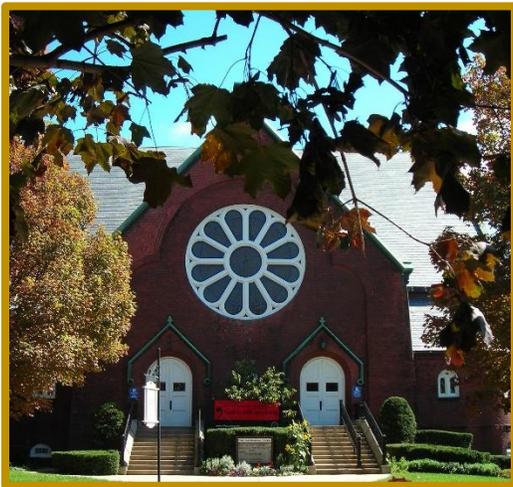


# CHURCH AT THE CENTER

NOVEMBER 2021

*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.*



## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH "CENTER CHURCH"



United Church of Christ

One Church Street

South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075

**(413) 532-2262**

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

Website: [centerchurchsouthhadley.org/](http://centerchurchsouthhadley.org/)

Facebook: Center Church of South Hadley MA

Instagram: @centerchurchsouthhadley

A Thief...

Regrettably, thieving runs in my family. When I was 4 years of age, I took a pack of gum from the neighborhood drug store. My mom discovered it in my coat pocket and asked me how I came by it. I said, "It was there in a little paper dish for me to take."

As you can guess, the answer didn't work. Mom and I walked back to the drug store. I had to apologize in between tears. That was the end of my thieving career. But then there is Mac, our dog, a thief.

Mac stole my breakfast, a piece of toast covered with cream cheese. He snatched it from the front driver's seat so quickly it took me several seconds to respond. We can set food on a low coffee table at home and he will not touch it. But why now?

Unless I converse with a dog whisperer, I will not know. But that got me thinking. Jesus doesn't steal our hearts. We offer ours to him. Stealing, taking something from someone, is all about one's self-absorption. Jesus doesn't need our hearts but it is us who need him.

May Mac's career as a thief end. And may all we do is ask Jesus to be in our lives.

Joyfully, *Lori*

# Stewardship Sunday November 20, 2022

From **BREAD** and **CUP** to **FAITH** and **GIVING**.



## Christmas Wreaths



**The Activities Team will be creating wreaths made from fresh greens.** They will be beautifully decorated and include a stunning bow. Each individually designed wreath will have a variety of greens and foliage giving it very unique look, with many shades of green. Since the wreaths are so fresh, it most likely last until end of February.

Your Center Church wreath will definitely have you, and others, saying "Wow!"

Wreaths will be available after church on November 27, 1st day of Advent, for \$22. Advance orders will be taken. Please call the office, 413-532-2262, and leave a message.



## Center Church Holiday Bazaar

December 3, 9 am - 4 pm

December 4, 12 pm - 3 pm

New and like new decor, tree decorations, linens, puzzles,  
dishes, books, ....and the list continues.....

**40 plus varieties of cookies,**

jams, fudge sauce, herb and bakery mixes, lasagna, soup, fruit breads.

Decorated live wreaths. Christmas gifts.

# PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

## Continual:

Emily Bangs-Orsini Mission Care Holyoke  
 Luke Bradley (lifelong battle with cancer)  
 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



## Situational:

Julie Burke's friend Danielle, following heart transplant surgery  
 Jamie Clauson recuperating, and for his wife Pat  
 Audrey Heaphy's brother-in-law, Bob Brandt  
 Cathy Irish, following hip replacement surgery  
 Cathy Irish's sister-in-law Vickie, undergoing Chemo  
 Kay Pryor, with cancer, family friend of Karen and Estelle Anderson  
 Alina Sokop  
 Joy Weigel, after a fall  
 Nikki Wolf, Linda's granddaughter

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

~~~~~

*All those affected by the Coronavirus*

**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.**

*We keep our Member-in-Discernment, Emily Carle, in our prayers, in her seminary studies at Louisville Seminary*  
 ~~~~~  
*Those serving in the military, including JB Pontes*

## Remembering Center Church "Saints" All Saints Sunday

October 30, 2022



David Robert Barrett  
 November 19, 2021

Richard D. Manuel  
 March 12, 2022

Cloy Stewart  
 August 4, 2022

Elizabeth H. Odell  
 January 26, 2022

Elizabeth D. McArthur  
 April 22, 2022

Barbara J. Hatch  
 August 10, 2022

Linda E. Boisselle  
 February 17, 2022

William Wordsworth  
 July 1, 2022

Anna Burns  
 September 13, 2022

David Rundle  
 July 8, 2022



## CHILDREN'S CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

During the first part of November, we will begin a new unit called, "Listening for God." Through the use of various stories, resources and hands-on activities, we will build a foundation for children to consider the diversity of God's world – different people, languages, cultures – and ways God teaches us to learn, love, grow and live together. The unit will introduce the 10 Commandments, which we will discuss in ways that are relevant to the daily lives of the children in our class.

At the end of November – the beginning of Advent – we will transition to a unit about Hope. The Hope theme will be used in conjunction with stories of Jesus's birth throughout the Advent season and through Epiphany.

*Kate Hoffman*, Director of Faith Formation for Children

## Youth Group



For the month of October, Youth Group has been talking lately about the first books in the bible. We went over Genesis and Exodus. This week, we are shifting topics and starting our first lesson to talk about "Who am I."

Last week, Youth group had their first outreach project and made over 80 sandwiches for the Cathedral in Northampton! We also took a field trip to the Voices of Resilience and the youth group learned so much from it.

## Thoughts from the Seminarian

It is a beautiful fall day here in Louisville. The colors on the trees almost rival that of New England, for which I am thankful to have these bursts of color. Louisville and Southern Indiana have definitely grown on me to the point where I am actually finding myself really enjoying where I am at in life. My seminary work keeps me very busy. I am taking History of Christianity part two, which covers the Reformation to present day, New Testament Letters and Revelation, Basic Preaching, and Feminist and Womanist Ethics. I am finding that I am quite enjoying all of them. I think each one speaks to a different interest set of mine. Also, while taking classes, I have my congregational field education. This is a hands-on learning experience where I work 12 to 15 hours a week at a local church serving as their student pastor. The church I am doing my field education at a St. Luke's UCC in Jeffersonville Indiana. This is the church that I have been working at as their young adult pastor. Now with my increased responsibilities, I am writing liturgy, leading in worship, attending committee meetings, running the young adult group, and participating in choir. I also had a wonderful opportunity to preach last Sunday. I think it went over very well, and you can watch the Facebook live stream on St. Luke's Facebook page. You might be reading all of this and thinking about how busy I am. Don't get me wrong, I am busy! However, I'm finding that I love having a variety of activities to bounce to. I like keeping things fresh and active in my life. In other words, I enjoy being on my toes. In this time of discernment, I'm finding that my gifts are my vocal command in worship, leading small groups, and interpreting scripture. I love settings where I can teach, and I have a particular gift for breaking information down and explaining it in a way that it is accessible.

*Emily Carle*

Louisville Seminary M.Div '24

## News from the Trustees for November 2022

The trustees met on October 12 and heard reports from pastor Lori and treasurer John Hoffman. Lori felt that the exhibit, Voices of Resilience, has gone very well and thanked Anita Sarro and Randy Purinton for all their hard work. She reported that with stewardship gearing up, several church members will be speaking during Sunday worship before pledge Sunday. She stated that our conference is very happy with what our church is doing and that we have been chosen to be a part of a time capsule they are putting together. John reported that we should be at 75% of the budget by the end of September. Our income stands at 82.87 % - keep up the good work everyone! Our expenses are a bit lower at 76.06% even though the utilities expenses are almost at 100% and we are heading into the heating season. It was also noted that the tag sale and holiday bazaar have not yet been factored into 2022 income and our October report will include note of 2/3 of the net tag sale total which comes to the operating budget. Right now, we have a positive total income! Randy P. reported that he has installed a new door leading from the balcony to the stairwell area which will help to hold heat in the sanctuary. We also discussed moving the holiday decorations from the balcony area to the south corner of the narthex for safety as well as ease of getting to them. The second floor boys' bathroom faucet has been updated. We continue to welcome the Odyssey to the sanctuary for author talks.

Karen gave an update about the holiday bazaar on 12/3 (for the public) and 12/4 (for church members). Items will continue to be left up in Fellowship Hall until after the holidays but will be down-sized each week. Lori announced the new staff member, Clare Messina Fitzgerald, who will serve as co-youth director with Kayla. She is an MHC senior with very good recommendations. We did vote to raise the wage to \$15.00/hour for sexton Bob, the co-youth leaders Clare and Kayla and Infant/toddler caregiver Chelsea. We are continuing to monitor the fire alarm work and have had a faulty sensor on our outside temperature sensor replaced to solve the heat problem from early September. We have replaced the computer which is tied to the exterior security cameras and that is working well again. We are also looking into replacing the sanctuary's two ceiling fans with new and more efficient ones when the final alarm work is completed up there. We are looking into some grants for the second floor where the Tree of Life program is being held to help with heat and AC options. The annual fall outside cleanup date was set for 10/15 and we thank all those who came and helped!

*Cindy Morrell, secretary*



# Notes from Church Council

The Council met virtually via Zoom on Tuesday October 4. Anita Sarro of HR was Lead pro-tem and opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m. She called on John Hoffman to lead devotions. He presented a prayer that stated "Christ has no eyes but ours..." and that we can be to others as Christ is to us. Team leaders gave their reports. Activities reported its final accounting for the Fall Tag Sale. The gross: \$5,078.30, net: \$4,753.19. Of that amount 2/3 or \$3,168.80 goes to the general operating budget and 1/3 or \$1,584.89 to Activities. With some of those funds, the team will be replacing card tables. The Holiday Bazaar is slated for 3 December. Deacons will be lighting future Sunday candles for other significant events. Faith Formation reported presently there is a MHC student volunteering in the Promised Land. The team is hoping for more volunteers. Sarah Smith has agreed to be a substitute for Kate Hoffman when she is not available on Sunday mornings. The Nursery is open again and has expanded into the adjoining room. HR reported that the team met and agreed to raise wages for those who are below \$15 per hour to \$15 per hour. Clare Messina-Fitzgerald, a Mount Holyoke senior, has been hired as co-leader of the Youth Group. Membership continues to work with the recently returned surveys. Outreach is sponsoring the Special Mission Offering for Neighbors in Need. The UCC is setting up a special collection fund called: "Hurricane Fund 2022." Stewardship will hold Pledge Sunday on November 20. They are proposing a \$140,000 to \$145,000 pledge goal. Trustees have adjusted the cost of the fire alarm system install and the new equipment and schedules have to be coordinated. Lori expressed her sincere thanks for her sabbatical time off. She is glad to be back within such an active church! She also stated that she is very pleased with the new staff hires. The Council revisited the use of electronics when broadcasting our Sunday worship service. Much has been explored. The Council agreed that we need better infrastructure and that a professional needs to be hired to facilitate such a service. The next Zoom meeting is November 1 at 7:00 p.m. Corinne Chartrand will be Lead pro-tem and Kate Hoffman, Devotions.

*David C. Morrell, Clerk*

## **THE MINISTRY AT CENTER CHURCH**

**Ministers:** All Church Members  
**Senior Minister:** Rev. Lori J. Souder  
**In-care Student:** Emily Carle

### **Christian Education Program**

**Children:** Kate Hoffman and Chelsea Korzeniowski  
**Youth:** Kayla Scott-McDowell and Clare Messina Fitzgerald

### **Music**

**Organist:** Larry Schipull  
**Choir Director:** Gil Wermeling  
**Associate in Music:** Cynthia Morrell

**Office Administrator:** Cynthia Jubinville  
**Sexton:** Robert Farman



# Outreach Team



The Outreach Team provided the meal for Cathedral in the Night in Northampton on Sunday Oct 16. Big Thanks go out to:

- The Food for Friends Cooks who prepared the Chili on Saturday
- Kayla and the youth group, Bob Judge, Randy Purinton, and Lori for sandwich making Sunday
- Bob and Randy for delivering the food on Sunday 10/16

The next meal we will provide is Sunday Nov 20th. Financial donations are welcome.

## Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity:

Our November Partner is the Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity. Working with many partners, Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity builds strength, stability and self-reliance through affordable homeownership in Hampshire and Franklin Counties. It is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, an ecumenical organization that envisions a world where everyone has a decent place to live. This Spring PVHFH completed 2 homes in Pelham marking the 50th home in Hampshire and Franklin counties. Currently 3 homes are being built on Burts Pit Rd in Northampton and another home is being built in on South Deerfield Rd in Conway.



Pelham



Conway



Burts Pit Road Northampton



# Stewardship 2022

From **BREAD** and **CUP** to **FAITH** and **GIVING**.

It is generosity season at Center Church!

Now is the time to express your faith, and express your pride and love for Center Church. Now is the time to make your annual financial pledge to Center Church.

In the United Church of Christ, the local congregation (that's Center Church) gets **no** direct funding from the denomination. Our Center Church pledge dollars fund the ministry here. In fact, we send money on to the conference and national settings of the United Church of Christ. Our contributions to the wider church are part of our covenantal relationship with the United Church of Christ. It's part of how your pledge dollars are leveraged to do mission and justice work locally & globally.

Last year, our pledge dollars contributed \$143,000 to Center Church's income. Making a pledge (instead of dropping money in the plate during the offering) helps us plan Center Church's work for the coming year.

Please read your pledge packet and prayerfully consider your financial pledge to Center Church. Didn't get a pledge packet? Contact the church office anytime or ask Pastor Lori for a pledge packet after worship on Sundays.

Join us in worship on **Pledge Sunday, November 20**, to celebrate our collective generosity! Thank you for giving to Center Church.



# Membership Team

Why Do We Go To Church?

Why do we think that it is important?

Here are some thoughts that we would like to share with you.

Church is a place for...

Fellowship-

Assisting each other to grow in the faith

Worship-

Returning again and again to the greatness and omnipotence of God

Prayer-

For ourselves, for others, for the world

Communion with God-

Through meditation, through silence, through music, through the Eucharist

Learning-

Gaining insight and self-knowledge

Scripture-

For a touchstone and for guidance

Learning to get along with other people-

Growing in forbearance, forgiveness, and lovingkindness

Service-

Reaching out to others in love for the sake of Christ

Something we often hear-in fact it has become a cliché-is that I can do all that myself at home. For us, it all goes back to the first item on the list: fellowship. The companionship of other followers of Jesus and the guidance of the Pastor are caring supports, guides and motivators for us. The gifts of other church members expand our inner and outer worlds. We find ourselves grateful for our church. We hope to see you in the Sundays to come.

*The Membership Team*

Acknowledgements:

We wish to thank our recent sabbatical interim pastor for sharing with us many of the thoughts expressed above that she had received from a former parishioner in a church of which she had served.



# Activities Team

## Holiday Bazaar Setup and Donation Schedule

Please consider stopping by Fellowship Hall to help with the bazaar setup. By helping for a couple of hours, you can really make a difference. Many hands make lighter work.

Here are the times-

- Wednesday November 2, 9m to Noon
- Monday, November 14 thru to Friday, November 18, 9am to Noon
- Monday thru Wednesday November 21, 22, 23 9am - Noon
- Friday November 25 9am - Noon
- Monday November 28, daily to December 2, 9am to 3pm



We are requesting folks to **stay after church for about 1/2 hour on Sunday November 13** to assist clearing out the Fellowship Hall closet of all the Christmas donations in storage.

Whenever we are in Fellowship Hall, donations can be dropped off until Monday November 28, as well as any Sunday after church.

We are accepting all items that are Christmas and winter themed. For example, ornaments, lights, cards, wrapping paper, linens, toys, candles, tablecloths, games, puzzles, decorations, artificial Christmas foliage and trees, dishes, mugs and the list can keep on going. If it's Christmas and winter related, we will take it.

We would also like to offer Christmas gifts for sale. Do you have a new or like new, unappreciated re-giftable item? Consider donating, someone else most likely really enjoy it.

If any drop off times do not work for you, please call the church office, 532-6662, and leave a message. An Activities Team member will get in touch with you to arrange a time to meet at the church.



## Holiday Cookie Sale

COOKIES!! COOKIES!! COOKIES!!

Are you a baker? How about a cookie baker?  
Would you make **ONE** recipe of a favorite cookie?



In past bazaars we have had over 45 varieties of cookies that have filled our pastry cases - and buyers truly look forward to purchasing these cookies. Some folks come just for the cookies! Let's not disappoint! Ideally, each cookie that fits nicely into the container should be no larger than up to 3 inches. We really try to fill the container so smaller ones work best. Please bring your cookies to the Church on Thursday and Friday December 1 and 2, 9am to 3pm, or on Saturday morning of the sale. **Please include the ingredients list per South Hadley Health Department regulations**, and of course the name of the cookie. Let's make this year's cookie sale the best ever!!

## CENTER CHURCH'S FIRST "HARVEST HOME"



Sheaves of Grain

Harvest Home celebrations date back to ancient times. In Ireland, Scotland and northern Europe they took place during the season of "gathering crops." The word harvest comes from the Anglo-Saxon "haerfest" or autumn. It was the time to celebrate the "ending of the grain harvest." Harvest Home was also called "in gathering." It was usually celebrated on the last day of harvest in late September or early October. The last sheaf of grain representing the "spirit of the field" was made into a doll and drenched with water as a "rain charm." The sheaf was saved until spring for planting.

During pre-industrial times, survival was maintained through hunting game, gathering grain and other agricultural practices. All of it depended on the natural cycle of seasons and the climate and region in which they lived. Village churches were decorated with autumn flowers and vegetables such as: potatoes, beets, onions and pumpkins! A loaf of bread from the harvested grain was placed on the altar. Parishioners came to church to give thanks to God for the blessings of the harvest. Harvest Home feasts took place in large kitchens, barns and outdoors...weather permitting. This seasonal celebration eventually gave rise to our Thanksgiving!

According to Center Church history, when South Hadley was just getting started, it was decreed that the fledgling village "must have a learned and orthodox minister" settled before it could become a "legal" village. The meetinghouse was begun. A home for the minister was also needed. "As the summer waned, the people became impatient...and in spite of the unfinished meetinghouse, it was voted that the ordination of Rev. Grindall Rawson should take place on October 3, 1733." This timing coincided with the Harvest



1700's Celebration of Harvest Home

Home celebration which would last three to four days! "They gave themselves up to the enjoyment of the social festivities!" The feast "may or may not have had spiced wine...but of a certainty there was an abundance of both elder and rum!" "The tables groaned beneath the weight of edibles" and "according to custom, a rich plum pudding for dessert." There was "wild turkey, flanked by roasts of beef and pork, a leg of lamb, and venison pasty." Turnips were used in place of potatoes." They also offered "their favorite apple and gooseberry tarts..." "Delicious salmon, fresh from the river, was also provided."

This 1733 Harvest Home celebration can be said to be Center Church's first "Thanksgiving" 289 years ago! Though certain customs have changed through the years, Center Church still gathers to give thanks to God for all our blessings and abundance! The words from the hymn "Come Ye Thankful People Come" which were taken from a 1700s poem by Anna Laetitia Aiken Barbauld "raise the song of Harvest Home; all is safely gathered in..." still resound in the sanctuary by a grateful congregation on Thanksgiving Sunday!



## Getting to Know You - Kate and John Hoffman - November 2022 -



Kate Hoffman is one of our new staff members as the Director of Children's Faith Formation (formerly CE). [While she is new to the staff, the Hoffmans are not new to Center Church.] Because of that, I wanted to update the congregation about both she and John. I first wrote about them in November 2011 and a lot has happened in their lives since then.

**Kate** grew up in Canton, CT along with three sisters. They attended the First Congregational Church in Canton Center, where they were very active as a family. Kate graduated from Simmons College in Boston with an elementary and special education major. She happily reports that she was very fortunate to have spent summers growing up at her grandmother's cottage on the coast of Southern Maine. **John** was born in Ft Smith AR where his father was stationed and moved to Arlington MA for three years (father was at Harvard Law). John mostly grew up in Chappaqua NY with four sisters. He graduated from The Choate School, Wallingford CT and from Princeton University with a BSE Chemical Engineering. He spent thirteen summers at Camp Timanous, Raymond ME and was a counselor there from 1972-77. After graduating from Princeton in 1979, John went to work for Corning, Inc., and started at a small plant in Canton, NY and continued his career with Corning in Canton, Corning and Keene NH for 40 years.

Kate says that she and John met while they were both working in Maine during the summer of 1977. They were married in the summer of 1980 and began life together in Canton, NY, just a few miles from the Canadian border. She began her teaching career as a special education teacher in Massena, NY, but the commute past rural Amish farms was quite a change from student teaching in urban Boston! They were in Canton for nine years. Kate completed her Master's Degree in Education at Saint Lawrence University and their son Andrew was born. The family grew in spite of their tiny first house. Sarah and Christopher were also born there, and they still take pride in having been born in one of the coldest parts of the country. Eventually John's job took them to Corning, NY, where David was born. Kate eventually returned to the classroom, finding her niche as an early childhood educator.

John's church journey began in a Congregational Church in Chappaqua NY. He and Kate joined a Presbyterian Church in Canton NY (no UCC in town) but on moving to Corning, they joined the Corning UCC Church - where John served as a Deacon, Trustee, on Pastoral Relations, and Sunday School Teacher 1989-2011. John says he joined their choir in '07...his prior singing career was as an alto in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Reconnecting with their extended families and New England roots was part of the plan after the children were grown, and they feel blessed to have discovered South Hadley as a lovely place to settle for this new stage of their lives. In 2009, they began visiting prospective new communities, with hearts set on a college town in New England. When they checked out South Hadley everything just clicked, including a first visit to Center Church! They came on Earth Day; were enthusiastically welcomed, heard the sermon, and drove about town seeing new construction with small lots and lots of shared green space, then went to an open house on Red Bridge Lane which matched the profile. They bought their lot, survived the very eventful process of building their house, and now are happy to be "back home!" They joined Center Church in November 2010.

Over time, they became more established in South Hadley and invested more time in the church and wider community. Kate was very fortunate to have taught preschool at Gorse Children's Center for three years, substitute taught there for another two years, and then retired in early 2020. Kate joined our choir back when John did, although she is taking a leave for her new staff position. In the midst of teaching, she was diagnosed with cancer, and is beyond grateful for successful treatments and surgeries. She is now fully cancer-free - six years later! Eleven wonderful years have passed since moving to South Hadley, and they enjoy being settled in a small college town with so much to offer. The Hoffman family has grown exponentially over the years, with three married children and one engaged to be married next fall. They are blessed with four grandchildren, and will welcome two more in early 2023. They are fortunate that everyone lives in the northeast so they can gather often.

Last summer, doors opened for a new opportunity for Kate at Center Church, and she decided to consider becoming the Director of Children's Faith Formation. Kate now feels very blessed to be teaching in our cherished Promised Land, where she is back in the classroom spending time with children. It feels like coming home in many ways. Kate enjoys engaging with children and their families, and is honored to be part of the church staff. After his retirement in 2019, John has connected with Pioneer Habitat for Humanity and builds on Wednesdays and Thursdays, currently working on his eleventh house in the area. At church, he sings in the choir, serves as the Church Treasurer, Outreach Chair and Investment Team Chair.

*Cindy Morrell*



## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Once again, our sanctuary will be decorated with poinsettias for Christmas.  
The **deadline for placing your order will be Tuesday December 7<sup>th</sup>.**

**Number of plants** you wish to order      6 " pots      **\$ 10 each**

# \_\_\_\_\_ **red**      # \_\_\_\_\_ **white**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Total payment enclosed.**

Please make checks payable to:

"First Congregational Church" and note "Christmas Poinsettias" on the memo line.

Please forward your completed order and check to the church office **on or before December 1<sup>th</sup>.**

Requests received after that date cannot be guaranteed.

**In Loving  
Memory of** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Honor of** \_\_\_\_\_

**GIVEN BY** \_\_\_\_\_



*Please check one of the following:*

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pick up after church on Christmas Eve for myself or to deliver to a shut in.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will not be taking my plant(s).

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

## Tell Me the Stories - November 2022

The first hymn this month, sung on October 30, *For All the Saints* (PH 306, NCH 299), was written by William W. How, an Englishman of the early 1800s. Born into a well-to-do home, he attended Oxford for law, but entered the Anglican ministry following graduation. Offered not one, but two powerful bishoprics, he turned them down. He served as a country preacher near Wales for 28 years and he wrote most of his nearly 60 hymns there before moving to London. He also worked among the poor in London. He was a “passionate soul-winner and an evangelical hymnist.” Originally called “Saints Day Hymn-Cloud of Witnesses-Hebrew 12:1,” the hymn was written specifically for All Saints Day in 1864. He is quoted as saying, about his poems, “A good hymn should be like a good prayer - simple, real, earnest, and reverent.” He is considered one of the truly important English hymn writers of the Christian Church. He is also the author of *O Jesus Thou Art Standing* and *O Word of God Incarnate*, as well as others less well-known. His poem originally had eleven stanzas, but obviously, we do not sing all of those anymore. How has one other text in the NCH and seven in the PH. The hymn has been set to two different tunes. The first one “Sarum” was written by Sir Joseph Barnby and was published in The Sarum Hymnody. That tune is the second tune for the same in the PH, but was not used in the NCH. The more familiar hymn tune with which it has been paired is “Sine Nomine” (without a name) which was composed by Ralph Vaughan Williams, an Englishman whose musical legacy is amazing. Vaughan Williams and J.S.Bach are said to be the only “two master composers throughout music history [who] have concerned themselves seriously with composing tunes specifically for hymn texts.” Apparently when it was first composed in 1906, some rejected it as “jazz music.” Today it is thought to be “one of the finest hymn tunes of the century.” In comparing the two hymnal versions, the NCH version has been updated and made more relevant to today, but it still contains the powerful meaning of How’s original poem. Even though you may love the original version, I would encourage you to take a serious look at the updated version. Vaughan Williams is affiliated with seven other hymns in the PH and 20 in the NCH. CAC 12/08

*I Sing the Mighty Power of God* (NCH 12, PH 68) is our second hymn of this month’s stories. The words for this hymn were written by Isaac Watts, who is called “the father of English hymnody” and he wrote this text for the first hymnal published specifically for children in 1715. Watts also wrote many more beloved hymns that we all sing today. In addition to these, he wrote sermons, essays, textbooks, treatises on theology and much more. Because he was in ill health and an invalid for much of his life, that allowed him time to write so prolifically. Watts had 14 texts in the NCH and 18 in the PH. The NCH Companion says that he could not attend university because he “disagreed with the beliefs and practices of the established church.” Another source lists the fact that at one point, he was pastor of a small London church. The hymn tune “Ellacombe”, named for a town in Devonshire, England, was first published in 1784 in a collection intended for use in the Roman Catholic chapel of the Duke of Württemberg and first appeared in England in 1868. It had a much longer German title that affiliated it with Württemberg. The words have not been changed much between our two hymnbooks except for some updating, however, the descant was written specifically for the NCH in 1993. The tune is used for three texts in the NCH but just one additional one in the PH. CAC 6/09

*O How Glorious, Full of Wonder* (NCH 558, PH 74) appears in both our hymnals, although I could not find anything about it in any of my sources, except for the NCH Companion book. In examining the texts closely, the major difference is in the updating of some of the original words. The meaning has not changed. Curtis Beach, an American educated at Harvard and Boston University, earned his Ph.D. at USC. An ordained minister, he served in a church in Pasadena for 16 years. He was inspired to write the text after seeing a photograph of Germany’s Cologne Cathedral which sat untouched by the

allies in the midst of bombed out railyards from WW II. Beach has one other text in the NCH and two others in the PH. The hymn tune “In Babilone” is a traditional Dutch melody from the early 1700s. If you listened or read the music carefully, you may have noticed that three of the four phrases of the hymn are identical, making it easy to learn and sing. The arrangement was by Julius Röntgen for a 1906 hymnal. He was a Dutch composer and pianist who also served several institutions as a conductor and director. The NCH also suggests that one could use an alternate hymn tune of Beethoven’s “Ode to Joy” to go along with the text. The tune is used one other time in both the NCH and PH. CAC 12/10

Our final hymn, *Let Us Join with Faithful Souls* (NCH 383, PH 346), is one about which I have not already written. The text was composed by William G. Tarrant. He wrote the text for the 1892 supplement of the Essex Hall Hymnal. An Englishman who grew up in the Church of England, he switched to the Unitarian Church because of the influence of another prominent English preacher. Tarrant wrote poetry and hymns as an editor to a weekly Unitarian weekly. He also served as a Unitarian minister for 37 years in Wandsworth, London. If you compare the two text versions, you will note that the NCH version has been updated and is more gender neutral. While we may not be familiar with the text, we definitely know the hymn tune “Azmon.” This was composed by Carl G Gläser, a German who taught voice, piano and violin, and served as a music dealer among other music related things. He received both law and music degrees from Leipzig University. This tune name was actually chosen for this by Lowell Mason, a hymnal editor, and was an actual place named in both Joshua 15 and Numbers 34. Two other hymns texts which use this tune are *O for a Thousand Tongues* and *O for a World*.



Cindy Morrell, Associate in Music



Resources used: Robert Guy McCutchen, *Our Hymnody* (1937); Robert J. Morgan, *Then Sings My Soul* (2003) and *Then Sings My Soul Book Two* (2004); Kenneth W. Osbeck’s *Amazing Grace* (1990), *101 Hymn Stories* (1982), and *101 More Hymn Stories* (1985); and *The New Century Hymnal Companion*, ed. Kristen Forman (1998).

# Happy Birthday

- 04 Charlotte Buijnarowski
- 05 Bev Noonan
- 06 Wendy Williams
- 07 Jamie Morrell
- Brittany Tipton
- 11 Dan LaBonte
- 13 Bob Hazen
- Bob Judge
- 16 Karen Anderson
- 17 Gretchen LaBonte
- 19 Chloe Sabbs
- 29 Jennifer Barrett
- 30 Nancy Lutes
- Carol White




**Southern New England Conference**  
 United Church of Christ  
*Living the Love & Justice of Jesus*  
**Daily Lectionary Scripture References – November 2022 (Year C)**

<p><b>Tues., Nov. 1</b> Psalm 142 Habakkuk 3:1-16 Jude 5-21</p>	<p><b>Fri., Nov. 11</b> Isaiah 12 Isaiah 59:1-15a 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12</p>	<p><b>Mon., Nov. 21</b> Psalm 117 Jeremiah 30:1-17 Revelation 21:5-27</p>
<p><b>Wed., Nov. 2</b> Psalm 142 Habakkuk 3:17-19 Luke 19:11-27</p>	<p><b>Sat., Nov. 12</b> Isaiah 12 Isaiah 59:15b-21 Luke 17:20-37</p>	<p><b>Tues., Nov. 22</b> Psalm 117 Revelation 21:5-27 Revelation 22:8-21</p>
<p><b>Thurs., Nov. 3</b> Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 Zechariah 1:1-17 Acts 22:22-23:11</p>	<p><b>Sun., Nov. 13</b> <i>Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost</i> Isaiah 65:17-25 Isaiah 12 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Luke 21:5-19</p>	<p><b>Wed., Nov. 23</b> Psalm 117 Jeremiah 31:1-6 Luke 1:1-4</p>
<p><b>Fri., Nov. 4</b> Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 Zechariah 6:9-15 Acts 24:10-23</p>	<p><b>Mon., Nov. 14</b> Psalm 76 Isaiah 60:17-22 Ephesians 4:25-5:2</p>	<p><b>Thurs., Nov. 24</b> <i>Thanksgiving</i> Psalm 122 Daniel 9:15-19 James 4:1-10</p>
<p><b>Sat., Nov. 5</b> Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 Haggai 1:1-15a Luke 20:1-8</p>	<p><b>Tues., Nov. 15</b> Psalm 76 Isaiah 66:1-13 1 Corinthians 10:23-11:1</p>	<p><b>Fri., Nov. 25</b> Psalm 122 Genesis 6:1-10 Hebrews 11:1-7</p>
<p><b>Sun., Nov. 6</b> <i>Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost</i> Haggai 1:15b-2:9 Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21 or Psalm 98 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17 Luke 20:27-38</p>	<p><b>Wed., Nov. 16</b> Psalm 76 Isaiah 66:14-24 Matthew 23:37-24:14</p>	<p><b>Sat., Nov. 26</b> Psalm 122 Genesis 6:11-22 Matthew 24:1-22</p>
<p><b>Mon., Nov. 7</b> Psalm 98 Haggai 2:10-19 2 Peter 1:16-21</p>	<p><b>Thurs., Nov. 17</b> Luke 1:68-79 Jeremiah 21:1-14 Hebrews 9:23-28</p>	<p><b>Sun., Nov. 27</b> <i>First Sunday in Advent</i> Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44</p>
<p><b>Tues., Nov. 8</b> Psalm 98 Haggai 2:20-23 2 John 1-13</p>	<p><b>Fri., Nov. 18</b> Luke 1:68-79 Jeremiah 22:1-17 1 Peter 1:3-9</p>	<p><b>Mon., Nov. 28</b> Psalm 124 Genesis 8:1-19 Romans 6:1-11</p>
<p><b>Wed., Nov. 9</b> Psalm 98 Zechariah 8:1-17 John 5:19-29</p>	<p><b>Sat., Nov. 19</b> Luke 1:68-79 Jeremiah 22:18-30 Luke 18:15-17</p>	<p><b>Tues., Nov. 29</b> Psalm 124 Genesis 9:1-17 Hebrews 11:32-40</p>
<p><b>Thurs., Nov. 10</b> Isaiah 12 Isaiah 57:14-21 Romans 1:18-25</p>	<p><b>Sun., Nov. 20</b> <i>Reign of Christ</i> Jeremiah 23:1-46 Luke 1:68-79 Colossians 1:11-20 Luke 23:33-43</p>	<p><b>Wed., Nov. 30</b> Psalm 124 Isaiah 54:1-10 Matthew 24:23-35</p>

The  
**Care**  
CENTER

PRESENTS

The 2022 National Youth Poet Laureate

**ALYSSA GAINES**



**Thursday, November 10, 2022 at 10:00 am**  
**United Congregational Church**  
**300 Appleton Street, Holyoke, MA 01040**

**RSVP [carecenter@carecenterholyoke.org](mailto:carecenter@carecenterholyoke.org) with RSVP Youth Poet in the subject line, and your party number in the email.**

Free parking is available on Maple Street, and in the lot directly behind the War Memorial building on Maple Street, across from the Church.

*Special thanks to the National Endowment for the Arts, Urban Word, and NYC National Youth Poet Laureate Program for making this event possible.*

***See you there!***



The  
**Care**  
CENTER

The Care Center  
247 Cabot Street, Holyoke, MA 01040  
413-519-2900 | [carecenterholyoke.org](http://carecenterholyoke.org)

# November 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Church Council 7pm Odyssey Author event 7pm	2 Bazaar drop off 9am - noon 	3 AA 1:30pm Girl Scouts 6pm Dance Lessons 6:30pm	4 Office Hours 9am - noon NA 7:30pm	5 
6 Worship with Communion 10am	7 Girl Scouts 5pm	8 	9 Trustees 7pm	10 AA 1:30pm Dance Lessons 6:30pm	11 Church Office Closed <b>Thank You VETERANS</b> NA :30pm	12 
<b>Rev. Souder will be away November 10 - 13</b>						
13 Worship 10am 	14 Outreach Team 7pm	15 Deacons 7pm	16 	17 AA 1:30pm Girl Scouts 6pm Dance Lessons 6:30pm	18 Church Office Closed NA 7:30pm	19 Food For Friends 8am 
<b>Nov. 14 – 18 Bazaar drop-off 9am – Noon</b>						
20 Worship 10am STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY CITN 5pm	21	22	23 	24 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED  NA 7:30pm	25	26 
<b>Nov. 21 - 23 &amp; Nov. 25 Bazaar drop-off 9am – Noon</b>						
27 Worship with Baptism 10am First Sunday of Advent 	28	29	30 			
<b>Nov. 28 – Dec 2 Bazaar drop-off 9am – 3pm</b>						



# Three Respiratory Viruses to Consider This Season

10/24/2022 - by: [Deborah Ringen](#) - [Conference staff](#)[Coronavirus](#)



**COVID-19** is not done with us yet; we must stay aware. As congregations of faith, we are committed to caring for one another. Being informed and willing to resume masking and social distancing if warranted promotes wellbeing for all people.

Officials are warning that there will likely be a surge of COVID infection this winter as new subvariant strains are being identified. “Hospitals and health systems nationwide are already [preparing for a potential "twindemic."](#) On Sept. 29, leaders from 10 health systems and hospital associations [met with federal health officials](#) to discuss mitigation strategies ahead of a likely COVID-19 surge and severe flu season.” One indicator of a potential surge is wastewater surveillance in Northeastern states that indicates rising levels of virus. “As of Oct. 3, the amount of virus in Boston's wastewater had increased 99.9 percent in the last two weeks, according to city data cited by [boston.com](#).” ([Becker's Hospital Review, October 10, 2022](#))

According to [CDC COVID Data Tracker](#) CT, MA and RI have medium level transmission risk as of October 13, 2022. Recommendations at this level include staying up to date with COVID vaccinations, get tested if you do not feel well, maintaining ventilation, and [isolating](#) for at least 5 days if you test positive. If you are at high risk for severe illness wear a high-quality mask when you are around others.

**Flu season 2022/23** has started early and doctors are expecting a higher than normal incidence of flu according to this [CNN article on October 14, 2022](#). Due to the previous fall pandemic seasons, where most people wore masks, levels of the flu have been very low. Now that many have stopped masking and we are gathering more often, the flu viruses are spreading more easily. This makes getting your flu shot even more important! If you have not had your updated COVID booster or your flu shot, you can get both vaccines at the same time.

**Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV)**, another respiratory illness, is typically like the common cold. However, some infants, children, and older adults may have severe illness. Symptoms include runny nose, decreased appetite, cough, sneezing and wheezing, fever. While the infection usually resolves in 1- 2 weeks, some infants and young children will develop difficulty breathing and require hospitalization. If your child has trouble breathing, poor fluid intake, or appears to be getting worse, contact your healthcare provider.

Hospitals in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island are reporting an early rise in hospitalizations due to RSV, reports [NBC News](#) (Oct. 14, 2022). Pediatric ICU beds are filling up and some patients have to be transferred to facilities far from their home to get ICU care. You can help [prevent the spread of RSV](#) with the simple infection prevention strategies including covering your cough and sneezes, frequent handwashing, avoiding close contact, and cleaning surfaces such as doorknobs frequently.

## Prevent Illness

- Handwashing reduces virus transmission. Watch [Dr. Will's Coronavirus Prevention Tips Video](#) with kids.
- Get your flu shot annually.
- [Stay Up to Date with COVID-19 Vaccines Including Boosters](#) People ages 5 years and older should receive one updated (bivalent) booster if it has been at least 2 months since their last COVID-19 vaccine dose, whether that was their final primary series dose, or an original (monovalent) booster.
- People who have gotten more than one original (monovalent) booster are also advised to get an updated (bivalent) booster.

[Debbie Ringen](#) Deborah is the Minister of Health and Wellness at the Southern New England Conference.



HAPPY  
*Thanksgiving*

