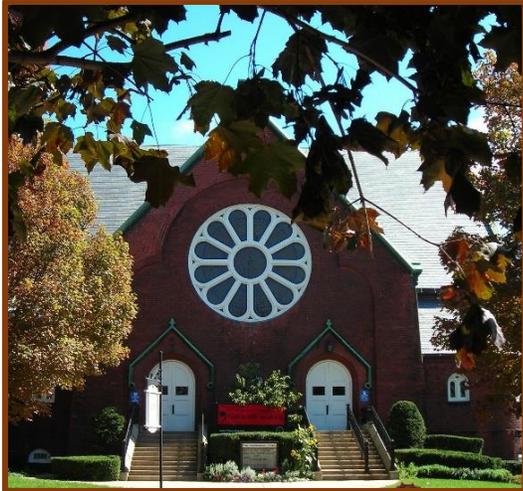




CHURCH AT THE CENTER

OCTOBER 2021



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.*

Thirteen years ago, I asked in worship (the fall of '08), "Where have you seen God this week?" I referred to them as God coincidences-where we unintentionally intersect with God. People struggled with the concept. You were not accustomed to becoming theologians! After a while we ended it. There is a shelf life for most things.

In the last month I've been noticing God appearing in YOU! You are the "can do" people. Just last weekend, many ministries in which we are involved, were engaged (Youth Group and Promise Land (Sunday School), Food For Friends-meals for the homebound, Cathedral in the Night meal, sandwiches, and serving the temporarily homeless in Northampton, the racial justice vigil, many volunteers at the memorial service and Sunday service). Teams are rolling ahead even with the Delta Virus. You are taking the messages of Jesus to heart.

I invite you to look around as the season is changing to see where God is, where the teachings of Jesus have made an imprint on you, and where the Spirit is taking you. If so willing, please share in worship during the prayers of joys and concerns (or send them in to the church or me to be read).

Blessings,
Lori

Lori is on vacation from the afternoon of September 26th through October 2nd. Randy Purinton will be providing coverage for pastoral emergencies (413-687-4343)



Looking for **Confirmands and Table Fellowship** children/youth? Are you in 7-9th grade and wish to affirm your baptism and join the church?...or just find out more about Center Church and membership as a young person? Please let the church office know of your interest. We will design Confirmation around the teens busy schedule and Covid.

Also, if you are in grades 3 - 6, and haven't received your first Table Fellowship, please let the church office know. There will be two classes to offer information before receiving your official First Communion. Center Church believes all may receive communion but we wish to provide information and make it a celebratory event.



Vigils for Racial Justice: All who support racial justice are invited to stand with us along College Street by the Town Common on Saturday mornings in September from 10-10:30. Please bring your own sign, flag, etc., masks optional, and be prepared to stand at least six feet from anyone not in your family circle. For more information, contact Center Church at 532-2262.



Bible Study: Sailing on with Paul

Join us for more **Bible Study** on the Book of Acts in the Conference Room at Loomis Village, Thursdays from 10-11am. All are welcome - Join us for one or both of the remaining studies.

October 7	Acts 21:17-28:31	Paul does Rome not on a moped
October 14	Finish up prior week and conclude	

Sign up through the front desk at Loomis. Get ready for some sea travel!



While we try to absorb the devastation wrought by summer fires and hurricanes, most recently in Haiti and Louisiana, but also New Jersey and much of the western US, some areas are bracing for yet another onslaught. The response to such disasters is often quick, but the need for assistance is ongoing and long lasting. If you would like to help, you may write a check to Center Church, with "**disaster relief**" in the memo line, or place your offering in a labeled envelope. It will be sent to the UCC disaster response effort where 100% of donations go to that work. You may also donate on our website <https://centerchurchsouthhadley.org/donate-give/> , Disaster Relief fund.



The **Phase Forward Task Force met** and decided to continue with our hybrid worship service (in person and online), the Promise Land in person class, and hybrid Youth Group. We will continue to support the outside groups. **All**, as in **ALL**, are asked to wear a mask, physically distance, and sanitize your hands frequently.



World Wide Communion occurs on October 3rd but, per the Deacons, we are suspending communion in light of the recent surge in Covid. We will return to offering communion when the virus dissipates so we may all receive it safely.



Near the end of October the church will be equipped with Fibersonic, allowing us to have faster internet...assisting our online streaming for a better quality worship service. We will be also purchasing some equipment to enhance the future of online so as to hear and see better. Stay tuned!

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

Continual:

Emily Bangs-Orsini (at Mission Care Holyoke)
Luke Bradley (lifelong battle with cancer)
Muriel Graham
Audrey Heinrichs
Tom Hazen
Phyllis Lacoste
Anna Sibley
Art Stanley



We keep all those affected by the Coronavirus, in our prayers

. We keep our Member- in -Discernment, Emily Carle, in our prayers, as she begins her studies at Louisville Seminary

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:

Estelle Anderson, recovering from a fall
Karen Anderson
Yvette Clarke
Cheryl Cobb
Loxley Coffin, granddaughter of Karol and Art
Joan Duffy
Audrey Heaphy's brother-in-law, Bob Brandt
Grace Hooton
Eunice Howes, for stabilization of vision
Jim K, with stomach cancer
Fay Paquette
Robin Roberts, friend of Linda Wolf, following surgery
Alina Sokop, undergoing chemo
Eric Tipton following kidney replacement surgery

We keep those serving in the military in our prayers

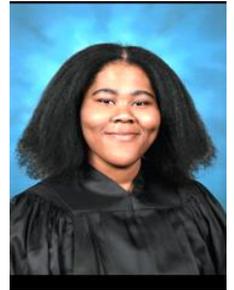


On All Saint's Day, October 31st we will lift up the names of those who have died in the last year (between Nov 1,2020 and October 31, 2021). In celebration of each life, we read their name and a brief commemoration. If your loved one has died, please send in a few sentences about him/her to be read by Rev. Souder and a deacon. If you wish to include a family member or a friend, we invite you to do so. All Saints Day is sacred and made holy by your loved ones....

Please send in the names/descriptions by October 22nd. (centerchurch@verizon.net)

Youth Group

Welcome back to Youth Group! We were so excited to kick off Youth Group this year, albeit with some transitions. First, our former co-director, Emma Martin, unfortunately had to resign. We will miss her, but we are so excited to welcome our new co-director, Kayla Scott-McDowell to join Emily and the youth. Second, we are experimenting with a new hybrid model where youth who attend in person will gather in the Meetinghouse Room, and virtual youth gather over Zoom. A projector in the Meetinghouse Room broadcasts the Zoom youth so all can be together. It is a learning experience, but we are so happy to offer multiple ways for youth to be in community. Third, we are welcoming youth from All Saints' Church next door to join us in Youth Group. If you see any of them, please introduce yourself, as we are not a "Center Church Group" with "All Saints' Youth" but rather, a "South Hadley Youth Group." This month in Youth Group, we are starting with a Generation Why curriculum about Bible basics - what is in the Bible? How do we read the Bible? What is the purpose of the Bible? We are quite excited to explore these questions with the youth. As always, if you have any comments or questions, reach out!



Warmly, *Emily and Kayla*

THOUGHTS FROM THE SEMINARIAN (MY NEW COLUMN)

Wow, where do I begin? I moved to Louisville, KY about a month ago, and I've settled in comfortably to my on-campus apartment. Louisville is a cool city, with a population of about 600,000, although thanks to the way the city is designed, it doesn't feel that large! I've had a lot of fun exploring various restaurants and museums (you might have seen the photo of me at the Louisville Slugger Museum!). As for on-campus, there are about 25 of us in my class year, and we are very intentional about creating community and bonding with each other - last weekend we did karaoke! As for my classes, they are good! I am taking Systematic Theology, Torah and Former Prophets, and Gender/Race/Class: Exploring Intersectionality. I'm finding that Mount Holyoke prepared me well in terms of knowledge, time management skills, and handling massive amounts of reading. I am excited to further share new knowledge I acquire and other general life updates with you all each month! Feel free to contact me: 8605737143, emilyecarle@gmail.com or mail me: Emily Carle 1044 Alta Vista Rd Louisville, KY 40205

Adult Christian Education

A Peek At The Bible

James 3:18

"They who sow peace reap a harvest of righteousness."

It's harvest time! Pick those tomatoes and raspberries! I rarely read the epistles and find the gospels much more interesting but James' observation about righteousness being the fruit of sowing peace is inspired. Righteousness is that feel-good, spiritual reward for having done something, well, right. You can tell when you've done something right because the result - the harvest - brings peace and there are, fortunately, a quadrillion ways to bring peace into the world. During this time of year, lots of us receive an appeal from the Springfield Rescue Mission. This fall they ask for \$16.24 to feed seven people during their Thanksgiving dinner. I appreciated that kind of exactitude so I wrote a check for \$16.24 and sent it to the Mission. It was righteous. Peace be unto you, brother James! It's harvest.

News from the Trustees for October

We began our September meeting honoring and remembering the life of former trustee Bob Russell and the many contributions he made to Center Church over his lifetime. The treasurer's report contained the information that we are at 67.28% in income for our 2021 budget year. The August report would be at 67% of the budget. Expenses are still running lower than expected at 64.08%. We continue to be pleased that pledge income is at 79.31 % and we gratefully thank everyone who has contributed to that! As we move forward into the fall, our positive net income will be declining as staff return, heat goes on and other expense start up again. We are excited to welcome a guitarist as our newest member of building users. He will be using Fellowship Hall for individual classes and also a guitar orchestra. The Tree of Life program has now moved to a more regular daily schedule with young voices, laughter, and such again ringing in the second floor corridor, and their after school program is ramping up too. On a slightly sadder note, we will miss hosting the SH Chorale weekly rehearsals due to Covid 19 issues, but wish them well at All Saints. Our investments are doing well at present. We have contracted with a landscape business to come get our flower beds and such into better shape than our small crew has been able to do. Once that is complete, the care will revert back to the cleanup "crew." We are also working on getting bushes trimmed and perhaps even removed in some places. We are considering looking into and updating the fire protection system we have in place in the two boiler rooms and also in the sanctuary, and are speaking with a local business about that. We have just signed an agreement to have Fibersonic provide internet service as well as a telephone line to our building in the hopes that this will provide much better livestreaming capabilities for anything happening in the sanctuary as well as other internet needs. . (The Tree of Life program will have its own contract with them). Finally, in light of the mold issue which is consuming the high school, we are also looking into that for Center Church. As always, if you have building or financial concerns, please feel free to contact any of the Trustees - Karen Anderson, Eliot Chartrand, Art Coffin, Al Duffy, Bill Giles, Cindy Morrell, Art Proctor, and Randy Purinton. Our ex officio members are Lori and John Hoffman.

Cindy Morrell, secretary

Activities Team

We have come to the difficult decision to postpone the Holiday Bazaar until December 2022. With the increase of Delta variant of the corona virus causing more restrictions, at this time we just don't know what they will be this December. Safety right now has to be the priority.

When unpacking and repacking those Christmas decorations this year and think some items need a new home, pack a box or 2 for next year's Bazaar. This is one of reasons our event is so successful. So many lovely items! Hopefully by the beginning of 2022 we can and will have a plan for donations. Please be patient as we make that plan how to accept donations. If you moving and really need to make a donation, please call the church. A team member will get back to you and help accommodate this need.

This event has become a charming community event. We feel we create a boutique Christmas store with like new items, delicious cookies and lasagna and beautiful wreaths. Let's all think positive that in 2022 both the Fall Fair and Holiday Bazaar returns.

Karen Anderson and David Morrell for the Activities Team

Notes from Church Council

The Council met virtually through Zoom on September 7. Kate Hoffman led the meeting. Anita Sarro reported that the "Voices of Resilience" exhibit slated for this Fall has been postponed due to needed funding and the Delta variant. It is hoped to be ready for display sometime in the Spring. The October 29 Jazz Concert is still "a go." Masks are required and tickets are to go on sale soon. Team reports had Activities calling off the Annual Fall Fair for this year. A December event is being discussed. Deacons are discussing how best to observe World Wide communion on October 3. Faith Formation is excited about their new hires for the Sunday school and Youth Group. There is no Nursery for now. HR shared the new hires' info. Molly Thomas is a first-year student at MHC from New Hampshire. She is from the UCC tradition with a good "understanding of church life." She is teaching in the Promised Land. (Molly has subsequently had to bow out of the position due to health reasons.) For the Youth Group, Kayla Scott-McDowell is a MHC student graduating in 2024. She is from New York City and has an active background in social justice. Outreach is monitoring disaster relief programs. The Jewish Family Services is expecting 150 refugees from Afghanistan and the team would like to help with needed supplies. Stewardship is putting together its Fall campaign entitled "Rooted in Love." They are hoping to have some personal testimonies. Lori will moderate a town meeting (via Zoom) on Police Reform on Oct. 6. Our next Zoom meeting is Tuesday, October 5 at 7:00 p.m.

Center Church in Transition

Baptism: Lucas Daniel Jacques on September 12, son of Kelly and Joshua Jacques.

10/21

David C. Morrell, Clerk

Outreach Team



For several years, Center Church has partnered with Jewish Family Service of Western Massachusetts (JFS) to support New Americans who have fled war, famine, poverty, and persecution. In the next few weeks, JFS will begin welcoming 150 Afghani Evacuees who have fled their country in chaos and no preparation. Help is urgently needed. As a church and as individuals, we can all lend a hand. Here are some options.

- 1) Contribute these items to compile Bathroom Kits and leave them in the designated container at the Church Street door: toilet paper, shampoo, soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and deodorant.
- 2) Purchase an item from the JFS Amazon Refugee Wish List that will be sent directly to JFS's office in Springfield through this link:
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/1SK5KUBM7CBV2/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex
- 3) Donate by writing a check to Center Church with the memo line " Afghani Emergency Fund" and drop it in the collection plate or leave it at the church office.
- 4) There is a desperate need for emergency housing. If you or anyone you know has available housing in the area, please contact JFS directly at 413-737-2601.

5) To become a volunteer and find out other ways to help in this crisis, see <https://www.jfswm.org/new-americans/help-welcome-refugees/>

As future needs arise such as clothing and furniture, there will be additional ways we can help. For now, these five options are the important ways we help show these newest Americans that they are welcomed and valued.

Cathedral in the Night

With the help of Gail Foster, the master chef for Food for Friends, the Outreach Team delivered the first of 3 meals to Cathedral in the Night on Sunday September 19. Betty Innocent and John Hoffman help prepare the hot meal on Saturday. Brenna and Teagan Anz, Karen and Randy Hyvonen, Elizabeth and Steve Griffin, and Bob Judge made sandwiches on Sunday. The food was then delivered and served on Sunday in front of First Churches in Northampton.



Cathedral in the Night crew hard at work

Cathedral in the Night is an outdoor Christian community in downtown Northampton, MA which seeks to create a safe place for all people: the homeless, the housed, the church-less, the church-ed, the student and the resident to explore, question and live out their spiritual beliefs; to gather for a meal and to empower one another to engage in issues of social justice by working to fight the causes of inequality and homelessness. Every Sunday people gather at 4:30pm outside the front steps of First Churches in Northampton for worship and a meal.



We are excited to do this again on Sat/Sun Oct 16/17. If you would like to help donate sandwich food, please contact John Hoffman at 413-535-9754 or hoffmanje3@gmail.com. Thanks



Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. On behalf of Center Church, the Outreach Team has designated \$250 to support the 2021 Neighbors in Need fund.

In 2021, Neighbors in Need "Unfailing Love" offering is focused on supporting organizations and projects that are serving homeless and immigrant neighbors or communities. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to provide funding grants to UCC churches and organizations leading justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects in their communities.

Stewardship 2021

"They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season." Psalm 1:3a

Center Church's annual stewardship fundraising campaign theme is "Rooted in Love".

Center Church has been "rooted" on the common since 1733. In that time, Center Church has borne fruit as a place of worship & fellowship, a community center, an agent of change, and a place where the love & justice of Jesus is shared.

The fruit this congregation bears is cultivated by your generosity. The work of our church happens because of the financial support of Center Church members and friends. Because of you, Center Church shares God's love.

Over the coming weeks, please prayerfully consider how Center Church roots your life in God's love, and the many ways Center Church bears fruit locally, globally, and for your family.

If you haven't made an annual financial pledge to Center Church, you're invited make your pledge this fall! Thank you! If you are a current financial supporter, thank you! We invite you to maintain or increase your financial support to Center Church in 2022.

In mid-October, materials for your annual financial pledge will arrive in your mailbox. "Stewardship Sunday" is November 14 when we will consecrate & dedicate our financial pledges for 2022.

You'll be hearing more about our campaign in worship and in November's "Church at the Center".

Thank you for your generous support of the ministry of Center Church.

Stewardship Team

John Anz

Gretchen Labonte

Brian Lapis

Jane Markarian



Planted by Streams of Water by Rev. Alex Shea Will

The Psalms often compare us to animals in search of water. In the 23rd, we are the sheep who drink from calm waters. In the 42nd, we are the deer, longing for God as the deer longs for the stream. But in the 1st Psalm, something is different. We are not the animals passing from stream to stream. We are the tree, fixed in the riverside. Our roots running deep and wide, nourished by the waters of God's mercy and love, and the collective ecosystem.

While I love the beauty of the 23rd and 42nd Psalms, the imagery of the 1st Psalm is the most moving because it is the image of life in Christian community. We do not come and go from the stream, taking only what we need, when we need it. Our roots are firmly planted, and growing deeper and stronger by the day. We not only take from the ecosystem, but we also contribute to it. We're committed to this spot, this ecosystem - no matter the changing of the seasons.

In a culture where it is easy to pick up and look for a new stream, covenant calls us to plant something lasting. My financial generosity to the church is one way I declare that I am not merely passing by; I'm planting roots. It's how I proclaim that I am invested in the flourishing of our riverside. It's how I communicate that my thriving depends on our thriving.

Let us pray:

Gracious God, inspire my generosity so that my roots grow deeper and stronger. Amen.

CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
16,000	1,333	27	40	53	67	133
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	62	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity. Giving even 1% more of annual income to charity would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in our community.



On Friday, October 29th, at 7 pm, the Stewardship Team and *Music at the Center* will present another world-class community benefit concert ~ *Jazz For Justice, Peace, and Dignity* ~ right here at Center Church!

This year, New York City based trumpeter and vocalist, [Benny Benack III](#), headlines this benefit event with an extraordinary cast of musicians behind him. The band also features New York based artists [Addison Frei](#) on piano, [Russell Hall](#) on bass, [Kyle Poole](#) on drums, and special guest vocalist [Tahira Clayton](#).

The concert will open with a short set by the [Berkshire Hills Music Academy](#)'s Jazz Ensemble. Admission is \$25 in advance / \$30 CASH at the door (\$15 students). Advance individual ticket sales and VIP packages can be purchased here on [Eventbrite](#), or, you may contact Thia in the church office to secure your advance reservations with payment as well (without any fees!).

This community benefit concert event will directly benefit efforts to address food and housing security, and social and racial justice issues here in the Pioneer Valley. A portion of the proceeds will be shared with each of the following organizations critical to these efforts:

- [Cathedral in the Night](#)
- [Healing Racism Institute of Pioneer Valley](#)
- [Neighbors Helping Neighbors](#)
- [Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity](#)

Please direct any questions - or your ability to help volunteer the night of the show - to any member of the Stewardship Team (Brian Lapis, John Anz, Gretchen LaBonte, and Jane Markarian)

**** PLEASE NOTE ~ For the health, safety, and comfort of all attendees, Center Church will require all attendees to show proof of FULL vaccination (a CDC vaccination card, copy or photo, and a photo ID) upon arrival and wear a face covering while in the building. The concert will observe and enforce this protocol and also implement distanced seating, as able. ****

From the Church Historian

ODE TO CENTER CHURCH MUSIC



Choir

Our wonderful, venerable, beautifully acoustically proportioned Center Church sanctuary has been the venue for countless musical offerings. As a proud choir member, I joined this musical group in 1963. At this point in time, it's good to step back and review some musical history. In the early 1960s, the senior choir had 40 singers, thanks to those serving in the USAF at Westover. The congregation had over 750 members! Also at that time, there was a pilgrim/junior choir and an angel choir. The Sunday school boasted 250 children! Under the exceptional organist/choir director's leadership, Barbara "Susie" Conant, magnificent music was made!

The present church Steere organ was a gift to Center Church in 1894 by the Gaylord (library) family in memory of their organist son. It was renovated from 1961-62 when the mechanical action was changed to electro-pneumatic action. In 1971-72, Susie Conant began a campaign to save the organ for future generations. We raised the money by performing various concerts and collecting bottles and newspapers! The organ was completely overhauled and re-voiced, producing the beautiful and dramatic sounds we all enjoy today.

The musical offerings that were performed in Center Church showcased our overall musical talent. From the 1950s to the present (minus the pandemic situation) some of the major works were: Mendelssohn's "Elijah;" Stainer's "The Crucifixion;" Menotti's "Amahl and the Night Visitors;" and DuBois' "Seven Last Words of Christ." The Requiems performed were by: Faure, Brahms, Mozart, and Durufle, along with Bach's "Magnificat," Vivaldi's "Gloria," Schubert's "Mass in E flat," Poulenc's "Gloria" and Haydn's "Creation." Thompson's "Alleluia" and "Frostiana" were much requested!

There were also many funny and creative musical variety shows. Some were called the "Choir Capers." We enjoyed performing Broadway revues and presenting a Jubilee Jam. The children did shows like the "Wizard of OZ" and "You're a Good Man Charlie Brown!"

In 1985, we performed a wonderful combined Bach/Handel celebration held at Mount Holyoke's Abbey Chapel. From that well received and eventful concert, the formation of the South Hadley Community Chorus now called the South Hadley Chorale began!

Even though our choir membership has dwindled, we have proudly maintained a high standard of worship music. Our overall repertoire is both varied and refreshing. We have been blessed with directors like: Margaret "Meg" Burgevin, Marjorie Long, Barbara "Susie" Conant, Kevin McDonald, and organist Larry Schipull, associate in music Cindy Morrell, and concert soloist and choir director Cheryl Cobb.



Through our dedication and willingness to learn and to sing some of the area's most beautiful music, we have unselfishly shared the peace and understanding which music brings to all of us! It will always be our mantra to "sing a new song" and make a joyful noise unto all the earth!"

Tell Me the Stories - October 2021

Our first hymn, *O My Soul, Bless Your Creator* (NCH 13, PH 100), is one that we have sung quite a few times in the PH version. The text is based on Psalm 103 whose 22 verses were compressed into 16 stanzas. It was published in 1871 by the Presbyterian Church, N.A. but it could have first been published as an older version in 1650. Our PH version has only six stanzas while the NCH one has less - 5. As is usually the case, our newer version has been updated slightly. The UCC managed to "steal" it, and it has become popular with us too. The tune "Stuttgart" comes from a German city and has been credited to Christian Witt as the composer. Son of a church musician in Gotha, was himself eventually appointed court organist and choirmaster in Gotha in 1686. Witt also composed a number of choral and instrumental sacred and secular works. The tune is used with three other hymns in the NCH including *Child of Blessing*, *Child of Promise* and *Come O Long Expected Jesus* and one other in the PH. The tune is one that we know well. CAC 3/18

The next hymn is already mentioned above. It is one we use especially when there is a baptism since it was written specifically for the author's daughter's baptism. *Child of Blessing*, *Child of Promise* (NCH 523) was first published in 1980 and many denominational hymns have included it since then. Ronald Cole-Turner, from Logansport, IN was born in 1948, three days before Christmas. He is an ordained UCC pastor who has taught theology at Memphis University and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. Here's a little more about its tune "Stuttgart," composed by Christian Witt in the early 1700s. It was found in a 1716 book containing 774 chorales and 256 melodies and it is believed that Witt composed at least 100 of them. He was born in Altenburg, Germany and trained first with his father, then later with an organist in Nuremberg, before returning to Gotha. CAC 2/13

What a Friend We Have in Jesus (PH 335, NCH 506) has been associated with the U.S. (as one of my sources put it), "due in part...because of our reputation for being the most generous nation in the world." We helped rebuild the nations we fought in WW II and we are one of the first to respond when disaster strikes around the world. For the many touched in this way, it is said that this song "best defines their view of this country." Joseph Scriven was born in Ireland but migrated to Canada after his fiancée drowned the day before their wedding. There he became a teacher and a tutor. His second fiancée also died before their wedding could take place. After prayer and Bible study, he decided to sell all his "worldly possessions" and vowed to "give his life to the physically handicapped and financially destitute." He became known as the "Good Samaritan of Port Hope." Although the simple text and easy music "have been its appeal and strength," it was never written to be published. Joseph wrote the poem to his mother when she fell ill back in Ireland and he could not attend to her. When he himself fell ill, a friend who came to visit happened to see the words on a scrap of paper and asked if he'd written it. His reply was "The Lord and I did it between us." It appeared in a small collection of his poems in 1869. His death was the result of an accidental drowning. The entire hymn text was put onto a monument in Port Hope upon his death with additional wording about his gravesite. The hymn tune "Erie" was written by a MA native, Charles C. Converse, a musician, composer, and lawyer, and so named because he practiced law in Erie, PA. Converse also wrote "solos, chorales, hymns and chamber works." But of all that he wrote, he is best known for this simple music written to accompany Scriven's text. The hymn was discovered in 1875 and included in Ira Sankey's Sankey's Gospel Hymns Number One. CAC 6/06 and 12/16

Cindy Morrell, Associate in Music



Resources used: Kenneth W. Osbeck's 101 Hymn Stories (1982), Amazing Grace (1990) and 25 Most Treasured Gospel Hymn Stories (1999); Robert J. Morgan's Then Sings My Soul (2003) and The New Century Hymnal Companion, ed. Kristen Forman (1998).

More soon - stay tuned....



MUSIC at the CENTER
presents
Jazz for Justice, Peace & Dignity
*a community benefit concert in support of
food and housing security, and social and racial justice*

The Benny Benack Band

Benny Benack III (b, v), Addison Fisci (p), Russell Hall (s), Kip's Praise (d)



with special guest, Tashira Clayton (v)

Friday, October 29, 2021
Center Church | One Church Street | South Hadley, MA
Doors open at 6:30 pm
Concert at 7:00 pm

Admission:
\$25 in advance
\$50 at the door
Students \$15

Advance tickets & preferred seating ticket sales at:
www.eventbrite.com

Thank you to our generous sponsors...

fibersonic | E Ink | PeoplesBank | PIP | Massachusetts State Police

the program is supported in part by a grant from the South Hadley Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency.

The Executive Committee of the Hampshire Association has an urgent need for a treasurer and vice moderator. Our treasurer has resigned due to unforeseen circumstances and the vice moderator position was never filled since last annual meeting.

The treasurer shall receive and disburse all monies of the association and give detailed report of such transactions at monthly executive meetings and at Annual Meeting of the Association. The treasurer sends memos yearly to the churches about the fellowship dues for the Association.

The vice moderator shall be available to assist the moderator as needed and step in when the moderator is absent or disabled.

Both persons are expected to attend the monthly meetings which are held the first Tuesday of each month (except July and August). These meetings are held by zoom since Covid arrived in our lives.

Please share this memo with your church members and notify Judy Stone at jstone9074@aol.com or 413-320-3339 if you are able to help with this important request.

Blessings, Judy Stone, scribe



Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Inc.
*A Client-Choice Food Pantry
Providing Nutritious, Supplemental Food
to South Hadley and Granby Residents*

30 Carew Street | South Hadley, MA 01075 | 413-437-7593 | www.nhnfoodpantry.org

September 12, 2021

First Congregational Church
1 Church Street
South Hadley, MA 01075

Hello Friends,

It is only through the generous support of our community that we continue our mission to provide nutritious food and basic necessities to our neighbors in need. Your \$500 donation means the world to us.

Fresh produce is essential to a healthy, balanced diet. Many food support programs are limited to non-perishable, canned and dried goods, but not Neighbors Helping Neighbors. We are able provide a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables to our customers, purchased at reduced and wholesale prices, because of your monetary support – Thank You!

Help us reduce the cost of mailings, as well as save a tree or two. Request paperless communications by sending your email address to info@nhnfoodpantry.org.

With gratitude,
Bonnie
Bonnie
Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Inc.

Please note: if you require a tax receipt for your donation(s), please email us at year-end-at-info@nhnfoodpantry.org and we will send one receipt for the full year.



Brynley Rose Lubold

Thia's granddaughter
Eileen
Halkyard's great-granddaughter
Laura
(Jubinville) and
Rob's daughter

Born September 21, 2021

6lbs 12 oz - 21"



- 01 Virginia Constant
- 02 Cindy Morrell
- 04 Olivia Cordes
- 06 Kayla Narey
- 08 Lorain Giles
- 09 Shawn Hall
- 13 Nancy Hall
- 14 Jane Ting
- 17 Julie Burke
- 20 Audrey Heinrichs
- 27 Randy Hyvonen
- Fletcher Smith



Southern New England Conference
United Church of Christ
Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Daily Lectionary Scripture References – October 2021 (Year B)

<p>Fri., Oct. 1 Psalm 26 Job 4:1-21 Romans 8:1-11</p> <p>Sat., Oct. 2 Psalm 26 Job 7:1-21 Luke 16:14-18</p> <p>Sun., Oct. 3 <i>Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost</i> Job 1:1; 2:1-10 Psalm 26 Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12 Mark 10:2-16</p> <p>Mon., Oct. 4 Psalm 55:1-15 Job 8:1-22 1 Corinthians 7:1-9</p> <p>Tues., Oct. 5 Psalm 55:1-15 Job 11:1-20 1 Corinthians 7:10-16</p> <p>Wed., Oct. 6 Psalm 55:1-15 Job 15:1-35 Matthew 5:27-36</p> <p>Thurs., Oct. 7 Psalm 22:1-15 Job 17:1-16 Hebrews 3:7-19</p> <p>Fri., Oct. 8 Psalm 22:1-15 Job 18:1-21 Hebrews 4:1-11</p> <p>Sat., Oct. 9 Psalm 22:1-15 Job 20:1-29 Matthew 15:1-9</p> <p>Sun., Oct. 10 <i>Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost</i> Job 23:1-9; 16-17 Psalm 22:1-15 Hebrews 4:12-16 Mark 10:17-31</p>	<p>Mon., Oct. 11 Psalm 39 Job 26:1-14 Revelation 7:9-17</p> <p>Tues., Oct. 12 Psalm 39 Job 28:12-29; 10 Revelation 8:1-5</p> <p>Wed., Oct. 13 Psalm 39 Job 32:1-22 Luke 16:19-31</p> <p>Thurs., Oct. 14 Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35b Job 36:1-16 Romans 15:7-13</p> <p>Fri., Oct. 15 Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35b Job 37:1-24 Revelation 17:1-18</p> <p>Sat., Oct. 16 Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35b Job 39:1-30 Luke 22:24-30</p> <p>Sun., Oct. 17 <i>Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost</i> Job 38:1-7 [34-41] Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35b Hebrews 5:1-10 Mark 10:35-45</p> <p>Mon., Oct. 18 Psalm 75 Job 40:1-24 Hebrews 6:1-12</p> <p>Tues., Oct. 19 Psalm 75 Job 41:1-11 Hebrews 6:13-20</p> <p>Wed., Oct. 20 Psalm 75 Job 41:12-34 John 13:1-17</p> <p>Thurs., Oct. 21 Psalm 34:1-8 [19-22] 2 Kings 20:12-19 Hebrews 7:1-10</p>	<p>Fri., Oct. 22 Psalm 34:1-8 [19-22] Nehemiah 1:1-11 Hebrews 7:11-22</p> <p>Sat., Oct. 23 Psalm 34:1-8 [19-22] Job 42:7-9 Mark 8:22-26</p> <p>Sun., Oct. 24 <i>Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost</i> Job 42:1-6; 10-17 Psalm 34:1-8 [19-22] Hebrews 7:23-28 Mark 10:46-52</p> <p>Mon., Oct. 25 Psalm 28 Isaiah 59:9-19 1 Peter 2:1-10</p> <p>Tues., Oct. 26 Psalm 28 Ezekiel 18:1-32 Acts 9:32-35</p> <p>Wed., Oct. 27 Psalm 28 Ezekiel 14:12-23 Matthew 20:29-34</p> <p>Thurs., Oct. 28 Psalm 146 Ruth 1:18-2 Hebrews 9:1-12</p> <p>Fri., Oct. 29 Psalm 146 Ruth 2:1-9 Romans 3:21-31</p> <p>Sat., Oct. 30 Psalm 146 Ruth 2:10-14 Luke 10:25-37</p> <p>Sun., Oct. 31 <i>Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost</i> Ruth 1:1-18 Psalm 146 Hebrews 9:11-14 Mark 12:28-34</p>
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FREE COMMUNITY SHREDDING EVENT



Saturday, September 25, 2021
10am-12pm
2nd Baptist Church, 589 Granby Rd (Rt. 202),
South Hadley

Sponsored by the South Hadley S.A.L.T. Council and the Hampshire Sheriff's Office

Monetary donations will be gratefully accepted to support programs that benefit our senior citizens



**132nd Annual
Chicken Pie Supper
<To Go>**

Saturday, October 16, 2021

Church of Christ
Route 202 - Granby, MA

Meal pickup from 4:00 to 6:00 pm

Adults - \$15.00
Children 6-10 years ~ \$5.00
Age 5 and under Free
Call 413-563-0174 for advance tickets

Menu

Chicken Pie	Boiled Onions
Mashed Potatoes	Squash
Gravy	Cranberry Sauce
Apple Crisp	

THE MINISTRY AT CENTER CHURCH

Ministers: All Church Members
Senior Minister: Rev. Lori J. Souder
In-care Student: Emily Carle

Christian Education Program

Children: Martha Guild and Chelsea Korzeniowski
Youth: Emily Carle and Kayla Scott-McDowell

Music

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

Office Administrator: Cynthia Jubinville
Sexton: Robert Farman

