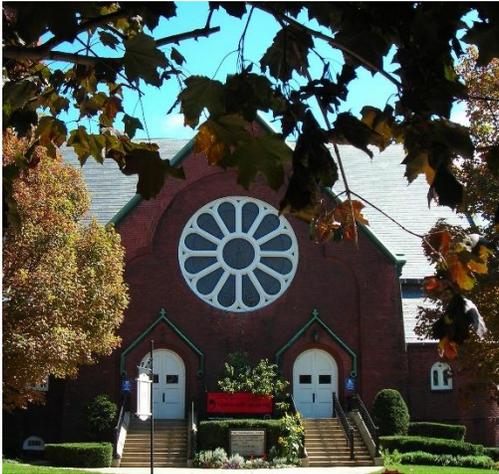




# ***CHURCH AT THE CENTER*** ,

**MAY 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.*

About 6 years ago I interviewed the town's stakeholders. It wasn't scientific, but I heard from people who are invested in the town: the Town Administrator, a school counselor, a principal, the CEO of Loomis, a Roman Cath priest, the President of MHC, and a local business owner. Together they informed us how we are received. Is our shared ministry effective? Do we abandon our building or re-claim it? Is there an area for ministry we have overlooked? Come to find out we are known to not be shy in speaking out for justice. At least half of the stake holders said, "You can't move! We count on you to be there."

Collectively and with generous support we decided *we are the church on the Common*. The Trustees became quite intentional in devising ways to address restoring windows and such. We sought out individuals who were willing to donate to have a room to use. We claimed our front yard for monthly vigils. Now we are looking at hosting concerts in the sanctuary.

It's time to interview again. I will ask some of you to join me. Who do you wish for us to ask as a stakeholder? We are a UCC church so it shouldn't be based just on the minister's perspective! What do we want to know about how we are perceived and received?

Jesus had stakeholders, his disciples, men and women rallying around his message.

Is our message relevant? If so, how to share it even more so? If not, what to change?

I am a stakeholder in Jesus. How can Center Church continue to be one?

Joyfully Easter Blessings, *Lori*

## Confirmation

After each Confirmation Class we end in a prayer. We turn to the person to our right and say his/her name, "You are loved. She or he will then turn to the next person in the circle, " \_\_\_\_ You are loved." Love travels around the circle, a most significant lesson to learn in confirmation and share beyond!

**May 8-4-5pm**-What happens in worship, Bible, introduce writing out faith beliefs.

**May 19:11:30-12:30** Finish up Faith Statements and rehearse the ritual (please bring a lunch and to celebrate, we will have a treat)

Remember to turn in your worship observations and talk to Lori about making up any class you missed.

## Adult Bible Study

We begin Adult Study on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. All are welcome to join us for all four sessions or just one. This month we will listen to podcasts lasting 4-20 minutes by Rob Bell, a minister who started Mars Hill Bible Church in Granville MI. I will bring my speakers so all will be able to hear! Rob Bell led one of the fastest growing churches in the US. He wrote, Love Wins, which initiated his break from conservative evangelism. Jon Meacham, Pulitzer Prize recipient writes, Love Wins presents Bell's "case for living with mystery rather than demanding certitude. Some evangelicals argued that this 'uncertainty' is incompatible with Scripture, while others say that the book is simply promoting overdue conversation about some traditional interpretations of Scripture. In the book, Bell also questions 'evacuation theology' which has Christians focused on getting to heaven, instead of focusing on God's renewal and transformation of this world. Bell argues that Jesus (and the wider Jewish tradition of which he was a part) focused on God's ongoing restoration of this world, not getting individuals to heaven.

We will refer to and dialogue with scripture for each session.

**May 2:**

**Love your neighbor**

Scripture: 1 John 4:7-8, 16 and Mk 12:30-31 *and*

**Why you are probably reading the Bible Wrong**

Scripture: Jonah 1-4

**May 9**

**Heaven and Hell**

Scripture: John 6:38-40

**May 23:**

**Homosexuality** (will end by 11:20am)

Scripture: Ephesians 4:1-8

**May 30:**

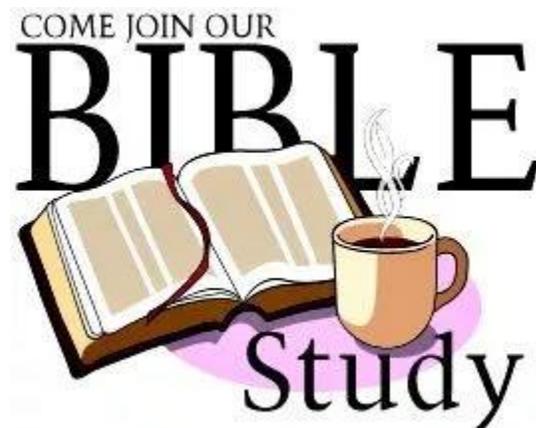
**Dust: Not letting the small things slip away**

Scripture Mt 14:22-33: *and*

**Rhythm:**

**Having a relationship with God**

Scripture: Jeremiah 29:10-14 and James 4:6-10



All these podcasts are on YouTube, if you wish to watch before. Looking forward to an engaging Holy Spirit conversation.



**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 9:45am 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. Let Lori know if you can join her to march.



**WANTED: NAMES OF GRADUATING STUDENTS**

*PRESCHOOL, MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL,  
COLLEGE, GRAD SCHOOL*

*WE HOPE TO HAVE AN ACCURATE LISTING FOR OUR BULLETIN IN JUNE.  
CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE 532-2262 WITH THE INFO!*

**RETIRED CLERGY LUNCHEON - MAY 23<sup>RD</sup> 11:30 - YARDE TAVERN**

**Come Join Us...** We have started marking for the Columbus Day Fair tag sale. We meet from 9-11am 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!



*Want an easy way to help the church raise funds? Bake a dozen muffins - it's that simple (cupcake size please, not mini or jumbo). The Activities Team will sell muffins and coffee at the Plant Sale on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Please let Thia in the Church office know if you could bake a dozen muffins for the sale - we would need them at the Church by 8:30am Saturday morning - you can bring them in on Friday or even before.*



**Coffee Fellowship**

**Thank you so much, Activities team,** for being such wonderful hosts during April! The snacks were excellent...as noted by the comment of "all gone" each week as we cleaned up!

**During the month of May our hosts will be the Deacons.** This team has in their care the spiritual life of the church. Working with the pastor, they are responsible for worship, pastoral care, communion and periodic review of our Covent. Members of the Deacons are: Karen Anderson, Brenna Anz, Lynne Bertram, Robert Judge, and Gretchen LaBonte .

**Membership Team**

The Membership team has asked the Trustees to try and improve our signage for the use of the elevator. If you know our building layout it is no problem at all. However, if you are a guest, are attending a memorial service or wedding and are unfamiliar with our building, you do not see that we have (and where it is located) an elevator until you have already climbed the front steps leading to the sanctuary. We continually evaluate our efforts to be a welcoming church, and believe this would be a positive addition.



# 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  
 Dolly Crossland  
 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  
 Lucio Perez, in Sanctuary in  
 Amherst FCC  
 Eduardo Samaniego having been  
 deported to his home country



**Flowers adorned both the inside and outside of the Church for Easter Worship**

## **THE MINISTRY AT CENTER CHURCH**

Ministers: All Church Members  
 Senior Minister: 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

# CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The May submission for the Center Church monthly newsletter is always bittersweet for me because the school year is nearly done. This time of year I start to get nostalgic about all the faith forming and growing we've accomplished together in the Promised Land Sunday School. New families have joined us and some of our "older" students will be graduating to youth group so there's exciting shifts and transitions happening. For May we will be learning about the transformative message of the Living Christ and also take a closer look at women in the Bible. There's also Mother's Day in May so we'll make something special for the Moms!

I am so grateful for the open and caring community of Center Church and for all the amazing children I get to teach on their paths of faith. A special thanks to Simone Jacob, my co-teacher, and her smart and genuine spiritual contributions to our classroom lessons and her engagement with our sweet students!

*Martha Guild, Children's Christian Education Director*

## IT'S PICNIC TIME - ALL ARE WELCOME!



### POT LUCK PICNIC LUNCH - HOSTED BY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

SUNDAY MAY 26<sup>TH</sup> ~ FELLOWSHIP HALL

Please join the fun at our annual pot luck picnic lunch following worship on May 26<sup>th</sup>. Bring a plate of sandwiches, salad or your favorite picnic food and drop it off in fellowship hall before worship. During coffee hour, enjoy a delicious light lunch while we celebrate the volunteers who have contributed to the success of another Sunday School year. Also, be sure to wish our graduating high school seniors well in their upcoming journey!

Please bring your favorite picnic lunch food to share, and Christian Education will provide cake. Before worship, drop your food off at the table in Fellowship Hall, or set it in the refrigerator if needed.

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!!**

## Youth Group



In April, the Youth Group finished up their curriculum "God is a Warrior," looking at Jeremiah 32, Luke 9:51, and Mark 11:15. Overall, we learned how to form nonviolent responses to anger, how to respond with love when we are angry, and how to live fully in the world, acting on its behalf, in spite of the often discouraging threat of violence. The youth have loved this curriculum, so we will continue with another Generation Why lesson in the fall. With May on the horizon, Youth Group will be winding down for this school year with the last Youth Group on May 5. This will also be Claire's last day with us since she is graduating from MHC, so make sure you get to say your goodbyes with her! We are currently in the process of looking for her replacement to teach a new "bridge" youth group for the incoming students from the Promised Land. Emily will be staying on to teach the current group of youth. Youth Group will start up again around Labor Day with a welcome back party! Info will be sent out over email closer to the date. Also, at the end of May, the CE Team will recognize our graduating high school seniors, Fletcher and Olivia, and present them with senior gifts. It has been a great year, and we are so blessed to be working with such an amazing group of clever, inquisitive, joyful, and thoughtful youth. We hope you all have great summers and will continue with Rose Reflection on your own time!

Warmly, Claire and Emily

# Adult Education

## A Peep At The Bible



Judges 18:1

“In those days there was no king in Israel.”

This verse refers to the dark ages of the ancient Jewish nation: the time of the judges. A judge was a temporary ruler, raised by God and ignited by charisma to unite the Jewish tribes and expel the enemies of Israel, of which there were many. The judges would retire, enemies invaded again and God had to raise another judge. Not until there was a central government embodied in a king did the Jews abandon the judge form of leadership which simply did not work well.

~~~~~

## Thou Art

### Longfellow's *Psalm of Life*

Rev. Art Stanley

I recently found a poem, *Psalm of Life*, by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow (1807-1882) in an anthology. I was impressed by its contemporary relevance. A subtitle describes a wider scope of poetic vision: “*What the Heart of the Young Man Said to the Psalmist*”. Though the reader is never told which psalm the young man is responding to, the content of the poem suggests a call to action in the present.

The first verse describes a young man who is rejecting the psalmists' discouraging perspective on life, “Tell me not in mournful numbers that Life is but an empty dream...Life is real and earnest.” It may be that Longfellow was protesting against the kind of pessimism that we read in the book of **Ecclesiastes** in which the ancient writer suggests that all striving in life is in vain.

Longfellow advances an alternate perspective, “Act - act in the living present! Heart within and God o'erhead!” I agree with Longfellow that our actions can make a difference and that we can leave, “Footprints on the sands of time.” I recall the striving of Rosa Parks, for instance, who believed that life can be engaged well and actively. Her legacy was not an act of vanity.

Longfellow concludes his poem, “Let us then be up and doing, with a heart for any fate. Still achieving, still pursuing, Learn to labor and to wait.” We know that there are days when difficulties lead to despondence. We share these experiences together. I like I Corinthians 10:13, “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to [all].” We may be tempted to decline into thoughts of uselessness and passivity. But we all feel that way sometimes, but “God is faithful and will not let you be tempted beyond your strength... [God] provides the way of escape that you be able to endure it.”

When we add that truth to the *Psalm of Life* I find that things turn out O.K. *Shalom*.



## News from the Trustees for May 2019

Trustees are pleased that, at this time, our income is higher than expected and even higher than any expenses, at the end of March! As always, we will continue to be vigilant and rely on Thia to keep us apprised of any possible large expenses. As far as the our buildings go, we hope that you have all had the chance to test out the new cool-air hand dryers in the ground floor handicapped-accessible restrooms (there should be no more clogged toilets!) and somewhat less obvious, we are very happy with the new hot-water heater in the upper kitchen. We are anxiously waiting for our roof contractor to come work on capping the copper flashing at the top of the sanctuary outer roof. The recent winds have not been kind up there. We are working our way through the recommendations from the GDS evaluation of our gas system – to make our overall system more efficient. Some of the suggestions may be relatively easy fixes, while others will take more time and more dollars. We will also work on making our electrical system more efficient.

As always, we are grateful when members think of the church in their estate plans or when a loved one dies. A number of families have used that latter option. And final numbers from the Johnson house sale and estate will be coming later in the spring. You can hear about various aspects of planned giving at the meeting after church on May 5. There will be a light lunch. Please come to learn, to ask questions, to hear about options that are available, including ones that can benefit both you and Center Church. Thanks to the Stewardship team for setting this up! Thanks as well to the members who came on a “wet-ish” Saturday to help clean up leaves, dead branches, flower beds, etc. around the outside. It looks awesome! The trustees are awaiting the final report from the Safety Task Force and its recommendations/wish list. Our main concern is the safety of our members while at the church and most especially the safety of our staff when they are here at work daily. The Activities Team will be getting into gear for their spring plant sale as well as beginning to work on items for the Columbus Day Fair. Their events, which bring in additional funds to help run the church, are most appreciated. They also provide financial help with items needed which are not part of the regular annual budget. As we await final designation as an “historic building” from the national historic preservation folks, our own team will be getting back to work trying to figure out possible sources of funding in connection with some projects which this designation will qualify us for. Stay tuned!

As always, if you have any building safety concerns or financial questions, please feel free to speak with Thia in the office and she will pass that on to one of us. You may also contact us directly. Current trustees are: chair Al Duffy, Sandy Belden, Art Coffin, Bill Giles, Randy Purinton, Tom Waller and Carol White, along with Eliot Chartrand and Cindy Morrell (adjuncts), treasurer John Hoffman and pastor Lori. *Cindy Morrell, secretary*

## Notes from Church Council

Council met on April 2 with Randy Purinton of Adult CE as our Lead pro-tem. Anita Sarro of HR and Pastor/Congregation Relations presented an overview of what may be an eventual model for the future “all church evaluation.” She used the Council as a “test group.” The Council found the exercise very enlightening and unanimously agreed that after some refinement this innovative approach is very effective. Betty Innocent from Outreach distributed a handout “Special Mission Offerings” explaining the UCC’s 5 for 5 offerings. They are: One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthening the Church, Neighbors in Need, the Christmas Fund and Our Church’s Wider Mission. Council suggested that the handout be printed in the *Church at the Center*. The Trustees are looking into leveling the floor in front of the altar stairs. This was suggested in order to use the space for various events requiring a level floor. For example, enabling the grand piano to be moved into the space, when needed. They are also gathering information on efficient energy use for Center Church. Stewardship has settled on the date of October 25 for its fundraising concert. Deacons are in discussion with Lori regarding her upcoming sabbatical. Lori thanked the Deacons for including other Lord’s Prayer wording during our Lenten worship services. Lori also suggested, if possible, that we listen to the “Rob Bell” pod casts. CE has chosen May 26, after worship, for the annual potluck “All Church Picnic.” Activities will hold its annual Plant Sale on Saturday May 25. Marking items for the Columbus Day Fair starts in May. The May 7 Council meeting will be led by Anita Sarro. *David C. Morrell, clerk*

# Outreach Partners of the Month

*"Hearts to Hands to Hope"*

## BLANKET SUNDAY - HONOR A MOTHER, GIVE A BLANKET



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE  
BLANKETS+

On MAY 12<sup>th</sup>, Mother's Day, an offering will be taken to provide blankets to people in need here at home and abroad. Blankets are distributed by Church World Service to people left homeless by natural disasters, and to homeless shelter and homeless ministries. You can offer hope and warmth by giving on May 12<sup>th</sup>.

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## CONNECTING THREADS: Around the World through Global Ministries

Did you know that our current offering to One Great Hour of Sharing totaled over \$ 1000.00? Through our gift to OGHS, we partner with experts to help solve global problems of hunger, poverty, and injustice.

For instance, Guatemala experienced the longest (36 years) civil war in the Western Hemisphere. More than 150,000 people have died and thousands have been displaced. Even with the peace agreements of 1996, many injustices continue to be imposed. It is no wonder that many individuals seek asylum every year in the United States.

Guatemala Cultural Action (ACG) is an ecumenical organization formed in 1993 to promote community projects in education, culture, economic and ecology. It also fosters Mayan and Christian spirituality, ecumenism, inter-religious dialogue, and training for communities on human rights. Here are a few of their current projects that are supported by our OGHS dollars.

**INCOME GENERATION PROJECTS:** ACG has invested in the coordination of a livestock-raising and community development project, carried out by local women in 20 communities in Guatemala. More than 600 women have been trained in the care and management of rabbits, hens, goats, and sheep. The participating women also are implementing efforts in the diversification of crops as well as reforestation and bee keeping.

ACG also organizes skill-building courses such as training in techniques for traditional Guatemalan weaving. Students learn how to or improve their abilities to produce beautiful woven pieces for local use and sale at market.

**MICRO-LOANS:** ACG is working with 72 groups of women with a total of over 600 participants who now have income generating businesses.

**SCHOLARSHIPS:** ACG works with youth groups in the local communities. ACG provides a holistic scholarship program to support local young people who pursue studies in higher education and, at the same time, maintain their links to their local home communities. Most scholarships are for three years and the students pay back at least a portion of their scholarship support once they have graduated and secured employment, in order to help additional students in the future.

**THRIFTY STOVES:** ACG provides ecological and health-promoting stoves in the local rural communities. Families in the program participate in a four-part training session and also put a financial contribution toward their family's stove, which has a total cost of \$212. These stoves use much less wood to heat for cooking than the typical open cooking arrangements and thus promote better health for families.

This is only one example of where your money goes when you support ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING, one of our 5 FOR 5 offerings through the United Church of Christ.

Information taken from UCC website <http://www.globalministried.org>. and UCC publication: Connecting Threads



Tuesday May 7, 2019 @ rk MILES, Hatfield, MA



[BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!](#)

Join Pioneer Valley Habitat and our co-hosts rk Miles for the annual FEAST for Habitat, a fun after-work party to be held this year at rk Miles from 6:30pm – 9:00pm on Tuesday May 7<sup>th</sup>. This year will be a special celebration of our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a Habitat affiliate!

For the \$45 ticket price, party goers will feast on delicious food, enjoy a beverage, meet new people, hear some jazz provided by local musicians, and find some hidden gems at the auction table. Come join us to celebrate 30 years of good work being done by so many including our volunteers, building and housing community, and building supply donors.

Limited tickets will be available at the door. [Online ticket purchases](#) available until May 5<sup>th</sup> or mail your check for \$45 per person payable to “Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity” to PO Box 60642 Florence, MA 01062.

## Stewardship 2019

### *Stewardship - Planned Giving - for you and the future of Center Church*

Scripture asks that we steward our resources to care for our loved ones and our community. What does that mean today for ourselves and for our faith community? What steps can a person take towards this goal now? To learn more, all are invited to a gathering following worship on *Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>* to participate in a program designed to offer suggestions about gift planning that can both meet personal needs and ensure the continuity of Center Church for generations to come. The event will begin at approximately 11:15 and will conclude by Noon.

In this first in a series of events, the Stewardship & Planned Giving Committees will share ideas about the planning tools available to everyone in support of oneself, one's family and loved ones, and Center Church. Some very simple planning today ~ practical, faithful and philanthropic ~ can impact those in our community, including our children and grand-children, more than we can imagine. Come and explore some of this landscape with us.

Across the series you will hear testimony from and about those who have already created plans that support themselves, or their families, and/or the future of Center Church. Presented by congregation members, industry experts, and United Church of Christ resources as applicable, and demonstrating the potential rewards through the actions of congregation members past and present, we will shine a light on what's possible ~ now and in years to come. On May 5, join us for a light lunch following a brief time of fellowship, and stay for take away ideas and resources that serve as a key step in stewarding resources for you, yours and our faith community here at Center Church.

For those who may miss the Loomis bus back, rides will be offered and accommodated by committee and church members for your convenience.

*Your Stewardship and Planned Giving Teams*

## The Tipton Family revisited May 2019

Back in 2013, I wrote one of my “getting to know you” articles about Eric and Kiki Tipton and their family. Time



has moved along since then, so here’s a quick “re-boot”. **Kiki (Catherine) Henry** was born and raised in Springfield. She has three nursing degrees, one from Vermont College (AD) and one from UMass (BS) and one from Elms College (MS). She has spent most of her work life at Baystate Health Systems and actually just started a new job there in the surgical oncology unit for melanoma. She and Eric actually met there during her first job. **Eric Tipton** hails from Virginia and has a physical therapy degree from UVM. He came to Springfield for work eventually at Springfield Hospital (now Baystate). Their adult children are: Eric III also known as Rookie, who lives in Chicopee and has an antique business including buying and selling; Nick who lives at home and works as a dog trainer for Petco; and Brittany who has been in TX and FL but just moved home and is job hunting. She is a “cicerone” – that translates to beer expert (who knew!) Eric and Kiki joined Center Church in 1989. Kiki has been a trustee, a member of nominating and a member of HR. Eric retired two years ago and enjoys his free time, especially when he can play golf.

Fast forward to 2019. [A short digression here. You know that we have been praying for Anita Sarro and Randy Purinton’s son Michael for a while and he has recently received a new liver and they report he is a new person. He is even back to playing the trombone.] Here is another medical issue which now hits us closer to home. Eric first posted this on his Facebook page nine months ago and while he had lots of replies, there was no definite donor who came forward. At age 30, Eric was first diagnosed with an inherited kidney disease – polycystic kidney disease or pkd. It was inherited from his mother who died at age 69 after having spent 2-3 years on dialysis. Eric’s disease has developed slowly as he has been followed annually since that first diagnosis and has been mostly stable for years. He undergoes monthly testing BUT his disease has now progressed and he is in end stage renal failure, which means he should start dialysis. He now has three options. (1) go on dialysis 3x week for 4 hours each. (2) go on the deceased donor list which has a 5-7 year wait. (3) find a living donor. Eric says that “the living donor option would allow more freedom and the ability to live a longer, healthier, more normal life”. Right now, he feels pretty good but he can only be on the “inactive list” because of that. He has three older sisters who cannot be considered. None in his immediate family can donate directly. Son Nick was born with just one kidney and he already has been diagnosed with pkd. A living donor must be O+. We actually only need one kidney to live a long normal life, most surgery is done laparoscopically (using a very small incision), the recuperation time is normally 2-4 weeks, and the cost of the evaluation and surgery is covered by Eric’s insurance. AND as a living donor, it is possible to designate the recipient of your kidney. You can see more at [www.kidney.org/livingdonation](http://www.kidney.org/livingdonation).

You will hear more about living donor donations of all kinds and a recipient’s story in May. If you would be interested or want more information, please feel free to contact Eric. Please call Thia in the church office for their telephone number or email. I know that this is not my usual CAC bio story but I trust that it is a good thing to bring a wider medical issue closer to home.

*Cindy Morrell*

# From the Church Historian - May 2019

## EARLY MUSIC AT CENTER CHURCH

Since 1733, we have always had some form of hymn "singing" during worship services. The most common was the ancient fashion of "lining out." Psalms were mainly used and were led by a deacon who would read a line and then lead the congregation in singing it! The entire psalm was done through this method. There were rarely any choirs in those early "frontier" days. There was much heated controversy when the time came for a change. Enter John Stickney,

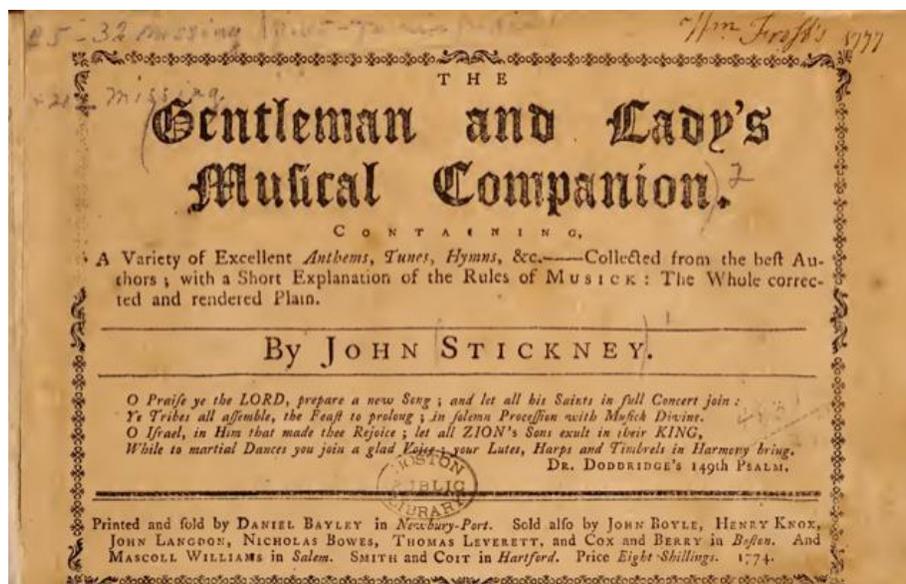
Mr. Stickney was born in Stoughton, Massachusetts in 1742. Round about the year 1765, while a butcher boy, he learned about a music form called Dunbar. He arrived in Western Mass and was asked by Jesse Billings (a relative of the famous composer William Billings) to settle in Hatfield and teach the inhabitants what he had learned about the art of singing. He helped to found singing schools up and down the valley and in Connecticut. He was a main force behind the revolutionizing of a better style of how music should be sung in church. A greater variety of tunes was also incorporated. Through his extensive traveling around New England, he acquired the reputation as a teacher and composer. John Stickney finally settled in South Hadley and became a member of Center Church.

Because of Mr. Stickney's perseverance (which became a ten-year struggle), South Hadley voted in March, 1776, that singing (without the deacons leading) should be allowed in the afternoon of the Sabbath! Church services were extremely long then! However, the old singing style was not given up before noon. John Stickney had created the well-known and very popular *The Gentlemen and Lady's Musical Companion* in 1774 which was printed by Daniel Bayley of Newburyport, Massachusetts. It became a valuable collection of psalms and anthems. There were also rules explaining how they should be presented and even music lessons for how to sing them.

John Stickney happily taught his music style. In 1770 he bought a farm near the mouth of Stony Brook. In 1773 he opened his home as an inn to accommodate the "river men" who "farmed" the Connecticut River for its quantities of fish and other related resources. He established his singing school there, also. Mr. Stickney continued teaching music until 1800 when he turned 65. John Stickney died in South Hadley on April 23, 1826 at the age of 83. He is buried in the Evergreen Cemetery. On his tombstone is carved "Doctor of Music John Stickney." It is safe to say that we owe our present-day choir music and hymn singing to the untiring efforts of John Stickney.

David C. Morrell, Center Church Historian

5/19



## Tell Me the Stories - May 2019

Our first hymn this month is *Come Down (Forth), O Love Divine* (PH239, NCH289). The text was written by Bianco da Siena first in 1851 with eight stanzas. The translation appeared in People's Hymnal by Dr. Richard Littledale in 1521. The original was part of the "Franciscan movement as a style of vernacular hymnody" in the late 14<sup>th</sup> century. Both of our hymnals have three stanzas, with most of the word changes resulting from updating pronouns. Da Siena was an early member of the men's religious order which followed the rule of Saint Augustine. He lived mainly in Venice and his hymns were published some 400 years after his death in Laudi Spirituali. Translator Littledale (mid-late 1800s), was an Anglican clergyman and scholar and he published about fifty works. The tune "Down Ampney" was composed by Ralph Vaughan Williams in 1906. The title comes from his birthplace in England. It is considered as "perhaps the most beautiful tune composed since 'Old Hundredth'." Born in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, he enlisted as an orderly during World War I, and during WW II it is said that he contributed to many relief projects and also organized concerts for members of the service. This hymn tune is only used once in our two hymnals.

Our second hymn this month is *Ah, What Shame I Have to Bear* (NCH 203). Both the original words and the hymn tune are Japanese. This may be the first time we have sung this hymn. Sogo Matsumoto wrote the text in 1895 from the prodigal son's point of view but it could be the feeling of anyone who has been in the same position. It speaks about the things he has done wrong and of his hope for forgiveness. The translator is Esther Hibbard, a retired UCC missionary, and was done in 1962. The hymn itself was submitted to the NCH by another UCC retired missionary who served in Japan. The hymn tune "Mayo" is actually a 12<sup>th</sup> century melody which was paired with this text. Christianity came to Japan only in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. This hymn is an example of merging indigenous music with "new" texts of Christian faith. This melody alternates a unison phrase and a four-part harmony phrase. It is truly one of our newer hymns.

Our third hymn is one which Randy Hyvonen requested because he had some personal background about the author. *Before Your Cross, O Jesus* or *Before the Cross of Jesus* (NCH 191, PH 160) was composed by Ferdinand Q. Blanchard in 1928. He envisioned it as an updated alternative to *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*. Blanchard was a clergyman, poet, author, and civic leader who was born in NJ in 1876. He has a local connection because he received his A.B. from Amherst College, followed by a B.D. from Yale Divinity School and was ordained in 1901. After pastorates in CT and NJ, he became pastor of the Euclid Ave. Congregational Church (OH) in 1915. Randy says that he was that church's pastor for 36 years -- longest tenure in the history of the congregation. Randy was there for 10 years ('83 - '93) and had the 2nd longest tenure, and says that Blanchard's daughter and her medical doctor husband were active members during those years. "His was a significant ministry in so many ways, and it was an honor for me to follow him!" says Randy. Blanchard was very active in the Cleveland community including founding in 1920 the Alathian Club, an ecumenical group of Cleveland clergy. He also received an honorary degree from Amherst in 1918. In June 1942, Blanchard became moderator of the General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches of the U.S.; and from 1944-50, was national chairman of the Congregational Commission of Interchurch Affairs. He worked for the June 1957 union of the Congregational and the Evangelical & Reformed churches which established the United Church of Christ. Blanchard also wrote articles, poems, and hymns, as well as several books. He retired in 1951. The tune "St. Christopher" was composed by Frederick C. Maker for the *Beneath* text and Ferdinand decided to use it for his text as well. An Englishman, Maker was a church organist as well as an accompanist for years of the Bristol England annual choral festival. His hymns were later published in The Bristol Tune Book.



*Cindy Morrell, Associate in Music*

Resources used: James Moffatt's The Handbook to the Church Hymnody (1927); From Village Green to City Center, 1843-1943 (Centennial of the Euclid Ave. Congregational Church, Cleveland, Ohio, 1943); and The New Century Hymnal Companion, ed. Kristen Forman (1998).

# 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 because.... not only will you help the Church you are actually doing good for the plants - dividing them helps them flourish!

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 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 (13 Wright Place SH) - leave them at the end of the drive near the garage. PLEASE be sure they are **LABELED with plant name**. **Potting can be done at Karen's house; there will be plenty of pots and compost available to make the plants look their best for the sale.** Below is a schedule of Potting Times at Karen's - drop in help is WELCOME at any of the times! And if you are available only weekends or in the evening just give Karen a call (536-0005). A couple of hours really makes a difference! Please consider helping out - you may even have fun!

The community looks forward to this event, so let's be sure to have a wide variety and large number of plants to sell.

**Help the Activities Team know how to plan  
by returning the form below acknowledging your involvement.**

**Thank you in advance!!**

\_\_\_\_\_ I will donate plants \_

\_\_\_\_\_ I need help with dividing my plants



\_\_\_\_\_ I need pots (If you prefer you may put plants into plastic bags and bring them to Karen's for potting)

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to help the day of the sale

Name \_\_\_\_\_

*Call Karen Anderson (536-0005) or David Morrell (532-1864)  
if you need pots or help with anything!*



**Work Schedule (at Karen's)**  
**Beginning May 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Mondays 9am - 1pm**

**Tuesdays 12:30 - 4:30pm**

**Wednesdays 1pm - 5pm**

**Thursdays 9am - 1pm**

**Fridays 9am - 1pm**

# Columbus Day Fair 2019

## ***We're open for "business"!***

We welcome items for our Columbus Day week-end Tag Sale! We especially need Children's toys, stuffed animals and puzzles.

Please read our "ad" below about what is acceptable and what items we cannot accept. Also, once again we want to highlight the guidelines that games and appliances must be in working order. **ALSO, please clean up the items before you drop them off**.....they sell better plus if we have to spend a lot of time cleaning up items, we have difficulty getting everything marked!

Although items may be dropped off any time the church office is open Tuesday - Friday mornings, we will be able to help you unload items for the tag sale on most Tuesday mornings from 9 - 11A.M. If you would like to make special arrangements for pick up/drop-off, please call the church office or 533-3833.

**Thank you so much**....we look forward to another successful Columbus Day Event.

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## **SPRING HOUSECLEANING....**

*Remember the Columbus Day Fair Emporium.....*



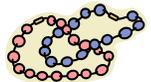
Bring your items to Fellowship Hall.....



Please have them **CLEAN AND IN WORKING ORDER**.....

## **WHAT DOES SELL....**

***We look forward to receiving, marking (pricing) and selling:***



**Dishes   Glassware   Knick knacks   Jewelry   Lamps   Linens**

**Artificial flowers   Decorative pillows   Vases   Pots and pans   Baskets**

**Small appliances in good condition   Pictures   Frames   Hardware**

**Purses & bags   Paperback books   Hard cover books   Toys   Games**

**Puzzles   Stuffed animals   Outdoor children's toys**



**Decorations (indoor or outdoor) for any holiday EXCEPT CHRISTMAS  
(save those for the Holiday Bazaar!)**

**Small furniture items such as end tables, small dressers, chairs  
(NOT beds, couches, recliners)**

***This is not an all inclusive list. If any questions, give us a call!***

**Please remember we are NOT accepting....** Electronics, most sporting good items, records, reference books, old magazines and large household replacement items such as chandeliers, kitchen fixtures, etc.

# happy birthday

- 01 Bobbie Ayers
- 04 Jay Roberts
- 06 Emily Carle  
Julie Deshaies
- 12 Cathy Bozek
- 20 Tyler Narey
- 23 Gayle Kenneson
- 26 Dennis Ashworth
- 27 Ken Bozek
- 28 Emily Bangs-Orsini
- 30 Becky Buckley



## PLANT SALE

MAY 25 9AM - 1PM

ANNUALS PERENNIALS HERBS  
HANGING BASKETS

SHOP EARLY  
FOR THE BEST SELECTION!



## FELLOWSHIP HALL STORE

OPEN YEAR ROUND  
FOR YOUR SHOPPING  
CONVENIENCE  
CHECK OUT OUR  
GENTLY USED ITEMS  
FOR SALE



## WANTED...

We find that if the items we sell at the Columbus Day Tag Sale are bundled attractively, they sell better. To make that happen (for smaller items like buttons, sewing notions, screws, pins.. you get the idea..) we need:

- 1) Small jars - up to about 16oz. - we will remove the labels
- 2) Jewelry boxes - for necklaces, earrings etc.
- 3) Canning Jars - any size - we have extra lids available if yours are missing



Please drop off your items at the Fellowship Hall donation tables.



## 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  
Canned beans  
Jam/Jelly

Soups  
Tuna Fish  
Juices

Dried Pastas  
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!

# 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Plant Sale

at Center Church

May 25, 2018

9am - 1pm



**ANNUALS**



**HANGING BASKETS**

**INDIVIDUAL HERBS**



**TOMATO PLANTS**

**COFFEE - TEA**



**HOMEMADE MUFFINS**

Thinking of You  
at  
**Easter**

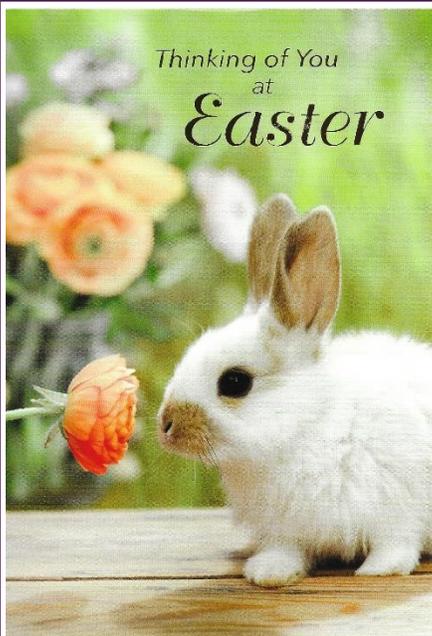
Dear Lari (and Winston  
and everyone at Center)

Easter is a time  
to stop and think  
about the people  
who are important to us—  
that's why today brings  
many warm thoughts of you.

**Happy Easter**

Much love to you all!

Linda



# OPEN HOUSE

**JOIN US MAY 19**

**1 TO 5 P.M.**  
Camp Tours • Disc Golf • Cookies  
High Ropes Challenges • Hayrides • Giveaways  
Campfire with Marshmallows • And More!

**INFORMATION**  
Free & Open to the Public  
RSVP to [slcc@ctucec.org](mailto:slcc@ctucec.org)

**Summer Camp for You!**  
Program for Youth in Grades 4-12



**PROGRESSIVE  
CHRISTIAN VALUES**  
Community • Love  
Inclusion • Justice



Silver Lake is the Outdoor Ministry program of the Connecticut Conference of the UCC  
[www.silverlakeect.org](http://www.silverlakeect.org)  
860-364-5526 • [slcc@ctucec.org](mailto:slcc@ctucec.org) • 223 Low Road, Sharon, CT

## What I Learned

at Silver Lake Conference Center

The song, Zentangles, prayers, boating skills, and my newfound bravery.  
— 7th grader, Bon Voyage & Happy Trails

It was amazing how much you can trust your friends.  
— 6th grader, Christmas Gifts

That God made me in such a wonderful way.  
— 4th grader, Connect 24

Night hikes are the best.  
— 7th grader, Compass

**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

Join Us for  
**OPEN  
HOUSE**  
May 19th

[facebook.com/SilverLakeCT](https://www.facebook.com/SilverLakeCT)

[@silverlakeconcenter](https://www.instagram.com/silverlakeconcenter)

Summer Camp for grades 4 through 12; register online at

**silverlakeect.org**

Friendship Leadership Community Deepening of Faith

4/18/19

*Dorrie Alderman Blakney*

Dearest Friends!  
I want to thank the church memberships  
for the beautiful reception in Fellowship Hall  
following the memorial service for my dearly departed,  
and your Minister Emeritus, Chuck Blakney. It was  
truly a celebration of life among good friends!  
As Chuck would have wanted. — An  
aficionado of hot dogs and peanut butter,  
I'm sure he enjoyed a chuckle over  
the creative assortment of palate specials  
designed in his honor,  
It was a Feast! Attractively presented  
among loving bouquets of fresh flowers.  
Thank you, everyone.  
Sincerely,  
*Dorrie Blakney*

## Let's 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

**FREE Trial Class**  
Come take the first class on us!

*Learn to Dance!*

## girls inc.

Inspiring all girls  
to be strong  
[www.girlsinc.org](http://www.girlsinc.org)

Girls Inc. of the Valley  
P.O. Box 8832  
Holyoke, MA 01041  
Tel: 413-332-8967  
[girlsofvalley.org](http://girlsofvalley.org)

April 2, 2019

Lori Souder  
First Congregational UCC Center Church  
One Church Street  
South Hadley, MA 01075

Dear Lori,

Thank you for sponsoring our 2019 Spirit of Girls Breakfast. This year's theme, Girls Matter, says it all. Our role is to help girls make healthy choices, support their educational needs, and discover careers they never thought possible. The generous support of \$500.00 from First Congregational UCC Center Church assures our girls will succeed by becoming strong, smart, and bold young women with very bright futures.

This event is our largest fundraiser of the year where we will welcome nearly 500 guests at the Log Cabin in Holyoke on Tuesday, April 30. We're proud to promote your company's name for all to see. Our fundraising goal for the 2019 Spirit of Girls Breakfast is \$80,000 and you're helping us get there.

On behalf of the Board of Girls Inc. of the Valley and the hundreds of girls in our program, we thank you for being such an important friend!

Suzanne Parker  
Executive Director

*I hope we'll see  
you at the event.  
Thank you for helping us  
reach more girls  
throughout the Valley.*

No goods or services were provided in exchange for your donation.

## Daily Lectionary Scripture References May 2019 (Year C)

### Wed., May 1

Psalm 122  
Esther 9:1-5, 18-23  
Luke 12:4-12

### Thurs., May 2

Psalm 30  
Isaiah 5:11-17  
Revelation 3:14-22

### Fri., May 3

Psalm 30  
Isaiah 6:1-4  
Revelation 4:1-11

### Sat., May 4

Psalm 30  
Genesis 18:1-8  
Luke 14:12-14

### Sun., May 5

*Third Sunday of Easter*  
Acts 9:1-6 [7-20]  
Psalm 30  
Revelation 5:11-14  
John 21:1-19

### Mon., May 6

Psalm 121  
Ezekiel 1:1-25  
Acts 9:19b-31

### Tues., May 7

Psalm 121  
Ezekiel 1:26—2:1  
Acts 26:1-18

### Wed., May 8

Psalm 121  
Isaiah 6:1-8  
Luke 5:1-11

### Thurs., May 9

Psalm 23  
Ezekiel 11:1-25  
Revelation 5:1-10

### Fri., May 10

Psalm 23  
Ezekiel 20:39-44  
Revelation 6:1—7:4

### Sat., May 11

Psalm 23  
Ezekiel 28:25-26  
Luke 12:29-32

### Sun., May 12

*Fourth Sunday of Easter*  
Acts 9:36-43  
Psalm 23  
Revelation 7:9-17  
John 10:22-30

### Mon., May 13

Psalm 100  
Ezekiel 37:15-28  
Revelation 15:1-4

### Tues., May 14

Psalm 100  
Ezekiel 45:1-9  
Acts 9:32-35

### Wed., May 15

Psalm 100  
Jeremiah 50:17-20  
John 10:31-42

### Thurs., May 16

Psalm 148  
Ezekiel 2:8—3:11  
Revelation 10:1-11

### Fri., May 17

Psalm 148  
Daniel 7:13-14  
Revelation 11:15

### Sat., May 18

Psalm 148  
Daniel 7:27  
Revelation 11:16-19

### Sun., May 19

*Fifth Sunday of Easter*  
Acts 11:1-18  
Psalm 148  
Revelation 21:1-6  
John 13:31-35

### Mon., May 20

Psalm 133  
1 Samuel 20:1-23, 35-42  
Acts 11:19-26

### Tues., May 21

Psalm 133  
2 Samuel 1:4-27  
Acts 11:27-30

### Wed., May 22

Psalm 133  
Leviticus 19:9-18  
Luke 10:25-28

### Thurs., May 23

Psalm 67  
Proverbs 2:1-5  
Acts 15:36-41

### Fri., May 24

Psalm 67  
Proverbs 2:6-8  
Acts 16:1-8

### Sat., May 25

Psalm 67  
Proverbs 2:9-15  
Luke 19:1-10

### Sun., May 26

*Sixth Sunday of Easter*  
Acts 16:9-15  
Psalm 67  
Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5  
John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

### Mon., May 27

Psalm 93  
1 Chronicles 12:16-22  
Revelation 21:5-14

### Tues., May 28

Psalm 93  
2 Chronicles 15:1-15  
Revelation 21:15-22

### Wed., May 29

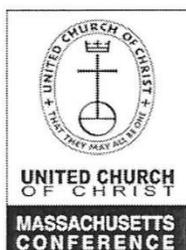
Psalm 93  
2 Chronicles 34:20-33  
Luke 2:25-38

### Thurs., May 30

*Ascension of the Lord*  
Acts 1:1-11  
Psalm 47 or Psalm 93  
Ephesians 1:15-23  
Luke 24:44-53

### Fri., May 31

Psalm 97  
Exodus 33:12-17  
Revelation 22:6-9



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