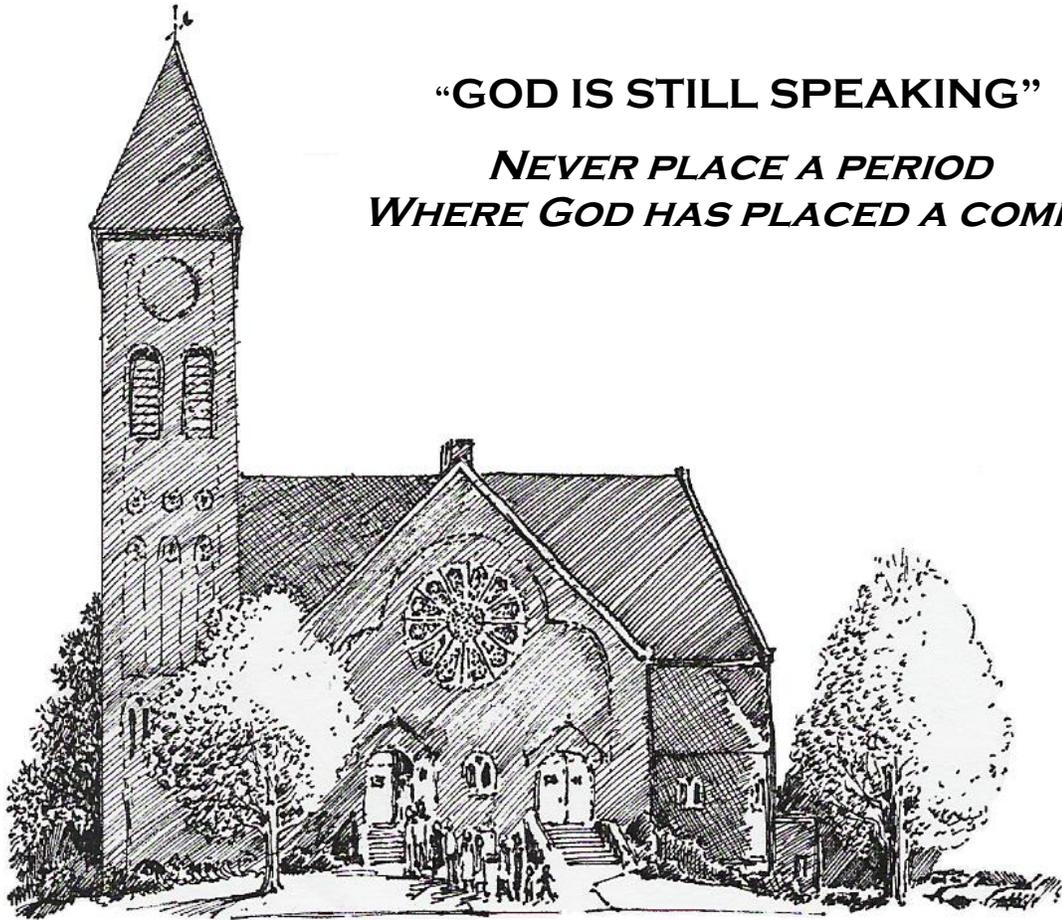


We are asking that in the church space, all keep a safe 3-foot space, when seated among “non-pod” folks. Masks are required.



**“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](mailto:centerchurch@verizon.net)

website: [www.centerchurchsouthhadley.org](http://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 7, 2022

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

### **PRELUDE**

*Come, Peace of God  
To Seek Within*

J. Southbridge  
G. Peterson

### **INTROIT**

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

**L:** O God, we come before you grateful for your love—not understanding it, but receiving it and holding it fast.

**P:** **You watch over us like a mother tending her child. You lead us in right paths and show us what is good. You restore strength to the weary and give hope to those who despair.**

**L:** Let your love soak into our spirits today like a healing balm.

**P:** **May we leave this place knowing that we met you here, that all of us were touched by you, and no one was turned away. Amen.**

### **\*HYMN**

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

black #23

### **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.*

## READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Mark 5: 1-20

They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes.<sup>2</sup> When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him.<sup>3</sup> This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain.<sup>4</sup> For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him.<sup>5</sup> Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

<sup>6</sup> When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him.<sup>7</sup> He shouted at the top of his voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God’s name don’t torture me!”<sup>8</sup> For Jesus had said to him, “Come out of this man, you impure spirit!”

<sup>9</sup> Then Jesus asked him, “What is your name?”

“My name is Legion,” he replied, “for we are many.”<sup>10</sup> And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area.

<sup>11</sup> A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside.<sup>12</sup> The demons begged Jesus, “Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them.”<sup>13</sup> He gave them permission, and the impure spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

<sup>14</sup> Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened.<sup>15</sup> When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid.<sup>16</sup> Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well.<sup>17</sup> Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.

<sup>18</sup> As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him.<sup>19</sup> Jesus did not let him, but said, “Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.”<sup>20</sup> So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

**SERMON**

**“The Woman Who Had No Skin”**

## OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory

*We're a Fellowship of Believers*

J. Althouse

\*Doxology

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow,  
Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low,  
Praise Holy Spirit evermore,  
One God triune whom we adore. Amen***

Prayer of Dedication (unison)

**Christ has no eyes but ours to see the tears of those who suffer, no arms but ours to embrace, no heart but ours to love. With gratitude for the love we have been given, we pray that we can be as Christ to others, and that they can be as Christ to us. Amen.**

## COMMUNION SUNDAY CALL TO REFLECTION

### PRAYER

**Lord our God, we are people who have not yet seen what you have prepared for us, but must take you at your word and walk forward in faith and hope. Give us faith, Lord, a deep faith that asks for no other certainty than that you know where you lead us and that all is secure because you are our God and Father, and Jesus is our Savior and Brother, who loves us forever and ever. Amen**

### SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

**L: Jesus invites us to come to his table and share in this meal of grace.**

**P: He recognizes each of us and looks upon us with love.**

**L: He befriends us and wants us within his circle of companions.**

**P: We become his disciples as we join in this feast of fellowship.**

**\*COMMUNION HYMN** *There's a Quiet Understanding* (insert)

### COMMUNION PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

**P: We are Christ's body. At this table, we enact our faith. As you, Lord, with arms outstretched on a cross, called us to yourself and named us as your people, so we open our arms to you, each other and the world. Renew us with your Spirit. May the body broken be made whole; may the lifeblood poured out bring healing to the world. And may we know your peace.**

**L:** Now, as sisters and brothers in faith, we remember these words and acts of Jesus: as they were eating, he took bread, thanked God for it, broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat, this is my body.” At the end of the meal, he took the last cup — the cup of blessing — and after giving thanks, gave it to them, saying, “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for you and for all, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, to remember me.

**Distribution of the Bread and Cup**

*It is our tradition to hold each of the elements until all are served so that we may partake together.*

[Rice cake pieces are offered for those with allergies to gluten.]

**Blessing the Elements**

**Sharing the Elements**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**God our Father, you have created us anew through your Son’s bread and cup of Life. Help us to restore to life any sister or brother who waits for these blessings. May we lift each other up and lift up all to the joy of your goodness and love. We ask this through Jesus the Lord. Amen.**

**\*HYMN** *I’ve Got Peace Like a River* black # 478

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Threefold Amen*

**POSTLUDE** *Postludium in F* L Stairs

*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**

|                                 |                        |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Preacher:</b>                | Rev. Susan Grant Rosen |
| <b>Scripture Reader:</b>        | Don Sibley             |
| <b>Organist/Music Director:</b> | Cynthia J. Morrell     |
| <b>Soloist:</b>                 | David Morrell          |

## 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*

**requests for prayer, please let us know someone's name from the list.**

## This Week at Center Church

|           |                                       |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| Monday    | Outreach Team 7pm                     |
| Tuesday   | Trustees 7pm Zoom                     |
| Wednesday | Tag Sale donation Drop Off 9am - noon |
| Thursday  | AA 1:30pm                             |
| Sunday    | Worship 10am                          |



**The Church Office is closed this week** – Phone and email will be checked when Thia returns on August 16<sup>th</sup>. If you wish to speak with Rev. Grant Rosen during this week, you may reach her on her cell at 603-203-5306 or by email at [susangr3@gmail.com](mailto:susangr3@gmail.com)

## 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 following worship for refreshments in Fellowship Hall.



**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.

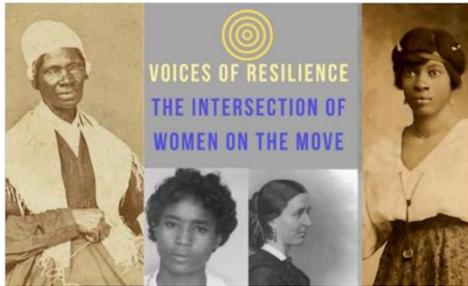


The BIG Church **TAG SALE** will be held Saturday and Sunday, September 10 and 11. There is still time to drop off your donations - after Church each Sunday in August - and every Wednesday in August, 9am - noon. If you need to schedule a different time, let Thia know (I'm here Tues - Thurs 9am - 3pm) 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      |