

CHURCH AT THE CENTER

JULY / AUGUST 2019



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH "CENTER CHURCH"

United Church of Christ
One Church Street

South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075
(413) 532-2262

Email: centerchurch@verizon.net

Website: centerchurchsouthhadley.org

Facebook: Center Church of South Hadley MA

Instagram: @centerchurchsouthhadley

*ALL ARE WELCOME AT CENTER CHURCH ON THE COMMON,
AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING UCC CONGREGATION,
WHERE THE SPIRIT OF GOD STIRS US TO EMBRACE OUR DIVERSITY,
DEEPEN OUR FAITH IN JESUS, SHARE OUR TEARS AND LAUGHTER,
AND EXTEND GOD'S ABUNDANT LOVE AND JUSTICE INTO THE WORLD.*

The eagle that soars high up over the new conservation trail by the Connecticut River spied on me. Whenever I bring Mac, our Airedale dog, to walk the near mile trail I look for him/her. Typically, I don't see the eagle. However, on this recent overcast day I felt there was something approaching me from my back as I entered the tree wooded area. I looked up in time to see this massive bird (wing span about 18 feet...or seemed like 18) fly about 20 feet above me to my right.

I think I may have said, "EECK." Was it warning me, spying on me, considering me prey? I don't know, yet I do know God's creation is all around us. A coyote ran across Route 47 in front of me. At twilight a deer crossed on Morgan Street. A ground hog pops his head up during the day in our neighbor's front yard, avoiding the flowers, just munching on some grass.

Look up. Look around. On July 28 we will have the opportunity to share where you have noticed God's creation. On that Sunday we will have a hymn sing as well. Enter your favorite hymns on a slip of paper that will be provided in the bulletin.

Job 12:7-12 The Message

⁷⁻¹² "But ask the animals what they think – let them teach you;
let the birds tell you what's going on.

Put your ear to the earth – learn the basics.

Listen – the fish in the ocean will tell you their stories.

Isn't it clear that they all know and agree
that God is sovereign, that he holds all things in his hand –

Every living soul, yes,
every breathing creature?

Isn't this all just common sense,
as common as the sense of taste?

Do you think the elderly have a corner on wisdom,
that you have to grow old before you understand life?



Rev Souder will be away July 10 and 11; 22-24 and August 14 - 16

Thia will be away the week of July 22nd and August 12th – the office will be open Wednesdays from 9am – noon when Thia is away.

Regular Summer Office Hours (July and August) are Tuesday – Thursday 9am – 3pm.

Please remember to keep your pledges up to date over the summer months. Although we are not always worshipping in our building, the bills continue to arrive daily. Be assured that if you put your envelope or check in the collection plate at the Granby church, it will be picked up and delivered to Center Church. Or, if you prefer, you can mail your check directly to the church at One Church Street. Pledge statements will be sent out the middle of July.

Thanks, and have a great summer!

Church Survey and Visioning Coming in September...It's been a long time since we as a congregation have considered what we love about our church and what we see in our future. Two teams, Human Resources and Pastor Congregation Relations, have put together a written survey to try to find out. We hope everyone will complete a survey and take part in follow up meetings to see how the results inform our present and our future. Look for information in Church at the Center and Sunday Bulletins starting in September.

Do you know the whereabouts of any African artifacts that might have been passed along from the collection of Rev. Chuck Blakney? The Blakney family is working to assemble a collection for the Peabody Museum at Yale to honor Chuck. Pieces may have been gifted to friends after Loraine's passing and could be included in the collection if located. Please speak to Lori or Thia if you should have, or be aware of, any possible donations.

Jewish Family Services of Western Mass. settles over 200 refugees each year, from around the world, through its New Americans program. Working with the Hebrew Immigration Aid Society (HIAS) and the U. S. State Department, JFS prepares new arrivals with the basics they need to start a safe life in our community, securing housing and employment and offering counseling, ESL tutoring, and health services. JFS also offers services to all those seeking help with the daunting U.S. citizenship process.

We at Center Church will have opportunities to help JFS in their outreach in the coming months. Our first project is a **collection drive for adult bike helmets, bike locks, and bike lights**. Why are these items desperately needed? JFS has bikes to give to resettled refugees so they can get to their jobs - but the bikes cannot be distributed without these crucial safety items. (Used items in good condition are fine. Helmets must be no older than five years old, and undamaged.)

We have a collection bucket for bike accessories in Fellowship Hall. Please help if you can. A bike helmet may seem like a small thing to us, but to a resettled refugee, it can mean food on the table and a roof overhead.

Bible Study- We will study the Book of Ruth together on **July 18, 25 and August 1**. Join us at **Loomis** in friend's apartments (will inform you in July) from 10:30-11:30. We will tackle one chapter each week.



Thank you, Human Resource team for being such fine June coffee hour hosts!

During July, we do not have any one team taking responsibility for hosting coffee hour. There will be different folks each week making sure that the cream and milk pitchers are full, that there is enough apple juice and that there are some "goodies" on the table. That's where you come in! Granby joins us for worship during July and we really want to have coffee hours a little special! If you can help out by contributing a "finger food" any of the Sundays, it would be very much appreciated! You don't have to tell us ahead of time; just take it to Fellowship Hall and leave it on the table or on the counter in the kitchen! We'll take care of the rest. If you bring something in on a plate, please put your name on the backside of the plate so we can make sure it is returned to you!

Any help during the July coffee hours will be very much appreciated...and thank you!

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:

Estelle Anderson following a car accident
Don Bonzek, recovering
Julie Burke and family on the passing of her
grandmother, Norma Farrar
Julie Burke's cousin, David Driscoll, on waiting
list for liver transplant
Dennis, friend of the Coffins
Family and friends of Jim Dunn
Carol Ehman having cancer treatment
Muriel Graham
Shelly Granger
Tom Hazen
Waldo Heinrichs, on hospice
Eunice Howes
Eunice Howes' friend, Sarah Boynton
Jean Lacoste, pre-surgery
Family of Ed Mikna
Rich Normandin, diagnosed with cancer
Lucio Perez, in Sanctuary in Amherst FCC
Eric Tipton, needing a kidney transplant
UCC General Synod

Change is coming to the Columbus Day Fair!

We're changing our name !!! That much we know, but we don't know quite yet what the new name will be!!!

Columbus Day is getting to be not the words to use.....so we need to stay up with the times. Also, what started out to truly be a one day Columbus Day emporium has extended to a three day weekend large tag sale with baked goods and a café. Thus, it seemed like the time was ripe to change the name. We hope to have the decision on the new name very soon....and we'll definitely let you know by the next Church at the Center issue. We've been asking people for suggestions, so if you want to weigh in...there is probably still time.....speak to any member of the Activities team, the Tuesday morning marking ladies, Bobbie, Karen, Lori or Thia.....your idea will be considered!

The name will change; but the wonderful selection of bargains and the wonderful opportunity for good Fellowship will be the same!!

Another change this year will be that we will not be able to use plastic bags to pack your purchases in. The Board of Health has ruled that even second hand, used plastic bags may not be used for this purpose. **Plan now to bring your own shopping bags.** We are also collecting large paper bags to have available at the check-out desk. So.... we would appreciate it if you could bring in any large paper bags you might be able to contribute. It is going to be a challenge to make this transition, but it is understandable and we as individuals and as a church want to do our part to help with environmental issues.



CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

2019 Confirmands



Drew Madeiras Alley is completing her 7th grade year at Michael E Smith Middle School.
Favorite things to besides using a cell phone: **Basketball and listening to music.**
Favorite app or emoji on your cell phone: **snapchat.**
Who do you relate to the most? God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit? **God**
What are your favorite hobbies, sports, or music? **Basketball, Lacrosse, and snowboarding**

Blessing: May God bless your agile mind and body to set an example.

Quinn Taylor Francis is completing the 7th grade at Michael E. Smith Middle School
Favorite things to besides using a cell phone: **Play baseball**
Favorite app or emoji on your cell phone: **Youtube**
Who do you relate to the most? God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit? **Jesus**
What are your favorite hobbies, sports, or music? **Baseball, basketball, playing drums**
Blessings: May God bless your tender heart and ability to be fair to guide you.



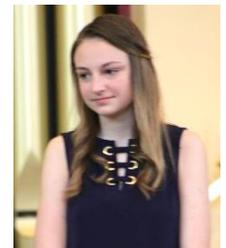
Sophie Elizabeth Griffin is completing the 8th grade at The MacDuffie School
Favorite things to besides using a cell phone: **Listen to music and swim**
Favorite app or emoji on your cell phone: **spotify or kindle**
Who do you relate to the most? God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit? **Jesus**
What are your favorite hobbies, sports, or music? **Swimming competitively, acting, reading**
Blessing: May God bless your voice and humor to lead

Abigail Katherine Huebner is completing the 8th grade at Granby Jr/Sr High School
Favorite things to besides using a cell phone: **playing basketball**
Favorite app or emoji on your cell phone: **snapchat.**
Who do you relate to the most? God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit? **Holy Spirit**
What are your favorite hobbies, sports, or music? **work hard in school, basketball, hanging with friends, and collecting sneakers.**
Blessing: May God bless your thoughtfulness and mind to inspire.



Owen Mathew Strand is completing the 8th grade at Hampden Charter School of Science
Favorite things to besides using a cell phone: **Go for walks or do stuff in the yard**
Favorite app or emoji on your cell phone: **reddit**
Who do you relate to the most? God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit? **Jesus**
What are your favorite hobbies, sports, or music? **listening to the Beatles, doing art**
Blessing: May God bless your curious and creative mind to build community.

Salle Sloan Waite is completing the 8th grade at Michael E, Smith Middle School
Favorite things to besides using a cell phone: **hanging out with friends or playing sports**
Favorite app or emoji on your cell phone: **snap chat; favorite emoji: shrimp / laughing face**
Who do you relate to the most? God, Jesus or the Holy Spirit? **God**
What are your favorite hobbies, sports, or music? **Running, basketball, and soccer**
Blessing: May God bless your positive energy and laughter to bring joy.



Adult Education

A PEEP AT THE BIBLE

Rev. Randy Purinton



2 Kings 13: 20-21

"And as soon as the man touched the bones of Elishah, he revived, and stood on his feet."

A man's corpse was rolled into a cave and rested upon the prophet Elishah's bones. The corpse came back to life and the man walked away. Stories like this one persuaded people that a holy person's body parts - relics - contained therapeutic properties. Pilgrims even now spend days journeying to cathedrals where relics are housed, in hopes of being blessed with miracle cures.

Rev. Randy Purinton is a retired minister, resident of Amherst and a member of Center Church.

THOU ART

Rev. Art Stanley

Beliefs and Creeds

Christians believe that a Jew from Nazareth, Israel, lived, taught and died. He is called Jesus Christ and was flesh as we are, yet he possessed a quality of divinity that distinguished him from humanity. Chapter 1 of Matthew's gospel describes Jesus as having been born of Mary and that he was dignified by the title Christ. Christ means one who is anointed by God - granted a special relationship with God.

Once, Jesus asked his disciples who they thought he was. They answered that Jesus was the Christ, or son of God. Ever since then, Jesus name has been followed by Christ as an affirmation of his closeness to God and acknowledging his reputation of being the highest and most learned prophet. These beliefs about Jesus were inserted in creeds or statements of faith and circulated among early Christian communities.

Early on, Christians sought to distinguish their beliefs from paganism which was pervasive in the Roman Empire and they also tried to reconcile their faith in Jesus' messiahship with their historical roots in Judaism. Ultimately, Christianity overwhelmed the numbers of pagan believers and they distanced themselves from classical Judaism because they adopted Jesus as the anointed one. In our creeds we proclaim Jesus as the Christ and that he was resurrected. Christians alone proclaim this.

There are several creeds near the back of The New Century Hymnal, pages 884-887. They all contain lessons regarding Jesus' identity, descriptions God's holiness and values which Christians incorporate within their faith.

Rev. Art Stanley is a retired minister, resident of South Hadley and member of Center Church.

Stewardship

The Stewardship Team will be spending the all-too-brief summer months planning and facilitating its many fall events and initiatives. In addition to the fall pledge campaign, and future planned giving communications, the really big news is that Center Church will host another fundraising concert in the sanctuary this October. This will be a huge, community-wide benefit event, featuring top-shelf, female artists. In addition to raising much-needed funds for Center Church, proceeds will also go to directly impact a number of local music and women's organizations. Much more information about times, performers, benefiting organizations, advance and VIP ticket sales, and sponsorship opportunities coming soon. But for now...please, just

Save the Date ~ FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2019. See you all then!

Your Stewardship Team

News from the Trustees for July 2019

In June, the trustees heard a good financial report heading into the summer “break.” Both our income and expenses came in over budget projections at the end of May, which should be at about 33%. Income was at 39.88% (yay) and expenses were at 35.08% (over but not bad). This gives us a little cushion going into the summer months where things tend to be a bit quieter, especially with our gas bills! But we do still have other bills and staff to pay over the summer months. And we also spend one month (August this year) actually away from Center Church for Sunday services. This means that we need your help to keep income flowing in during this same time. You can continue to make your monthly pledge payments via check, through the collection at either church (we do each pass on to the “other” church in the month that we share our services), send them directly to the church office, or also stop in and see Thia. You should also know that each church keeps the weekly cash from the plate during our “shared” time. We are most appreciative of your cooperation!

Adam Suska will be working around the upper vertical sanctuary windows during the summer to get them in better shape for years ahead, now that he has completed the work on the three rose windows. So you may see his smaller lift parked around the building at times. We are very lucky to have found someone of his expertise to be able to so very carefully do this work. There should be new coats of paint on a couple of our outer doors and we will be installing a camera near the Church St. office door soon to help with safety and security of our staff, particularly Thia and Lori. As promised, there is work being done on the sanctuary boiler pump too. And we do hope to solve the crossway roof leaking issue!

Summer is a time to relax a bit and regroup. Many of our teams take a month “off” during this time (we do not meet during July), but return in August or September, refreshed and ready for the busier events starting in September. We thank Martha and the Sunday school teachers for their work and Cheryl and Larry for their excellent music during the September-June time frame. We look forward to events being planned for the fall and we know you will be hearing more about them.

Notes from Church Council

Council met on June 4, with John Anz of the Stewardship Team as our Lead pro-tem. John asked those in attendance to begin thinking about and setting future goals for their teams. Activities is considering a name change for the upcoming Columbus Day Fair. There is a need for a more inclusive name of the three-day event. CE is planning an “all church” read for the fall: *The Tent of Abraham*, in conjunction with the Muslim community. Deacons will be supplying a substitute preacher for the pulpit on September 15 and 22 to accommodate Rev. Souder’s planned vacation. Outreach is in the process of vetting three organizations for future partners. Volunteers are still needed for three more Habitat builds. HR/PCRC is looking over existing employee/staff categories for equitable compensation. They are hoping the “all church survey” distribution will be completed by September with feedback after Thanksgiving. Stewardship should have its marketing finalized for their fall concert by July. Trustees reported that the rose window project is in its final phase with the completion of repairs to the lower sanctuary vertical side windows. Any budget requests should be presented by November 1 or sooner. Al Duffy has been tapped to present our Safe Church guidelines/report to other town churches and various town departments! Lori reported that the Preservation Team’s grant proposal to Sacred Spaces was not accepted. July 21 is our turn to host Cathedral in the Night in Northampton. Al Duffy will be discussing with Mount Holyoke Security future safety measures regarding safe access of Church Street by MHC graduation goes on Commencement Sunday. The next Council meeting will be held on August 6, led by Bobbie Ayers.

Center Church in Transition

Joined by Confirmation: June 6 - Drew Madeiras Alley, Quinn Taylor Francis, Sophie Elizabeth Griffin, Abigail (Abby) Katherine Huebner, Owen Matthew Strand and Salle Sloan Waite.

David C. Morrell, Clerk

Outreach Partners of the Month

"Hearts to Hands to Hope"



The Outreach Team Partner for July is *Food for Friends*. Five days a week, Western Mass Elder Care provides home delivery of a hot meal to elderly people who are unable to leave their home or to cook for themselves. Therefore, there was a need for a meal on weekends.

Over ten years ago, several area churches, under the leadership of Deacon Frank of Pittsfield, got together to develop a weekend project of preparation and delivery of a hot meal to those serviced by Meals on Wheels. From this came our Food for Friends program. We provide the meal on the third weekend of each month. Center Church is the major contributor to this program. The Lutheran Church of our Savior, the Methodist Church, Living Gate and the local Democratic Club are also involved in our Food for Friends group.

Homebase is our Fellowship Hall kitchen where our wonderful cooks, headed by the chief chef from the Lutheran Church along with volunteers from Center church can be found diligently working in the kitchen to prepare meals totaling 105-115 in any given month. These meals are then packed up by 5 or 6 volunteers from our church, the Lutheran church and the local Democratic Committee. After meals are in the proper bags, the delivery folks take over- to get the meals to the homes while still hot. Once again, the drivers are from our church, the Methodist Church, Living Gate, and the Democratic Club. On any Food for Friends Saturday, over 25 people are volunteering their time and talent to this program. Our coordinator for Food for Friends is church member, Charlotte Buijnarowski. This weekend program is funded by our church, the Lutheran church, individual donors and the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. The other sites for the week-end meal program are: Immaculate Heart of Mary, Granby; Saint Theresa's, and Saint Patrick's in South Hadley.

The Outreach team is thrilled to show our support for *Food for Friends* in July.

Respectfully submitted by Elizabeth Griffin and Bobbie Ayers

NEWS ON SANCTUARY

We continue to pray for Lucio Perez, in sanctuary at the United Church of Christ in Amherst. It has been over a year since Lucio sought shelter in the Valley rather than face deportation to Guatemala, his Country of birth where poverty and violence are widespread. Although it has been a long journey for him, Lucio remains hopeful that he will be reunited with his wife and family in Springfield.



There are a number of ways we can help Lucio and his faithful supporters. First Church in Amherst holds monthly pot-luck dinners with Lucio. These gatherings are vital for sustaining support for the long-term commitment the Interfaith Community has made in taking Lucio into sanctuary.

Other ways to take part are:

Sign up for a four-hour shift at the Church in Amherst.

Volunteer to drive Lucio's family to and from Springfield for visits.

Make a financial donation to help defray additions utility costs incurred by Lucio's host church.

Practice or learn some Spanish by taking a few lessons from Lucio.

The Outreach Team has posted information on our bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Stop by and take a look.

Columbus Day Fair 2019

We Need Your Help...

The Columbus Day Fair is coming up sooner than we think!

Please look around and see if there are some items that you no longer want or use but might be just what someone else would buy and consider a wonderful bargain!

Items can be dropped off at Fellowship Hall during the day on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. There are usually folks at the church to help you bring the items in from your car on Tuesday mornings. If you would like to drop off your items at a different time, call the church office and arrangements can be made for a time that is convenient for you.

The Columbus Day Fair is a major fund raiser for the church...but it is also a major intergenerational fellowship time for our members. Please mark your calendar now and plan to help and to shop at the Center Church Columbus Day Fair. We'll also need lots of hands to help set up and to pack up at the end of our sale.

SPRING HOUSECLEANING....

Remember the Columbus Day Fair Emporium.....

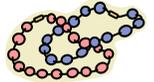
Bring your items to Fellowship Hall.....



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, magazines and large household replacement items such as chandeliers, kitchen fixtures, etc.

A reminder from the "tag sale marking ladies" Although we will be worshipping in Granby during the month of August, Center Church will continue to accept donation for the Columbus Day Fair during office hours (Tues - Thurs 9am - 3pm). The Fair will be here before you know it so get your donations in asap! Thanks!



Getting To Know You – The Rev. Dr. Arthur Stanley



Arthur Stanley was born in Oct. 1926 in Silver Spring, MD. His parents were Quakers who met at an OH Quaker Boarding High School in the early 20's. Turns out that he is a 9th generation Quaker in America, dating back to a THOMAS (1) who appeared in Williamsburg, VA in 1690. Art attended early school in MD during the Great Depression years. He had a younger brother and sister and they grew up with much cultural and educational stimulation. In the 30's Art recalls many Saturday trips to downtown DC to visit Museums. They moved to eastern OH to be near ancestral family roots, and he graduated from the Barnesville OH High School. He faced the draft on turning 18, so enlisted in the Navy in July and entered Boot Camp in September. He was selected for Radio

Training School graduating in March '45. He served as a non-combatant aboard a Destroyer Escort in the Pacific where his ship was involved in the invasion of Okinawa in April '45. When the war ended, he remained in the Pacific until Sept. and was discharged in June '46. He returned to OH and entered Muskingum College, in OH. as a freshman! He majored in sociology and minored in psychology and was headed for a career in Social Service. But the highlight, and most important part of the college experience, is that he met **Barbara Silk** there as a classmate, dated her all four years and married her in December '50. They have three children, eight grandchildren and a great grandson, age 5. He reports they had a wonderful marriage for 66 years before her death in 2017.

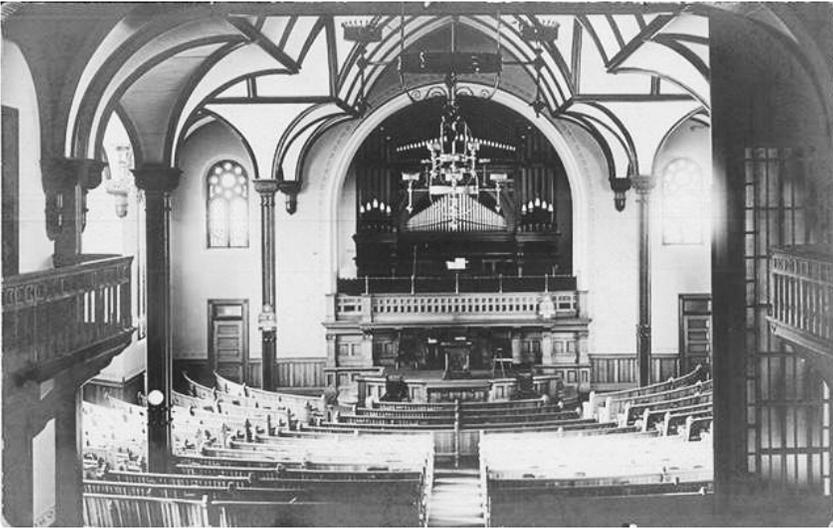
Art's first job was as a Probation Officer for a Juvenile Court in MD, followed by several years as a Boy Scout executive. In 1955, he became a Lay Youth Director for a large suburban Presbyterian Church in Arlington, VA which in turn led to three years of Theological Seminary training in Pittsburgh, PA from '57 to '60. He became ordained as a Presbyterian Minister, serving churches in VA and KY. In 1972 they (wife, son and daughter; eldest son in college) moved to South Korea where they were involved in a Christian International School for six years, their children as students, and he and Barbara as teachers. Returning to the US in '78 he worked for a year as a fund-raiser for Mission work for the Presbyterian Church, then several years in the '80s as pastor in the inner-city of Trenton, NJ, where he assisted in organizing a Soup Kitchen and Social Service Center that continues to thrive today. He retired from formal ministerial service in Nov. '91. They purchased a home in the Shenandoah Valley of VA, where he served part time for several small rural congregations. In 2010, he and Barbara opted to be near two of their children and their families in NY and MA, and moved to Loomis Village, here in town. Barbara suffered for many years from congenital heart disease which worsened over time and she died peacefully in Jan. 2017. By choice, she requested cremation, and her remains were buried partially beside her mother's gravesite in Pittsburgh, PA, and partly beside their mutual gravesite in his ancestral family cemetery in eastern OH.

Following Barbara's death, he has found meaning in developing skills in a variety of artistic endeavors and continues to enjoy short-term courses in watercolors and other media. He purchased a small home in town in 2018, just a short walk up the road from the church. It turns out that he has the home of Barbara "Susie" (our longtime organist and choir director) and John Conant. He became a member of the Center Church in Jan '19 where he says he finds meanings and value in shared worship and Christian service. He has also been conscripted to write an occasional few lines for the CAC! Watch for more of his comments. We are glad that he found us.

Cindy Morrell

From Our Historian - July 2019

ARCHITECT - LAWRENCE BOLTON VALK 1838-1924



As a trustee of the South Hadley Public Library, I was contacted by Joe Rodio (director of the library) about a postcard he found in the Library's historical postcard collection. He was getting the collection ready to send to Boston to be digitized. One of the postcards had a picture of a church interior and no other information. I was asked in late May if it might be of our church. I did not recognize it. At that point, it became known as the "mysterious postcard." I then asked Leslie Fields, a fellow library trustee and director of the Mount Holyoke College archives, for assistance. We hit a dead end.

After further "asking" with no results, I brought the picture to our Church Council. We began to compare the windows in the painting of the exterior of our fourth church with the interior windows of the postcard picture. There were small rose window designs in the upper portion of the overall windows. It was agreed that the interior picture accurately portrayed those of our fourth meetinghouse! I then searched our Center Church history about our four previous meetinghouses. I found a write-up which I used for our 275th Anniversary. In it there was a brief description which I had discovered in a previous "historian's" account. It was noted that an architect by the name of L.B. Volk designed our fourth church. The hunt was on!

Trying to research the architect has proved to be daunting. I decided to go back into our written clerk's minutes of 1876. Fortunately, there were meticulous minutes taken during meetings pertaining to the need of building a fourth church. They decided that the new building should be built of brick. The vote was 17 in favor and 13 against. It was also agreed that the interior pews of the church should be arranged in the amphitheater style to accommodate the Mount Holyoke Seminary graduations. The Seminary trustees also agreed to help with the costs and that the students would be allowed to occupy up to 300 seats of the 800 planned. When it was completed, the architect agreed to supply extra "camp style wooden chairs in front to make up in part for the loss of seats." These seats and the amphitheater arrangement can be seen in the postcard picture. The eventual cost of the building was \$20,000! I then discovered the name of Lawrence B. Valk as the architect. Valk's name had been misspelled as Volk in a later write up done in 1933!

Lawrence Bolton Valk flourished as an architect specializing in church design from 1859-1900. Mr. Valk was born in Florida in 1838. He and his wife Ellen had four children and lived in Brooklyn, NY. His eldest son Arthur joined his father's firm in 1895. They moved it from Brooklyn, NY to Los Angeles in 1900. Mr. Valk was a prominent Protestant church architect and theorist. Among his many churches was the First Baptist Church (corner of State and Spring Street) Springfield, MA, 1892. He also published various books about architecture. In 1869 he published *Architecture for the Country* and in 1873 *Church Architecture* and then *The New Form of Plan for Churches* among others. He also specialized in the Queen Anne style of architecture. The style was ornate with heavy dark furniture and was introduced into the U.S. during the reign of Queen Victoria of England (1837-1901). L.B. Valk died at the age of 86 in Los Angeles in 1924. Mystery solved!

David C. Morrell, Center church historian





- 05 Helen Gage
- 12 Chloe Hough
- Gregg Howe
- 13 Tessa Holmes
- 19 Waldo Heinrichs
- 22 Cora Hough
- 25 Klara Sokop
- 26 Grace Hooton



- 03 Kim Deshaies
- 05 Brian Lapis
- 06 Annabelle Burke
- Lou Hamilton
- 07 Janet Stache
- 10 Jacques LaFleur
- 15 Nick Tipton
- 20 Ruth Howe
- 31 Matt Lafleur



If you would like to provide flowers for worship in July.
please call the Church Office (532-2262)



Summer Office Hours



Tuesday - Thursday
9am - 4pm

Lori Vacation time
July 10 & 11; 22-24

Thia Vacation time
July 22-26 August 12-16

The Church Office will be covered on
Wednesday mornings when Thia
is away.

Joint Summer Services



July 7, 14, 21, 28
Center Church 10am

August 4, 11, 18, 25
Church of Christ Granby 10am
235 State Street

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

Canned vegetables

Canned fruits

Cereals

Soups

Dried Pastas

Rice

Canned beans

Tuna Fish

Peanut Butter Jam/Jelly



Juices

Crackers

Spaghetti sauce

Meals in a can

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

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

Thank you for your compassionate response!

FREE Trial Class

Come take the first class on us!

Learn to Dance!



Social Dance Lessons

The Thursday Dance Class is taking a summer break after the June 27th class and will resume in September. We meet in Fellowship Hall at 6:30 pm, Thursday nights, with dance instructor Jeannette LoPresti. Just \$5 a lesson, no partners needed!!! Call Corinne Chartrand with any questions.

Daily Lectionary Scripture References July 2019 (Year C)

Mon., July 1
Psalm 75
2 Kings 2:15-22
1 John 2:7-11

Tues., July 2
Psalm 75
2 Kings 3:4-20
Ephesians 5:6-20

Wed., July 3
Psalm 75
2 Kings 4:1-7
Matthew 10:16-25

Thurs., July 4
Psalm 30
2 Kings 4:9-17
Romans 7:14-25

Fri., July 5
Psalm 30
2 Kings 4:18-31
2 Corinthians 8:1-7

Sat., July 6
Psalm 30
2 Kings 4:32-37
Luke 9:1-6

Sun., July 7
Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
2 Kings 5:1-14
Psalm 30
Galatians 6:[1-6] 7-16
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

Mon., July 8
Psalm 6
2 Kings 5:15-19a
Acts 19:21-27

Tues., July 9
Psalm 6
2 Kings 5:19b-27
Acts 19:28-41

Wed., July 10
Psalm 6
2 Kings 6:1-7
Luke 10:13-16

Thurs., July 11
Psalm 82
Amos 1:1-2:3
James 2:14-26

Fri., July 12
Psalm 82
Amos 2:4-11
Acts 7:9-16

Sat., July 13
Psalm 82
Amos 2:12-3:8
John 3:16-21

Sun., July 14
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Amos 7:7-17
Psalm 82
Colossians 1:1-14
Luke 10:25-37

Mon., July 15
Psalm 7
Amos 3:9-4:5
James 2:1-7

Tues., July 16
Psalm 7
Amos 4:6-13
1 John 3:11-17

Wed., July 17
Psalm 7
Amos 5:1-9
Matthew 25:31-46

Thurs., July 18
Psalm 52
Amos 5:10-17
Hebrews 5:1-6

Fri., July 19
Psalm 52
Amos 5:18-27
Ephesians 3:14-21

Sat., July 20
Psalm 52
Amos 6:1-14
Luke 8:4-10

Sun., July 21
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Amos 8:1-12
Psalm 52
Colossians 1:15-28
Luke 10:38-42

Mon., July 22
Psalm 119:17-32
Amos 7:1-6
Colossians 1:27-2:7

Tues., July 23
Psalm 119:17-32
Amos 8:13-9:4
1 John 2:1-6

Wed., July 24
Psalm 119:17-32
Amos 9:5-15
John 6:41-51

Thurs., July 25
Psalm 85
Hosea 4:1-19
Acts 1:15-20

Fri., July 26
Psalm 85
Hosea 5:1-15
Acts 2:22-36

Sat., July 27
Psalm 85
Hosea 1:11-2:15
Luke 8:22-25

Sun., July 28
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Hosea 1:2-10
Psalm 85
Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]
Luke 11:1-13

Mon., July 29
Psalm 44
Hosea 2:14-3:5
Colossians 2:16-3:1

Tues., July 30
Psalm 44
Hosea 6:1-10
Romans 9:30-10:4

Wed., July 31
Psalm 44
Hosea 6:11-7:16
Matthew 5:43-48

Thurs., Aug. 1
Psalm 107:1-9, 43
Hosea 8:1-14
Romans 11:33-36

Fri., Aug. 2
Psalm 107:1-9, 43
Hosea 9:1-17
Ephesians 4:17-24

Sat., Aug. 3
Psalm 107:1-9, 43
Hosea 10:1-15
Mark 10:17-22

Sun., Aug. 4
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Hosea 11:1-11
Psalm 107:1-9, 43
Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

Mon., Aug. 5
Psalm 60
Hosea 11:12-12:14
Colossians 3:18-4:1

Tues., Aug. 6
Psalm 60
Hosea 13:1-16
Colossians 4:2-6

Wed., Aug. 7
Psalm 60
Hosea 14:1-9
Luke 12:22-31

Thurs., Aug. 8
Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23
Isaiah 9:8-17
Romans 9:1-9

Fri., Aug. 9
Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23
Isaiah 9:18-10:4
Acts 7:1-8

Sat., Aug. 10
Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23
Isaiah 1:2-9, 21-23
Matthew 6:19-24

Daily Lectionary Scripture References August 2019 (Year C)

Sun., Aug. 11
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 1:1, 10-20
Psalm 50:1-8, 22-23
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

Mon., Aug. 12
Psalm 11
Isaiah 2:1-4
Hebrews 11:1-7

Tues., Aug. 13
Psalm 11
Isaiah 24:1-13
Hebrews 11:17-28

Wed., Aug. 14
Psalm 11
Isaiah 24:14-23
Luke 12:41-48

Thurs., Aug. 15
Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19
Isaiah 2:5-11
Hebrews 10:26-31

Fri., Aug. 16
Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19
Isaiah 3:1-17
Hebrews 10:32-39

Sat., Aug. 17
Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19
Isaiah 3:18-4:6
Matthew 24:15-27

Sun., Aug. 18
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 5:1-7
Psalm 80:1-2, 8-19
Hebrews 11:29-12:2
Luke 12:49-56

Mon., Aug. 19
Psalm 74
Isaiah 5:8-23
1 John 4:1-6

Tues., Aug. 20
Psalm 74
Isaiah 5:24-30
Acts 7:44-53

Wed., Aug. 21
Psalm 74
Isaiah 27:1-13
Luke 19:45-48

Thurs., Aug. 22
Psalm 71:1-6
Jeremiah 6:1-19
Hebrews 12:3-17

Fri., Aug. 23
Psalm 71:1-6
Jeremiah 6:20-26
Acts 17:1-9

Sat., Aug. 24
Psalm 71:1-6
Jeremiah 1:1-3, 11-19
Luke 6:1-5

Sun., Aug. 25
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
Jeremiah 1:4-10
Psalm 71:1-6
Hebrews 12:18-29
Luke 13:10-17

Mon., Aug. 26
Psalm 10
Jeremiah 7:1-15
Hebrews 3:7-4:11

Tues., Aug. 27
Psalm 10
Jeremiah 7:16-26
Revelation 3:7-13

Wed., Aug. 28
Psalm 10
Jeremiah 7:27-34
Luke 6:6-11

Thurs., Aug. 29
Psalm 81:1, 10-16
Jeremiah 11:1-17
1 Peter 3:8-12

Fri., Aug. 30
Psalm 81:1, 10-16
Jeremiah 12:1-13
1 Peter 4:7-11

Sat., Aug. 31
Psalm 81:1, 10-16
Jeremiah 2:1-3, 14-22
Matthew 20:20-28



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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
Adult: Randy Purinton, Team Chair

Music

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

Office Administrator:
Sexton:

Cynthia Jubinville
Robert Farman