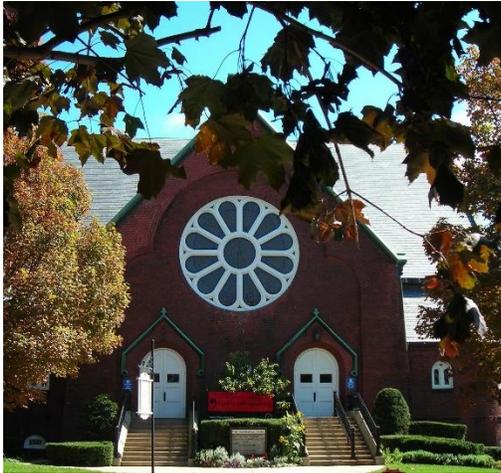




CHURCH AT THE CENTER



JULY/AUGUST 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.*



Our Sabbatical Minister

Rev. Susan Grant Rosen graduated from Boston University School of Theology in 1990. Since then she has served five churches in New Hampshire and Vermont, four as an interim pastor and one as a settled pastor.

Before entering the ministry Susan worked for 27 years as a counselor, executive director, community organizer and consultant in human service agencies in New York, Boston and Western Massachusetts. During those years she also taught as an adjunct at Andover Newton Theological School and at Greenfield MA Community College.

Susan has one beloved son, two delightful grandsons and a wonderful daughter-in-law all of whom live in Brooklyn, NY. Her son is a journalist; her daughter-in-law is an artist and a writer. Both have new books out this year. Susan's older grandson, Sasha, 17, will be a freshman at Hampshire College this fall. Her younger grandson, Theo, age 9, will be in the fourth grade this fall.

Susan lives in Westhampton. She can be reached by email at susangr3@gmail.com or on her cell at 603-203-5306.



Summer Worship Schedule

For worship in July, we are invited to join with our friends at the Church of Christ, Granby - **worship at 10:30am**. For the month of August, will worship together at Center Church - **worship at 10am**. Please remember to keep your pledge payment current during the summer! You may mail it in to the church office if you prefer. If you bring your pledge offering to worship in Granby, please clearly mark that it is for Center Church and they will send it on to us. Have a wonderful summer!



The Church office will be closed the weeks of July 4th, July 18th and August 8. Rev. Grant Rosen may be reached directly - email susanrg3@gmail.com or cell 603-203-5306 during those weeks.



DATES FOR TAG SALE DONATIONS DROP-OFF **After church each Sunday during June and August**

PLUS

Wednesdays 9am - noon
June 1, 15 and 29

Wednesdays 9am - noon
July 13, and 27

Wednesdays 9am - noon
August 10, 17 and 31

Saturday June 4 1 - 4pm

Saturday July 9 1 - 4pm

Saturday Aug. 13 1 - 4pm



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

SOME DATES HAVE BEEN CORRECTED FROM EARLIER PUBLICATIONS



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 (July 2 and August 6) 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.



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!!

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:

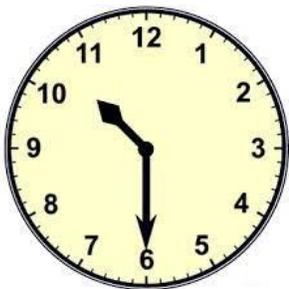
Peg Dumbaugh, after a fall
Audrey Heaphy's brother-in-law,
Bob Brandt
Cathy Irish, following successful surgery
Jim K, with stomach cancer
Kay Pryor, with cancer, family friend of
Karen and Estelle Anderson
Don Sibley
Alina Sokop
Nikki Wolf, Linda's granddaughter
Lisa Wray's husband, Kevin

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

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

All those affected by the Coronavirus

*Those serving in the military,
including JB Pontes*



Reminder that Joint Worship in July
is at the Church of Christ Granby –
at 10:30am

Youth Group



Youth group wrapped up the year with a virtual end of the year party in May. We will be on summer break until September. We hope everyone has a safe and relaxing summer! See you in the Fall of 2022!

Best, Emily and Kayla

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION



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

Adult Christian Education

A Peek At The Bible Song of Solomon 2:1

"I am the rose of Sharon, a lily of the valley."

Our sanctuary has three large, round windows called rose windows. The origin of the round window is Roman and the idea of filling a round window with decorative glass is likely Gothic, Byzantine and Renaissance. There is no single explanation why a round window enclosed with stained glass is called a rose widow. It seems like the many online sources say that the rose in Christian iconography is symbolic of Mary and the rose in the song "Lo, How A Rose Ere Blooming" that we sing during Advent is a reference to her. So Mary is a rose, then, and having her in a church is a sign of devotion. Rose windows often displayed themes from Bible stories, as well.

The rose window might be called a rose window simply because it is as beautiful as a rose in full bloom. That's a possibility, too, but if Center Church's rose window pattern was meant to imitate a rose then there would be more petals in the design because a rose blossom always has more than twelve petals. There doesn't seem to have been an effort by the architect to suggest a rose pattern. Of course, the architect might have just been copying a design he saw in some other building, perhaps one that he saw somewhere in our region, elsewhere or in a picture book.

The rose window in our sanctuary has twelve petals, the same number of hours as in a clockface. However, our rose window design is not a clock face because the petals are not aligned as in a clock face. It seems that there was no intention to suggest a clock in the design. So if there is any relationship between the design of the sanctuary rose window and the Bible stories that are seen in rose windows in cathedrals then it may be the number twelve with a single, unifying detail in the center of the design, suggesting, perhaps, Christ and his disciples at table. This is not to say that the inspiration for the design is the Last Supper but it gives the pattern a meaning and beauty that we can appreciate while we worship in our pews.

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

News from the Trustees for July 2022

Our June meeting was held via Zoom on Pastor Lori's first day of sabbatical leave. Our treasurer's report told us that as of May 31, we should be at 42% of our 2022 operating. The good news is that our total income currently stood at 49.58% and we always gratefully thank all who have contributed financially to the church so far this year. Expenses stood at 46.29%. Although heating costs will be down for these summer months, we do have AC units being utilized over the summer by the Tree of Life program and several de-humidifiers running in the buildings as well. The chimney cap issue will be fixed by the time you read this. The fire alarm service installation has begun. During the summer months, Thia will be in the office three days/week, Cindy Morrell will serve as organist/choral director for August, Bob Farman will be keeping our buildings clean, and Rev. Susan will be covering for Rev. Lori. If you need to reach any of them, you can always leave a message in the church office. As always, we remind everyone that even when we are at the Granby church for July, we still have staff expenses as well as other expenses to cover. You can mail your usual contribution directly to the church, go online to the website and make a donation there, or bring your offering envelope to the Granby church on Sunday (at 10:30 - note the later start time!) and it will find its way here to Center Church. We hope that everyone is enjoying our lovely new sign and watching to see what messages Thia will be putting up there. Blessings for a good summer!! We look forward to greeting all of you again in August back at Center Church.

Cindy Morrell, secretary

Notes from Church Council

The Council met virtually via Zoom on Tuesday June 7. Bobbie Ayers of Membership was Lead pro-tem and opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m. Corinne Chartrand led devotions and read excerpts from a poem which was in the form of a prayer. Team leaders gave their reports. Activities are reviewing "how to" ways to host future receptions. Deacons reported that summer worship service will be held in July with the Granby UCC. They then will join us in August. Faith Formation bid farewell to Youth Co-leader Emily Carle (after five years) as she pursues her Seminary studies. The Promise Land storage areas are being reorganized. Curriculum 1-2 has been ordered for the new year. Membership welcomed four new members! Outreach partnered with ROCA of Holyoke for the month of June. They are a mission dealing with poverty, racism and incarceration for young men ages 17-24. Trustees headed up a "church grounds" clean up. A new dishwasher was installed in the Ryefield kitchen and the old one removed. The new alarm system should be installed soon. Lori was wished a successful (and restful) three month sabbatical. Council also welcomed Rev. Susan Grant Rosen as the Sabbatical pastor. Voices of Resilience exhibit is well into the planning stage. The group will be meeting through the summer via Zoom. Phase Forward Task Force requests that masks be worn throughout the church building until further notice. Peterson Fund gave out seven awards from \$200-\$700 to five females and one male. One recipient is a member from Center Church. Our new choir director is Gil Wermerling. It was **MSV** unanimously to add Martha Guild to the Deacons Team. There is no Council meeting in July. **Our next Zoom meeting is August 2.** Bobbie Ayers will be Lead pro-tem and Anita Sarro will lead devotions.

Center Church in Transition

Joining by Reaffirmation of Faith:

June 5, Preston and Lynda Pickbourne Smith

Joined by Letter of Transfer:

June 5, Laura Berzofsky and Dianne Clinton

Marriage: June 4, Lisa Wray and Kevin Schechterle

David C. Morrell, Clerk

On June 5th we welcomed Laura Berzofsky, Dianne Clinton, and Lynda Pickbourn and Preston Smith into membership at Center Church.

Laura spent her entire life on Long Island, Manhattan, and New Jersey. Widowed a year ago, she has moved to Loomis Village in South Hadley to be near family. Wife, mother, caregiver to her parents, new grandmother - Laura loves walking outdoors in nature, practicing Tai Chi or Qigong, and watercolor painting.

Laura retired in 2002 from a career as Office Manager for a NYC Architectural Restoration firm. She has enjoyed volunteering for many years with Heifer International, and she is curious about local service and fellowship opportunities. But, playtime with her three-year-old grandson takes priority over all other activities.

Laura is joining Center Church by "letter of transfer" from First Congregational Church of Westfield New Jersey, where she was an active member for many years.



Dianne was born and educated in Salem MA and graduated from UMass Amherst. She met her husband there and they married in 1964. After college, Dianne worked in education, health and business positions as the family moved frequently because of her husband's long career with Marriott Corp. Dianne and Bob had 3 sons, Michael, Doug and Erik. During retirement Dianne and Bob lived in Ashville, NC for 11 years and returned to MA to be near their son Michael. In Ashville, they were active members of New Hope Church, Presbyterian USA. Bob died in early 2020. Dianne lives at Loomis Village, loves music and singing, volunteers in the Loomis Village Store and enjoys activities at the SH Senior Center. She looks forward to being a part of the Center Church community.



Lynda is a faculty member in the Economics Department at UMass Amherst and at Hampshire College, where she teaches courses on political economy, African economic development and feminist economics. She was born in Accra, Ghana and lived there until 2003, when she moved to Amherst to study for her PhD in economics at UMass. In her spare time, she enjoys walking, playing word games, catching up on the news and cooking. She has lived in South Hadley since 2006, and was first invited to visit the church by Martha Guild.

Preston is a faculty member in the Political Science Department at Mount Holyoke College, where he teaches courses on urban politics and on race and housing in the US. He was born in Sacramento, California, where his father was stationed in the Air Force. His family moved around quite a bit before eventually settling in Bourne, MA where he attended high school. He graduated from Howard University and returned to Massachusetts to do his graduate work in political science at UMass. He enjoys watching sports and is a fan of the Patriots. He has lived in South Hadley since the mid-1990s. He was invited to visit the church by Martha Guild. Lynda and Preston have a son, Nii Kwei, who is a member of the First Table Fellowship class receiving Communion today.





We welcomed Brynn Bryan, Aaliyah Zoe Hall, Ava Zuri Hall, Payton Mae McFarland, Kael Nii Kwei Graham Smith, Elianna Wells, and Julia Whitfield to their First Table Fellowship on June 5th. The children attended a class with Rev. Souder to learn about Communion. Each received an Adventure Bible.

Brynn is in the second grade at Mosier School in SH. Her parents are Brittany and Blake and she has a younger brother Bray. When she thinks about Jesus she thinks of bread and juice. Her favorite thing to do is play with friends.

Aaliyah attends school at Fort River Elementary in Amherst. She lives with her mother, father, and sister, Ava. She's been coming to Center Church since last 2018. She thinks about Angels when she thinks of Jesus. Practicing ballet and reading are favorite activities along with learning and speaking French.

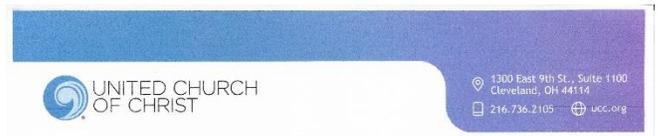
Ava Attends Fort River in Amherst and lives with her mother, Marcella, father, Dave, and sister, Aaliyah. She remembers attending Center Church since late 2018. She recalls Jesus as always putting people ahead of himself. She fancies gymnastics.

As a third grader **Payton** attends Mosier School. Her family includes Kim, Shawn and Devon, an older sister. She's been coming to Center Church for three years and when she thinks of Jesus she thinks about kindness. Playing with friends is a favorite pastime.

Nii Kwei attends Mosier as a third grader. His parents are Preston and Lynda and siblings are Kendall and Eris. Since 2020 he's been coming to church. Jesus reminds him of blessings and peace. He likes to play basketball.

Elianna lives in SH and attends Hadley Elementary as a third grader. Her family consists of Amanda, Craig and Maddie and Maya, their dog. Their family has been coming for three years. Jesus reminds her about what kindness is all about. Her favorite activity to do is to party, as well as dance and play soccer and basketball.

Julia attends Mosier as a second grader. Her family includes Aubrey, Meredith, Latham, and Arden. Bread and juice remind her of Jesus. She loves to run around.



June 22, 2022

First Congregational United Church of Christ
1 Church St
South Hadley, MA 01075-1527

Dear Friends at First Congregational United Church of Christ:

Thank you for your generous donation to the United Church of Christ. Your gift of \$750.74, which you had designated as \$590.74 for disaster relief in Ukraine and \$160.00 for One Great Hour of Sharing, was received on 5/18/2022. Through your gift, families that have been displaced and are in need of shelter and basic necessities will receive support.

Hand in hand with our Partners in Service and other volunteers, congregations, and conferences, UCC Disaster Ministries seeks to serve families and communities by identifying and meeting unmet needs and providing spiritual and emotional support.

Your love of neighbor will be made tangible through your gift. With the help of our global partners, you will provide welcome, shelter, and respite for families. Through your giving, those in need will be provided with spiritual support and physical resources to rebuild their lives.

United in prayer, action, and giving, we stand as a people of faith in love and compassion. Thank you again for spreading God's hope, peace, and love through your financial assistance as the United Church of Christ continues to build a just world for all. If you have questions regarding your donation, please feel free to contact us at giving@ucc.org or 1-800-646-6822.

In faith,

Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer
General Minister and President

No goods or services were provided in return for this donation.
Please keep a copy of this letter as a receipt for your taxes.

Outreach Team
"Hearts to Hands to Hope"



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!!

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 August**

**PLUS**

**JULY**

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

July 13 and 27

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

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

**AUGUST**

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

August 10, 24 and 31

Saturday August 13  
1 - 4:00 P.M.



**SOME DATES CORRECTED FROM PREVIOUS PUBLICATIONS**

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... 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



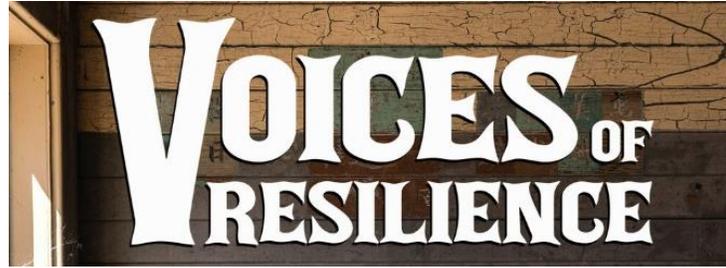
Toys Games Puzzles  
Stuffed animals Outdoor children's toys



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**

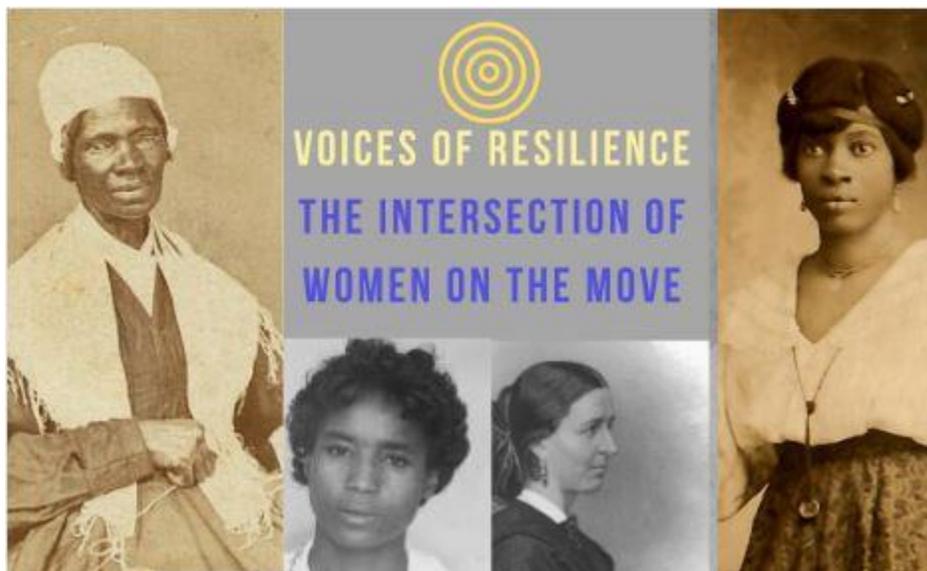
Saturdays 10 am - 1 pm \* Sundays 11 am - 2 pm \* Wednesdays 4 - 7 pm

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

## SPIRIT AND ENERGY

These two words so well define Center Church! It took *spirit and energy* for the first 40 families who braved our unsettled wilderness in 1727 to start a new village. They had last names like: Montague, Smith, Moody, Alvord, Dickinson, White, Pomeroy, Nash, Taylor, Dwight, Goodman and many more! The villagers petitioned the General Court in Boston to legally separate from Hadley. This took tremendous *spirit and energy*! Our first meetinghouse was started by Ephraim Nash in 1732. With *spirit and energy*, he rallied the fledgling settlers to build! All the village meetings were held in our first church building. You can be sure there was *spirit and energy* abounding during those meetings!

By 1753, with the *spirit and energy* help of our 2<sup>nd</sup> minister, Rev. John Woodbridge, we became a township. We were then fully separated from Hadley! In ten years (1763) Granby separated from us. By 1795, with *spirit and energy* the first navigable canal in the U.S. was completed in the Falls area. This brought much trade and prosperity.

In 1835, Mary Lyon, a *spirited and energetic* personality, was attracted to our beautiful environment and church. Our town would become the site of the future of her dream; a female seminary to educate young women. With *spirit and energy* Center Church raised \$8,000 to begin the building process. Today it is the preeminent world-renowned Mount Holyoke College for women! Center Church proudly safeguards the pulpit Bible (which was rescued from two Center Church fires) that Mary Lyon presented to Center Church "in recognition of its loyalty to her and her students."



In 1875 and again in 1894, our congregation survived two devastating church fires. With *spirit and energy* we rebuilt and carried on! In 1896, the Mount Holyoke Seminary burned to the ground. With *spirit and energy* Center Church opened our church and homes and rallied to help them rebuild! In 1985, we opened our Fellowship Hall to the Odyssey Book



Shop after an arsonist completely destroyed their business. With *spirit and energy* and our help and their perseverance, we are both thriving!

In 2008 to the present with *spirit and energy* we joined with the Take and Eat program to start our own Food for Friends that prepares and distributes food for the weekend to the deserving every three weeks! We have had many rich, strong ties here in our community. Our *spirit and energy* has brought us through an unexpected recent pandemic of epic proportion. With *spirit and energy* we stand on our sidewalk and hold vigils sharing our belief in a better world without racism and gun violence. Through 289 years we have been ready to meet our future with... YES *spirit and energy*! In the words of our pastor Lori Souder, "Welcome to Center Church where we stir up the *Spirit*!"



## Tell Me the Stories - July 2022

*Come, O Spirit, Dwell Among Us* (NCH 267) is one of the Pentecost hymns which we sang on Pentecost Sunday. One of the more well-known composers, Hal Hopson, encouraged 92 year old Janie Alford to write this text. Although she was already known as a poet, Hopson encouraged her to write some seasonal-based hymns. Born in Nashville, she served as a medical secretary for over 40 years before helping to start Nashville's Westminster Presbyterian Church's library. Janie died at age 99. The hymn tune "Ebenezer" or "Ton-Y-Botel" was composed by Thomas Williams around 1890. He named it after a chapel he attended. A Welshman by birth, he was an organist at two churches in Wales from 1913-1944 and also composed a number of choral anthems. A more familiar hymn to this tune is *Once to Every Man and Nation* (PH 441). CAC 6/15

*From All That Dwell Below the Skies* (PH 12, NCH 27) is one of many sets of words to the hymn tune "Lasst Uns Erfreuen." The major difference between our two versions is that the NCH words have been updated just a bit, but the meaning is still very much the same. Although our hymnbooks only have two stanzas, one of my source books talks about four stanzas in all. Both of the stanzas in our books were attributed to Isaac Watts, an ordained "Nonconformist minister" (this was an Independent church movement) in England. During his education, he learned quite a number of different languages. He only held a pastorate for a short time because of illness, but he managed to write sixty volumes on a variety of subjects after that, but he is best known for his 600 or so hymns. He was known as the "father of modern hymnody." Watts is associated with 14 NCH hymns and 18 PH hymns. This hymn is actually longer than the two verses of Psalm 117! Some say that the two stanzas we do not have could be attributed to John Wesley, but that has never been proven. The hymn tune was originally a German Catholic hymn whose first three words became the tune name. That hymn was used during Easter season. This came to the Protestant church in 1906 when Ralph Vaughan Williams harmonized it for a setting of *Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones*. CAC 9/09

*I Would be True* (PH 489, NCH 492) began as a poem by Howard Arnold Walter. Howard was born in New Britain, CT and educated at Princeton. He sent this to his mother while he was teaching English in Japan in the early 1900s. He called it "My Creed." His proud mother sent it to Harper's Magazine which published it in 1907. After he returned to the U.S., he went to Hartford Seminary and after graduation, he served as an assistant minister in Hartford, CT for several years. At one point, he showed his poem to Joseph Peek, an itinerant Methodist lay preacher. They met one summer while Walter was substituting at Peek's Brooklyn church. Peek immediately whistled a tune for the words, even though he had no technical musical expertise at all. One of his friends, Grant Tullar, who was an accomplished organist and song-writer, put that music into its final harmonization. The tune was named "Peek". Walter left CT after three years and went to work for the YMCA in Lahore, India where he died in 1918 from a severe flu epidemic. His name is on the honor roll of both the Seminary and his home church in New Britain CT. Peek actually became a fully-ordained Methodist preacher shortly before his death. The PH version has only two stanzas, while my source books and the NCH include a third stanza which begins "I would be prayerful." Interestingly, the NCH hymn page lists the 3<sup>rd</sup> stanza as being anonymous. CAC 9/08

Our final hymn is one I do not think we have sung before. Rev. Susan used it in her first service. It is *In Heavenly Love Abiding* (PH 343). Anna L. Waring was born in South Wales in 1820. She was brought up as a Quaker, but later was baptized at her request in 1842 in the Church of England. She learned

Hebrew to be able to read the originals of the Old Testament poetry and read her Hebrew Psalter every day after that. She began writing hymns at an early age and later in life her special ministry was visiting prisoners in jail. She published two books of hymns. James W. Elliott composed the tune "Day of Rest" in England in 1833. It was originally composed for a Wordsworth hymn *O Day of Rest and Gladness*. Elliott trained first as a chorister but also started serving as an organist early on. He eventually served 36 years as an organist at Saint Mark's Church in St. John's Wood. Sir Arthur Sullivan asked him to help with preparation of Church Hymns, 1874. One of his songs in Nursery Rhymes, Hybrias the Creton, was in many singers' repertoire. One of my sources labeled the hymn as "one of our most reassuring hymns."

*Cindy Morrell, Associate in Music*

Resources used: Robert Guy McCutchen's Our Hymnody (1937); Robert Morgan's *Then Sings My Soul* (2003); Kenneth W. Osbeck's Amazing Grace (1990) and 101 More Hymn Stories (1982); Cecilia M. Rudin's Stories of Hymns We Love (1972); Ronald Thomson's Who's Who of Hymn Writers (1967); Handbook to the Church Hymnary, ed. James Moffatt (1927); and The New Century Hymnal Companion, ed. Kristin Forman (1998)



### **South Hadley's Jonas Clarke wins 200m national title at Nike Outdoor nationals**

The best sprinters in the country couldn't keep up with South Hadley senior Jonas Clarke over 200 meters. The South Hadley senior won the Nike Outdoor Nationals Championship division boys 200-meter dash at Heyward Field in Oregon on Sunday night. Coming out of lane seven, he trailed two around the turn but burst away from the competition down the straightaway to cross the line in 20.98 seconds.

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He also placed second in the championship boys 100-meter dash, crossing the line in 10.43 seconds. Duncanville, Texas', Pierre Goree took first in 10.36.

SNEUCC's [Faith Formation](#) team is showcasing the good works and best practices present throughout the Southern New England Conference of the UCC - and now beyond! Emily Carle was interviewed by Faith Formation Program Support Associate [Sean Amato](#) .



This month, our **Spotlight on Service** is on **St. Luke's Young Adults** - a ministry of [St. Luke's UCC](#) in Jeffersonville, Indiana. Coordinated by **Emily Carle**, Pastor for Young Adults and Mission and SNEUCC transplant, **St. Luke's Young Adults** represents a valuable example of how a region's churches can bring together its young adult population for the purposes of healing, community, and Christian empowerment. The group's regular activities include volunteer work, Bible study, community engagement, and monthly worship.

For Emily, a UCC Member in Discernment who is taking courses toward her Masters of Divinity at **Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary**, time spent in the Mid-South has enriched her understanding of how UCC churches "work" in different parts of the

United States. I had a chance to interview Emily during her summer break, and it's clear that she has an important message for faith formation leaders in SNEUCC.

**Sean:** Starting from your time in the historic Connecticut and Massachusetts conferences, what's led you to your ministry?

**Emily:** I started at [Center Church UCC](#) in Hadley, Massachusetts with Pastor Lori. Earlier in my life, I'd fallen off the "confirmation cliff" and felt like something was missing in my life. I wanted to get back into things. After I started classes at Mt. Holyoke, I attended service at Center Church and just immediately became a member. Eventually, I was offered the temporary role of Youth Director; I wrestled with the idea but ended up taking the position, and fell in love with both youth work and church work. I felt very creative in the position, and through the work was able to see how all of life's little intersections were at play in today's church. At the same time, I was trying to discern what my major at Mt. Holyoke should be and, in time, I settled on Religion/Religious Studies. I began to recognize that the church is a vehicle for so many different types of gifts and skills - which makes sense, considering the church is the body of Christ! I opened myself up to lots of new opportunities at the church, and had a lot of great support from Pastor Lori and other women leaders in the community. I said "yes" to nearly everything.

**Sean:** So what led you to seminary?

**Emily:** I wanted to get out of New England. I still love it very much, but I lived there my whole life. I knew that this might be one of my only chances to live elsewhere for an extended period of time, and I wanted a chance to experience life and culture in a different part of the country. After all, "you don't know what you don't know". [Louisville Seminary](#) was recommended by an alumnus, and I found the ideas of seminary and missional practice attractive: antiracist work is central to Louisville Seminary, and the institution is both affirming of women in ministry and LGBTQ+ people in ministry. The community here has been incredibly supportive for me, and I've had some serious opportunities for personal growth.

**Sean:** Can you tell our readers a bit about the UCC in Kentucky and Indiana?

**Emily:** The UCC as a whole is different here in Kentuckiana. Congregations are very much driven by local Evangelical and German histories, as opposed to New England's Congregationalism. Churches are smaller, and fairly grassroots - people wear lots more hats in church environments, and few specialize in any one specific thing. As there aren't as many UCC churches in the region, it's a tight-knit community. By nature of being both a smaller group locally and a pretty progressive one for the Bible Belt, the local UCC has to be unified by necessity - something I think we take for granted in New England. In New

England, the UCC is the norm, or a given; it's the exception down here.

**Sean:** Your work with St. Luke's Young Adults - what's that like?

**Emily:** The local conference put out a grant for emerging ministries that would include the 30-40 local young adults around which a bigger effort could evolve. After the position was broadcast publicly and to my seminary, I applied and was brought on as the coordinator. The group is small, but active. In our weekly Bible study, we've gone over subjects ranging from the Beatitudes to unclobbering the "[clobber passages](#)". We've helped prepare young Christians as to how they can respond to and engage with non-affirming individuals and theology, and have even done assessments of scripture in Hebrew and Greek. Currently, we're reading *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again* by the late [Rachel Held Evans](#). Once a month, we have a worship service. We also engage in regular mission work, and regularly volunteer at St. Luke's soup kitchen. We also go out for fun activities, as well: Theology on Tap, going out to dinner as a group, and attending the [Southern Indiana Pride Parade & Festival](#) are just some of our recent outings.

**Sean:** What would you say your group brings to its participants?

**Emily:** My young adults are so kind. They support one another as we discuss our faith and understanding of God and Christianity, non-judgmentally. Several participants were members of more conservative denominations and churches prior to their engagement with the UCC; as a result, there's a lot of unwrapping of hurt and chances for healing. Healing for them is unlearning bad theology, in order to find something that's fruitful and life-giving. You can almost see the relief on a participant's face when they realize what certain verses in Greek or Hebrew *actually* mean, or how people might understand violence in the Bible differently than what they'd been previously taught. In time, their faith might finally become something comfortable - not something they have to be at war with, or something with which they have to be at odds.

**Sean:** As a seminarian in Kentucky/Indiana, what message might you have for folks in Southern New England?

**Emily:** We take a lot of things for granted. We have a great setup, we have numbers, and we have resources. We're part of a progressive, privileged church in a progressive, privileged regional bubble. It's really important for folks in Southern New England to develop an understanding of the struggles faced by the rest of the country, and how pastors in those areas balance their work - what it's like to have congregants who are more moderate mixed in with progressives, and how to serve all of them. We mischaracterize people who live here. If we're to be the *United* Church of Christ and create a just world for *all*, we may need to put ourselves in uncomfortable positions to do that good work. I believe a good minister is one who has varied life experiences, so I specifically removed myself from my liberal enclave - which I miss very much - in order to grow personally, culturally, and theologically.

**Sean:** On that note, do you have a message for folks who do faith formation work in Southern New England?

**Emily:** It's tough. I see you. Youth ministry is, frankly, the hardest ministry that's out there. You're often doing thankless work, tracking down people, doing weird things like buying fifty boxes of Rice Krispie Treats. I appreciate you. You're very special. Please, just don't play the comparison game between youth ministry and adult ministries or other forms of faith formation. Everyone's church context and community context is different. It's great to bounce ideas off of one another and learn from one another, but don't unfairly compare your numbers to your neighbor's numbers, or your ministry to somebody else's ministry. Instead, try to form authentic intergenerational and inter-church relationships with those peers. John Wesley said, "do all the good you can, by all the means you can." As long as you're doing your best to meet needs and people are being filled spiritually, that's all that matters.



- 05 Helen Gage
- 12 Chloe Hough
- Gregg Howe
- 13 Tessa Holmes
- 22 Cora Hough
- 25 Klara Sokop
- 26 Grace Hooton



- 05 Brian Lapis
- 06 Annabelle Burke
- 07 Janet Stache
- 10 Jacques LaFleur
- 15 Nick Tipton
- 20 Ruth Howe
- 31 Matt Lafleur



### Summer Office Hours

**Tuesday - Thursday  
9am - 4pm**

### Thia Vacation time

**July 5 - 7, July 14, 19 - 21  
August 9 - 11**

**Rev. Grant Rosen may be reached at her email [susangr3@gmail.com](mailto:susangr3@gmail.com) or on her cell 603-203-5306 when Thia is away.**



### **Congratulations to Brian and Nadia Irish - and Grandma Cathy**

**- on the birth of their daughter Norah, on June 2, 2022.**

**Brian and Nadia live in Toronto Canada.**

**Cathy, with Chad and his family, will get to meet Norah when they visit in August. Congrats to all the Irishes'.**



## **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      |





The Church Office will be closed the week of July 4 and July 18 when Thia is on vacation.

Worship is at the Church of Christ in Granby at 10:30 am

July 9 Tag Sale Drop off 1-4pm

July 13 Tag Sale Drop off 9am - noon

July 16 Food for Friends 8am

July 27 Tag Sale Drop off 9am - noon

There are NO TEAM MEETINGS IN JULY



The Church Office will be closed the week of July 4 and July 18 when Thia is on vacation.

Worship is at Center Church at 10am

August 2 Church Council 7pm Zoom

August 10 Tag Sale Drop off 9 - noon

August 8 Outreach Team 7pm Zoom

August 9 Trustees 7pm Zoom

August 13 Tag Sale Drop off 1-4pm

August 16 Deacons 7pm

August 20 Food for Friends 8am

August 17 Tag Sale Drop off 9 - noon

August 31 Tag Sale Drop off 9 - noon



### Summer Worship Schedule

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

### Center Church on the Web

Website: <https://centerchurchsouthhadley.org/>

Email: [centerchurch@verizon.net](mailto:centerchurch@verizon.net) Facebook: Center Church of South Hadley MA

Instagram: @centerchurchsouthhadley