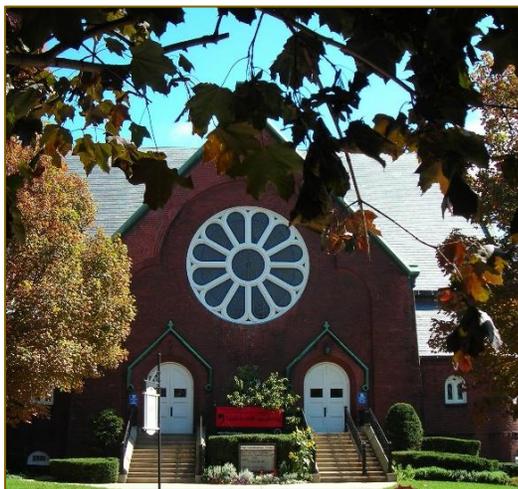




CHURCH AT THE CENTER

NOVEMBER 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.*

Patience... I do not know about you, but Covid has tested my patience. I have allowed some knee jerk reactions to seep in. If someone in a store, walks real close, especially not wearing a mask, I need to bite my tongue before a verbal comment escapes. When I hear how people refuse to be vaccinated, I wonder why are they so thoughtless. I forget, leaving some marbles at home, how to replace impatience with kindness.

Many are mourning the death of General Colin Powell. What an incredible patriot, diplomat, and human being. In an interview he once said, "Don't just show kindness in passing or to be courteous. Show it in depth, show it with passion and expect nothing in return. ...**Always show more kindness** than seems necessary because the person receiving it needs it more than you will ever know."

So, as we face November, Veterans Day, Stewardship Sunday and Thanksgiving, may we replace our impatience with kindness. From Galatians 6:9-10 we read, "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you."

With Kindness,
Lori



Cheryl Virginia Cobb, A beloved teacher, mother, and member of the community, Cheryl passed away on Friday, October 1, 2021, in Amherst, Massachusetts from pancreatic cancer. She was known by some family members as “Cherry” and later by friends as “Diva”.

Cheryl was born May 30, 1945, in Hornell, New York to Virgil Harrington Hussey and Marian Elizabeth Hopkins, formerly of Greenwood, N.Y. She married George Whitfield Cobb in Richmond, Virginia on May 12, 1971. George passed away on May 6, 2020, in Springfield, MA. Cheryl was a resident of Amherst, Massachusetts for 20 years and South Hadley for 15 years.

After her childhood in the town of Greenwood, N.Y, Cheryl earned degrees from The Eastman School of Music and New England Conservatory. She went on to receive a Masters of Social Work from Boston College, which continued her work as a social justice demonstrator, fighting against racial injustices.

Cheryl was a dedicated music teacher for over 45 years. A much-beloved colleague, teacher, and musician, she joined Mt. Holyoke College as a full-time faculty member in 2006 and coordinated the music department’s vocal performance program from 2007 until August this year when she took ill. She made numerous concert appearances with her colleagues at Mount Holyoke College. Cheryl especially enjoyed doing the sound effects in Mount Holyoke College’s radio show production of The Big Broadcast and singing in faculty shows.

Her colleagues describe Cheryl as a great teacher and mentor, with exceptional dedication to helping her students excel as vocalists. One of Cheryl’s most accomplished students reminisced that she “took the time to get to know me, my personality, and how I would learn best. She really cared about me and taught me as an individual. Cheryl made me work hard to be my best.”

Cheryl sang throughout the East, including performances with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and Boston Musica Viva. She appeared in operas in Boston, Paris and Brussels. Her recordings include “Herstory I” by Elizabeth Vercoe (National Public Radio), “Full Moon in March” by John Harbison (Nonesuch) and Peter Sellar’s modern interpretation of Handel’s “Giulio Cesare” (London Video). She was the former chair of the Voice Dept. of the Extension Division of New England Conservatory. Cheryl was the director of the choir at Center Church in South Hadley, MA. She said that she was “happy to have the opportunity to conduct the wonderful choir at Center Church. Both choir and congregation are always happy to take on the challenges of many different kinds of music. We try never to be boring!”

With friends she enjoyed playing badminton, hiking up Mount Katahdin, traveling abroad, and fishing in Goshen, Massachusetts. And grandma Cheryl loved nothing better than playing with and singing to her 7-month-old grandson. She was known for going with the flow, and she enjoyed life spontaneously. Her cousin Kathleen remembers a time when her young sons asked “Cherry” if they could “decorate” her hair with hair paint. She enthusiastically said “Yes, of course!” They proceeded to spray her hair blue, red, and green. In the mirror, she reveled in her new look and thanked them for making her so stylish.

Cheryl’s gift was her natural ability to bring humor to a scene on the stage and off the stage. She would dress up for her students just to lighten the mood. She might play a tune on a kazoo instead of her usual keyboard. She was silly just at the right time. She’d occasionally break into a Donald Duck voice to make someone laugh. Because she never took herself too seriously, she had that rare gift of making anyone she met feel at ease, accepted...welcome.

Cheryl is survived by her daughter, Lee Tae Cobb and son-in-law Tyler McGinnis, of Pittsburgh, PA, and grandson Forest McGinnis of Amherst, Massachusetts, her cousins Paula Lane of Las Vegas, Nevada, and Pamela McDavid and Kathleen McGough, of Portland, Oregon.

Next spring, the family hopes to have a celebration of life for both Cheryl and George. Donations can be made in her name to the Fisher Home in Amherst, MA or Center Church in South Hadley, MA. The Cobb - McGinnis family wishes to thank the community who stood by us always.

"Music is the language of the spirit. It opens the secret of life bringing peace, abolishing strife." Kahlil Gibran

HR is discussing the Choir Director's position ...In our desire for transparency, we wish to keep you informed following the passing of our beloved Cheryl Cobb, our Choir Director. We haven't wanted to act quickly and have sought the Holy Spirit, for how to respond to our loss. The HR Team has met with Larry and Lori to discuss what is needed during this Covid time.

We are thankful for Larry Schipull's ability to step in and coordinate the vocalists and instrumentalists during worship. He will be compensated. We are grateful for the vocalists who volunteer their time on Sunday mornings. Music is essential at Center Church. We will seek comments from Choir members and interested members as to how we move forward. Know that your opinion matters. Please speak to Larry or Lori.

Music is the only language in which you cannot say a mean or sarcastic thing. John Erskine



A new Bible Study: The Acts of Paul and Thecla

We will offer a taste of something different. Beginning November 4th we will study the **Acts of Paul and Thecla, a writing from the Apocrypha (not in the canon-Bible)** We will meet for three Thursdays from 10-11am in **The Conference Room in Loomis** (the top floor past Philly's.) There will be copies to pick up on the table near the Church Street door, and if you have attended a Bible Study in the past, you will receive the readings in your Loomis mailbox. Be prepared for this bold, dedicated woman. Lori named her car that she drove from AZ to SH after Thecla...to be bold and protective!



The Deacons have decided to reinstate Communion on Nov 7th. They will bring the elements to you using gloves and maybe tongs to serve the bread. The offering plates on the two tables (behind the back pew and in the Bock Crossway) will be brought up during the doxology. And we will begin singing again, wearing masks and remain seated with distance between us.



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 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.



The Phase Forward Task Force met and has 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.

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 studies at Louisville Seminary

We keep those serving in the military in our prayers including J B Pontes, in Basic Training with the Air National Guard

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

Situational:

Estelle Anderson
 Karen Anderson
 Yvette Clarke
 Family and friends of Cheryl Cobb who passed away October 1st
 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
 Alina Sokop, undergoing chemo
 Eric Tipton following kidney replacement surgery

Remembering Center Church "Saints" All Saints Sunday October 31, 2021



Richard C. Compton
 December 20, 2020

Gio Asa Aurigemma
 March 20, 2021

Robert H. Russell, Jr.
 July 31, 2021

Frances Anna Reed
 December 24, 2020

Michael Berzofsky
 April 9, 2021

Joseph W. Tropp
 August 22, 2021

Ruth B. Thornton
 December 29, 2020

Jennett G. Teece
 April 27, 2021

Robert Clair
 August 29, 2021

Pamela Bonzek Bales
 January 9, 2021

Jean Swindell
 May 2021

Melvin Roy Bragg
 September 14, 2021

Sandra Jackson Fusari
 January 9, 2021

David Louis Shieber
 June 10, 2021

Jean Fraser Taylor
 September 14, 2021

Joseph S. Jagodowski
 January 10, 2021

Henry "Bunky" Fusari
 July 7, 2021

Cheryl Hussy Cobb
 October 1, 2021

Michael Frank Bozek
 February 26, 2021

Margaret C. Devot
 July 18, 2021

CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



The time is speeding past and we're already in November, heading for Thanksgiving and pretty soon the beginning of Advent! It's so wonderful learning together in-person with the children back in church! Also, we have welcomed a new assistant teacher, Maddie Drake, to the Promised Land Sunday School. She's a sophomore at Mount Holyoke College from Kentucky! We are currently half way through a unit on Jesus's healings and miracles. Soon we'll start to learn about the birth of Jesus and enjoy our many Advent traditions as we anticipate the birth of Christ. We're also assembling hygiene kits for new Afghanistan refugees as an outreach project. I hope all feel safe and comfortable to return to in-person church and Sunday school.

If we can offer a remote class, we will let you know soon.

Martha Guild, Children's Christian Education Director



Youth Group



This last month in Youth Group we finished up our curriculum learning about the various ways people understand the Bible: as revelation, as history, as literature, as foundations for living, and the role of interpretation. We welcomed more youth from All Saints' to the group, and we reconnected with some Center youth who haven't been here for a while. Next month we will look into the prophets!

Warmly, Emily and Kayla

Adult Christian Education

A Peek At The Bible

Revelation 2:28

"...and I will give him the morning star."

In Revelation, God refers to Jesus as the morning star and later in Revelation (22:16) Jesus refers to himself as the bright morning star. It's a nice image and suggests that Christianity is a morning faith but what that means I'm not sure. It's something to think about, though. Morning is the time of new start, of getting out of bed, of resurrection.

Jesus' resurrection was discovered "toward the dawn of the first day" (Mt.28:1) and it's not too far off to imagine that Jesus' whole legacy takes a new start in the morning after the resurrection. None of us will ever be as grand as Jesus but we can treat our mornings as new starts on our legacies. We Christians, we're morning people.

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 November 2021

Our October meeting began with the good news that while we should be at 75% of our 2021 budget at the end of September, the income stands at 81.95% and the expenses at 73.65%. We are closely watching expenses which have climbed a bit higher than we would like. We continue to be thankful that our pledge income is doing very well and we thank all of you for that. We also added the second interest check for the year from our investment account. We are pleased that the landscaper who we've hired to clean up our "beds" has been working to accomplish that task. And several trustees have also been working to the "neaten up" our shrubbery. You may notice that the elevator sign out by the front church steps has been moved a bit to be seen better and has its arrow pointing in the right direction. We are checking out any mold issues which have cropped up in our two furnace rooms and working to correct those situations and are also working to close a large hole in our steeple chimney which may be contributing to that. Two of our building users have asked about moving into smaller spaces and we have purchased an air purifier to see if that will make both the choir room and the chapel safely accessible. All reports are that the Tree of Life program, up on the second floor of the Lancaster Building, is doing very well and being enjoyed by all the children taking part. We are hopeful that the Fibersonic connection to the church will be made by October's end and that it will help with better transmission of our Sunday services to those members who cannot always make it to them. There are some additional elements to be added soon for that. We are currently working on how to best handle fire suppression issues in our boiler rooms, kitchens and sanctuary, and you will be hearing more about that in coming months. We are also hoping to get our front kiosk sign back up and running soon. Please come to the informal meeting after church on Nov. 14 to see and hear about that. As darkness is coming sooner and sooner in the evening, we are hoping to rework the lights in the Fellowship Hall Park St. entrance to make that area brighter. As always, we thank the staff for all their hard work to keep programs running at Center Church during this unusual COVID-19 time and keep the church running smoothly. Thank you all!

Cindy Morrell, secretary

Kiosk in front of Center Church

The illuminated Kiosk in front of the Church has been the subject of discussion and concern for several years by the trustees and others. The actual appearance of the sign and the condition of the letters which are used to create the messages have been more and more problematical. Some of the letters are broken and or missing and the plastic bars which hold the letters are failing. When Linda Laderach retired from MHC and moved to NC, she donated funds to the church to update the sign. The intention at the time was to provide a kiosk which is attractive and efficient to display information about church activities and community events.

We have done some research and have found a unit which can accomplish our objective. The electronic sign will be similar to the present sign in overall appearance, slightly larger and will be located on the pedestal which holds the present sign. We have considered the overall appearance and are sensitive to the historical aspects of our church building. We have contacted the Planning Board and Building Dept in town and are aware of the town regulations and requirements.

We feel the time is right, the funds are available and the replacement unit can be purchased and installed within the budget we have set. We are hoping to make this change between now and the annual meeting in 2022. We would like to hear from our members with concerns or suggestions. To help inform the trustees, we are offering a chance to see the plans. There will be a **"Come and See" meeting** where there will be pictures for everyone to view on **Nov. 14 following worship in the sanctuary**. Please contact any of the Trustees members or Pastor Lori with your thoughts.

*Eliot Chartrand chair, Karen Andersen, Art Coffin, Al Duffy, Bill Giles, John Hoffman, Cindy Morrell,
Art Procter, Randy Purinton, and Lori Souder*

Notes from Church Council

The Council met virtually through Zoom on Tuesday October 5. Anita Sarro of HR was the Lead protem. Karen Hyvonen opened the meeting with devotions about "human irritation." Do we as individuals "drive others nuts?" Anita gave an update pertaining to the Voices of Resilience exhibit. Lori and Anita contacted the treasurer of the SH Cultural Council who was very supportive of the exhibit. The deadline for a 2022 grant is October 15. It is hoped the exhibit will occur in the month of April 2022. School groups are to be invited. Activities reported that there will be no Holiday Bazaar this year. Deacons are in the midst of training and assigning duties for the team. Faith Formation has a new hire for the Promised Land. Maddie Drake, a MHC student from Kentucky will help teach the Sunday school classes. Chelsea Korzeniowski is on hand for support. HR has worked out vacation time for Thia so that she can do "Grandma duty" for her new granddaughter. Membership is continuing its updating work on the pamphlet "All About Us." Outreach is doing Cathedral in the Night on November 21. \$250 was donated to Neighbors in Need. They are continuing to gather items for the 150 Afghani evacuees coming to the area. A "work day" gathering for future help with the Full Circle Garden is planned. Stewardship report that the campaign called "Rooted in Love" culminates on Stewardship Sunday, November 14. Trustees are looking into repairing/replacing the kiosk in front of the church. They will make available any pertinent information. The fire alarm system (and smoke alarm system) is in need of updating. Rev. Souder reported that she wishes to restart the "stakeholders" interviews. This is an excellent way to get in touch with town leaders and to make them aware of Center Church.

Center Church in Transition

Death: Cheryl Virginia (Hussey) Cobb, October 1, 76 years of age.

Birth: Bernard Procter, October 5, son of Katherine and Art Procter.

Baptism: Reese Marion Holmes, October 10, daughter of Lisa and Jason Holmes.

11/21

David C. Morrell, Clerk

Thoughts from the Seminarian

It is fall break here at Louisville Seminary, and it is odd not being in New England for the season. I do miss walking around MHC and watching the leaves change and feeling the crisp air. Everyone claims that Kentucky has a fall like that, but I have yet to experience it! I am still enjoying seminary and my classes. All are good, but I am particularly enjoying Systematic Theology the most. It's fun to discuss different understandings of God, the Trinity, salvation, suffering, Jesus, and so on. It is the class where I can push the boundaries and say some slightly blasphemous things for the sake of intellectual stimulation! In Torah, we are reading "Womanist Midrash" by Dr. Wil Gafney which is a phenomenal book about the women in the Old Testament. Much of what we understand about women in the Old Testament has been ruined by the patriarchal men who originally translated the Bible in order to promote a sexist message. For example, in Genesis 3:16, the original Hebrew should be translated to "he shall rule WITH you" not over you. Also, nowhere in the original Hebrew does it say Adam and Eve were husband and wife! Imagine how our understanding of gender roles would be different if we learned this! The more you know now. As always, I appreciate your prayers, and I keep you all in mine.

Warmly, *Emily*

Stewardship 2021

CENTER CHURCH ANNUAL FUNDRAISING PLEDGE DRIVE IS UNDERWAY

The theme for this year's Center Church financial pledge drive is "Rooted in Love", inspired by Psalm 1: "They are like trees planted by the streams of water, which yield their fruit."

We've had some unusual "growing conditions" over the last year and a half. Despite the challenges, Center Church continues to bear fruit, in the form of a vibrant ministry, both inside and outside our building.

Take a moment to think about what your financial generosity provides. An outstanding **full-time** pastor, faithful administrative staff, music that fills our sanctuary, 21st century faith formation and youth ministry, and outreach that expresses the love and justice of Jesus, locally and globally!

Center Church has been able to bear fruit in challenging times because we are deeply rooted in love and generosity. **It is your generosity that makes the ministry happen here at Center Church.**

Now is the season to prayerfully consider and plan your annual financial pledge to Center Church.

Please review the pledge packet you received in the mail. We pray that you will respond generously. We encourage you to fill out your pledge card and bring it to worship on Sunday November 14th when we will consecrate our annual pledges. Can't make it on Nov 14th? You can return your pledge card through the mail, or fill out our online pledge card: <https://tinyurl.com/CenterChurchPledge2022>

(didn't receive a pledge packet in the mail? Email centerchurch@verizon.net for pledge information.)

Last year your generous financial pledges contributed \$163,000 to the ministry of Center Church. We hope to sustain or exceed that amount this year! The ministry of Center Church is worth investing in!

If you have any questions, please contact members of the Stewardship Team: Gretchen LaBonte, Jane Markarian, John Anz, & Brian Lapis, or contact Rev. Lori Souder.



Money Follows Values

by Rev. Mary W. Nelson

We put our money behind the things we value. We don't say that enough, and I don't understand why. We put our money behind the things we value. And what we value more, we're willing to spend more to support.

This is why my pledge to my local church is my largest financial gift. For my household budget, I have selected four organizations that are important to me, to whom I make a significant and intentional gift each year:

- My local UCC congregation
- The UCC seminary where I am a Trustee A
- UCC summer camp
- My undergraduate school (also UCC, incidentally)

Other groups get a small, unplanned gift—a friend running a 5k for charity, a kiddo selling something for their scout troop, or the symphony whose concerts I attend.

My local church is the recipient of my largest financial gift because it's the most important. I know that my pledge is likely to be more impactful to my church and the community we serve than the smaller gifts I give to other organizations with larger budgets. I also know that a significant financial gift to my local church will impact other settings of the United Church of Christ when the church passes on my generosity (pooled with others' contributions) to the Conference and National settings of the UCC. I value the work of my local church and the work of the wider church as well. Even more reason to give them more!

CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

Annual Income	Monthly Income	7%	8%	10%	15%	17%
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.

Outreach Partners of the Month

Cathedral in The Night

We had another successful Cathedral in the Night food prep and delivery on Sunday Oct 17. Thanks again to Gail Foster, the master chef for Food for Friends, who included us in the meal prep Saturday by doubling up on the volume from 100 to 200 servings of chicken strips, roasted potatoes, beans, yogurt and oranges with some extra bread pudding added in. Our Sunday Sandwich Team included Betty Innocent, Bob Judge, Brenna Anz, Elizabeth Griffen, John and Kate Hoffman, and Sharyn Kovalesky. We also had special delivery support to Northampton from John Anz. Our next dates are Sat/Sun November 20&21. If you'd like to help provide sandwich supplies, make sandwiches, or serve in Northampton, please contact John Hoffman at hoffmanje3@gmail.com or call 413-535-9754. Thanks everyone.

Habitat for Humanity

Pioneer Valley Habitat is our Outreach Partner for this month. Since 1989, Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity has built decent, affordable homes with 50 low income families in Hampshire and Franklin Counties. They build our homes with volunteer labor and donations of material, supplies, land, and services. At the onset of home building, a family is selected and enters into a long term partnership with Pioneer Valley Habitat. Future homeowners contribute 250 hours of labor during the construction of their home alongside volunteers from the community. Upon completion, the home is sold to the family with an affordable mortgage. Habitat is a hand-up, not a hand-out: the organization has a perpetual legacy in that all mortgage funds received are reinvested to build more homes. They are a housing organization helping to bring stability to families, bringing more stability into our neighborhoods and communities. For more information please visit their website at <http://www.pvhabitat.org> or contact John Hoffman at 413-535-9754 or hoffmanje3@gmail.com.

Cathedral in the Night
867 North Pleasant Street
Amherst, Massachusetts 01002

cathedral
IN THE NIGHT
www.cathedralinthenight.org
info@cathedralinthenight.org

October 5, 2021

First Congregational Church
One Church Street
South Hadley, MA 01075

Dear friends,

Thank you so much for your past support of Cathedral in the Night. This year we have struggled through ups and downs. After being able to "re-open" over the summer with full worship before a community dinner in pre-pandemic style, Covid has continued to spread in the region and the health department has asked us to provide all meals in to-go containers again. This means that we have had to pare down the worship experience and focus on feeding the hungry. And our numbers each Sunday have been up significantly. This shows the need that we are striving to meet.

In case you missed it, here is what Pastor Steph recently wrote to those on our email list:

We could use a win. This year and a half has been long and difficult for everyone and our ministry is no exception. We have not missed a single Sunday and have adapted over and over to keep everyone safe. Our community is feeling more marginalized than ever - with fewer beds at local shelters, lack of housing available, few places to be during the day, etc. We are seeing new people every week, some who have never experienced homelessness before. People are hurting and we need a win. Can you be a part of this win with your prayers and donations - make food for a meal, donate clothes, backpacks, jackets, shoes, blankets or make a financial gift? You can donate at PayPal or send us a check made out to Cathedral in the Night Ministry and mailed to 867 N. Pleasant St. Amherst, MA 01002. Every gift, no matter the size, means so much to us! It will help us to purchase the extra supplies we need to package our meals to-go and meet the needs of our community.

Thank you again. God's Peace be with you.

Nat Larson
Nat Larson
Treasurer
Treasurer@cathedralinthenight.org

www.cathedralinthenight.org
Mailing address: 867 N. Pleasant St., Amherst, MA 01002
Pastor: Stephanie Smith cell: 413-575-0845 email: pastorstephsmith@gmail.com

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.



A Comment on Our Recent Musical Losses

This has definitely been an unusual 18 months since we first really focused on COVID-19 and all that it would mean individually, and also collectively, for Center Church. And the program which has touched the most people has been our music. When we moved to YouTube services, it meant that your musicians, Larry, Cheryl and Cindy, had to find new ways to keep our musical mission going. It meant that our usual "hymn selection team" meeting every two or three months, had to be done via Zoom with Lori. It meant that preludes, hymns, solos and postludes had to be selected, practiced and then "videoed" and sent off to YouTube guru Gretchen. Occasionally we were able to get the choir together, either outside or well-spaced in the sanctuary, to sing a few songs, hymns, or what have you. In the year before COVID (2019), we had lost one of our long-time basses, Hal Harris. We missed his stories and comments during choir rehearsals, as well as his voice in the bass section. We relied on several folks to provide solos on occasion and Larry and I recorded duets to be used as well. As Larry and Cheryl became more adept at teaching their MHC students via YouTube, we were able to do some additional things with the music. We relied mostly on Larry and Cheryl and sometimes Cindy to continue to contribute their talents to our services. But we all missed the choir, being in it, listening to it, and choir rehearsals on Thursday evenings and Sunday mornings, which could get slightly crazy at times. This was our musical family. As the summer organist, I did my best to find soloists, appropriate pre and postludes, and play the Sunday hymns for the past two summers. Even though we had not had many choir rehearsals, we did manage a few this spring once we were allowed to go back into the sanctuary, sing an anthem together, and all sing the hymns. Then in July of 2021, we lost another long-time choir member, bass Bob Russell. While we were still digesting that, we got the news that Cheryl was very sick and could not continue in her position. Then the COVID variant hit and the music almost stopped. She had sung a solo for me/us early in the summer season and I was looking forward to ending on Labor with another solo from her.

Cheryl was our rock. She came to us in 2004, thanks to Larry and Linda Laderach who were on the MHC music faculty with her and convinced her to lead this merry band we call the choir. She coped with an aging choir and a moving cast of singers on any given Sunday, although we did always try to let her know if we would be away. We moved from singing four-part (SATB) pieces, to three-part (SAB), and even two part ones. She mined our musical "library" for appropriate pieces. Somehow, even with a rocky rehearsal, Cheryl was able to pull out a Sunday musical offering with us. And she was also willing to step in any time and sing a solo or even a duet. In addition to all that, Cheryl would cheerfully bring her various drums to use during introits and anthems, or pull out her trumpet or recorder to play along on any given Sunday. The choir worked hard, but we definitely had lots of fun together. And adding Larry into the mix on Sunday morning was always fun. Cheryl was truly our "Diva." Personally, Center Church has always been my home, especially the music parts. And learning with Larry and Cheryl has been a gift for me and for us all. We owe them a lot and I know that we will all miss Cheryl, her musical gifts, her incredible talents, her smiles, and her joy every time we all met. She was truly a gift to us and for which we will always be grateful. We are so fortunate to be left in Larry capable hands as our music program moves forward.

Cindy Morrell, associate in music

From the Church Historian

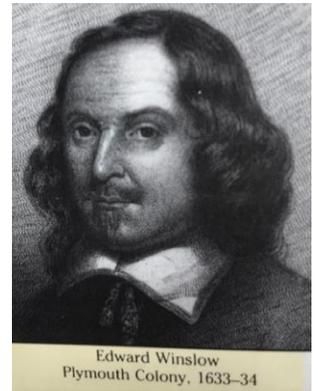
400 YEARS OF "HARVEST HOME"

Nov. 1621 - Nov. 2021



"Sing a song of Harvest Home" are words from our annual hymn during the Thanksgiving season (red 461,462, or black 422). Those of us in Center Church probably all feel that Thanksgiving is a distinctive New England "festival." Not so! The first New England "thanksgiving" was not observed by either the Pilgrims or the Boston Puritans. "Gyving God thanks" (a Church of England service) for a safe arrival to the New World's shores (sometime after 1614) was performed by settlers in Popham (the northern most point of Monhegan Island ME). This island was discovered by Captain John Smith who sailed up the earlier named New England coast in the spring of 1614.

"Giving thanks" celebrations were known in Europe before the Reformation. Protestants used this ceremony as a "fixed custom" long before New England's founding. As for the Pilgrim colonists, they wanted to celebrate the good harvest year of 1621. How we know this is because a settler named Edward Winslow wrote to a friend in England about the celebration event in November 1621, referring to the "bountiful harvest." It was Governor Bradford who "sent men out to gather fowl and venison for a feast." The large fowl caught were "wild tukkies" (Hebrew for big bird)." The "partakers in plenty" were fifty-five English along with ninety "sociable" indigenous Wampanoags and their leader Massasoit (also known as Ousameguin, 1580-1661). It was also written that: "four women with the help of one servant and a few young girls singled-handedly prepared and served three days of meals for 120 hungry men!" The celebration included various games such as: running, leaping, jumping and "stool ball" where a ball is "driven" from stool to stool and also an ancient form of croquet. There is no record of any special religious service. It should be noted that the Puritans "quickly appointed a Thanksgiving Day (since it was not a religious observance) to be celebrated every November." It was a day of recreation and feasting! So, not all Puritans were "sour, morose and gloomy" persons! They celebrated for a week!



The village and later town of South Hadley most assuredly celebrated the harvest. By 1733 the early residents fared much better than the "Plimouth Plantation" settlers. Crops grew well in the Valley's fertile soil, fishing for shad and salmon from the Connecticut River was plentiful. There was also an abundance of wild turkeys from the slopes of Mt. Holyoke. The feathers were used to make feather beds! The tail feathers made large fans to ward off flies while attending Sabbath services. Today, we at Center Church observe a religious service on "Thanksgiving Sunday." On Thanksgiving Day (the fourth Thursday in November) we celebrate the family with some traditional food and fun socializing. It got its start as a national holiday when President Abraham Lincoln gave a Thanksgiving Day Proclamation on October 3, 1863. The fourth Thursday in November was officially settled on as Thanksgiving Day in 1941 by a Congressional Joint Resolution.

Tell Me the Stories - November 2021

Let There Be Light (NCH 589, PH 449) provides an interesting contrast in hymn tunes used. The texts are pretty much the same, except for some wording “updating,” but the tunes provided are very different. William Vories, an American from Leavenworth KS, wrote the original poem in 1908. It was set to music and also translated into Japanese! The poem itself was published by the American Peace Society. Vories served as a lay missionary who gave over his life to non-denominational missions work in Japan. Although he wanted to be a missionary, he did not want to be allied with any denomination, so he started the Omni Mission in Japan. The NCH tune “Pentecost” was composed by William Boyd and designed to go with a different text, *Come Holy Ghost, Our Souls Inspire*. Boyd was an organist as well as an ordained minister in the Church of England. At some point, the tune became attached to Vories’ text. The PH hymn tune is “Elton” but “Pentecost” is also suggested at the bottom of the page. “Elton” was composed by Lowell Mason, an American, considered a “leading figure in church music and music education in the 19th century.” Mason published 84 collections and produced more enduring tunes than another American. CAC J/A/ 13

God of Grace and God of Glory (PH 366, NCH 436) is our second hymn this month. Both of the hymnals use five stanzas for the hymn. This hymn was originally written by Harry Emerson Fosdick while he was on vacation in Maine. It was composed for the dedication of Riverside Church, where he was a founding member, in NYCity. Fosdick was a Baptist minister from Buffalo, NY and his college experiences included a degree from Union Theological Seminary, where he later taught for 31 years. He has also received numerous honorary degrees, both nationally and internationally. One of my sources calls him “one of the most influential preachers of his time.” The theme for the church’s dedication was “what matters in religion.” The main difference in the two hymnals’ versions is the updating of the “thy and thine” wording. The hymn tune “Cwm Rhondda” was composed about 1907 by John Hughes, a church layman in Wales. His compositions were his avocation and you can guess many of his hymn tunes because of the Welsh titles. He composed this particular tune for a Baptist gathering and the title actually refers to a specific area in Wales that has both a valley and a river. Although Fosdick had wanted “Regent Square” for his text, this tune works very well. CAC 3/11

Our final hymn, *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love* (NCH 498), was composed for a church in Northern Ghana. It was written by Tom Colvin, an ordained Church of Scotland minister, who served as a missionary in Ghana and Malawi in the late 50s to early 70s. He wrote the words during that time to honor a church in Chereponi, in northern Ghana, which was being dedicated there. Before entering the ministry, he was trained as an engineer and worked in Burma and Singapore. The tune “Chereponi” is listed as a traditional Ghanaian folk song. At the bottom of the hymnbook page, it also states that the hymn was arranged again in 1982 by Jane Marshall. CAC 9/11



Resource used: [The New Century Hymnal Companion](#), ed. Kristen Forman (1998), and Robert G. McCutchan’s [Our Hymnody](#) (1937).

Cindy Morrell, Associate in Music



- 04 Charlotte Buijnarowski
- 05 Bev Noonan
- 06 Wendy Williams
- 07 Jamie Morrell
- Brittany Tipton
- 13 Bob Hazen
- Bob Judge
- 16 Karen Anderson
- 19 Chloe Sabbs
- 29 Jennifer Barrett
- 30 Nancy Lutes
- Carol White



In Memory of our Beloved Choir Director and Friend, Cheryl Cobb, who left this earth on October 1, 2021, but who will be remembered always, in our hearths!



THE MINISTRY AT CENTER CHURCH

Ministers:	All Church Members
Senior Minister:	Rev. Lori J. Souder
Member in Discernment:	Emily Carle



Christian Education Program

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

Music

Organist:	Larry Schipull
Associate in Music:	Cynthia Morrell



Office Administrator:	Cynthia Jubinville
Sexton:	Robert Farman



Happy Thanksgiving

