



CHURCH AT THE CENTER,

JUNE 2022



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.*

Albert Einstein's quote of insanity is, "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results." Well I guess we are insane for voting for certain legislators; our legislators are insane for extending their hands; all while the gun lobbyists rule the roost.

Uvalde, Tx should not have happened after Sandy Hook, Parkland, and Columbine...and we are just talking about schools! The loss, the trauma, the injustices, are thrown in our faces because we haven't passed enough legislation to thwart the teens, the mentally ill, and those with violent histories, from buying guns. We haven't banned semi-automatic guns with clips that carry many rounds of ammunition.

I recall on a playground, friends asking, "Does your Mom call the shots or your Dad?" I confess, I could not tell...it all depended on the occasion. When it comes to gun safety, the lobbyists call the shots as they feed the pockets of our legislators.

Enough is enough! I invite you to write your legislator to insist gun safety takes priority. Meanwhile while I take comfort in words from the scriptures, I invite you to do the same.

God will one day wipe every tear from our eyes, and there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain.
Revelation 21:4

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." **John 14:27**

"The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; God delivers them from all their troubles. The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." **Psalm 34:17-18**

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. **Psalm 46:1-7**

I will be apart from you for three months and trust in the lay leadership and in Rev. Susan Grant Rosen as Center Church, UCC, continues to be a presence not just for her members/friends but in the world.

With a heavy heart and joy for what we all can be,
Lori



This summer, Rev. Souder will be taking a much deserved (and overdue) sabbatical! While Lori is away, the Rev. Susan Grant-Rosen will serve as our sabbatical pastor. Rev. Grant-Rosen has served as a UCC pastor since 2001, in both settled and interim pastorate positions. Most recently, Susan served the United Church of Winchester, NH. Rev. Grant-Rosen also has experience teaching in higher education and has worked for, and led, several social service agencies. She lives in Hampshire County.

Susan will be leading summer worship services, doing visitation, and holding office hours during the week. More information will come as we get closer to sabbatical time!



Scripture readers for worship are needed over the summer. Please either sign up in the Bock Crossway or call/email the church office. Thanks!



We welcome Gil Wermeling, as the new Choir Director beginning September 12th. Choir will rehearse with him before worship on that Sunday and thereafter. He comes to us as a graduate of Amherst College, and is now working on his Masters of Choral Conducting at UMASS. He is actively signing in choral groups and has directed a college choral group.



Spring Clean Up Are you looking for an outdoor activity? And one that could benefit the church? Then consider joining the Trustees on Saturday June 4th. We will be at the Church from 9am to about noon, so stop by anytime to give a hand, even if you only have 1/2 hour to an hour. We will be weeding, cutting shrubbery, and general cleanup of the grounds. If you have them, please remember your garden gloves and any tools that might be helpful. Especially bring yourself! Many hands will make light work making the church property beautiful.



Vigils for Racial Justice: All who support racial justice are invited to stand with us along College Street on the first Saturday morning of the month (June 4th) 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



If you wish to attend any team meeting as a non-voting participant, please contact Thia in the Church Office or speak to the Team Chair prior to the meeting, and we can send you the Zoom link to attend. Meetings have always been open to all, but with the arrival of COVID we have gone to meeting on Zoom which requires an invitation.

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

Continual:

Emily Bangs-Orsini Mission Care Holyoke

Luke Bradley (lifelong battle with cancer)

Loxley Coffin, granddaughter of
Karol and Art

Joan Duffy

Muriel Graham

Tom Hazen

Audrey Heinrichs

Grace Hooton

Eunice Howes, for stabilization of vision

Phyllis and Jean Lacoste

Fay Paquette

Anna Sibley

Art Stanley

Those struggling with addiction

*We keep our Member-in-Discernment, Emily Carle,
in our prayers, in her seminary studies at
Louisville Seminary*

*We keep those serving in the military in our
prayers, including JB Pontes*

**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:

Peg Dumbaugh, after a fall

The Griffin family following the death of
Steve's father

Tom Sutton, Elizabeth Griffin's father,
who has become ill while traveling in Europe.

Audrey Heaphy's brother-in-law,
Bob Brandt

Cathy Irish, following successful surgery
Jim K, with stomach cancer

Pauline (Morrell) Fujii's daughter-in-law
Rina, undergoing chemo

Kay Pryor, with cancer, family friend of
Karen and Estelle Anderson

Alina Sokop

Nikki Wolf, Linda's granddaughter

Lisa Wray's fiancé, Kevin

*The victims and their families,
of the mass shootings in Texas and Buffalo*

*All those in Ukraine, and those who have
fled for safety.*

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

Congratulations

2022 Graduates

College

Travis Clauson - Tufts University



High School

Teagan Anz - The MacDuffie School

Jonas Clark - South Hadley High School

Roxanna Clauson - Northampton High School

Henry Strand - Holyoke STEM Academy



STEM



Children's Faith Formation

Summer is around the corner and getting us there are lessons about Jesus's teachings on the mountainside. We've dug into the weeds of the beatitudes and how to be the salt and the light of the world! Each



Sunday, the children have been adding to a mural of Jesus teaching his disciples on a mountain ridge. They've colored trees and clouds and added speech bubbles - "blessed are those who" We'll finish classes on Sunday June 12 with



beautifying the church grounds with flowering annuals and decorate the sidewalk with colorful, whimsical chalk designs. Thank you to all families for coming back to church in person and for the Faith Formation team for supporting us to make this year a true blessing and success! 🏠❤️🌸🌻

Martha Guild, Christian Education Director

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On behalf of the Faith Formation Team, Promised Land Families, and all of Center Church, we wish to extend heartfelt gratitude to Martha Guild for lovingly teaching, guiding and supporting the children in the beloved Promised Land for the past six years. Martha's gifts have been invaluable throughout the peaks and valleys of recent times, especially after she converted from classroom teaching to virtual and eventually hybrid. We wish to thank her for faithfully teaching the stories of God's love, and for contributing to the sense of community that is so cherished in the Promised Land and with the Center Church Family.

With Gratitude,  
Kate Hoffman and the Faith Formation Team

~~~~~  
First Table Fellowship: On June 5th seven children will be receiving their "First Table Fellowship." Upon arriving 14 years ago, several families asked me if we could do First Communion like the Roman Catholics. I suggested that we offer First Table Fellowship instead, because already we allow anyone, at any age, to receive communion. However, we can specifically train children who are at least in 2nd or 3rd grade. The children participating this year are: Brynn Bryan, Aaliyah Zoe Hall, Ava Zuri Hall, Payton Mae McFarland, Kael Niikwei Graham Smith, Elianna Wells, Julia Whitfield

Youth Group



Our Member in Discernment, Emily Carle, will depart as the Lead Co-Youth Director, after serving in this role for over 4 years. She joined the church after arriving at MHC her first year, engaged in Outreach and Faith Formation while leading the youth. Emily also was an Intern for a semester. Next year she will be doing an Internship at a UCC congregation near Louisville Theological Seminary, as she begins her second year there.

Thank You Emily!

Adult Christian Education

A Peek At The Bible

Obadiah v.1-2

"Behold, I will make you small among the nations, you shall be utterly despised."

Obadiah is a very short book in the Old Testament. It speaks out against the Edomites who joined the Babylonians in the destruction of Jerusalem in 586-7 B.C. Psalm 137:7 calls upon God to "Remember against the Edomites..." because they were enthusiastic allies of the enemies of Jerusalem in Judea. It may have been that they were subjugated by kings of Judea and that the Edomites interpreted the defeat of Jerusalem as just compensation for historical injustices. Obadiah is a "gloom and doom" book. Gloom because it expresses the disappointment, sadness and anger felt by the Judeans in exile in Babylon and doom because it prophesied the doom of Edom ("...you shall be utterly despised.") for its role in the destruction of Jerusalem. The book concludes with God's promise that Judea and its territories will be restored. A life-sized sculpture of a yellow-billed stork, rendered black and titled "Obadiah" in The Waterbury Club, Waterbury, Connecticut captures the profoundly somber tone of the Old Testament book.

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

New Members

WELCOME
new members
.....

We enthusiastically welcome **Laura Berzofsky, Dianne Clinton, Lynda Pickbourn, and Preston Smith** into church membership at Center Church, UCC on June 5th. They all have been attending during Covid, online and in person.

Peterson Scholarship Fund

A heart felt thank you to all who donated to this year's Peterson Memorial Scholarship Fund. We received nineteen applications from very deserving applicants. It was a very difficult task to evaluate each application and to make sure we were applying the guidelines set forth for the awards. With the limited funds available, we awarded seven small financial scholarships. Please be reminded that donations to this fund may be made anytime during the year.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Important Reminder: The next edition of Church at the Center will come out June 29th and will include information for July *and* August. There is no August edition. Please think ahead to any team/group summer information that will need to be "advertised" and plan to **submit it to Thia by JUNE 21st** *Thanks!*

News from the Trustees for June 2022

Starting into our second quarter of the year, our numbers at the end of April should be around 34% of the total budget. Income is 41.12% with pledge income continuing to come in well and user donations doing well too. The expenses were at 37.37%. Our first "investment interest allocation check" was reported in April which allowed our overall total to be approximately \$2,200 in the black for now. John Hoffman, treasurer, notified us of two large gifts (one anonymous and the other a bequest from Becky McArthur's estate) and we put one into the operating budget and the other as seed money to start a capital campaign line. We are accumulating all the material for the new fire alarm system and once it is all here, the installation will begin. We are delighted that the new kiosk is now operational. It will be run from an older computer in the CE office and Thia is learning how to change the wording and do other fun things. Check it out, especially at night! The Odyssey has had one successful book signing in the sanctuary and has others in the pipeline as the arrangement is working out well. Both the reception after Larry and Linda's concert and following Becky McArthur's memorial service went very well. Thank you, Activities Team! It is hopeful that we might be able to start coffee hours again at some point in the future. The choir director position is moving along [Note that as of May 18, the position has been filled and Gil will join the staff in September,] The CE director position has also been advertised. We want to thank Al Duffy for serving as our "protector of Sunday service parking spaces" for the two MHC graduations on May 22 (Class of 2022) and May 29 (an in-person one for the Class of 2020 which never had a formal one because of COVID and the College's shut down in March 2020. The timing for this seemed appropriate as this was also their first reunion since "graduation.") We will be meeting in June and then take July off, resuming our meetings again in August.

Cindy Morrell, secretary

Notes from Church Council

The Council met virtually via Zoom on Tuesday May 3. Corinne Chartrand of Activities was Lead pro-tem. Corinne opened the meeting at 7:03 p.m. Brian Lapis led devotions by reiterating that we should "pray joyfully!" The various team leaders gave their reports. Activities was thanked for their leadership with the two receptions; one for Larry and Linda after their concert and one for Becky McArthur's family and friends after her memorial service. Faith Formation is sponsoring a "recognition" for CE Director Martha Guild and Co-Youth Director Emily Carle. Membership is excited that some potential new members will be joining Center Church in the near future. Outreach has Girls, Inc as a new partner. The Aster House donation drive was successful. Outreach is working on a new informational video to encourage volunteer participation for the Food for Friends program. The annual CropWalk gained \$210 from Center Church donations. Trustees reported that the new digital kiosk sign is now in place! They have been in contact with the Odyssey Bookshop folks who have been looking for future locations for their book signing program. Their Bookshop space has become tight for large gatherings. Lori has seven participants for the First Table Fellowship Communion on June 5. The "Larry and Linda" concert raised \$170.75 for FFF and the same amount for the Ukraine Relief Fund. Sabbatical pastor update has Rev. Susan Grant Rosen will be filling that position. Voices of Resilience Exhibit will have our Co-Youth Director Kayla as a volunteer to help with visiting groups. It was **MSV** unanimously to not meet in July and to pick up again with our August meeting. The next Zoom meeting is at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday June 7. Bobbie Ayers is Lead pro-tem. Corinne Chartrand will lead devotions.

David C. Morrell, Clerk

Outreach Partners of the Month



Roca is an organization headquartered in Chelsea MA and with locations in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Baltimore. Locally it is located in Holyoke and Springfield. Roca's mission is to be a relentless force in disrupting incarceration, poverty, and racism by engaging the young adults, police, and systems at the center of urban violence in relationships to address trauma, find hope, and drive change. The outreach team has been in contact with the local organization regarding way we can support. There is interest in establishing a library to support reading for the young men ages 17-24 who are at reading levels ranging from 2nd Grade to High School. We will be seeking support in collecting books with the challenge of finding books of high interest but, in some cases, low level readers. Stay tuned...more to follow.

<https://rocainc.org>

**girls
inc.**

Inspiring all girls
to be strong,
smart, and bold

May 2, 2022

Girls Inc. of the Valley
P.O. Box 6812
Holyoke, MA 01041
Tel: 413.537.8247
girlsincvalley.org

John Hoffman
Chair of Outreach Team
First Congregational Church, Inc.
1 Church Street
South Hadley, MA 01075

Dear John,

Thank you for supporting Spirit of Girls: Their Future is Written in the Stars with your generous gift of \$500.00. Your willingness to step up for girls is greatly appreciated.

Our students are constantly learning and growing - becoming even stronger, smarter, and bolder.

We call it the Girls Inc. Experience: being engaged in programs that focus on healthy decision making, college and career readiness, and independent thinking, to become the young leaders we know they all can be.

We hope you will join us at the event on Thursday, May 5, beginning at 7PM at Gate 9 at the Big E to see the stars of Girls Inc., our youth, on the big screen! We look forward to this cars under the stars event to gather as a community to celebrate their accomplishments.

On behalf of the Board and staff of Girls Inc. of the Valley, and the hundreds of girls in our program, we thank you for being such an important friend!

With gratitude,

Suzanne Parker
Executive Director

No goods or services were provided in exchange for your donation.



Christian Education Director Position Open

Center Church of South Hadley is a progressive, vibrant, multigenerational Christian community where we welcome all to join in following the teachings of Jesus. We are currently looking for a warm, welcoming person with a nurturing spirit and curiosity about young Children's faith formation to serve as the Director of Children's Christian Education beginning in August, 2022. Ideally, the successful candidate will have at least one year of experience working with young children.

Additionally, the candidate will need strong organizational, planning, and communication skills, and the technical ability to conduct lessons remotely. The Director's job entails planning and implementing Sunday morning lessons for children in Pre-K through 5th grade, which are guided by an in-depth multi-age curriculum that focuses on stories, people and places in the Bible. The Director is supervised by the Senior Minister who helps set goals and objectives for the program, and is supported by an assistant teacher and Faith Formation Team of volunteers. This is a part-time position of five hours per week for approximately 40 weeks from late August through mid-June. For a complete job description, please go to www.centerchurchsouthhadley.org. Interested candidates should send a cover letter and resume to centerchurch@verizon.net

Activities Team

Remember that the dates of the Fair this year are September 10th and 11th. Yes, that is earlier. The move was made for several reasons, including our hope to attract Mount Holyoke students who are arriving on campus and to allow for more time to prepare and set up our Holiday Bazaar which we hold right after Thanksgiving.

As we have been indicating, this year we plan to accept donations at the specified times listed below. HOWEVER, we also are very cognizant of the fact that some of you just can't bring your donations at the times listed! Please, we still welcome your donations with open arms! Thus, in these cases, just call the church office and someone will be in contact with you to arrange a convenient time for you to drop off your donations at the church.

Please remember that the Center Church Fair is an all-church affair. It would not be possible without your enthusiasm and involvement through donating items, volunteering to work during the fair AND attending/purchasing items. We're counting on you once again to make the Fall Fair Successful!!

The time is finally here!!! We are now starting to accept "drop offs"
Please check the list below for the dates and times!

~~~~~  
**DATES FOR DONATION DROP-OFF**

**After church each Sunday during June and August**

**JUNE**

**Wednesdays  
9 A.M. -Noon**

June 1  
June 15  
June 29

**Saturday - June 4  
1 - 4:00P.M**

**JULY**

**Wednesdays  
9 A.M. -Noon**

July 13  
July 27

**Saturday- July 9<sup>th</sup>  
1 - 4:00 P.M.**

**AUGUST**

**Wednesdays  
9 A.M. -Noon**

August 7  
August 21  
August 31



More dates will be announced as we get closer to the event.

The Fall Fair Tag Sale is on for the weekend of September 10, 11...we will gladly accept boxes of items listed on the enclosed promotion ad starting in June...if you could just hold on a little longer, we would be grateful for your patience and help making the fair happen without additional stress! Call an Activities Team member if you have need of an alternative arrangement. If at all possible, donation boxes should contain similar items to make a smooth process of set up. Watch this space for updates!

## WHAT DOES SELL....

Please ONLY clean and in working order....



Dishes Glassware Knick knacks  
Lamps Vases Jewelry



Artificial flowers Linens Decorative pillows  
Small furniture (end tables, bookcase)



Small appliances in good condition  
Pots and pans Hardware items



Art work Frames Baskets Purses & bags  
Hard cover & Paperback books

Decorations (indoor or outdoor) for any holiday

NOT Christmas - we will have another collection time for Christmas Bazaar



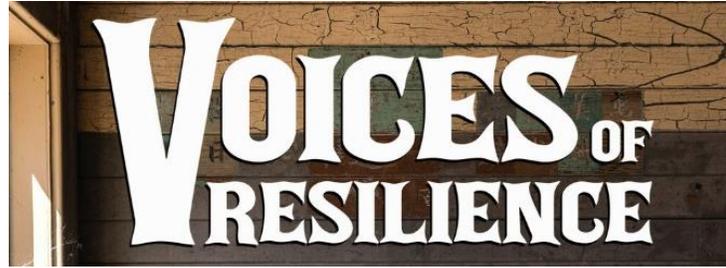
Toys Games Puzzles  
Stuffed animals Outdoor children's toys



Please remember we are  
**NOT** accepting....

Large Furniture (couch, bed frames), Electronics, most sporting good items, records, reference books, old magazines and large household replacement items such as chandeliers, kitchen fixtures, etc.

# COMING SOON TO CENTER CHURCH CHAPEL



## *THE INTERSECTION OF WOMEN ON THE MOVE*

Through art, text, video, and music, Voices of Resilience reveals important untold and lesser-known stories of women of color and their white allies who, in diverse ways, changed our world for the better. The exhibit, previously displayed at Springfield's D'Amour Museum of Fine Arts, will both educate and inspire.

**SEPTEMBER 18 - OCTOBER 16, 2022**

**OPENING EVENT: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2 PM**

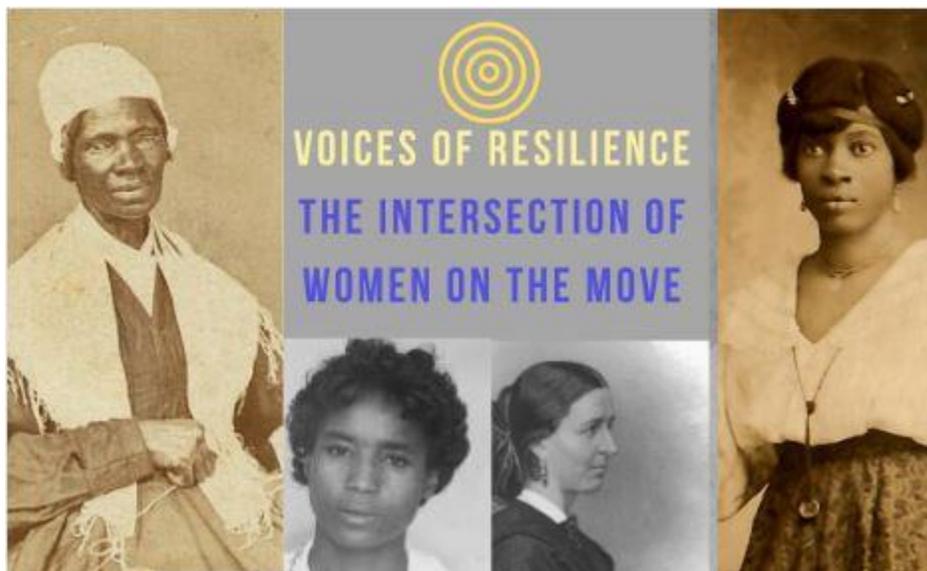
Saturdays 10 am - 1 pm \* Sundays 11 am - 2 pm \* Wednesdays 4 - 7 pm

Additional times by appointment

Open to the public \* no admission will be charged; donations gratefully accepted

Learn more about the exhibit and how you can help make this unique event a memorable one for our church and for the community at

<http://centerchurchsouthhadley.org/voices>



*This event is sponsored by \* E Ink Corporation \* Mount Holyoke College \* Peoples Bank  
\* Thomson Financial Management \* Odyssey Bookshop \* Sankofa Gumbo, Inc.  
and a generous grant from the South Hadley Cultural Council*

# From the Church Historian

## HONORING BECKY McARTHUR



With the passing of Becky McArthur (June 11, 1918-April 22, 2022) at the age of 103 (she would have been 104 this month) it's only fitting to take a look back to 1918 and the years of history after. Becky was an avid follower of history. She was my biggest advocate about the sharing of Center Church's history. She encouraged me with her words "Tell the Story!" Becky was one of the "Fabulous Four" social pals along with my mother-in-law Bobby Jeanne White, Esther Lennon and Bertha Page. They were an enjoyable "force" to reckon with!

To begin with, many of the same things are happening today were going on in 1918. There was a Pandemic, many strikes and lockouts, a push for a six day work week and "radical" calls for women's voting rights, birth control, progressive education, advancement for Negroes and prohibition! The USA had entered a new period of "hectic change." There were many clashes with "old traditions."

In 1918, Center Church had 358 active members. Our pastor was Rev. Jesse Gilman Nichols (1906-1935). He wrote of how "world-wide interests have constrained us." Center Church, due to WWI, had "unusual demand made upon our time, strength and sympathy." He also stated that "Christianity has become militant, not that it loves war, but in the fact that the church is furnishing the protection of the weak." "The church is ministering to the physical and spiritual needs of our army and navy and the afflicted." Center Church was united in support of our government and our common good. We supported our missionaries abroad and at home. Center Church was determined to make the world safe for Democracy! These words ring true today!

Thinking of Becky's long life span and the opportunities she had for participating in the "wonderful world of discoveries and inventions!" Marvels such as: the various renditions of the automobile; efficient home appliances; television; telephones; iPhones; computers; credit cards; the nuclear age; the space age; and so many more! She was also aware of such notables as: Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, Susan B. Anthony, Winston Churchill, Eugene Debs, William Randolph Hearst, and various newspapers that are no longer in existence. In the entertainment field she may have enjoyed in-person - Fanny Brice, the Ziegfeld Follies, George M. Cohen, Irving Berlin, George Gershwin, W.C. Fields along with silent movies which became "talkies," and even Cinemascope! Becky lived through two World Wars and various "conflicts," the Great Depression and the Stock Market Crash, and the formation of the United Nations and NATO. She may have attended talks by Eleanor Roosevelt, Robert Frost, Carl Sandburg, Amy Lowell as well as many political notables.

Education was a priority of Becky's. She graduated with a BA in Religious Education from Hartford Seminary and an MA in Education from Central CT State University. She loved music! She studied piano at the Scranton PA Conservatory of Music and at the Hartt School of Music in Hartford, CT. She sang for 20 years in the Center Church choir and with the South Hadley Chorale. Art was also an interest. She was a docent at the Mount Holyoke College Art Museum. Racism in America was a major concern for her. She co-founded and co-directed the first inter-racial preschool in Hartford, CT. It later became part of the Head Start Program. She was a life- long active presence in all faith communities she was connected with. Her energetic commitment to her faith, family and to the USA (voting was paramount!) is her lasting legacy!

## Tell Me the Stories - June 2022

*Let Me Enter God's Own Dwelling* (NCH 67) is our first hymn. If it sounded familiar, that is because the choir had been using it as an introit for a couple of Sundays recently. Surprisingly it is not one which I have written about before this. This hymn is also in the PH under *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty* (503) which the choir has also used for a number of years as an introit. The text was written by E. Benjamin Schmolck in 1732. He was a German Lutheran pastor. He is credited with writing over 1,000 hymn texts while serving a small number of Lutheran churches which were absorbed by the Catholic church under the Peace of Westphalia. However, his original text was sung with a different tune. "Unser Herrscher" is the tune composed by Joachim Neander. He was also a German who was called "the first poet of the Reformed Church in Germany." He was an unlikely composer who had a varied growing up including serving as headmaster of a grammar school from which he was later suspended. This was a result of his membership in, and influence of, the Pietist movement. During all this time however, he did manage to compose about sixty hymn texts and tunes. Unfortunately, he died at the early age of 30 from tuberculosis. The tune has also been called "Neander." While Neander composed three tunes used in the PH, Schmolck had only this one hymn text there (PH). The words we sang were translated by Madeleine F. Marshall in 1993 and she used six of the original seven stanzas. Marshall is listed as a translator for 16 of the NCH hymns but interestingly while her name appears at the top of each hymn, there is no information about her in the actual hymn writeups in the NCH Companion. She is an American, born in 1946, who is currently an assoc. prof. of English at the U Puerto Rico in Mayaguez. Author of several books, she thinks of hymns as poetry and focuses on their theological aspects.

We sang *This is My Song* (NCH 591) last Sunday (5/29). The words were written in the years between WW I and II by Lloyd Stone. A Californian by birth, he moved to Hawaii in 1936 where he taught both public school and at the University. In addition to writing the two stanzas that we sang, a third one was also written at the request of the Wesleyan Service Guild and the hymn became a favorite of the Methodist Church. The hymn tune which is very familiar to us all, "Finlandia," (used in the PH for 77 and 494) was written as a "tone poem" by Jean Sibelius of Finland. Sibelius wrote many of his musical pieces based on folk tales and national myths. It is said that when this piece was first performed in Helsinki, it was such a hit that the occupying Russian government then refused to allow it to be performed again. It is a plea for peace "among all nations, races and cultures" and it ended our service. The sentiment expressed is one that speaks to the state of our fractured country/world today (as it did in 2007 and 2016). CAC Jul/Aug 07, Jun '16. One of my very favorite hymns in the NCH, on Memorial Day, I leave you with these words -

*This is my song, O God of all the nations. A song of peace for lands afar and mine. This is my home, the country where my heart is; here are my hopes, my dreams, my holy shrine; But other hearts in other lands are beating, with hopes and dreams as true and high as mine.*

*My country's skies are bluer than the ocean, and sunlight beams on cloverleaf and pine; But other lands have sunlight too, and clover, and skies are everywhere as blue as mine. O hear my song, O God of all the nations, a song of peace for their land and for mine.*

Cindy Morrell, associate in music

Resources used: Ronald Thomson's Who's Who of Hymn Writers (1967); and The New Century Hymnal Companion, ed. Kristen Forman (1998).





- 04 Laura Jubinville
- 05 Brian Irish
- 07 Emily Pietras
- Chad Irish
- 09 Kristina Constant
- 10 Tom Landry
- Chelsea Narey
- 12 David Morrell
- 14 Joyce Roberts
- 22 Muriel Graham
- John Hoffman
- 24 Lucy Hough
- 27 Estelle Anderson
- 28 Pat Landry



### Summer Office Hours

Tuesday - Thursday  
9am - 4pm



### Thia Vacation time

July 5 - 7  
July 19 - 21  
August 16 - 28 (tentative)

When the Church Office is closed,  
Rev. Grant-Rosen may be reached by  
email: [susangr3@gmail.com](mailto:susangr3@gmail.com) or on her  
cell: 603-203-5306

### Center Church on the Web

Email: [centerchurch@verizon.net](mailto:centerchurch@verizon.net)

Facebook: Center Church of South Hadley MA

Website:

<https://centerchurchsouthhadley.org/>

Instagram: @centerchurchsouthhadley



### Summer Worship Schedule

- June Worship at Center Church 10am
- July Joint Worship at the Church of Christ Granby 10:30am
- August Joint Worship at Center Church 10am





Greetings ONA churches, since the Northampton Pride Parade is not happening this year, here are some alternative Pride Parades that are happening around us:

**SPRINGFIELD, MA JUNE 4 @ 10:00 Am - 5:00 Pm**

Springfield's first LGBTQ+ Pride Parade! Saturday, June 4th 2022. Join us on the campus of Springfield Technical Community College at 9am, and follow us as we march and celebrate our way down State St and land on 36 Court St in front of City Hall for live music, games, floats, food from local vendors, giveaways and a block party in front of city hall!

The parade will start at the Springfield Technical College campus at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 4. Attendees, volunteers and organizers will march all the way down to state street, city hall and Court Square.

More details: <https://explorewesternmass.com/event/springfield-lgbtq-pride-parade>



**PITTSFIELD (Berkshire Pride Festival and Parade!) June 4 from 11:00AM - 4:00 PM**

The Common, 100 1st St, Pittsfield, MA

Details:

[Berkshire Pride Festival and Parade! - Downtown Pittsfield Western Massachusetts The Berkshires](#)



**FRANKLIN COUNTY PRIDE PARADE IN GREENFIELD June 11**

12:00-1:00 Pride March in Greenfield  
1:00-3:00 Pride Rally in Energy Park

Rainbow blessings,  
*Ellen Petersen*

More details: [Parade – Franklin County Pride](#)

**THE MINISTRY AT CENTER CHURCH**

**Ministers:** All Church Members  
**Senior Minister:** Rev. Lori J. Souder  
**Sabbatical Minister:** Rev. Susan Grant-Rosen  
**Member in Discernment:** Emily Carle

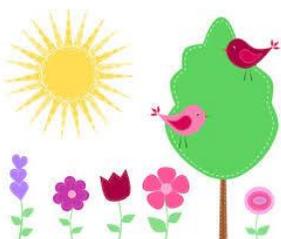


**Christian Education Program**

**Children:** Martha Guild 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



Register Today!  
Registration Deadline:  
June 13, 2022



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Registration Deadline:  
June 13, 2022

THIRD ANNUAL MEETING of the  
Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ, Inc  
Saturday, June 18, 2022 9 AM - 2:30 PM  
8:30 AM - "Virtual Doors" Open Virtual Hopin Platform

Welcome to the Southern New England Conference Annual Meeting!

As we celebrate the accomplishments in our third year as the SNEUCC, I am excited to personally invite you to the 2022 Annual Meeting. Our Annual Meeting will include vibrant worship, rich fellowship, and riveting speakers. Although we will (once again) meet virtually, I guarantee that you will enjoy a rich experience where our theme will be fully celebrated.

Our Worship Theme is Matthew 7:24-27 - "A Sure Foundation: Built Upon 400 Years of Service."

Business to be Conducted: Action on the Nomination of Directors and Officers  
Registration is now open; the deadline is June 13, 2022. Register Today!

While you have likely had plenty of experience with virtual gatherings, you will be able to attend the meeting by computer, tablet or smartphone. Hopin Practice Sessions will be held 16 times between June 6th - June 17th. Pre-registration is required for a practice session in order to receive the link to attend it. Please register here.

In response to much feedback about our commitment to environmental justice, Delegate Materials will be distributed electronically. There will be no automatic paper mailing of materials to any church or registrant. Those who need paper materials are invited to request them when they register. In order to receive paper materials, you must register and request them no later than June 13th by emailing Andrea Bellarosa - bellarosaa@sneucc.org.

A Speakout is a 60-second opportunity for a delegate to address the Annual Meeting on a topic of their choice. As an adaptation to our remote format, Speakout opportunities will be assigned by lottery, and all Speakouts must be recorded and submitted in advance. More information may be found [HERE](#).

We know there is a lot of information to take in. Further information, advance materials and delegate materials are on the website [HERE](#). Additional materials will be added in the coming weeks.

We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, June 18th!  
*Persephone Hall*, Moderator

Keynote Rev. Dr. Patrick Duggan

Executive Director of the Church Building & Loan Fund of the United Church of Christ

Southern New England Conference,  
United Church of Christ  
Toll Free: 866-367-2822  
Fax: 866-367-0860  
Facebook Twitter



**Registration is Open!**

## **16th Annual Silver Lake Golf Tournament**

Wednesday, September 14, 2022

**NEW LOCATION** - Manchester Country Club - Manchester, CT

**NEW, LOWER PRICE** - *same support for Silver Lake!*

\$175 per golfer, plus sponsorship opportunities available.

*The entry fee includes Greens Fees, Lunch, Dinner and Beverages.*

**NEW START TIME** - 12:30 p.m. Shotgun Start, Scramble Format

**Additional details at [www.silverlakect.org/golf](http://www.silverlakect.org/golf).**

[Register Now! →](#)

### **Vaccine Requirement**

Silver Lake requires all guests to our site and participants at our in-person events to be fully vaccinated (2+ weeks from final dose) against Covid-19. Those who are not able to be vaccinated due to a medical condition or due to age may show proof of a negative PCR test taken not more than 3 days before the event.

As a ministry of the [Southern New England Conference, United Church of Christ](#) (SNE UCC), Silver Lake adheres to all the policies put in place by the Conference.

Read the [SNE UCC Covid Policies for Guests and Vendors](#) - updated March 8, 2022.

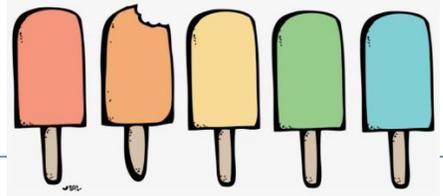
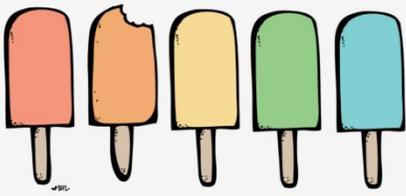
### **Silver Lake Camp & Retreat Center**

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

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

[slrc@sneucc.org](mailto:slrc@sneucc.org)





| Sun                                                                       | Mon                        | Tue                             | Wed                                            | Thu                     | Fri                                                            | Sat                                        |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Rev. Souder is On Sabbatical June 8 - September 8</b></p>           |                            |                                 | <p>1<br/>Girls Scouts 6pm</p>                  | <p>2<br/>AA 1:30pm</p>  | <p>3<br/>Church Office Closed</p>                              | <p>4<br/>Vigil for Racial Justice 10am</p> |
| <p>5<br/>Worship 10am<br/>First Table Fellowship<br/>New Members Join</p> |                            | <p>7<br/>Church Council 7pm</p> | <p>8<br/>Girls Scouts 6pm<br/>Trustees 7pm</p> | <p>9<br/>AA 1:30pm</p>  | <p>10<br/>Church Office Closed</p>                             |                                            |
| <p>12<br/>Worship 10am<br/>Last Day of Sunday School</p>                  | <p>13<br/>Outreach 7pm</p> |                                 | <p>15<br/>Girls Scouts 6pm</p>                 | <p>16<br/>AA 1:30pm</p> | <p>17<br/>Church Office Closed<br/>Tree of Life Graduation</p> | <p>18<br/>Food For Friends</p>             |
| <p>19<br/>Worship 10am</p> <p>Happy Father's Day</p>                      |                            | <p>21<br/>Deacons 7pm</p>       | <p>22<br/>Girls Scouts 6pm</p>                 | <p>23<br/>AA 1:30pm</p> |                                                                |                                            |
| <p>26<br/>Worship 10am</p>                                                |                            |                                 |                                                | <p>30<br/>AA 1:30pm</p> |                                                                |                                            |

**SUMMER OFFICE HOURS BEGIN THE WEEK OF JUNE 20  
TUESDAY - THURSDAY 9AM - 4PM**



**July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 10:30am  
at Church of Christ Granby  
August 7, 14, 21, 28 10am  
at Center Church**

