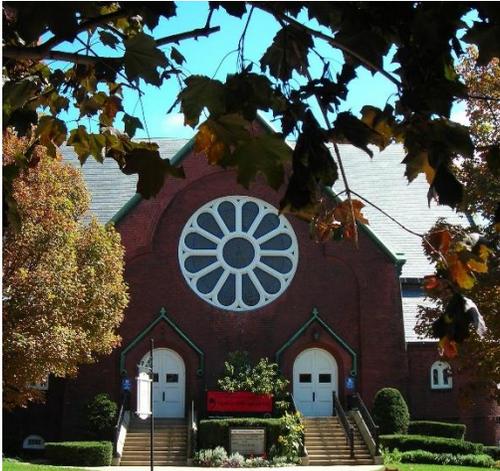


# CHURCH AT THE CENTER

APRIL 2019



## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH "CENTER CHURCH"

United Church of Christ  
One Church Street

South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075

**(413) 532-2262**

**email: [centerchurch@verizon.net](mailto:centerchurch@verizon.net)**

**website: [centerchurchsouthhadley.org](http://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.*

When someone does us a favor we may say, "I owe you one." It's a form of a debt. One of my daughters has \$100,00 in student loans...only \$4000 from her undergraduate degree. In order to get ahead professionally she pursued further higher degrees. In this case, debt is what you owe financially. Not until recently did I realize "debts" in the Lord's Prayer refers to being in financial debt. Somehow scholars say it morphed into trespasses and sins. We've been reading different versions of the Lord's Prayer lately. Why? The Deacons decided to awaken us all to the meaning of the words.

Some of us say the prayer from rote memory. Others, out of obligation. Some prefer trespasses or sins over debts. The use of debts is the original and reflects the economic culture of the time. The Romans forced the Judeans, the Jewish farmers, to farm not substantive items for their families like wheat and barley, but figs and grapes to make wine for the Romans.

The farmers needed to eat so sold their land to buy food, entering into debt. Jesus recognized the unjust system so prayed, "*forgive us our debts to the extent that we have forgiven those in debt.*" "Trespasses" and "sins" entered in at a much later time. They deviate from the original meaning.

Debts and debtors are powerful words especially when woven into forgiveness. What would happen if students were forgiven some of their school debt? What happens if we simply forgive someone or we are forgiven. Period! Now we are talking about the Realm of God where all things are possible.

Join for Holy Week.  
Lenten Blessings, *Lori*

# 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  
 Lou Hamilton  
 Jane Hazen  
 Phyllis Lacoste  
 Anita Sarro's son Michael following a  
 liver transplant  
 Anna Sibley  
 Ruth Thornton - Wingate

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

**Situational:**

Jim Clauson, broken ankle  
 Dennis and Carl, friends of the Coffins  
 Carol Ehman undergoing cancer  
 treatment  
 Muriel Graham following hospitalization  
 Shelly Granger  
 Tom Hazen  
 Eunice Howes' friend, Sarah Boynton  
 Rich Normandin, diagnosed with cancer  
 Dot Perrella, undergoing cancer treatment  
 Lucio Perez, in Sanctuary in  
 Amherst FCC  
 Eduardo Samaniego having been deported to  
 his home country



**HOLY WEEK  
 WORSHIP  
 SCHEDULE**

**Palm Sunday**

April 14 10am  
 Center Church

**Maundy Thursday**

April 18 7pm  
 Center Church

**Good Friday**

Sanctuary open for  
 individual meditation  
 April 19 noon - 2pm

**Easter**

April 21 10am  
 Center Church



We will resume the Adult Bible Study following Easter. Details to follow.

**Thank you,** Trustees, for being such wonderful hosts during March! In April our hosts will be the Activities Team. This team helps to enhance the fellowship of the church through non-budgetary fundraising activities such as our Columbus Day Fair, Plant Sale and the Holiday Bazaar. Receptions for funerals and memorial services are also the responsibility of this team. Two-thirds of the money raised is returned to the general budget of the church and one third remains with the Activities team. These funds are used to purchase items that will benefit the fellowship of the church members. Members of this team are: Karen Anderson, Valerie Bonzek, Corinne Chartrand, Patricia Landry, David Morrell, and Nancy Perman.



Coffee Fellowship



**Northampton Pride Parade May 4<sup>th</sup> - If you are interested in marching with Center Church** we will meet at the church parking lot at 10:00am and carpool to Northampton with our banners. Join Lori for a spirited time walking for justice. It usually lasts an hour, walking down the main street heading to the Playgrounds.

# Children's Christian Education

April in the Promised Land Sunday School will be filled with an array of hands-on activities: a Holy Week re-enactment, pretzel baking, hot cross bun eating, and Easter egg hunting! April brings 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 and the local Story Walk. Thank you to Lorain Giles and Hairy T. Bear for bringing their child-friendly worship to us in March and for Sarah Smith who helped out in the nursery. And thank you to all parents who have entrusted Center Church to educate and nurture your Promised Landers on their faith formation journeys.

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



# Youth Group



This month was pretty uneventful in Youth Group due to Emily and Claire being on Spring Break, but we continued learning about violence in the Bible and reconciling the violent God in the Old Testament with the peaceful God of the New Testament through our curriculum "God is a Warrior". Our big event this month was the World Vision 30 Hour Famine. The youth fundraised over \$1700 to go to hunger relief in the world for the Christian humanitarian organization World Vision. Part of this famine was a 30 hour juice fast, which the youth participated in

last weekend. We spent the weekend in the church, learning about poverty issues in the world, playing games like "Resource Hide and Seek" and building shelters out of the items we found in the church. It was a very moving and powerful experience for the youth as we tested our spirit and bodies for the sake of ending world hunger.

Thank you to everyone who supported us! Warmly, Emily and Claire



World Vision 30 HOUR FAMINE  
Hunger isn't just. But your hunger can be.

**JUST HUNGER.**



~~~~~  
**Confirmation-** Confirmands are asked to arrive at Church on Maundy Thursday by 6:10pm.  
Scheduled Confirmation gatherings: April 3<sup>rd</sup> 4-5pm April 28<sup>th</sup> 11:30 - 12:30

# Adult Education

## A Peep at the Bible



Genesis 50: 25

“God will visit you, and you shall carry my bones from here”.

This verse is related to the death of Joseph, the son of Jacob, who had a coat of many colors. He tells his adult children that when the Hebrews leave Egypt during a time to come, they should remember to bring his physical remains with them to Canaan, the Promised Land. In Exodus 13:19, Moses fulfills the obligation and the Hebrews journeyed 40 years with Joseph’s bones. They buried the bones soon after they entered the Promised Land. This story is about the continuity of faith traditions and how they reinforce our belief in God’s presence in history.

Randy Purinton  
The Adult Education Team

## Thou Art

By Rev. Dr. Art Stanley,  
An Adult Education Team column

The banner in front of the church, *God Is Still Speaking*, caught my attention recently. Then I saw the same words written on the cover of the service bulletin. I wondered, “What are we seeking to proclaim?” The words just seem to hang there as incomplete. The statement got under my skin and I couldn’t let it go. I know it’s been a U.C.C. slogan for a while now, yet as a new member to Center Church I find it thought-provoking.

God as Mother Nature speaks to me of purpose, beauty and order. There’s a text from a lovely hymn that I recall, “All nature sings and round me rings the music of the spheres.” It’s one of my favorites. It reminds me of one of my favorite Bible verses, too, from Romans 1:19-20, about evidence of God’s presence in the universe, “For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. Since creation, God’s invisible nature, God’s eternal power and deity, has been clearly perceived in the things that have been made.” Among other ways, God speaks through revelation in creation. This, I proclaim.

I think that most people of faith, in many religions, believe that we did not create ourselves, that all we have has been given to us, that when we cooperate with natural laws, then life is positive and good. We believe that God speaks but we must make efforts to study and listen with humility. God is still speaking and we must act on the good that we hear.



~~~~~  
*Bill and Lorain Giles will present their Antarctica travelogue in the Loomis Village auditorium on Thursday, April 7, 7:00 p.m. If you missed it at our church in February, you are most welcome to come to the evening at Loomis Village.*

*Bill and Lorain voyaged to Antarctica just after Thanksgiving last year on an expedition ship. Seals and whales and zillions of penguins, icebergs and glaciers and clear blue skies, hiking and cruising and kayaking--come enjoy their pictures and narrative of their adventure on the White Continent.*

## News from the Trustees for April 2019

The trustees had a productive meeting in March. The operating budget looks good for the moment. At this time of the year, income/expenses should be at 16.7% and both of those exceeded expectations. Income was at 18.65% and expenses at 17.25%. In an effort to be clearer about "gifts" which we receive from time to time, Thia has established a new 'benefactions' line in our fund balance reports for gifts from living donors. We learned that the church will be benefiting from a gift of approximately \$560/year from the estate of Pucky Carter. And we were also told that our annual gift from the Grahams had finally arrived. Our final gift from that will arrive at the end of this current year. This was a gift to be made over an 18-year time frame. Lori gave her regular report including the fact that she has had to have a new computer and also the fact that we have recently received our ninth hate mail note/letter. She has been in touch with both the new SH police chief and one of the detectives, and they will also be checking whenever there is a front lawn vigil scheduled. As usual, we set up our Sunday counting assignments. We want to especially acknowledge Tom Waller's offer to be "our" March coffee hour host and thank him for the goodies which he provided. We continue to work out building issues including the old water heater in the small kitchen next to Lori and the question of toilets getting plugged with paper. It was agreed that we would purchase two air hand dryers for the downstairs restrooms and have our electrician install them soon. We are still awaiting word on the West Summit St. property sale and what the church coffers will actually realize from the same. We ended our meeting discussing a possible sabbatical for Lori sometime this year or next, the funding of which is already in place. We will be discussing the natural gas energy review at our April meeting and also hope to have one done through the electric light department (MassSave) soon as well.

*Cindy Morrell, secretary*

## Notes from Church Council

Council met on March 5, with Karen Hyvonen of Outreach presiding as Moderator pro-tem. Rev. Souder opened with devotions asking those present to reflect on what they felt was special about Center Church. Most replied that our sanctuary with its glowing warmth and Amphitheatre effect created a welcoming feeling. Our organ and music also stood out. Trustees are replacing aging hot water heaters with more energy efficient ones. Because of miss-use of paper towels in the ground floor church restrooms, they are researching having automatic hand dryers installed. Stewardship has a tentative date of Friday, October 25 for its Fall musical fundraiser concert. Outreach has asked Randy Hyvonen to provide an explanation of the 5 for 5 fund offering. Nominating received a request from Rev. Arthur Stanley asking to join the Adult Ed. Team. It was **MSV** unanimously to add Rev. Stanley to the team with a term from 2019-21. Peterson Scholarship Fund has sent out application forms with a May 1 deadline. A "moment of concern" is slated for April 7 and an informative article will appear in the April CAC. Deacons have agreed to assist Lori when worship ends by having one Deacon stand with her while the congregation exits. This should alleviate pressure on Lori while interacting with parishioners. Anita Sarro and Mary Nelson are slated to take part in the May 12 worship service speaking about the importance of being an organ donor. CE expressed their appreciation for Lori's First Table celebration/ceremony. It was felt that information concerning the Sunday school should be distributed more widely through Facebook. Emily Carle, our Youth Group leader and MHC religion major, has expressed interest in doing a three-month internship with Center Church. This is to be passed along to HR and the Trustees. An advisory team of Lori, Lorain Giles, Ruth Cowan and Claire Houston is in place to assist Emily. The Safe Church Task Force have been discussing the need for additional security, including the use of cameras. Anita Sarro, Brian Lapis and Bobbie Ayers (former moderators) had their first meeting with Lori to help define the role of a "counselor/sounding board." Collectively they will support Lori and act as representatives for the various teams as well as be available (for questions, etc.), to our members. A model for a future Center Church moderator is a work in progress. At this time, a rotating chair/lead will lead the monthly Council meetings. Randy Purinton will lead our next Council meeting on April 2.

*David C. Morrell, clerk*



## Stewardship

### Stewardship ~ Planned Giving Event ~ Sunday, May 5th

On **Sunday, May 5th**, following worship, the Stewardship Team will host a gathering for all who are interested in learning more about *Planned Giving* ~ what a deferred gift is, how it works, the great good it can do, and the legacy it can leave for places like Center Church and for our future.

A light lunch will be served and a short presentation and education on the many aspects of making a planned gift will be covered and facilitated by the Stewardship Team and other expert guests.

More information will be forthcoming in the weeks ahead. For now, please just *SAVE - THE - DATE!*

*Your Stewardship & Planned Giving Team*

John Anz, Gretchen LaBonte, Brian Lapis and Bob Russell

## Peterson Memorial Scholarships

### Special Offering for the Peterson Memorial Education Fund April 14, 2019

Since Gus and Ginger Peterson joined the church in the early 1980s, they have been a ray of light in the community, even after their deaths. Ginger firmly believed in the power of a good education, and she felt that every student, regardless of their financial situation, should be given the opportunity to receive an education that could lead them to success in life. In light of this, Gus and his three daughters worked to honor this belief after Ginger's death in 1985. Along with Center Church trustees, Gus set up the Peterson Scholarship Program here at the church. Along with his second wife, Barbara, Gus worked hard to grow the Peterson Fund, and even after he and his wife died, their funeral gifts were directed to this fund.

Thanks largely to the generous contributions of the Center Church community in past years, the Peterson Memorial Fund has been able to assist a number of worthy students, all of which having dealt with very real financial challenges, in their educational endeavors. These awards have not only given financial support, but have also sent the message that we believe in their ability to overcome adversity and to achieve their dreams. Gus and Ginger believed that education could help to solve many individual, national and world problems. It was in this spirit that the fund was created.

On April 14th (Palm Sunday) there will be a voluntary special offering for the Peterson Memorial Education Fund. Envelopes will be available in the pews. Please put "Peterson Fund" in the memo portion of any checks. Thank you to everyone who has supported the goals of this fund and the legacy of Gus and Ginger Peterson.



## Plant Sale - 2019



*Spring is on its way* and we are starting to get ready for our 20th 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 take place on **Saturday May 25<sup>th</sup>** from 9 am to 1 pm. 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 11<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 - 2019

It's not too early to start thinking about our traditional Columbus Day Fair. This year the Columbus Day weekend is October 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. The Fair is a wonderful opportunity for good fellowship and an opportunity to make new friends as you work with them side by side during preparation, selling, and cleaning up. Of course, it is also a major fundraiser 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. These Tuesday mornings will start in May.

**Setting up the fair**-many hands make for shorter hours ....but the week before the fair, we need people to set the items out on the designated tables. You can just stop in and give an hour or so of your time....that would be appreciated!

**Working the days of the fair**- this is an area that we have been lacking in the number of people volunteering. However, adequate coverage is essential during all hours that we are open to the public. Look at your calendars now and see what hours and days of the fair you'd be willing and able to help!

**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 the Salvation Army and Goodwill.

**Bringing in items for the Columbus Day Fair**-what we sell is what you have brought in...so basically it is 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. All items need to be in "working order" ...when they are broken or a part is missing, it does not sell and we are responsible for disposing of it. In many cases this means we have to pay at the landfill and thus it takes away from our net proceeds. Items may be brought in during hours when the church is open (remember to include Sunday mornings!). Starting in May, Tuesday mornings there will be people available to help you unload the items from your car.

**COLUMBUS DAY WEEKEND IS OCTOBER 12, 13, 14  
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 skis, 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.

# Getting to Know You – The Anz family

April 2019



**John Anz** originally hails from NYC and has one brother. He attended Williston Northampton in the early 80s and then graduated from Trinity College with a BA in philosophy. During college he played squash and played professionally for a few years after college. He has been involved in non-profit fundraising and development since 2002. He came back to Easthampton to serve as director of alumni relations at Williston. He is currently the Director of Development at the Berkshire Hills Music Academy. John has also had previous careers in real estate management and college coaching.

**Brenna Simpson** is originally from Old Saybrook, CT where she grew up with an older sister and younger brother. She attended a boarding school in Maine where she served as one of the student teachers for winter skiing for three years. She graduated from Seton Hall with a BA in communications. She and John met at a private construction company in New Haven for which they both worked. They were married in 1997. Brenna also did property management before taking her current job as the business administrator for Triangle Family Dental over the Notch in 2005.

**Bennett** is 19 years old, a recent graduate of South Hadley High School and is now finishing his freshman year at Westfield State University, currently majoring in Criminal Justice. He is a proud alumnus of the Center Church Youth Group and its many activities and efforts over the years. He periodically pops up in church when he is home on the weekend. Bennett was one of two 8<sup>th</sup> graders in the SH Marching Band before he was actually at the high school.

**Teagan** is 14 years old, completing her freshman year at South Hadley High School, and will be moving on to attend the MacDuffie School in Granby this fall. Teagan just completed another inspiring “30-hour Famine” with the Center Church Youth Group. She is also an avid dancer and enjoys working backstage for drama productions. She looks forward to the opportunity to travel to Vietnam this summer with her YMCA camp group.

John, Brenna, Bennett and Teagan moved to South Hadley from Easthampton in April of 2013. They were members of the Easthampton Congregational Church where John was actually a member of the pastoral search committee. When they got here, they quickly checked us out. John and Brenna joined Center Church in October 2013 and have been active participants ever since, although Brenna is resisting my efforts to get her to sing in the choir. Both Bennett and Teagan have also joined the church in recent years. At Center Church, John now chairs the Stewardship Team and sits on Church Council accordingly. Brenna joined Deacons a few years ago and now chairs that important team.

John served a term on the Board of the Gaylord Memorial Library where he directed the GML’s fundraising efforts and ran the Music Mondays Café series there for 4 successful seasons. John most recently joined the South Hadley Cultural Council and looks forward to that new role. Brenna is also the Vice President of the South Hadley Music Parents Association and has been a driving force for that group for many years. Back when they joined the church, John said that he enjoyed watching or playing golf, listening to or attending jazz gigs, and even producing live jazz events in the area. Hint – watch for news about a concert here at Center Church in the fall.

We are so glad that they came to South Hadley six years ago and they’ve made our church their home.

*Cindy Morrell*

## From the Historian – April 2019

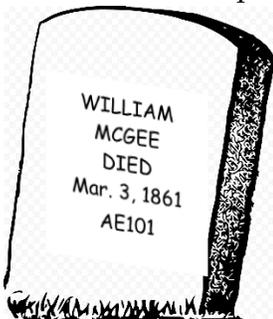
### SLAVERY, UNDERGROUND RAILROAD AND SOUTH HADLEY

When talking about slavery, it surprises us these days that we begin to know more about human trafficking regarding slaves and that it was going on in our valley in the early years of South Hadley. The PBS produced documentary dealing with the Underground Railroad was a reminder that South Hadley (one of the earliest stops) played a role in that long-ago humanitarian effort. Once the “runaways” reached Springfield, they were guided to Chicopee and then forwarded to South Hadley. From here, they waited for “transportation across the mountain to South Amherst.” Eventually some would venture on to Canada. Rumors of the “railroad’s” existence have persisted for years. The “stop off” locations are thought to have been the cellars of both what are now the Yarde Tavern (our first meetinghouse) and the Sycamores Museum. They had excellent spacious cellar hiding places with “hidden” doors to closet-like spaces. These rumors have yet to be substantiated. Among those receiving “hospitality in South Hadley were Lewis and Milton Clark.” Lewis was the person that Harriet Beecher Stow modeled her character George Harris after in her famous Civil War novel *Uncle Tom’s Cabin*.

At the time when our first meetinghouse was erected, there were seats set aside for Negroes in its balcony. It is recorded that in 1755 there were 18 Negro slaves (referred to as “Live Moors”) older than 16 years of age enslaved in Hadley. In 1765 there were 28. At that same time, South Hadley had at least one slave and possibly more. David Mitchell, whose residence was on the east side of what is now College Street (possibly across from the Morgan Street entrance) owned a male slave who was called Caesar Cambridge. Mr. Mitchell later gave Caesar his freedom in writing. Caesar had to pay 85 pounds in cash and another 45 pounds of his wages. That would amount to 100 silver dollars all together. There were also two brothers who owned slaves. The elder brother had a well-known temper. In a “fit of anger” he brutally punished one of his slaves. The slave then ran away to the younger brother’s home. He remained faithful to the younger brother. Eventually the elder came hunting. Younger hid the slave under a “hogshead” in the cellar. The younger then demanded that the elder swear on the Bible not to beat his slaves ever again! Elder agreed and the slave went back with the elder and “remained with him in peace.”

Slave holders were often religious as well as socially prominent men. Ministers found that owning slaves led to an aristocratic title. There is no evidence that any of our ministers owned slaves. But, some of the South Hadley names who did own slaves are as follows: Deacon David Nash, Deacon William Eastman, Squire Benjamine Eastman and the afore mentioned David Mitchell. The road that led from the Mitchell homestead was long known as “Slave Street.”

A Peter Pendergrass was brought to South Hadley in 1765. He was thought to have left England after serving in its army. Here, he served as a farm worker. He eventually was freed and marched with Captain Noah Goodman to Lexington “in defense of American liberty.” He stayed on during the siege of Boston from 1777-80. He became a pauper and in November 1800, he was sold at auction (as a veteran of the Revolutionary War) to Deacon Enoch White “for his keeping.” Another (eventually freed) slave, Bill McGee lived a long life here in South Hadley. He



fled from New Jersey to Massachusetts at an early age. It is said that Mr. McGee may have traveled to South Hadley via the Underground Railroad. In his older years here in South Hadley he delighted groups of children by telling them tales of the Revolutionary War. In his old age, he would remark “I am so old that I am ashamed to be alive!” He was held in such high esteem/respect, that at his death “everyone was ready to contribute to his burial and headstone” in the Olde Burial Ground. They purchased a plain white quartzite stone and had it engraved. William (Bill) McGee was born in 1761 and died March 2, 1862. He was 101! His grave is considered the last known one of a slave born before the Revolutionary War.

## Tell Me the Stories - April 2019

This month, I have chosen two hymns from the March 17 service which I have not talked about previously. *Giver of Life, Where'er They Be* (NCH 603) is the first. Frederick L. Hosmer was born in Framingham in 1840. He was educated at Harvard and later ordained as a Unitarian minister. He served a number of pastorates during his lifetime and also edited three hymn books. One source said that at one point, some 30 of his hymns were used in a number of hymnals. He also lectured at Harvard Divinity School on hymnology. One of my source books also listed this hymn title as *O Lord of Life, Where'er They Be* (PH 469). Hosmer wrote the text for an Easter service in 1888 at his Unitarian Church in Cleveland. We actually have five of his hymn texts in the Pilgrim Hymnal and three in the NCH, including *Forward Through the Ages* (in both). Melchior Vulpius composed "Gelobt Sei Gott" in the early 1600s. He was born in Germany in the late 1500s. The title comes from the opening words of a German text where it was first used. At age 40, he was serving as a cantor in Weimar. Vulpius was also known for his German chorales and as a publisher of five church music books. We have four other texts with this tune in the PH.

*Now is the Time Approaching* (NCH 609) was first written by Jane L. Borthwick as a poem in 1857. Jane was born in Edinburgh. She and her sister made and published a series of translations and she was considered "one of the most prolific translators of German text to English." We sing her *Come Labor On* which is in both hymnals and her translation for *Be Still My Soul*, again in both hymnals. There are several other hymn texts or translations of hers in both hymnals. "Webb" was composed by George J. Webb, an English-American composer, organist and conductor. While you may not be familiar with these words, I'm sure that you are all familiar with two other uses of this tune (in the PH) - "The Morning Light is Breaking" and "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus." Supposedly Webb composed this as a secular song in 1830 on a cross-Atlantic trip at age 27. This is the only use of the particular tune in the NCH. He was the organist at Old South Church in Boston for 40 years, served as president of the Boston Handel and Hayden Society and co-founded the Boston Academy of Music with Lowell Mason. He moved to NJ in 1870 and taught in NYC until his death. Throughout his life, Webb composed many anthems, songs and part-songs.

*As We Gather at Your Table* (NCH 332) was one of our newer hymns that I have talked about previously. Carl P. Daw, Jr. wrote the text in 1989 for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of an Episcopal church in Virginia Beach. The text is a prayer which can inspire us as we come to the communion table. Carl was actually inspired to begin writing hymns during his time on the Standing Committee on Church Music as the Episcopal Church began work the The Hymnal in 1982. The NCH has a total of nine of his texts. The tune "Beach Spring" however first appeared in 1844's The Sacred Harp. It was either written or adapted by Benjamin F. White. He was a singing school teacher and a self-taught musician working in the South. He had 13 brothers and sisters, he being the youngest, and he, in turn, produced 14 children! This particular harmonization was done specifically for the NCH in 1992. (CAC 3/09)

Cindy Morrell, Associate in Music

Resources used: The International Encyclopedia of Music and Musicians, ed. Oscar Thompson (1964); Ronald Thomson's Who's Who of Hymn Writers (1967); The New Century Hymnal Companion, ed. Kristen Forman (1998).





- 01 Barbara Blank
- 02 Tom Hazen  
AJ Procter
- 04 Jennett Teece
- 05 Richard Howe
- 06 Nolan Gage
- 10 Tom Waller
- 15 Karen Sabbs
- 21 Terri Waller
- 25 Izzy Cordes  
Eileen Halkyard



**SAVE THE DATE**  
**CENTER CHURCH**  
**PLANT SALE**  
**May 25<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

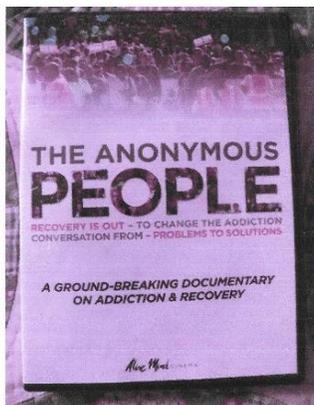
**Don't miss**  
**the Annual Plant Sale**

Saint Patrick's Church in South Hadley, MA  
 Invites You to a Special Screening of

**The Anonymous People**

A documentary film exploring the stigma of living with addiction and a novel approach to improving it.  
 From the popular movie review site "Rotten Tomatoes":

Directed by Greg Williams, *The Anonymous People* features prominent people who are living publicly in long-term recovery, like former NBA star Chris Herren, award-winning actress Kristen Johnston (3rd Rock From the Sun, The Exes), Miss USA 2006 Tara Conner, best-selling author William Cope Moyers, former Congressmen Patrick Kennedy and Jim Ramstad - and many others. Their brave testimonies dispel long-standing clichés about addiction and recovery.



Sunday April 7, 2019  
 3 PM  
 Free of Charge  
 In the Side Chapel  
 St Patrick's Church

Two-thirds of American families are touched by addiction

Co-Sponsored by:



The South Hadley Drug & Alcohol Prevention Coalition

**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!

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

Canned vegetables  
 Spaghetti sauce  
 Meals in a can

Canned fruits  
 Rice  
 Peanut Butter



Cereals    Soups    Dried Pastas  
 Canned beans    Tuna Fish  
 Jam/Jelly    Juices    Crackers

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 Annual Meeting of the Hampshire Association will be held April 28<sup>th</sup> at 3pm  
at the First Congregational Church of Hatfield.

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**Daily Lectionary Scripture References**  
April 2019 (Year C)

**Mon., Apr. 1**  
Psalm 53  
Leviticus 23:26-41  
Revelation 19:1-8

**Tues., Apr. 2**  
Psalm 53  
Leviticus 25:1-19  
Revelation 19:9-10

**Wed., Apr. 3**  
Psalm 53  
2 Kings 4:1-7  
Luke 9:10-17

**Thurs., Apr. 4**  
Psalm 126  
Isaiah 43:1-7  
Philippians 2:19-24

**Fri., Apr. 5**  
Psalm 126  
Isaiah 43:8-15  
Philippians 2:25-3:1

**Sat., Apr. 6**  
Psalm 126  
Exodus 12:21-27  
John 11:45-57

**Sun., Apr. 7**  
*Fifth Sunday in Lent*  
Isaiah 43:16-21  
Psalm 126  
Philippians 3:4b-14  
John 12:1-8

**Mon., Apr. 8**  
Psalm 20  
Exodus 40:1-15  
Hebrews 10:19-25

**Tues., Apr. 9**  
Psalm 20  
Judges 9:7-15  
1 John 2:18-28

**Wed., Apr. 10**  
Psalm 20  
Habakkuk 3:2-15  
Luke 18:31-34

**Thurs., Apr. 11**  
Psalm 31:9-16  
Isaiah 53:10-12  
Hebrews 2:1-9

**Fri., Apr. 12**  
Psalm 31:9-16  
Isaiah 54:9-10  
Hebrews 2:10-18

**Sat., Apr. 13**  
Psalm 31:9-16  
Leviticus 23:1-8  
Luke 22:1-13

**Sun., Apr. 14**  
*Passion or Palm Sunday*  
Psalms: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29  
Luke 19:28-40  
Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a  
Psalm 31:9-16  
Philippians 2:5-11  
Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49

**Mon., Apr. 15**  
Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 36:5-11  
Hebrews 9:11-15; John 12:1-11

**Tues., Apr. 16**  
Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 71:1-14  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31  
John 12:20-36

**Wed., Apr. 17**  
Isaiah 50:4-9a; Psalm 70  
Hebrews 12:1-3; John 13:21-32

**Thurs., Apr. 18**  
*Maundy Thursday*  
Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14  
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19  
1 Corinthians 11:23-26  
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

**Fri., Apr. 19**  
*Good Friday*  
Isaiah 52:13-53:12  
Psalm 22  
Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews  
4:14-16; 5:7-9  
John 18:1-19:42

**Sat., Apr. 20**  
*Holy Saturday*  
Job 14:1-14 or Lamentations 3:1-9,  
19-24  
Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16  
1 Peter 4:1-8  
Matthew 27:57-66 or  
John 19:38-42

**Sun., Apr. 21**  
*Easter*  
Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
1 Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts  
10:34-43  
John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12

**Mon., Apr. 22**  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Joshua 10:16-27  
1 Corinthians 5:6b-8

**Tues., Apr. 23**  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
Judges 4:17-23; 5:24-31a  
Revelation 12:1-12

**Wed., Apr. 24**  
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24  
2 Samuel 6:1-15  
Luke 24:1-12

**Thurs., Apr. 25**  
Psalm 150  
1 Samuel 17:1-23  
Acts 5:12-16

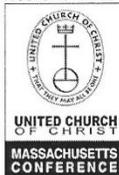
**Fri., Apr. 26**  
Psalm 150  
1 Samuel 17:19-32  
Acts 5:17-26

**Sat., Apr. 27**  
Psalm 150  
1 Samuel 17:32-51  
Luke 24:36-40

**Sun., Apr. 28**  
*Second Sunday of Easter*  
Acts 5:27-32  
Psalm 118:14-29 or Psalm 150  
Revelation 1:4-8  
John 20:19-31

**Mon., Apr. 29**  
Psalm 122  
Esther 7:1-10  
Revelation 1:9-20

**Tues., Apr. 30**  
Psalm 122  
Esther 8:1-17  
Revelation 2:8-11



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**THE MINISTRY AT CENTER CHURCH**

Ministers:  
Senior Minister

All Church Members  
Rev. Lori J. Souder

Christian Education Program

Children: Martha Guild, Simone Jacob  
Chelsea Korzeniowski  
Youth: Emily Carle, Claire Houston  
Adult: Randy Purinton, Team Chair

Music

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

Office Administrator: Cynthia Jubinville  
Sexton: Robert Farman