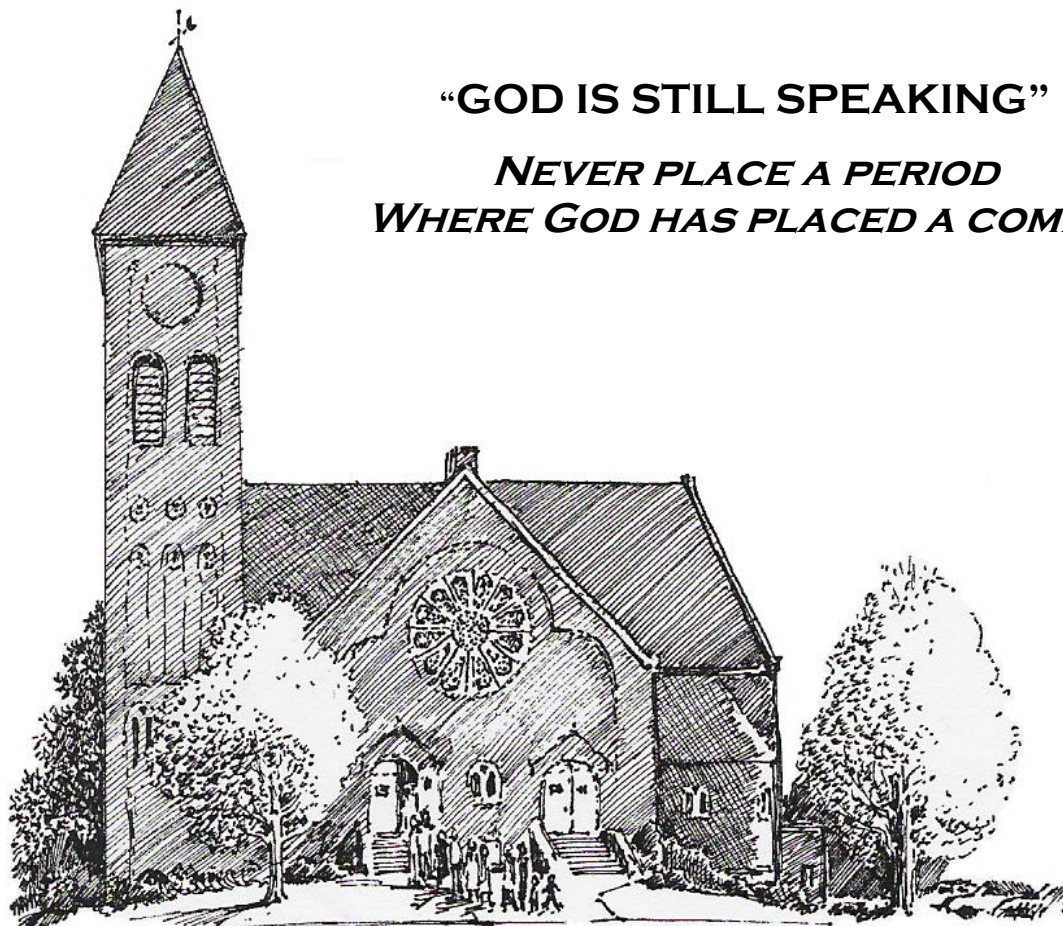


We are asking that in the church space, all keep a safe 3-foot space, when seated among “non-pod” folks. Masks are required.



“GOD IS STILL SPEAKING”

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

”

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
“Center 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**

August 14, 2022

The Deacons will light a candle of **PEACE** AND **RESILIENCY** FOR UKRAINE at the beginning of each worship service.

PRELUDE

Variations on *Foundation*
Foundation

R. Lind
E. Broughton

INTROIT

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

RESPONSIVE INVOCATION

Howard Thurman, adapted

L: Eternal God, you possess all power in heaven and earth, yet you care for us. The immensity of such a blessing is almost too much for us to grasp.

P: **Today we remember all your goodness and mercy. We remember that when are up against it, you are on our side. We receive fresh confidence to face the present and the future. We rest ourselves in your strong hands and praise you forever. Amen.**

***HYMN**

Great is Your Faithfulness

black #423

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

MORNING PRAYERS

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

Congregational Response

769

Hear our prayer, O God, Hear our prayer, O God;

Incline your ear to us, and grant us your peace.

INTRODUCTION: The Bible has a sense of humor

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Daniel 3:1-18

King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden statue whose height was sixty cubits and whose width was six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. ² Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent for the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, to assemble and come to the dedication of the statue

P: that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

³ So the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, assembled for the dedication of the statue

P: that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

When they were standing before the statue that Nebuchadnezzar had set up, ⁴ the herald proclaimed aloud, “You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, ⁵ that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, you are to fall down and worship the golden statue

P: that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up!

⁶ Whoever does *not* fall down and worship shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire.” ⁷ Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden statue

P: that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

⁸ At this time certain astrologers came forward and denounced the Jews. ⁹ They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, “O king, live forever! ¹⁰ You, O king, have made a decree, that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, shall fall down and worship the golden statue, ¹¹ and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire. ¹² Now, there are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These pay no heed to you, O king. They do not serve your gods and they do not worship

P: the golden statue that you have set up.

¹³ Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought in; so they brought those men before the king. ¹⁴ Nebuchadnezzar said to them, “Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, that you do not serve my gods and you do not worship the golden statue that I have set up?”

¹⁵ Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble to fall down and worship the statue that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire. And who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands?”

¹⁶ Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king,

“O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defense to you in this matter. ¹⁷ If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us. ¹⁸ But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up!”

SERMON

“We Will Not Serve Your Gods”

***HYMN**

How Firm a Foundation (v.1,2,4,5)

black #407

OFFERING

Invitation

Summer Song

R. Purinton

Offertory

***Doxology**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,

Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low,

Praise Holy Spirit evermore,

One God true whom we adore. Amen

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

O Christ, these gifts are given in the hope that we who bear your name may live with your courage, display your peace, show your love and offer your healing. We pray in your name and through your Spirit. Amen.

***HYMN**

Guide My Feet

black #497

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Threefold Amen

POSTLUDE

Foundation

J. Mansfield

We invite you to remain quietly and celebrate the conclusion of worship in the postlude.

**Please stand if you are comfortable.*

~~~~~

*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. Susan Grant Rosen

**Scripture Reader:**

Julie Burke

**Organist/Music Director:**

Cynthia J. Morrell

**Vocalist:**

Randy Purinton

You're invited to  
**Join Us**

On Wednesday, August 24 at 2 pm, Loomis Village and our Loomis-based Bible Study will host a showing and discussion of *Walk With Me*, a 30 minute documentary about a church like no other: the Church of Gethsemane in Brooklyn, NY. A flyer

for the program is on the table in the Bock Crossway.

The Church of Gethsemane was founded in the 1980s as a Presbyterian church that welcomes prisoners, ex-prisoners, their families and supporters. The goal was to create a faith community where persons who are rejected by most churches or at most treated as objects of charity would move to the center of religious life and govern their own church.

The Rev. Connie Baugh was the founding pastor of the Church of Gethsemane. She will be at Loomis to introduce the film, talk about the needs of women prisoners and ex-prisoners, and answer questions.

To learn more about the film and the church, read the attached flyer and go to <http://gethsemanefilm.com>, where you can see a trailer of *Walk with Me*. Questions? Contact me! [susangr3@gmail.com](mailto:susangr3@gmail.com) cell: 603-203-5306.

To attend the showing, you must be fully vaccinated and wear a mask. Hope you can join us! We will gather in the **Auditorium** at Loomis Village.



## 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*

**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  
Audrey Heaphy's brother-in-law,  
Bob Brandt  
Jim K, with stomach cancer  
Kay Pryor, with cancer, family friend of  
Karen and Estelle Anderson  
Don Sibley  
Alina Sokop  
Joy Weigel, after a fall  
MaryAnn Wordsworth and family  
following the death of her husband, Bill  
Nikki Wolf, Linda's granddaughter  
Lisa Wray's husband, Kevin

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

*All those affected by the Coronavirus*

*Those serving in the military,  
including JB Pontes*

## This Week at Center Church

|           |                                       |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| Tuesday   | Deacons 7pm Zoom                      |
| Wednesday | Tag Sale Donation Drop Off 9am - noon |
| Thursday  | AA 1:30pm                             |
| Saturday  | Food for Friends 8am                  |
| Sunday    | Worship 10am                          |



## Center Church Announcements



to our friends from the Church of Christ Granby. We are so glad to have you join us for worship this morning – and invite you back for the Sundays in August. As you may know, Rev. Souder is away on Sabbatical and we are pleased to have the Rev. Susan Grant-Rosen offering worship throughout the month. Please join us for refreshments in Fellowship Hall following service.



**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 (September 3) 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 group.

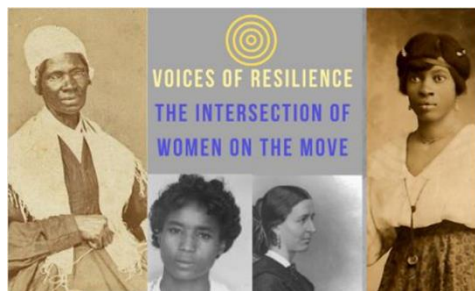


The BIG Church **TAG SALE** will be held Saturday and Sunday, September 10 and 11. There is still time to drop off your donations - after Church each Sunday in August – and every Wednesday in August, 9am – noon. If you need to schedule a different time, let Thia know (I'm here Tues – Thurs 9am – 3pm) and we can arrange a convenient time). Last day for drop-off will be Sunday September 4<sup>th</sup> following worship....AND....If you can give a couple hours or more to working the Tag Sale, let Karen Anderson (374-9156) or Bobbie Ayers (533-3833) know. All are welcome and encouraged to help out! This has always been our major fundraiser of the year and we are so happy to be able to offer up our donated treasures once again.



Do you shop at Marshalls, The Christmas Tree Shop – or order from Amazon? Well the next time you have something wrapped up so it won't break, **save that wrapping for the Activities Team** to use when wrapping items from the Tag Sale. Newspaper can make for dirty items and dirty hands – so clean wrapping paper is much better. Please tuck it away and when you have a small pile drop it off at the church – or include it with your donating items. Thanks so Much!!

**COMING SOON TO CENTER CHURCH CHAPEL**  
*VOICES OF RESILIENCE,*  
*THE INTERSECTION OF WOMEN ON THE MOVE*



**SEPTEMBER 18 - OCTOBER 16, 2022**

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

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 <https://centerchurchsouthhadley.org/voices>



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.

**THE MINISTRY AT CENTER CHURCH**

|                               |                        |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Ministers:</b>             | All Church Members     |
| <b>Senior Minister:</b>       | Rev. Lori J. Souder    |
| <b>Sabbatical Minister:</b>   | Rev. Susan Grant Rosen |
| <b>Member in Discernment:</b> | Emily Carle            |

**Christian Education Program**

|                  |                      |
|------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Children:</b> | Chelsea Korzeniowski |
| <b>Youth:</b>    | Kayla Scott-McDowell |

**Music**

|                              |                    |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Organist:</b>             | Larry Schipull     |
| <b>Associate in Music:</b>   | Cynthia Morrell    |
| <b>Office Administrator:</b> | Cynthia Jubinville |
| <b>Sexton:</b>               | Robert Farman      |