

CHURCH AT THE CENTER,

APRIL 2021



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH "CENTER CHURCH"

United Church of Christ
One Church Street
South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075
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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.*



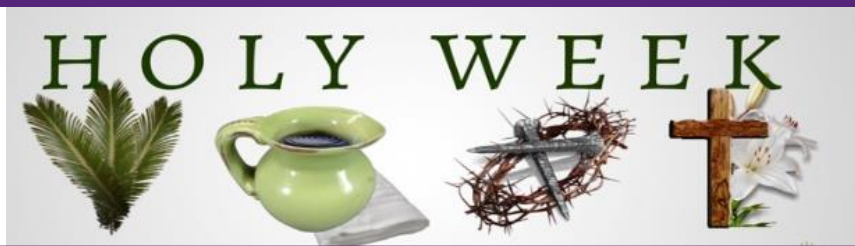
Another year of an empty tomb and an empty church!

I bought a carton of eggs to dye and use as decorations. A year ago, all my adult children told me they didn't need to have any more Easter Egg hunts, even if we were not all holed up in our own homes. I guess I pushed the concept a bit longer than necessary! Ages 33, 30 and 27? I enjoyed hiding the plastic eggs with chocolate and jelly beans. Some things just need to end. And some things need to open.

We are looking forward to new life as we return through the doors...not sure when, but when we do, we will practice caution, proper health and safety, recognizing there are abilities and disabilities to affirm. I invite you to consider how you will make an effort to see and practice new life as we celebrate the Easter Season and Spring.

The tomb is empty. The resurrected Jesus is moving among us. Perhaps we may spot him in a friend or member's face. Alleluia!

With Easter Joy,
Lori



Palm Sunday March 28 with All Saints and Our Savior Lutheran **Live on Zoom (9am)** and recorded for later YouTube presentation. Links with bulletin will be emailed, for Sunday morning.

Maundy Thursday April 1 with Church of Christ, Granby **Live on Zoom (7pm)** and recorded for later YouTube presentation. Links with bulletin will be emailed, for Thursday.

Good Friday April 2 with All Saints and Our Savior Lutheran **Live on Zoom (noon)** and recorded for later YouTube presentation. Links with bulletin will be emailed, for Friday.

Easter Sunday April 4 will be recorded and sent out in our customary email for linking to our Youtube channel for Easter Sunday morning.

All Links will be sent to you prior to the service.

Palm Sunday Worship

March 28, 2021 09:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/140144067?pwd=Smtya3ZIL0FyUE03ZHFNWnM1RHJjQT09>

Meeting ID: 140 144 067 Passcode: 208580

Maundy Thursday Service

April 1, 2021 7pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83788844022?pwd=UDRadkV4UUttb2VHQjdacytkVkJvUT09>

Meeting ID: 837 8884 4022 Passcode: 956431

One tap mobile +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)



Good Friday Service

April 2, 2021 Noon

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87345691846?pwd=U241Smo0TFIRaGdqM2lrczVsVVd6UT09>

Meeting ID: 873 4569 1846 Passcode: 907035

One tap mobile +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)



Easter Sunday Worship YouTube link will be sent in our usual email format, so it is available in your inbox Easter Sunday morning.



David Morrell reported that April marks the 75th Anniversary of Church at the Center publications – and no Thia did not produce them all! So be sure to read David's Church Historian Article and learn more.



Church Council will make **Silverlake Camp scholarships available for children and youth for 2021**. If you wish to apply email or call the church office and let us know. We will compile a list of those interested and disburse scholarships on a first come-first served basis so let us know asap!



Did you know.... Center Church is part of **the Interfaith Opportunities Network (ION)**, a group of 20 faith communities in Hampshire County that includes campus ministries at Mount Holyoke, Amherst and UMass, the Unitarian Society, Mt. Toby Quaker Meeting House, Jewish Community of Amherst, Hampshire Mosque, two Buddhist communities, the Baha'i Assembly, and several UCC churches and other Christian denominations. Besides encouraging interfaith dialogue, ION explores ways faith provides the foundation for working towards social justice and ION proudly supports our Saturday vigils as an example of faith in action. ION also is planning a zoom conference on building connections between faith and the work of reparative justice on **Sunday, April 25, 4 - 5:30 pm**. For more information about the event and registration, contact Anita at asarro05@gmail.com



Dear Mighty Massachusetts Moms,

Our MA Moms Demand Action chapter and Lena Park Youth Council are again partnering to bring you the voices of survivors, youth, politicians, and activists! Together, we survive, strive, and thrive. Very excitingly, this year we will have a special showcase Art Festival!

This year's Wear Orange Summer Jam will use artistic expression to celebrate individual and community resiliency in the face of gun violence. Through this, we create a foundation of hope and of trust that allows us to survive, to strive, and to thrive!

For the first time, we are calling on artists ages 15+ across the country, including survivors of gun violence, to submit visual or videos of performing art to a virtual art exhibit. Survivors may submit art of any medium and subject matter. Other artists are asked to examine gun violence in any form, of any topic, abstract or representational.

The virtual exhibit will take place on the Moms Wear Orange Summer Jam website as well as on the website of [Easthampton City Arts \(ECA\)](http://EasthamptonCityArts.org). During the exhibit-- taking place in June and July-- ECA will also have a social media campaign highlighting the work. The Western Mass local group of Moms is planning to have public outdoor projections of the artwork.

We really need you to spread the word. Please share the flyer with your local Art Council, community centers, and anyone else you think might be interested. And do think about submitting your own art!

All information relating to this show is at www.wearorangesummerjam.com, including:

- The prospectus at <https://www.wearorangesummerjam.com/2021-prospectus>
- To submit work: tinyurl.com/wearorange2021
- For questions, inquire at WearOrange2021@gmail.com
- Deadline for Entries: May 1, 2021
- Exhibition Dates: June 1, 2021-July 31, 2021



Sincerely, *Kristen and Rina* Co-Leads, MA Chapter, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America
Moms Demand Action PO Box 4184 New York, NY 10022

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

Continual:

Emily Bangs-Orsini (at Mission Care Holyoke)
 Barbara Blank's great-grandson, Cayden
 Luke Bradley (lifelong battle with cancer)
 Muriel Graham
 Audrey Heinrichs
 Tom Hazen
 Phyllis Lacoste
 Tania M.
 Anna Sibley
 Art Stanley



We keep all those affected by the Coronavirus, in our prayers including medical personnel and first responders, food preparers/ deliverers, grocery workers, truckers and all "essential workers".

We keep the incarcerated, those who have lost their jobs or are furloughed, all our elected officials and the world at large in our hearts and prayers.

We keep those serving in the military in our prayers.

If you have submitted one of these requests for prayer, please let us know when it is time to remove someone's name from the list.

Situational:

Karen Anderson, recuperating at her sister's home
 Bobbie Ayers, home, recuperating
 Nancy, Ken, Cathy, Bill and Ella, and family and friends of Mike Bozek, who passed away on February 26th
 Loxley Coffin, granddaughter of Karol and Art, born premature, home now
 Joan Duffy, home, recuperating
 Audrey Heaphy, broken arm
 Audrey Heaphy's brother-in-law, Bob Brandt
 Prayers are appreciated for Kate and John Hoffman's niece Libby and her husband Sean, who suffered the tragic birth of their stillborn son on March 20th. May beautiful baby Gio Asa Aurigemma rest peacefully in our hearts.
 Eunice Howes, for stabilization of vision
 Amanda Marcotte
 Eric Tipton, needing a kidney transplant
 Tom (shoulder surgery) and Terri (vertigo) Waller



Pics from Cheryl

Forest David Whitfield McGinnis (born March 5th 2021, 8 lbs 7 oz). Lee Tae and Tyler wanted to thank everyone who supported them through the birth. We hope you all can meet him in the near future.



Children's Christian Education

We've enjoyed Holy Week activities together in our Sunday School Zoom meetings. Chelsea, Julie, and Martha all contributed to ordering, assembling, and distributing activity bags to families. The fun, hands-on collection includes an Easter coloring book, a Holy Week sticker activity, a Hosanna mosaic project, a bag of Easter goodies and so much more. It's so fun getting back to our routine of doing craft activities together that reinforce classroom biblical lessons. We will continue meeting on Zoom every Sunday at 11am through the second Sunday of June. The Faith Formation Team (formerly the Christian Education team) is grateful for the support of members voting to change our committee's name to align with the conference recommendation and also to use inclusive language that better expresses our mission to meet our children and youth wherever they may be on their spiritual journeys.

Happy Easter!! ~ Martha, CE Director 🌸🐰🌻

Youth Group



This month in Youth Group, we finished our YOUNique lesson, learning that our calling in life is where our passions, skills, gifts, morals, and values meet the world's needs. We then took a week to discuss free will, the universe, and how involved God is in our lives. It was a fascinating conversation! The youth voted to begin a new curriculum from Generation Why called "Mantras, Menorahs, and Minarets: Encountering Other Faiths" where we will learn

where Christianity encounters Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. Emily is quite excited to bring her learning from MHC as a religion major to Youth Group!

Warmly, Emily and Emma

Adult Christian Education

Sirach 20:24-26

A lie is an ugly blot on a person;
it is continually on the lips of the ignorant.
A thief is preferable to a habitual liar, but the
lot of both is ruin. The disposition of a liar brings disgrace
and his shame is ever with him.

This Peek is from an extra-Biblical book that we find in a collection of wisdom literature located after the book of Revelation: the Apocrypha. Since ancient times, lying has carried the weight of sin and evil. Here's why God loves predictability and order, as in the Law, customs and traditions. In order, there is life and continuity. But lying is an assault on the predictability and trust we need to plan our lives and care for the lives of others. It degrades the quality of our lives, perverts the political process, the course of justice and the progress of commerce. Lying is an extension of death whereas truth is a tool of good living, creation and peace.

Randy Purinton is ordained in the U.C.C. and is a member of Center Church. He serves as a trustee.

News from the Trustees for April 2021

The trustees had two productive meetings in March, one prior to the Annual Meeting and our regular one after that meeting. The special meeting was to talk about possible grant proposals now that we have the historic preservation designation from both MA and the National Park Service in DC. The second part was to discuss a proposal for use of the now vacated Center Nursery Space in the Lancaster Wing on the second floor. Both of those discussions carried over into our regular meeting. It was decided that we needed more information about the state of the exterior of our original building and also more information as well about how we could pay for at least part of the work, along with a grant. Currently, we foresee tackling this work in three possible phases suggested by the consultant, including work on the bell tower and slate roof, secondly the west and south facing bricks, and finally the north facing bricks. We are looking at a variety of options for both actual work and financing of it. Randy Hyvonen has been working hard for us on possible MA grants which have been coming around each spring. The trustees are most appreciative of the work Randy has put in so far on this! All this will come before the full congregation when we have more information. The proposal for the space of the CNS rooms is still in the planning stage and we are responding to that proposal as it becomes clearer. You will hear more about both of these in the near future.

Back in February, we were able to tell you that, thanks to the PPP we received last year, we were able to clear the 2020 year's books and begin 2021 with a clean slate. At the end of February, we would like to be at 17% of the 2021 budget. We were at 29.96% of the income budgeted for this new year (nicely over what we projected) and expenses stood at 18.19% (a little higher than projected). As it is early in this new year, there is not much more to report on that. We do want to thank the members for the vote of confidence on the proposed 2021 budget at the Annual Meeting. As is always the case, we will continue to monitor income and expenses closely throughout the year and make reports monthly about our progress. We are hopeful that, as the Phase Forward team considers the next steps to reopening the buildings, we will be able to invite our regular building "users" back into our spaces. We were very pleased to hear that the Stewardship team has \$165,882 pledges, from 91 units for this 2021 budget. Thank you to all who have made pledges, especially to those who were able to make increases over the 2020 amounts even in this very difficult past year. As always, we continue to express our appreciation to all the staff who have spent many hours learning new ways to continue do their jobs. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!

We will shortly have a small new addition to the outside of our building and we encourage you to see if you can find it by mid-April, before we tell you where it is. We are in the process of having a National Historic Places plaque created to acknowledge this honor we have received, after over a year and a half of hard work by several individuals and the trustees. It may even show up in an upcoming Sunday bulletin but definitely for the May CAC edition.

Cindy Morrell, secretary

From the Stewardship Team

If you haven't made your **One Great Hour of Sharing** donation yet, you can do it online with a credit or debit card at centerchurchsouthhadley.org ! From the home page, click on "donate & give". From the "select fund" drop down menu, click on "One Great Hour of Sharing", input your donation amount, and type in your card information. One-time donations to our general operating fund can be made on this web page, too! Thanks for your generosity to Center Church.

Notes from Church Council

The Council met virtually through Zoom on Tuesday March 2. Corinne Chartrand of Activities was the Lead pro-tem. Karen Hyvonen opened the meeting by reading an essay which dealt with the pandemic from "Liberating Word" by Rebecca Pridemore. The Council discussed logistics concerning the Annual Meeting. We have 179 active members, so we needed to determine what constitutes a quorum. The meeting adheres to Robert's Rules. Outreach reported that the vigils are still ongoing. The team has collected household items for Jewish Family Services to be used for new refugee arrivals. They also donated \$200 to JFS for school supplies. \$250 was sent to the LGBTQ Asylum Task Force in Worcester, MA. Activities is considering another virtual trivia night in April. Stewardship received 91 pledge units including a gift of \$25,000 from Tom Hazen and his family. Trustees are reviewing and discussing a proposal for a daycare facility in our former Center Nursery School rooms. Preservation of the exterior of our church building is an ongoing discussion. A plaque has been proposed declaring our new national historic status! Deacons may consider "live streaming" of our worship service in the future. CE will recognize graduating High School seniors and MHC graduating seniors Emily Carle and Phoebe Murtagh. Rev. Souder reported that she is taking some time off after Easter. She is also participating in the Area Conference Minister Search Committee being conducted through Zoom. Current outside signage kiosk is in poor condition and needs updating. Our website needs a "2021 over haul." All teams are to be included in the update. Brian Lapis agreed to chair the group. Council has been discussing an "all-purpose church fund" for "pop-up" expenses. Our next Zoom Council meeting is at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday April 6.

Center Church in Transition

Death: Michael Frank Bozek, February 26, 2021, 76 years of age.

04/21

David C. Morrell, Clerk

Membership Invitation

We are offering a Zoom Membership Class on Monday March 29th at 7pm. Would you be interested in joining us to find out more information about Center Church? As I have said before, while our doors are closed, our ministries continue. We will receive new members on April 25 (or record it earlier that week).

If you are interested and available, please let Rev Lori Souder know. Joining us will be someone from the Membership and Stewardship Teams and the Deacons (assist with worship).

Lori Souder (she/her) is inviting you to a scheduled Membership Zoom meeting.

Monday March 29, 2021 7-8pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84304966413?pwd=bWhDck5HYTl1VWpKL0lFTCtMak5EUT09>

Meeting ID: 843 0496 6413 Passcode: 620513

One tap mobile +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Outreach Partners of the Month

Girls Inc of the Valley



of the Valley

Center Church has been an enthusiastic supporter of Girls Inc for many years and is one of our Outreach Partners for March.

Girls Inc. empowers, educates, and guides girls forward, helping them navigate the challenges in their lives. Through intentional and effective programming, both in school and after school, we focus on the development of the whole girl – while helping to harness the power already within her. The combination of long-lasting mentoring relationships, a pro-girl environment, and research-based programming equips girls to navigate gender, economic, and social barriers, and grow up healthy, educated, and independent.

It is certainly an understatement to say that 2020 was a challenge. However, they were able to maintain an active program throughout the year. In the spring they supported families in need with grocery gift cards, established zoom programs, provided laptops, and hosted Holyoke elementary school girls with safe learning pods. The summer program supported STEM and Literacy programs. They also had a remote Eureka Program for teens with UMASS professors and even an Astronaut. They also created a virtual college tours program.

The leaders at Girls Inc. are very thankful for our continued support. Thursday, May 6 8-9am will be their Spring 2021 Virtual Spirit of Girls event. For more information please visit: <https://www.girlsincvalley.org> and their facebook page.



Update on Cathedral in the Night from Emily. Cathedral in the Night has been doing well. With the warmer weather, more people have been attending the weekly meals, serving about 75 dinners each week. The Northampton High School Key Club sends 2-3 volunteers each week to help with packaging up supplies and setting up for distribution, and the Kiwanis Club prepares the vegan meal. Local churches (including our very own Food For Friends!) prepare the main meat dish. If you are interested in watching Pastor Steph's sermon, you can watch it on the Cathedral in the Night Facebook page. We go live at 4:45 pm on Sundays, and the video is available for viewing afterwards. Please contact Emily at carle22e@mtholyoke.edu or 860-573-7143 if you are interested in donating because our needs change on a weekly basis.



The Outreach Team's Ad Hoc Committee on Racial Justice met recently and reviewed some of the activities that our congregation has been a part of over the past year and a half, despite being away from our church building. The list below testifies to the depth and breadth of just some of the issues related to racial justice. Loving one's neighbor is many faceted!

Some Outreach inspired Racial justice initiatives during past year and a half

- Saturday 30 minute vigils for racial justice (~30-200 in attendance)
- Southern New England Conference's Minister for Racial Justice Donique McIntosh preaching
- A thought-provoking conversation followed the service.
- The Outreach Team and Deacons have also sent a combined \$150 contribution to the racial justice ministries of the Conference.
- South Hadley Police Chief Jen Gunderson conversation in mid-July.
- Recognizing intersection of immigration, racism, our justice system, inequality and its relationship to hunger, homelessness and health/medical care
- Gift to Roca, addressing needs of vulnerable young men of color in Holyoke
- RIP medical debt relief effort gift
- One action that is consistently recommended by those most directly affected by racism is expanded self-education. Multiple resource lists shared, including UCC sources, kid appropriate suggestions, books, articles, movies and podcasts as well as other master lists.
- Small group discussion around selected articles.
- Encouraged teams to include devotionals focused on racial justice
- Shared black businesses list with the congregation
- Gift to MA Council of Churches One Church Fund supporting small and BIPOC (black, indigenous, people of color) churches impacted by the pandemic
- Alerts and links to support racial justice legislative initiatives e.g., flag and mascot changes, community programs and offerings e.g., Franklin County Interfaith Council panels on racism, ION program

Food For Friends

The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts is honored to partner with you in our mission to feed our neighbors in need and lead the community to end hunger. In FY 2020, we distributed 14.8 million pounds, or the equivalent of 12.3 million meals, to an average of 101,706 people each month, including hungry children, families, seniors, and disabled individuals throughout the four counties of Western Massachusetts. Unfortunately, we know even more food is needed; Feeding America estimates it would take over 2.3 million meals annually, in addition to those meals already provided, to fill the existing meal gap in Western Massachusetts. Clearly, we are inter-dependent members of our region's emergency food network.

Thank You

In FY 2020 we worked in partnership with First Congregational Church of South Hadley, Food for Friends (45000) to provide the following:

TOTAL POUNDS: 1,491

TOTAL MEALS: 1,242

AGENCY COST: \$86

PERCENT FREE: 93%

PERCENT PERISHABLE: 66%
(vegetables, meats, dairy, etc.)

Something to Ponder – from Lori



Starting last week, the federal government began sending out relief checks. The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 provides \$1,400 per adult and dependent regardless of age. Higher income households will receive less. This unexpected check made me think about how I want to use this money.

I am very fortunate in that I am not immediately concerned with meeting my or my family's basic needs. So, I asked myself, "How could I use this money to make a real difference? What would Jesus want me to do with it?"

Several needs in our community became apparent to me:

- I see the rising demand for our social service agencies at a time when they struggle to raise the necessary funds to do their work.
- Across the country, communities of color face both increased illness and mortality from the coronavirus and a more profound economic fallout from the recession. All of which shows the urgency of addressing the systemic racism that exists throughout society.
- Our congregation, like many other UCC congregations, is entering an uncertain financial moment, does great ministry, and changes people's lives. Just two weeks ago at the vigil for racial justice a non-church member gave me an envelope with a check for \$200 because "Center Church does so much for social and racial justice, bringing the community together."

I realized I could make an impact with my unanticipated relief check. Since I received it as an unexpected gift, we are going to pass some of it on to be an unexpected gift to some nonprofit group who can use it. We are going to send: some to environmental justice, for racial justice, maybe the Sojourner Truth School, and some to help our congregation.

I realize you may need to use the stimulus checks to meet basic household needs. That is the Government's intent and unquestionably comes first! But if you can, please join me in giving a portion to an organization that will use it to improve other people's lives? What is Jesus whispering in your ear regarding how to use this unexpected gift?

Together, we can use unexpected money for unexpected generosity.



Peterson Education Fund Scholarships

The Peterson Memorial Education Fund of Center Church was established in 1985 by Rev. Gus Peterson and his family. The stated purpose was in some small way to aid people whose financial situation made it difficult for them to continue their education. The family, as do we, believed that education was and is an important component toward being a positive and contributing member of society. Both Gus and Barbara Peterson were very involved in the Nueva Esperanza program in Holyoke and were particularly interested in working with that community with education being part of their encouragement. In the spirit of making the world a better place through education, the Fund has assisted members and friends of our congregation, woman at the Care Center in Holyoke (and Bard extension program); Girls' Inc. youth, area high school students headed for college, trade schools, certificate programs and religious endeavors. The one necessary criteria is that they all showed in their application that they were having difficulty meeting the financial needs of their education and were dedicated to improving their educational status. The awards are completely open to all....regardless of age, race, national origin, sex, religious preference or gender identity.

We have designated Sunday, May 9th as a time for taking a special collation for the Peterson Fund. These scholarships are totally funded by us through interest on the principle and contributions from our members. We are usually able to make small awards to three or four applicants each year. It is our hope that you will contribute to the Fund by sending in a check to the church office with "Peterson Fund" designated in the memo line.

Applications are now available for this year's Peterson Memorial Scholarships. The scholarship program is explained in the above article. It is hoped that some of our seniors will take the opportunity to apply. You may obtain an application by contacting the church office. **Please note that the deadline for the return of applications is June 1st of this year.**

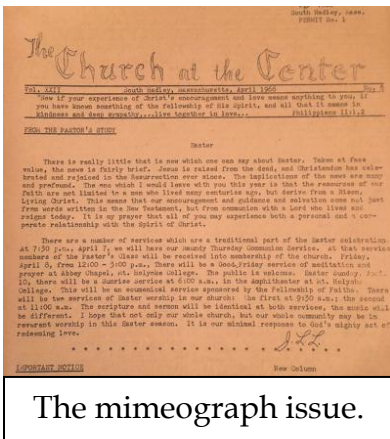


From the Church Historian - April 2021



Easter 1946 issue.

paragraph on "A Post War Program" stated that \$12,000 was to be raised over a period of three years for "relief work and rehabilitation throughout the world," alleviating "human suffering from war, famine and disease." Other paragraphs included ones from Pilgrim Fellowship, the Women's Guild, Men's Club, Grange Notes, Building Fund (yes even in 1946 they were discussing the need for an "education building addition), Association Meeting, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and Kings' Daughters. There was even an "At The Library" column with recent titles on the Gaylord Memorial Library's Religion shelf! It also contained announcements of services at the Mount Holyoke College chapel and upcoming sermons for the month.



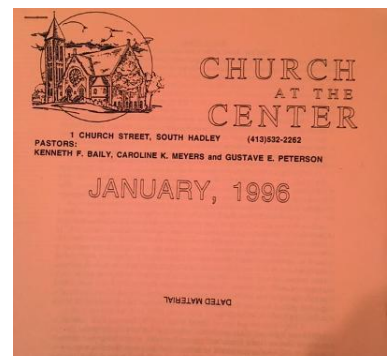
The mimeograph issue.

In April of 1946 "this little paper" was humbly mailed to all Protestant homes in the parish and those from the parish serving in the armed forces and away at college. It was decided then that it would become a monthly publication. So, what started out as an "experiment" with its first issue, *The Church at the Center* has thrived non-stop for 75 years! May it continue "forward through the ages!"

David C. Morrell, Center Church historian
04/21

That's right! Our church newsletter, *The Church at the Center* which started on April 15, 1946 is now 75 years old! It was Easter after World War II and Center Church was growing with new families and relaxing after the war. It was as newsy and informative then as it is now. The first newsletter started out as a professionally printed one-page format. It had an Editorial Committee of four members which compiled and edited it. The opening article was called "Easter 1946." It stated that we, as Center Church, were "prepared to lead the way" into the post-war environment. Rev. Winn was to deliver his final sermon in his series entitled "Basic Christian Beliefs using the text of "Beyond the Shining River" with an explanation of the "Christian doctrine of immortality." The choir prepared three Easter anthems including a Russian composition called "Christ is Risen." A

As it progressed, multiple pages appeared and were produced in the popular mimeograph format. Then it became a typewritten format which was produced through a photocopier. Today we enjoy an electronic transmitted version with some printed by photocopying. The format hasn't really changed that much. Most of the same issues still require our attention. There's the hungry in the world and in our area, caring for orphans, raising money for our church home, welcoming new pastors and members, discussing Sunday school curriculum, along with informative articles pertaining to our history and even the hymns that we sing!



The typewritten
photocopied issue

Tell Me the Stories - April 2021

Our first hymn this month *There is a Balm in Gilead* (NCH 553) is a well-loved and well-known African-American spiritual which our choir has sung many times. It is based on Jeremiah 8:22 and the balm was actually a resin used for healing purposes. The tune “Balm in Gilead” came about at the same time as the text. The text encourages those who were slaves to look to this balm (figuratively) and not be weighed down by their current circumstances. A choral arrangement by William L. Dawson made it more accessible to congregations and choirs and led to its greater popularity. (CAC 4/09)

Our second hymn *My Song is Love Unknown* (NCH 222, PH 169) does actually also appear in both of our hymnals. This Samuel Crossman text originally had seven stanzas and was published in a book of nine poems in 1664. It took another three centuries until it was actually accepted as a hymn. In both of our hymnals, it is placed in the Lenten section, more specifically in the Holy Week section. Crossman wrote non-psalm based hymns, one of the first writers to do so. He was an Anglican priest who had supported the Puritan cause and was therefore dismissed, then recanted and was finally reinstated – whew! He actually served as the king’s chaplain. The two versions tell basically the same story with the NCH one being updated for language and clarity. The tune was composed by John David Edwards in the 1830s. It was first known as “Lovely” but later changed to “Rhosymedre”. You may have noticed that Larry has a prelude by the latter name, as do I. Rhosymedre was so named because Edwards, a Welsh Anglican priest and graduate of Oxford University, was the vicar for many years in Rhosymedre, North Wales. He also found time to compose liturgical music for worship including Original Sacred Music (two volumes) in 1836. This tune is also used with PH 466 and NCH 426. (CAC 4/10)

Our final hymn this month is *We Live by Faith and Not by Sight* (NCH 256) which came to us with a very familiar tune “Dunlap’s Creek.” Henry Alford, an Englishman ordained into the Church of England, served as his father’s curate and then became first a vicar in Leicestershire and then dean of Canterbury. His family included five generations of clergy. He included this in an 1844 hymnal he edited and set up as a resource for the church year. During his lifetime, he was a musician, painter, poet and preacher. Alford was a Greek scholar by profession and published over 50 books in his lifetime. Alford also wrote the hymn texts for PH 311 and 461,462 (*Come Ye Thankful*) and NCH 422. Samuel McFarland is credited as being the composer of the hymn tune itself. It says that in the 19th century, the tune was used in more denominational hymnals than any other. The book, Beauties of Harmony, was compiled in 1814, published in Pittsburgh and was a shape-note hymnbook which used only four shapes to help untrained folks recognize certain pitches and be able to sing the songs. Freeman Lewis included this tune in the book’s second edition in 1816. (CAC 5/12)

Resources used: Robert J. Morgan, Then Sings My Soul (2003); Ronald W. Thomson’s Who’s Who of Hymn Writers (1967); and The New Century Hymnal Companion, ed. Kristen Forman (1998).



Cindy Morrell, Associate in Music



- 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



February 22, 2021

Rev. Lori J Souder and Elizabeth Griffin
Center Church: First Congregation Church UCC
One Church St Ste 1
South Hadley, MA 01075

Dear Rev. Souder and Elizabeth,

On behalf of all of us at JFS, I thank you for the generous gift of \$200 to Jewish Family Service of Western Massachusetts from the Outreach Team of Center Church. We are so grateful for your support and friendship. You are playing a crucial role in our organization's ability to lift people up from adversity to live fulfilling lives.

JFS is now over 110 years old. As the oldest social service agency in the community, we have prided ourselves in our responsiveness to the many issues and challenges that have faced us for so many decades. This is why your donation is so important to us. You help us keep our vision alive. You give us the resources to strengthen, deepen and expand our work, across all programs. Without you we could never have achieved so much.

Thank you again for helping us hold our values high and for bringing them into everything that we do and stand for. Most of all thank you for being the power behind our work.

We pray that you will stay safe and healthy during these winter months.

In the spirit of community, and with wishes for a new year filled with light,

Maxine J. Stein

Maxine J. Stein
President and CEO

JFS works with individuals and families of all races and religions and is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Our tax identification number is 04-2104352. Please save this letter as a receipt for your tax records. Since you received no goods or services in exchange for this gift, it may be considered a charitable contribution to the extent allowed by IRS regulations.

Jewish Family Service of Western Massachusetts
Serving Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin and Berkshire Counties

Main Office
15 Lenox Street • Springfield, MA 01108 • T 413-737-2601 • F 413-737-0323
www.jfswm.org



Heifer International gratefully recognizes

First Congregational Church Inc

for your contribution of healthy animals and training
in their care to help struggling families overcome a life of hunger and poverty.

"The Earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." Psalm 24:1

Pierre U. Ferrari
Heifer International

February 2021
Date



1 World Avenue • Little Rock, AR 72202
888.5HUNGER • 888.548.6437
www.heifer.org • info@heifer.org

THANK YOU!

Donor ID:	8-15793473
Receipt Number:	14885994
Date Received:	2/8/2021
Amount:	\$282.50

Purchase: General Fund (282.50)

000001 0001 02/23/2021 MID MID MID MID
#BWDJDN
#DEACEA2E2C2F4204#
First Congregational Church Inc
Ste 1
1 Church St
South Hadley, MA 01075-1508
Dear Friends:

As we move forward in 2021, there is hope in the air. Not just for me and you, but for all the families around the world who help through your support of Heifer International. You give them the hope they need to lift themselves out of hunger and poverty forever.

Even as the COVID-19 pandemic continues, you have not forgotten those most in need — which speaks volumes about your character and compassion.

Please accept my heartfelt thanks for your recent gift of \$282.50 to Heifer. Your generous contribution is already being put to use, providing families with the education, animals, resources and encouragement they need to thrive.

We're all still feeling the ongoing effects of this pandemic. And as you may know, the hardworking poor who we serve are especially vulnerable right now. Heifer families determined to create better — more stable — futures continue to face unprecedented challenges.

But no matter what crisis, these families can survive thanks to the strength and hope you give them. You equip them with the knowledge and skills they need to raise healthy animals and grow bountiful crops so they can feed everyone at their table. What's more, they pass what they know on to their neighbors, so entire communities no longer go hungry.

With caring people like you by their side, there is no challenge they can't overcome. On behalf of all those who will live more hopeful, healthier and happier lives because of you, thank you.

With gratitude,

Pierre U. Ferrari

Pierre U. Ferrari
President and CEO

Dear Lori and all my Center Church friends,

Just want to say Thanks for all the beautiful cards you have sent and to tell you what a blessing your words of comfort and caring have been. Somehow those card days are easier to get through.

I pray the day will soon come when once again we will worship together and share those promised hugs!

Thank you for thinking of me and for caring!

Fondly,
Valerie Bouzek

You can visit the Center Church YouTube page anytime, and watch any of the Mid-week Musings or Sunday Worship Services.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCenAmZ4uhw49Oe3m_qxyBTg



THE MINISTRY AT CENTER CHURCH

Ministers: All Church Members
Senior Minister: Rev. Lori J. Souder

Christian Education Program

Children: Martha Guild, and Chelsea Korzeniowski

Youth: Emily Carle and Emma Martin

Music

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

Office Administrator: Cynthia Jubinville
Sexton: Robert Farman



Center Church on the Web

Email: centerchurch@verizon.net

Facebook: Center Church of South Hadley MA

Website: <https://centerchurchsouthhadley.org/>

Instagram: @centerchurchsouthhadley





Join us for a Spring Program Day at the Lake!

\$48 per person, 10 am-4 pm

Parent-child pairs or family groups welcome.

Learn more & register by clicking the title of each program below.

[Silver Lake Sampler](#) - Saturday, April 24 - grade 4+

[Waterways](#) - Saturday, May 8 - grade 3+

[Love Creation](#) - Saturday, May 15 - grade 3+

[Silver Lake Field Day](#) - Saturday, May 22 - grade 3+



[Silver Lake Conference Center](#)

A Ministry of the [Southern New England Conference UCC](#)

223 Low Road | Sharon, CT 06069 | 860.364.5526 | Fax: 860.364.1000

slcc@sneucc.org

