church at Worcester, Blakney served in Saxtons River, VT., before deciding to continue in the footsteps of a missionary tradition that had actually begun 150 years earlier in the Williamstown Congregational Church his father, the Rev. Raymond Blakney, pastored. And like his father, and mother, the former Laura Marsh, who had become the 91st and 92nd foreign missionaries from that congregation, Blakney would become the 93rd member of the Williamstown church to decide on a career in foreign missions. From 1955 to 1967, first in Chikore and then in Salisbury, Rhodesia, Blakney served as minister, church superintendent and university lecturer in the Bible and in African religions. His responsibilities included supervising 50 schools with 11,000 students, and preaching in several languages. One Sunday, in 1967, shortly after delivering a sermon, Blakney was arrested by the local police. Blakney's trial made headlines on the front page of The New York Times. After his release by authorities and payment of a fine, Blakney decided it was time to remove his family from the political unrest in Rhodesia, which would soon become Zimbabwe. He accepted a post as Regional Secretary for Europe of the United Church Board for World Ministries in New York City. From there he moved into the ministerial post in South Hadley. Blakney served as President of the Holyoke Rotary Club and received its distinguished Paul Harris Fellow award. He also served as secretary of The Club, a scholarly enterprise. He loved birds, led bird walks, and illustrated brochures, newsletters and a poster for Northeast Utilities, with his feathered friends. His sermons were all reduced to essence in a poem in iambic pentameter, printed in the morning program. No matter how mundane the topic, he expressed himself with an elegant turn of phrase and good humor. He considered himself an "authority" on cowboys. Before a stroke in 2005, which impaired his hearing, he played the piano every day and several other instruments. Besides his wife, Dorrie, and stepson, Jonathan, Blakney leaves four children: Robert in Warrenton, VA., Richard in Weymouth, MA., Catherine Ann Kavassalis in Oakville, Ontario, Canada, and Carol Blakney-Alves in Muncie, IN.; four grandchildren; a great grandchild; and several nieces and nephews. The memorial service will be held Saturday, Jan. 26 at 2 pm at the First Congregational Church in So. Hadley center, followed by a reception in Fellowship Hall. Burial will be in Evergreen Cemetery, So. Hadley, at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the mission fund at the church, earmarked for Zimbabwe. Curran-O'Brien Funeral Home has been entrusted with the arrangements. For more details please go to [curranobrien.com](http://curranobrien.com).



*Phineas and Dragon*



- 02 Holly Huebner
- 03 Kate Hoffman
- 04 Ryan Gage
- 05 Bill Giles
- 11 Judy Hemingway
- 20 Kiki Tipton
- 24 Suzanne Cordes
- 26 Aaron Sabbs



## FELLOWSHIP HALL STORE...

OPEN YEAR ROUND FOR YOUR SHOPPING  
CONVENIENCE

CHECK OUT OUR GENTLY USED ITEMS FOR SALE

WE HAVE AN ASSORTMENT OF WONDERFUL  
TREASURES AWAITING YOU NOW.



**Center Church Annual Meeting  
will be held on February 3rd 2019**

at approximately 11:30 AM.

An after-worship luncheon will precede the meeting.  
Please plan to attend.

Childcare will be available.



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

Canned vegetables

Canned fruits

Cereals

Soups

Dried Pastas

Rice

Canned beans

Tuna Fish

Peanut Butter

Jam/Jelly



**Food Pantry  
Ministry**

Juices

Crackers

Spaghetti sauce

Meals in a can

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

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

**Thank you for your compassionate response!**



## THE MINISTRY AT CENTER CHURCH



Ministers:  
Senior Minister:

All Church Members  
Rev. Lori J. Souder

### Christian Education Program

Children: Martha Guild  
Youth: Claire Houston  
Adult: Randy Purinton, Team Chair

### 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**  
February 2019 (Year C)

**Fri., Feb. 1**  
Psalm 71:1-6  
2 Chronicles 35:20-27  
Acts 19:1-10

**Sat., Feb. 2**  
Psalm 71:1-6  
2 Chronicles 36:11-21  
John 1:43-51

**Sun., Feb. 3**  
*Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany*  
Jeremiah 1:4-10  
Psalm 71:1-6  
1 Corinthians 13:1-13  
Luke 4:21-30

**Mon., Feb. 4**  
Psalm 56  
1 Kings 17:8-16  
1 Corinthians 2:6-16

**Tues., Feb. 5**  
Psalm 56  
2 Kings 5:1-14  
1 Corinthians 14:13-25

**Wed., Feb. 6**  
Psalm 56  
Jeremiah 1:11-19  
Luke 19:41-44

**Thurs., Feb. 7**  
Psalm 138  
Numbers 20:22-29  
Acts 9:19b-25

**Fri., Feb. 8**  
Psalm 138  
Numbers 27:12-23  
Acts 9:26-31

**Sat., Feb. 9**  
Psalm 138  
Judges 3:7-11  
Luke 4:42-44

**Sun., Feb. 10**  
*Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany*  
Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]  
Psalm 138  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
Luke 5:1-11

**Mon., Feb. 11**  
Psalm 115  
Judges 5:1-11  
1 Corinthians 14:26-40

**Tues., Feb. 12**  
Psalm 115  
1 Samuel 9:15-10:1b  
1 Timothy 3:1-9

**Wed., Feb. 13**  
Psalm 115  
Isaiah 8:1-15  
Luke 5:27-32

**Thurs., Feb. 14**  
Psalm 1  
Jeremiah 13:12-19  
Acts 13:26-34

**Fri., Feb. 15**  
Psalm 1  
Jeremiah 13:20-27  
1 Peter 1:17-2:1

**Sat., Feb. 16**  
Psalm 1  
Jeremiah 17:1-4  
Luke 11:24-28

**Sun., Feb. 17**  
*Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany*  
Jeremiah 17:5-10  
Psalm 1  
1 Corinthians 15:12-20  
Luke 6:17-26

**Mon., Feb. 18**  
Psalm 120  
2 Kings 24:18-25:21  
1 Corinthians 15:20-34

**Tues., Feb. 19**  
Psalm 120  
Ezra 1:1-11  
2 Corinthians 1:12-19

**Wed., Feb. 20**  
Psalm 120  
Jeremiah 22:11-17  
Luke 11:37-52

**Thurs., Feb. 21**  
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40  
Genesis 43:16-34  
Romans 8:1-11

**Fri., Feb. 22**  
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40  
Genesis 44:1-17  
1 John 2:12-17

**Sat., Feb. 23**  
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40  
Genesis 44:18-34  
Luke 12:57-59

**Sun., Feb. 24**  
*Seventh Sunday after Epiphany*  
Genesis 45:3-11, 15  
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40  
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50  
Luke 6:27-38

**Mon., Feb. 25**  
Psalm 38  
Genesis 33:1-17  
1 Corinthians 11:2-16

**Tues., Feb. 26**  
Psalm 38  
1 Samuel 24:1-22  
1 Corinthians 11:17-22, 27-33

**Wed., Feb. 27**  
Psalm 38  
Leviticus 5:1-13  
Luke 17:1-4

**Thurs., Feb. 28**  
Psalm 99  
Deuteronomy 9:1-5  
Acts 3:11-16

# Encounter God's Love in Creation Come to Camp!



"Epic, awesome, amazing, super ultra."  
— 2018 4th grader

**SUMMER 2019  
CONFERENCE DATES:**  
PreCamp: June 16-22  
Week 1: June 23-29  
Week 2: June 30-July 6  
Week 3: July 7-13  
Week 4: July 14-20  
Week 5: July 21-27  
Week 6: July 28-Aug. 3  
Week 7: Aug. 4-10

Registration Opens  
January 15th!

Save \$50! Register by  
Jan. 31 and use the code  
EARLY19 at checkout.



Summer Camp for grades 4 through 12; register online at

# silverlakeect.org

Friendship Leadership Community Deepening of Faith



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## Let's Dance



**FREE Trial Class**

Come take the first class on us!

*Learn to Dance!*

## Join Us!

Learn and Review Classic Social Dance Steps! With Jeannette LoPresti

Thursdays in Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm  
\$5 per person per class

Couples and Singles Welcome!

Contact Corinne Chartrand for more information 413 219-6563