



“GOD IS STILL SPEAKING”

***NEVER PLACE A PERIOD
WHERE GOD HAS PLACED A COMMA***

”

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ - ONA

One Church Street

South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075

(413) 532-2262

email: centerchurch@verizon.net

website: www.centerchurchsouthhadley.org

Facebook: Center Church of South Hadley MA

Instagram: @centerchurchsouthhadley



**** The two center sections of the sanctuary are equipped with a hearing loop.
Turn on the T-coil in your hearing aid and sit in one of these sections
for better hearing**

October 10, 2021

Welcome to Worship at Center Church.

*We are glad you can join us in person or on Facebook – during worship time or at your convenience. Please feel free to contact us with any concerns or spiritual needs. If you are new to the community, please take one of our **All About Us** pamphlets, found on the table in the Narthex or Crossway.*



“Holding back for a while and taking up some stirring moments can inspire us to ignore all futile prerogatives and rouse us to “put ourselves on hold.” By stepping out of our inner shell and discovering the outer world, we create room for other beings, learn how they think, experience what they feel, and understand what kindles them.”

– Erik Pevernagie, Stilling our Mind

PRELUDE Two settings of *Cwm Rhondda* A. Viner, D.Wyrtzen

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

HYMN *God of Grace* Pilgrim #366 vs 1,3,5

BAPTISM OF REESE MARION HOLMES

*Congregational response: **We promise our love, support and care.***

HYMN *Child of Blessing, Child of Promise* black #325 vv. 1&4

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

MORNING PRAYERS

Prayer of Confession (unison) God of all, too often we stick to our small but safe comfort zones. Guide us into the places you are working in the world: with those in need, with those who are hurting. Lead us to the places in life where we are needed. Too often we align with society’s clocks and calendars that keep us busy; we create for ourselves schedules set by society’s priorities instead of yours. Help us return to your time, where the hour to choose discipleship is always now.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Pastoral Prayer

Silence

Lord's Prayer (debts)

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your Kingdom come; your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen*

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Mark 10:17-31 The Message

¹⁷ As he went out into the street, a man came running up, greeted him with great reverence, and asked, “Good Teacher, what must I do to get eternal life?”

¹⁸⁻¹⁹ Jesus said, “Why are you calling me good? No one is good, only God. You know the commandments: Don’t murder, don’t commit adultery, don’t steal, don’t lie, don’t cheat, honor your father and mother.”

²⁰ He said, “Teacher, I have—from my youth—kept them all!”

²¹ Jesus looked him hard in the eye—and loved him! He said, “There’s one thing left: Go sell whatever you own and give it to the poor. All your wealth will then be heavenly wealth. And come follow me.”

²² The man’s face clouded over. This was the last thing he expected to hear, and he walked off with a heavy heart. He was holding on tight to a lot of things, and not about to let go.

²³⁻²⁵ Looking at his disciples, Jesus said, “Do you have any idea how difficult it is for people who ‘have it all’ to enter God’s kingdom?” The disciples couldn’t believe what they were hearing, but Jesus kept on: “You can’t imagine how difficult. I’d say it’s easier for a camel to go through a needle’s eye than for the rich to get into God’s kingdom.”

²⁶ *That* got their attention. “Then who has any chance at all?” they asked.

²⁷ Jesus was blunt: “No chance at all if you think you can pull it off by yourself. Every chance in the world if you let God do it.”

²⁸ Peter tried another angle: “We left everything and followed you.”

²⁹⁻³¹ Jesus said, “Mark my words, no one who sacrifices house, brothers, sisters, mother, father, children, land—whatever—because of me and the Message will lose out. They’ll get it all back, but multiplied many times in homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and land—but also in troubles. And then the bonus of eternal life! This is once again the Great Reversal: Many who are first will end up last, and the last first.”

SERMON

HOLDING BACK

MISSION MOMENT*PV Habitat for Humanity*

Amy Landry

OFFERING*Sarabande (from Pour le Piano)*

C. Debussy

Invitation*Please place your offering in the plate as you leave***Musical Offering****Dedication****HYMN***Jesu, Jesu, Fill us with your love*

black #498 vv.1,2&4

BENEDICTION**POSTLUDE***Cwm Rhondda*

J.B. Carlson

*We invite you to remain quietly and celebrate the conclusion of worship in the postlude.**We hope that you find your worship experience meaningful.**If you are new to the community, we invite you to make this your church home.***In our Service Today****Preacher:**

Rev. Lori J. Souder

Scripture Reader:

Wendy Williams

Organist/Music Director:

Larry Schipull

Soloist/Hymn Singer:

Sharyn Kovalevsky

Deacon:

David Barrett

Greeter:

June Harris



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
Family and friends of Cheryl Cobb who passed away
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
Jen Weeks, recovering from shoulder surgery

Through the **Sacrament of Baptism**, we welcome Reese Marion Holmes into the life of Center Church. Reese is the daughter of Lisa and Jason Holmes. She was born in Springfield on November 25, 2020. Reese has two brothers, Everett and Grant.

Center Church Announcements

Racial Justice Vigils continue, since the last time any of us looked around, racism exists. Please join us; we gather from 10-10:30 in front of the church, social distancing, wearing face coverings, and bringing a sign. Our bell ringer, Randy P. rings in the vigil and sends us safely home.



Bible Study: Sailing on with Paul

Join us for the final Bible Study in this series on the Book of Acts, in the Conference Room at Loomis Village, Thursdays from 10-11am. All are welcome.

Oct 14 Finish up prior week with the question
"Where have you witnessed miracles?"

Sign up through the front desk at Loomis.



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 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.



of western massachusetts

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.

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

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.



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 & Dignity* ~ right here at Center Church!

New York City based trumpeter and vocalist, [Benny Benack III](#), headlines this benefit event with an extraordinary cast of musicians behind him. The band 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 as well (without any fees!).

In addition to helping fund all the critical initiatives here at Center Church, this concert will also directly benefit other 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 also 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](#)

HEALTH & SAFETY UPDATE: In order to safely attract the largest crowd with the greatest level of comfort, we have recently enhanced our policy and protocol for the evening. 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 limit audience size, observe and enforce this protocol, and implement distanced seating, as able.

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)

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



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)

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