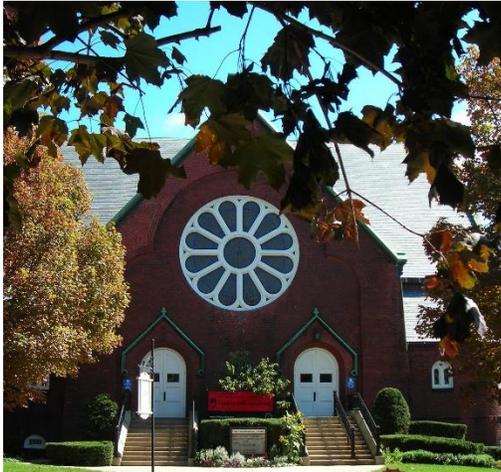




March
CHURCH AT THE CENTER ,



**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.*

Lent theme: What keeps us from Trusting?

Between the Pandemics of Racism and COVID, the shift in, and the roots grown in, partisan politics, and the literal lies public figures are spewing, makes me want to shelter in to read a good book or turn on a PBS Murder Mystery.

But I cannot afford to retreat. And may I gently say, neither can you. We have hope, love, and grace springing forth from Center Church. How are we going to repair the trust needed to follow Jesus? My gut reaction is in community. The more we know about one another, the more we worship and play together, the more we can resume trusting. Join me in this Lenten series, where only the Spirit knows where it will lead us.

Blessings, *Lori*



The Confirmation group will meet next on March 12th following worship.



Potluck and Movie night at Center Church Do I smell popcorn? Potluck and Movie night at Center Church **March 18 frpm 5pm to 7:30/8pm in Fellowship Hall.** Please let Lori know if you are interested - and we are still determining the movie.



University of Massachusetts, Amherst

College of Humanities & Fine Arts

Department of Music and Dance

LOCATION

Bezanson Recital Hall

Conductors' Chorus

DATE & TIME

March 26th 2023 4:00pm



Gilbert Wermeling, graduate conductor

Sunday, March 26, 2023 4:00pm Bezanson Recital Hall

Conductors' Chorus: Gil Wermeling, Graduate Conducting Recital
With faculty coordinator, Lindsay Pope

The more the merrier, to show our support for Gil. Lori will be to let people off next to the building before she parks.



EASTER FLOWERS



Once again, we will celebrate the Easter season by decorating our sanctuary with Easter Lilies, Tulips and Daffodils. If you would like to participate, **the deadline for placing your order is MARCH 24.** Lilies are \$10.00 each, tulips and daffodils \$9.00 each.

Please make your check payable to **"First Congregational Church"** and note **"Easter flower"** in the memo.

Please leave your completed form and your check at the church office or place in the Offering plate before the deadline.

Number of plants you wish to order: Lilies _____ Tulips _____ Daffodils _____
Total payment enclosed _____

In loving memory of _____ or In honor of **(circle one)**

(name(s))

(name(s))

Please check one of the following choices:

_____ I will pick up after church on Easter Sunday _____ I will pick up after Easter

_____ I would like my plant delivered to a shut-in



Given by _____

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 Lacoste
Fay Paquette
Anna Sibley
Art Stanley
Joy Weigel
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:

Steve Foster, following heart surgery
Martha Guild's mother, June
Kate Hoffman's mom Rosemary, in rehab
Cathy Irish's sister-in-law Vickie,
undergoing Chemo
Baby Isla, Kate and John Hoffman's
newborn grandniece, doing well following
heart surgery
Karen Hyvonen, home, following surgery
Gretchen LaBontes's friend Kristen
following cancer diagnosis
Kay Pryor, with cancer, family friend of
Karen and Estelle Anderson
Susan Grant-Rosen, hospitalized
Sarah Smith, following surgery
Charlie DeNagy, friend Peg Wesolowski
Nikki Wolf, Linda's granddaughter

All those affected by the Coronavirus

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

Those serving in the military

Beatitudes

Join us March 2nd, 9th, and 16th. It was suggested we turn to the Beatitudes and to compare the gospels. We are using Gospel Parallels to do just that. Mostly we will be comparing the Gospels of Mathew with Luke and a little of Mark. The Gospel of John doesn't have any section of the Beatitudes. Pick up the readings on the table at the Church Street entrance, if you do not have a copy.

March 2: pages 20-23

March 9: pages 24-top of 28

March 16: pages mid-section 28-31

Join us for all three classes on Thursdays at 10am, in the Conference Room at Loomis Village. Park and enter the main building and ask the concierge for directions. You do not need to be a resident or if you have to miss a class, we understand. Invite a friend!

Children's Faith Formation

During Lent, children in the Promised Land will reflect on the meaning and practice of prayer. We will be doing several activities that enable us to express our thoughts to God in simple but meaningful ways. We'll share ideas of reasons why we pray for something or someone; such as asking for forgiveness, expressing gratitude, or asking for a loved one's healing from an illness or injury. We'll be doing various activities, one of which will include writing cards to people on our prayer list.

Kate Hoffman

Director of Faith Formation for Children

Youth Group



Youth group has been talking about emotions and feelings. We navigated how we can handle them and how they make us feel. We also discussed the word "love" and what does that mean for us and how God shows love to us. In this coming week, we will be discussing self-compassion!

All the best, Kayla and Clare

Notes from Our Seminarian

Hello Center Church!

I am back in Louisville, and my semester is underway. This semester, I am taking Exegesis of Luke, Multiple Intelligences and Christian Education, Latter Prophets and Writings, and Faith and Creation. This semester is particularly enjoyable for me as I am taking straightforward Bible classes and creative classes. Exegesis of Luke is a deep dive into the all-things Luke. We study Greek, the historical records, and analyze Luke through various perspectives. Latter Prophets and Writings is a topics class about the books of the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament after 2 Kings (so alllll those prophets!). In Multiple Intelligences and Christian Education, I actually get to teach two class sessions around learning through engaging the MIs! Faith and Creation is a class around the intersection of creation care and theology. It is held at my professor's house which is Leed Certified Green. The house produces all the energy it uses through solar panels, insulation, a Tesla battery, and strategically placed windows. We also get to work in her large garden. I am putting together a presentation of my time in Israel and Palestine, and I will coordinate with Lori about sharing that with you all. As always, thank you for your prayers and support.

Warmly, Emily



Applications for the Peterson Memorial Scholarships are available in the church office. Please note that the deadline for filing is May 15, 2023. All persons affiliated with Center Church are encouraged to consider this opportunity to apply.

News from the Trustees for March 2023

The second trustee meeting of 2023 was held three days after our Annual Meeting where those attending, in person or via Zoom, unanimously approved our projected 2023 church operating budget. The projected income at that point was \$240,300 with projected expenses of \$276,805. We are trusting that our projected income will actually end up higher and hope that perhaps the projected expenses will be lower than anticipated. **Many thanks to all who have made pledges!** Please know that there is still time to make your pledge, if you have not already done so. We will continue our quest to find more folks who might like to use our facilities for events during the year, as well as look at other creative ways to increase our income. Thanks to all who made fund-raising suggestions at the Annual Meeting!

Pastor Lori updated us on events on the horizon. We look forward to getting our first good idea about income/expenses at our March meeting on March 8 since January numbers do not really give us a good sense of either of those. We do plan to replace the non-functioning fan in the older first floor lavatory. Work on the new fire alarm system is still ongoing, but the electricians have been working up over the sanctuary ceiling getting ready. We have encouraged both companies working on this to hold off until after Easter Sunday so there will be no disruption of that space, especially during Holy Week. We did approve moving forward with this new system and have committed more money to it, not to exceed a total of \$100,000. We have also learned that when this system is fully operational, there will be a decrease in our insurance for 2023. Some good news on the expense front! Our endowment team is working on finding new managers for our endowment funds and we will pass that information along when it is decided.

As always, if you have any financial or building concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Thia in the office and she will gladly pass your concerns on to the trustees.

Cindy Morrell, secretary

Notes from Church Council

The Council met twice virtually via Zoom. We had a special meeting on January 31 and our regular meeting on February 7. Rev. Souder led the special meeting and Corinne Chartrand the regular meeting. The special meeting was held to discuss the agenda for Annual Meeting. John Hoffman would moderate it. It was agreed, that with better heating and a new sound system, to hold the meeting in the Sanctuary after worship and that a soup luncheon would be provided in Fellowship Hall after the meeting. We also discussed the 2023 budget as presented by the Trustees. It was agreed that there needs to be more fundraising to help reduce the operating budget deficit. At the regular meeting, the Council discussed the function of our church constitution and how to best make it useful for our present needs. It was suggested that we look into an outside consultant. Council also agreed that we need to concentrate more on timely issues rather than just team reports. Faith Formation did report that there are two new families participating in the Promised Land. Activities shared details about their upcoming Mother's Day Tea fundraiser on May 13. It is hoped we can form an ad-hoc committee to help with plans to celebrate our National Historical building status. In the future we will need help from a grants writer. After the Annual Meeting, the Council had the opportunity to look over the list of the variety of so many worthwhile fundraising suggestions submitted by the congregation! Our next virtual Zoom meeting is at 7:00 p.m. on March 7. Kate Hoffman will lead the meeting.

Center Church in Transition

Marriage: February 4, Sue Narey to Terry Brassil

David C. Morrell, Clerk

From the Deacons

The Deacons began 2023 by reflecting on Advent and Christmas at Center Church. We were happy to have so many visitors join us for the Christmas Eve service, and we are planning ahead to have more candles and bulletins in 2023. After a couple years of scaled-back Christmas services, it was good news for our church! We have recently taken over the task of scheduling greeters for Sunday mornings (thank you to Sharyn K. for coordinating this in the past), so if you would like to greet, please let a deacon know. We appreciate all who welcome our members and visitors every Sunday. Gretchen LaBonte has wrapped up her six-year term on Deacons and we thank her for such outstanding leadership, organization, and friendship. Going forward into the Lenten season, we will support Lori in her planning for Lent and Easter. As she looks to take some Sundays off throughout the year on a more regular basis, we will help to provide pulpit supply. Deacons are hosting Fellowship Hour in February, and we meet on Zoom on Feb. 21. Thank you for your support!

Julie Burke for Deacons (Karen Anderson, Bill Giles, Randy Hyvonen, Martha Guild, and Julie Burke)

Outreach Team



Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Inc. opened our doors on Jan. 22, 2011 in the United Methodist Church, at 30 Carew St., where they now serve about 150 families a month. They provide between six to eight days of food each month for each household member with support from food drives, fundraising, and the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. Fresh vegetables from the Food Pantry Garden (their space within the South Hadley Community Garden) are available in season. The pantry also

provides personal care products, household products, and dog and cat food, when available. Cash goes a long way; a \$1 donation will provide 3 meals through the generosity and support of The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts.



One Great Hour of Sharing® is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries. The theme for 2023 is **It's Time to Share**, based on Galatians 6:9-10 - "So let's not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up, or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all..." The Apostle Paul wrote these words to the church in Galatia to encourage them to be generous and caring to others. **OGHS Sunday is March 26, 2023.** Please give to help care for others, and not give up - as together we build a just world for all.



Stewardship 2023

GENEROSITY UPDATE FROM STEWARDSHIP TEAM

77 members and friends of Center Church have pledged \$140,955 for 2023. Thank you for helping to fund our church's vital ministries. The best way to bridge our budget deficit is to make a financial pledge to Center Church. If you'd like to make a pledge for 2023 or if you'd like to increase your current pledge for 2023, please contact Pastor Lori or Thia in the church office for information on financial support. You can also fill out a pledge card and drop it in the offering plate.

Thank you for your generosity to Center Church!

*thank
you*

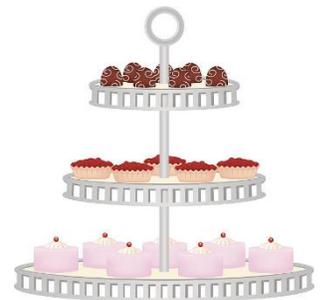
The Activities Team



We are planning an English Spring Tea on May 13th with lunch sampler, tea, coffee and cool drinks, for all ages. The Activities Team is looking for volunteers to help serve, prepare pastries and such, and to join in our craft projects in March and April to provide colorful displays and to create items to sell at the tea. We hope you will help promote the project to friends, family and co-workers, as we propose guests purchasing a ticket in advance.

We are looking for flowers...artificial, in advance, to start decorating for the spring tea and any blooming flower you think might be in your garden around May 13th.

We continue to scout the resale shops for tea pots, tea cups, and serving pieces appropriate for our project. If you come across things, let us know.



We appreciate the support our members and friends have given in support of our previous Fall Tag Sale and Holiday Bazaar projects and one thing we can promise, the tea will give you an opportunity for great fellowship! We welcome your experiences that would benefit the tea project and your ideas. Contact Corinne at 413-219-6563 and I will let you know our work schedule.



The Peterson Scholarship Fund

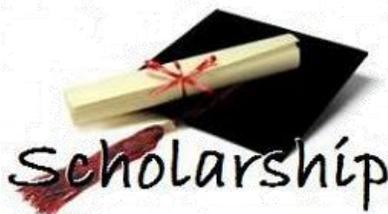
On Sunday, March 19th we will have a special collection for the Peterson Memorial Scholarship Fund. It seems appropriate to refresh our minds a little as to the origin of this fund.

The fund was established in 1985 after the death of Gus Peterson's wife, Ginger. This couple had come into the life of Center Church when Gus founded and edited "The Town Reminder". Gus and his 3 daughters, with the guidance of our Trustees, set up a scholarship program with the memorial gifts that had been given in Ginger's memory. The family strongly believed that education could go a long way toward solving the problems of individuals, communities and nations. They were especially concerned with a minority status of many individuals which helped create a situation in which the individuals could not get the education needed to fully utilize their potential. Thus, was born the Peterson Memorial Education Scholarship Fund. In 1991, at the request of Gus, the administration of the fund was given over to our church. The Trustees oversee the memorial contributions and interest incurred by the fund with an ad hoc committee of the church seeking and determining applicant awards. Awards are based on the number of applicants and the award money available that is subject to the interest earned on the principle plus the contributions made by his family and by our special collection allocation to this project.

Now who was Gus Peterson? While running the "Town Reminder", Gus took courses at Hartford Seminary to fulfill his desire to enter the ministry. In October of 1991, we gathered in our sanctuary to witness his ordination. We quickly gave him the title of Minister of Mission and Visitation (both volunteer) and paid him with one cord of wood a year....actually a bundle of tiny sticks delivered at the annual meeting and fitting in one's hand. For over ten years Gus and his second wife, Barbara, were very involved with Nueva Esperanza in Holyoke. His work with them, his compassion and his belief in them was amazing. Gus did visit our home bound and those dealing with illness; but we all benefitted from just being around him and hearing his words of wisdom. (Laced with a keen sense of humor); witnessing the living out of his strong faith in God and participating in his visions. He didn't do things with a "splash" (although he had a pool in his back yard); but rather with a behind the scenes quietness that accompanied action. Gus died in May of 2006.

The scholarships are relatively small in number and amount. There are usually 3-5 awards given in the amount of \$200-\$500. The committee looks at need, as well as past, present and future involvement in human relations and service to others. However, most importantly there is the belief that along with the financial aspect comes the contribution that we give through the encouragement that the check represents.....the encouragement to individuals.....a belief that they can succeed and that we believe in them.

Although contributions to this fund may be given at any time during the year; we hope that you will consider a gift to this fund during our special collection Sunday on March 26th.



The Membership Team

The Membership team is going to start, what we hope will be, a tradition of recognizing visitors by inviting them to take a "Gift Bag" on their way out of the sanctuary. Starting this month, we will have a basket at both the Crossway and the Narthex doors, with small individual gift bags, as our way of saying "thank you for visiting... it was a joy to share worship with you....and we hope you will return." We are also asking Lori to remind people of our pew cards, and "All About Us" pamphlets, that are located in each pew.



Fellowship Hour..... Each month a church team assumes the position as "hosts" for the Fellowship Hour which immediately follows the service of worship each Sunday. We hope you will join us in Fellowship after worship where you can spend some time with old and new friends as you sip a cup of coffee or tea and nibble on oft time homemade goodies!

We thank the Deacons for their coordination of the February Fellowship Hours and look forward to March, when the Outreach Team will be our hosts.



CROP HUNGER WALK - ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, April 23rd

Granby Common

Registration 12:30

-Walk 1:00 p.m.

Hunger is one of the greatest injustices facing our world, but it doesn't have to be this way. Ending hunger is possible, and it is possible in our lifetime. You can help make it happen.

For nearly half a century, CROP Hunger Walks have ensured that more people worldwide have access to nutritious, sustainable food sources. From combating droughts in Nicaragua to providing agricultural training in Indonesia to stocking shelves in hundreds of food pantries across the United States, CROP Hunger Walks help end hunger by raising funds to support local food programs and the international anti-hunger work of Church World Service.

Stand with neighbors in your community, who rely on food assistance programs. Partner with parents worldwide as they ensure a bright future for their children. Support those struggling in the face of grinding poverty and open up new doors of opportunity for them.

Many of us asked in light of recent hurricanes, floods, tornados , "What can we do?" The answer is there is much we can do. The road to recovery for victims impacted by natural disasters is a long journey. CWS is there to help rebuild their homes and lives.

Let's continue to remember people who have lost so much, continue to pray for them and join the CROP Walk on Sunday, April 23rd when we gather on the Common in Granby to start our walk. Please put the date on your calendar and let's have a strong representation from our church participating in this walk. Join the movement!

From The Outreach Team

From the Church Historian - March 2023

CENTER CHURCH MUSIC

Our beautifully, acoustically proportioned Center Church sanctuary has been the venue of countless musical offerings. Our musical history is long and colorful. Back in our first church building in 1733, our music was commonly only hymn singing. That was probably monophonic (unison melody) with no real harmony or counterpart or instrumental accompaniment. Quite boring by today's standards. When our music became more complex and too difficult to sing, the organist came to the rescue! The organ at the time was a side-pump organ. It was decided that music for worship must be within reasonable bounds so the congregation could participate. Words became the most important part of church music. Choirs became an integral part of worship. Listening to the music during worship was another form of prayer.

By the mid-1800s, choir anthems became an important part of Center Church's worship service. They were sung by a full choir and even accompanied by an orchestra! Great works were shared. Composers like Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms and others were commonly heard. By 1895 in what is now our 5th and present church, the Steere organ was donated. It had a mechanical tracker action (pull stops, etc.). Our hymnals were updated and our church organ was as well so we could provide the latest in liturgical singing and musical presentation. The transformation came about to suit Center Church's changing needs for more music!

From the mid-1900s and on, traditional hymns were used but the design/style of our music began to meet more contemporary Christians' wants. By 1962, the church organ's action was changed to an electro-pneumatic action. By 1972, the organ went through a complete upgrade and overhaul. At that point, we were doing folk tunes, more Black spirituals, and even rock songs such as pieces from "Jesus Christ Superstar!" Guitars and drums also entered into our formal worship. We had over 750 church members and the Senior choir boasted over 40 voices! There was a senior choir, a junior choir and an angel choir. Major musical works were done in concert by composers such as: Mendelssohn, Stainer, Menotti, Dubois, Faure, Brahms, Bach, Mozart, Thompson, Schubert Haydn and others. Center Church offered musical revues and started what is now the South Hadley Chorale in 1987.



Kevin McDonald, 2003

Our choir numbers have dwindled over the years, but not our spirit! We still maintain a high standard of worship-service music. We have been blessed with talented musical leaders such as organist Dr. Barbara (Susie) Conant, choir director Kevin McDonald, organist Larry Schipull, associate in music Cindy Morrell, choir director Cheryl Cobb and current choir director Gil Wermeling. We have also been so blessed with the volunteers who sing in our choir! We have also been blessed with some excellent instrumentalists, such as Linda Laderach and Becky Markarian and others as well. Through their dedication and willingness to learn and to sing they share a prayerful peace and understanding at every worship service! It will always be the choir's mantra to "sing a new song" and "make a joyful noise unto to all the earth!"

Tell Me the Stories - March 2023

We have three hymns to talk about this month. Two have been covered previously, but one I have not written about yet. *Let Us With a Gladsome Mind* (NCH 16, PH 16) is based on Psalm 136 and was one of 19 psalm paraphrases written by John Milton. Milton was still a student in England when he wrote this piece at age 15. He was a supporter of Oliver Cromwell's revolution. Blindness forced him to dictate many of his poems including Paradise Lost. Milton is associated with two hymns in the PH but no other in the NCH. Thomas Troeger adapted his original words for the NCH version. Troeger has nothing in the PH but is associated with 13 NCH hymns. The hymn tune "An Ancient Litany" was first printed in 1850, but was later changed to "Innocents" because it was originally composed to honor the children martyred by Herod and sung on December 28. This tune is associated with three PH hymns, just two in the NCH. CAC 6/16

O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair (NCH 182) is one of three transfiguration hymns in the NCH. Interestingly enough, unlike other PH hymns, it had a little information in any of my older reference books. The text, translated by John M. Neale for the English version, comes from the Sarum Breviary, a Latin service worship book which can be traced all the way back to 1485. The English used it because there were services for daily church worship. Neale, an Englishman, composed many hymn tunes and it is said that "his translations and paraphrases are distinguished for their genuine merit as English verse, as well as their portrayal of the spirit of the original." There are 11 hymns with his name on them in the NCH, but none in the PH. The hymn tune "Deo Gracias" or "The Agincourt Song" was composed as a ballad celebrating Henry V's win at Agincourt. The NCH is the first UCC hymnal to include it. No one knows who actually composed the tune. We know the tune in the PH for *O Love, How Deep, How Broad*, and it was used with three in the NCH. CAC 3/15

Almighty God, Your Word is Cast (NCH 318) is our last hymn. An Englishman, John Cawood, the text writer, lived in the late 1700s to mid-1800s. His farming family was poor and so he received little early education. He became interested in religion as he grew, first studying at St Edmund's Hall, Oxford and then graduating from there four years later. He was ordained in the Anglican ministry in 1801. After a short curatorship at another church, he became a "perpetual" curate at a Worcestershire church. He published two volumes of sermons and wrote 17 hymns, none of which appear in the NCH. "St. Flavian" is the hymn's tune and appeared first in The Whole Booke of Psalmes by John Day who is listed as "one of the earliest music printers." It began as another tune, but was given this name for the 1875 Hymns Ancient and Modern. Another Englishman, his works often had woodcuts as illustrations. There are no texts by Cawood in the PH and just this one in the NCH, but the hymn tune is used twice in the PH and three times in the NCH..

Cindy Morrell, Associate in Music

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





March Birthdays

- 01 Sharyn Kovalesky
- 03 Cathy Irish
- 05 Forest McGinnis
- 13 Avery Lapis
Zoe Lapis
- 14 Rod Kenneson
- 17 David Blank
Karen Hyvonen
- 18 Janis Sokop
- 19 Yvette Clarke
- 22 Sandy Calkins
Jared Waite
Logan Waite
- 26 Drew Alley
- 27 Alison Smith
- 28 Patrick Sabbs



Save the Date: Spirit of Girls is BACK on April 28th!

Our signature event returns in 2023 -- at a new time and place! **Spirit of Girls: Hall of Fame will be held on Friday, April 28th, from 5-6:30PM at the Basketball Hall of Fame.** While much more information is still to come, please mark your calendars to join us on April 28th as we reflect on our past with our alumnae hall of famers, celebrate our present with our student MVP's, and look forward to a strong, smart, and bold future.



Our Contact Information

Girls Inc. of the Valley
P. O. Box 6812
Holyoke, MA 01041
413-532-6247

THE MINISTRY AT CENTER CHURCH

Ministers: All Church Members
Senior Minister: Rev. Lori J. Souder
Member in Discernment: 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



1300 East 9th St., Suite 1100
Cleveland, OH 44114
216.736.2105 ucc.org



The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, Inc.
97 North Hatfield Road
PO Box 160
Hatfield, Massachusetts 01038
tel 413-247-9738 fax 413-247-9577
www.foodbankwma.org

December 16, 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 \$975.01 was received on 11/7/2022. In accordance with your instructions, \$725.01 will be allocated to hurricane disaster relief, and \$250.00 will be allocated to Neighbors in Need. Because of your kindness, we will help people rebuild their communities and bring comfort to their lives.

Your gift enables the church to be present with people amid catastrophic and life-changing situations, offering immediate relief and providing long-term recovery support. Working through a network of global and local partners, the church lives out its call to care for our neighbors as we strive together toward a just world for all.

Your love of neighbor will be made tangible through your gift. With the help of our partners, you will provide welcome, shelter, and respite for families in local and international communities. 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 giving@ucc.org or 1-800-846-6822.

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.

January 26, 2023

Rev. Lori Souder
First Congregational Church, U.C.C.
1 Church St, Ste 1
South Hadley, MA 01075-1508

Dear Rev. Souder,

Thank you so much for your donation of \$750.50 to The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts on 1/17/2023. Every dollar you've donated will provide 4 meals for your neighbors experiencing hunger.

With your gift, you continue to be part of a community built on compassion, ensuring that The Food Bank can continue to provide consistent assistance to more than 102,000 individuals monthly through:

- Food distribution to 251 frontline local pantries, meal sites, and our own Brown Bag and Mobile Food Bank sites.
- SNAP outreach, nutrition education, and advocacy from the local level to the national level.
- 3 million lbs. of fresh produce distributed (much of it from local farms).
- Innovative initiatives partnering with community health centers to screen patients for food insecurity and provide them with wrap-around services to prevent hunger.

Last year, we distributed the equivalent of 11.6 million healthy meals throughout Western Massachusetts.

For more information on the impact of your support, we encourage you to visit our website www.foodbankwma.org. Contact our Donor Relations team at donorrelations@foodbankwma.org or call us at (413) 247-9738. Thank you again for your commitment to our mission.

Sincerely,

Jillian Morgan
Director of Philanthropy

Thank you very much
for your support.

Tax Exempt 501(c)(3) 64-2751023
The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts did not provide any goods or services to the contributor in consideration, either in whole or in part, for the contribution. We do not rent, loan or sell our donor list. We value your support and privacy.

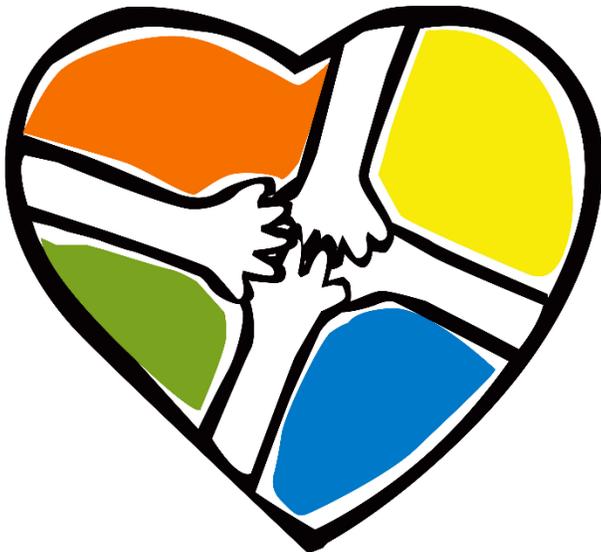


Officers of the Church

Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer
General Minister and President

Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia A. Thompson
Associate General Minister
Wider Church Ministries and Operations
Co-Executive of Global Ministries

Rev. Traci D. Blackmon
Associate General Minister
Justice and Local Church Ministries



1 World Avenue • Little Rock, AR 72202
888.5HUNGER • 888.548.6437
Heifer.org • info@heifer.org

THANK YOU!

Donor ID:	8-15793473
Receipt Number:	15613683
Date Received:	1/20/2023
Amount:	\$700.50

Purchase: General Fund (700.50)

000001 RN01 01/27/2023 H:0 K:0 N:0 C:0 P:0
#BWCDDJDN
#DEACEA2E2C2F4204#
First Congregational Church Inc
Ste 1
1 Church St
South Hadley, MA 01075-1508
Dear First Congregational Church Inc:

I'm truly fortunate to witness every day how the giving spirit of groups like yours can change the world. No matter how much circumstances change, one thing remains the same: people continue to show generosity and dedication to the families we serve.

Which is why I want to extend my sincere appreciation for your group's recent contribution of \$700.50 to Heifer. Your compassion makes a permanent difference in so many lives. I'm reminded of the quote by Mr. Fred Rogers: "All of us, at some time or other, need help. Whether we're giving or receiving help, each one of us has something valuable to bring to this world. That's one of the things that connects us as neighbors—in our own way, each one of us is a giver and a receiver." **And to magnify the joy of your gift, an additional group of generous donors has matched your donation, doubling the impact of your gift!**

Each day, we witness the need of families in the poorest corners of the world, who are simply trying to figure out how to get by. Hardworking parents wonder if they'll have enough food to feed their children at the end of the day ... if they can afford school or medication ... if their home can withstand natural disasters.

Thanks to your group of Heifer donors, moms are building businesses and earning steady income to feed their children ... dads are running their own family farms instead of having to find work far away ... you are providing nutritious food, education and hope for the next generation.

I hope you know how much we, and the families who are touched by your generosity, appreciate you all. Our work would not be possible without you by our side.

With appreciation,

Christy Moore
Senior Vice President of Marketing



0000000303



The South Hadley Chorale is pleased to present its first public concert since the pandemic, on Sunday, March 12, 2023, at 3:00pm in Abbey Memorial Chapel at Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts. The program will feature Haydn's *Lord Nelson Mass*, plus works by

Donizetti, Verdi, Vaugh Williams and Diemer. The South Hadley High School Concert Choir will also perform.

Music Director Alexandra Ludwig will conduct. This is Ms. Ludwig's fifth year leading the South Hadley Chorale. She is also an Associate Professor of Music, Chair of the Visual and Performing Arts Department at Springfield College, and conductor of the Springfield College Community Chorus.

Tickets may be purchased at the door for \$20 general admission, \$16 for senior citizens, and \$5 for all students and children. Tickets may also be purchased prior to the concert day for \$16, \$11 and \$5 from Chorale members; at the Odyssey Bookshop, South Hadley; or online at www.eventbrite.com

This program is supported in part by a grant from the South Hadley Cultural Council, a local agency that is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. For further information, please visit www.southhadleychorale.org or call 413-533-3833.

SOUTH HADLEY CHORALE

Joseph Haydn *Lord Nelson Mass*

Jennifer Tyo Oberto, *soprano*; Justina Golden, *alto*;
Ethan Bremner, *tenor*; John Salvi, *bass*

additional works by

Emma Lou Diemer, Gaetano Donizetti,
Ralph Vaughan Williams, Giuseppe Verdi

Alexandra Ludwig, Conductor

also featuring

South Hadley High School Concert Choir
Directed by Beth Ayn Curtis



Gen. Admission \$20.00; Seniors \$16.00; Students/Children 12 and under \$5.00
(Pre-Sale from Chorale Members or Odyssey Bookstore: \$16; \$12; \$5)
Tickets also at the door, Odyssey Bookstore-South Hadley and www.eventbrite.com



This program is supported in part by a grant from the South Hadley Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency

Sunday, March 12, 2023 - 3 p.m.
Abbey Memorial Chapel
Mount Holyoke College



SILVER LAKE
summer camp registration
opens Wednesday,

March 1 at 9 am!



We are planning to have five (5) 1-week sessions (Sunday-Saturday) this summer, running from July 2 through August 5.

Each grade (entering 4-12th) will have at least one program available during each week, some weeks may have more than one program for some grades to choose from. Plus, there will be half-week family camp programs for all ages and one week of day camp for campers entering grades 1-3.

We are still finalizing the summer schedule and recruiting a few more Deans, but we will be sharing the scheduled programs soon. **If you are interested in being a volunteer Dean, [please contact us as soon as possible.](#)**

2023 Standard Program* Tiered Pricing: \$745 / \$670 / \$595

**Some programs may have slightly different pricing, or an additional program fee.*

[Learn more about tiered pricing and additional camper financial support information.](#)

Silver Lake follows the immunization requirements for students enrolled in Connecticut schools. In addition, Silver Lake requires all guests to our site to be fully vaccinated against Covid-19. If your camper has a medical exemption, please contact us for more information.

As a ministry of the [Southern New England Conference, United Church of Christ \(SNE UCC\)](#), Silver Lake adheres to all the policies put in place by the Conference. Read the [SNE UCC Covid Policies for Guests and Vendors.](#)

We can't wait to see you at the Lake this summer!

[Silver Lake Camp & Retreat Center](#)

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

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

slcrc@sneucc.org