



CHURCH AT THE CENTER



APRIL 2023



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.*

Are you ready to trust? We've addressed trust during our Lenten journey in the sermons. Our current society gives us reasons not to trust, but I want to up the ante and seek trust. Trust grows us and builds relationships.

Can you trust God even when you have faced the death of a loved one? Can we trust God even when there are more crazy shootings? Yes, God calls us to be active disciples to reveal trust. God and Jesus never promised us we would avoid death, pain and suffering. They both promised us they are with us no matter what we encounter. They promised us that there is life beyond death.

Will you trust me with this hope as we soon encounter Holy Week and Easter?

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

Blessings, *Lori*



Let's Find Out-Interested in finding out more about Center Church? Wonder who decorates the church for Christmas? Who can vote? Does a monster live in the boiler room? On April 30th, following worship, grab refreshments and we will meet near the back in Fellowship Hall. We will welcome those interested in becoming a member of the church, in May or early June.

HOLY WEEK



Palm Sunday April 2 Gathering on the Town Common 9am for distribution and blessing of the Palms. Refreshments from 9:20-9:55 in Fellowship Hall. Worship 10am in Sanctuary - Fellowship Hour to follow

Maundy Thursday April 6 Service at Center Church 6:30pm

Good Friday April 7 Sanctuary open Noon - 1pm for silent time

Easter Sunday April 9 Easter Service 10am

Rev. Souder will be away from April 10 through 17, as she celebrates at the wedding of her daughter Katy. Rev. Randy Hyvonen will be available for pastoral emergencies (cell 406-839-4440)

Do you like family-friendly, fun outdoor summer concerts that are free and open to the whole community? Do you like staying close to home and listening to great music with friends and family? Do you like being part of Center Church's mission to engage with the wider community? If so, this opportunity would be perfect for you!!!

During the recent Annual Meeting, several people suggested that we set up a concession stand during the summer concert series. For those of you who don't know, the town of South Hadley offers a really vibrant and fun summer concert series on Thursday evenings in the Village Common. Center Church's proximity to the Common is a PERFECT place to offer snacks and water to hungry concert-goers. In order to bring this idea to fruition, a group of 3-4 folks are needed to coordinate a concert concession stand. The volunteers would coordinate frequency and logistics - it could be just a few Thursday evenings, or several. It would be up to the coordinators to establish a schedule for additional volunteers, and facilitate how to make this a fabulous fundraiser activity!

If you would enjoy volunteering for this exciting project, please contact Thia in the church office - centerchurch@verizon.net or 413-532-2262.



We thank the Outreach Team for being such wonderful hosts during Fellowship Hour this month. During April our hosts will be the Human Relations team. A reminder that here will be Fellowship Hour after church both on Palm Sunday and on Easter. Do join us after worship for this time of shared time and conversation.



Baby Oliver William LaBonte

Born March 12

7lbs 15 oz. 20"

Congrats to Mom and Dad,
Gretchen and Dan -
And to big brother Benjamin!

Oliver is hoping to get home
end of this week!



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:

Family and friends of Tyler Chateaufneuf, Al Duffy's grandson, who passed away unexpectedly at the age of 14
Dianne Clinton's brother Richard following second knee surgery
Ellen, a colleague of Lori's
Steve Foster, following heart surgery
Martha Guild's mother, June
Gretchen Labonte and baby Oliver William (born 3/12) 7lbs 15 oz. 20" following birth and Oliver's surgery
Kay Pryor, with cancer, family friend of Karen and Estelle Anderson
Susan Grant-Rosen, hospitalized
Joanne Santos following surgery
Sarah Smith, following surgery
Charlie DeNagy, friend Peg Wesolowski
Nikki Wolf, Linda's granddaughter

Prayers for all those affected by the Coronavirus

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

Prayers for those serving in the military



From Kate and John Hoffman:

Just wanted to share the happy news that Camille Cecilia Hoffman arrived (March 23). Mommy and baby are doing well - we are so grateful she is here! 🌸. She is about 3 weeks early and weighs just under 4 pounds, but Christopher said she'll be in the NICU to "fatten her up"! They will be calling her Millie, and Cecilia is for her maternal great-grandmother, who passed away last summer. We love her name! ❤️



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.

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

April will be a very busy and special month in the Promised Land! We'll begin on Palm Sunday, April 2nd, with passing out palms at the beginning of worship. All the children and youth will be invited to gather in the narthex before the first hymn, and we'll process down the aisle while passing out palms to everyone in the pews. Later that morning, upstairs in the Promised Land, children will be treated to an Easter Egg Hunt, graciously hosted by the youth.

Families are invited to worship together on Easter Sunday, so we will not have class in the Promised Land that morning.

For the remainder of April, we will be immersed in the stories Jesus told by exploring a selection of Parables. Based on the Curriculum "Growing in God's Love" and other materials, we'll consider how our daily lives and relationships with others are in response to God's love. How do we live as good neighbors, loving family members, and good stewards to our community?

Dates to Remember:

April 2nd - Palm Sunday - Children/youth will pass out palms during the first hymn, followed by an Easter Egg Hunt in the Promised Land.

April 9th - Easter Sunday - Enjoy worship with our families!

Youth Group



This past month the Youth Group has been exploring topics that they are curious about. We have discussed if it is ever okay to lie, how to set boundaries, and what self-compassion looks like and why it's important. We even managed to fit in some time for just relaxing and playing games, we especially enjoyed hangman!

This coming month we will celebrate Easter and continue to investigate questions that are relevant to our lives. Best, Kayla + Clare

Notes from our Seminarian



Last night, I got to attend the Grawemeyer Awards. This is an award that the University of Louisville and my seminary co-sponsor. There are 5 award categories: religion, psychology, music, education, and world order. Kelly Brown Douglas, Dean of the Episcopal Divinity School at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, won the award in Religion for her book "Resurrection Hope" largely about how she holds onto hope in a country built on white supremacy, and a country where many are asking if Black Lives Matter. I am severely minimizing the breadth and depth that she covers in this book, but it is excellent. Her book reminds me of the fact that we, as Christians, are Easter people. We hold onto hope that there is life after death. Good will prevail over evil. Empire will not have the last word. Despite disbelief, Jesus will rise. Again and again. There hasn't been an Easter where he hasn't! And at the same time, we have to go through the pain and struggle in order to get to that pot of gold on the other side. We have to walk through Mordor in order to throw the ring into Mount Doom (Lord of the Rings). We have to labor and struggle in order to birth Heaven on Earth. With that, Happy Holy Week and Easter everyone!

News from the Trustees for April 2023

At our March meeting, Eliot Chartrand and Randy Purinton were elected co-chairs. The trustees for the 2023 church year are: Karen Anderson, Eliot Chartrand, Bill Giles, Mary Nelson, Cindy Morrell, Art Procter and Randy Purinton, with ex officio members Lori Souder, pastor and John Hoffman, treasurer. After we heard Lori's regular report, and set up counting assignments until our next meeting [are you aware that one or two trustees count the morning offering each week and ready it for the bank deposit?], we heard our regular financial report. The operating budget should be at 17% of the 2023 year at the end of February. (We are always dealing with the previous month's figures.) Income at that point stood at 24.3% and expenses were at 19.07% (the year is obviously early right now). John reported that we had received \$2,792 in pledge payments from 2022. The largest expense so far, other than the staff salaries, is for the monthly gas bill! However, with warmer weather coming, those bills should start going down.

We have replaced the fan in the original ground floor lavatory and also insulated the wall between that room and the adjoining sexton's closet. By the time you read this, we will have also had our annual elevator inspection. We passed our annual inspection in connection with the Food Bank and the products which we get monthly from there and store at Center Church as well as the Fellowship Hall kitchen which we use to cook our monthly contribution for Granby and South Hadley home-bound folks. As mentioned previously, we are in the process of changing our endowment managers and I will report on that next time! There is still minor work going on in connection with the fire alarm and we hope to have that completed and tested soon. While we have the apparatus to finish that work, we are also planning to replace our old sanctuary fans with much newer and more efficient ones. One interesting topic which we touched on briefly was the possibility of adding solar panels to the roof of the Lancaster building. We will continue to pursue that in the months ahead.

Finally, we made our 2023 subcommittee appointments (see full name at the beginning above): secretary and CAC writer - Cindy; building upkeep - Eliot + ; building use contact - Karen and Randy; endowment - John, Eliot, Bill, Mary and Lori; insurance - Eliot and Karen; HR - Mary; and Council rep - TBD.

Cindy Morrell, secretary

From the Deacons

As Lent continues, the deacons are looking ahead with joy to spring and Holy Week. We are enjoying the weekly messages of the Good News candle that reminds us all of important and uplifting work being done on a local and global level. We thank Sharyn, Lorain, and others who have helped this mini project evolve. We are happy with the upgraded audio system and thank those who have made this possible. Like last year, there will be a Palm Sunday informal gathering for a brief time of worship and prayer, on the Common at 9 a.m. on Sunday, April 2, as this is a great opportunity for ecumenical fellowship. We are collaborating with the Promised Land and Youth for some aspects of the Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday services. If anyone (of any age!) is interested in helping to greet on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, or Easter Sunday, please let a deacon know - extra smiles are always welcome!

Sincerely, *Julie Burke* for the Deacons

Notes from Church Council

The Council met virtually on Tuesday March 7. Kate Hoffman of Faith Formation was Lead pro-tem and opened the meeting at 7:03 p.m. She called on Corinne Chartrand to lead devotions. Corinne read Emily Dickinson's poem *If I Can Stop One Heart From Breaking*. Council agreed that it should be acting more like a "think tank" about various Center Church issues. During our first discussion, we talked about current patterns of worship attendance. The next discussion centered on forming a group to celebrate our National Register of Historic Places status. We concluded that a "one-time event" should occur on a Saturday in early summer. A full-day retreat for the Council is being considered. We will use our own space with a date in June or August to be determined. The need for more fundraising was also discussed. An article about this will be published in the *Church at the Center*. It was MSV to release up to \$600 for scholarship use to Silver Lake Camp. Team information can be found in their various reports throughout the *Church at the Center*.

Center Church in Transition

Birth: March 12, Oliver William LaBonte, son of Gretchen and Dan LaBonte.

David C. Morrell, Clerk

The Activities Team



The Activities Team is looking forward to the "English Spring Tea" in May and we have started to collect serving pieces, cups, tea pots and flowers...we are still on the hunt to find more items to be used at our event. Please keep looking and let us know if you find items we can use!

We will have tickets available after Easter to sell for the tea and we hope you would consider taking an envelope and selling adult and children tickets to your family, neighbors, friends and co-workers. We are planning 2 sittings, one at 11:30 to 1:00 and 1:30 to 3:00 so we do not rush or crowd our guests. We will offer sandwiches, tea cakes, hot and cold tea and many other choices to include serving children and guests who prefer gluten free. We are looking for church members to help with some baking and hands on prep, so you can share in the fellowship and fun. Let me know if you are available!



We will have some plants available...hanging baskets and selections from our gardens...let us know if you anticipate garden items you could share. We are planning a gifts table to provide special items, handmade by members, for your spring gift giving.

Corinne Chartrand 413-219-6563



Outreach Team

CROP HUNGER WALK - ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME



SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, April 23rd (rain date April 30th)

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



DID YOU KNOW?? The church pays "dues" on every member who is designated "active." There are Conference Dues and Association dues which total just over \$20 per member. That is why it is necessary that the Membership Team review the rolls each year and send out letters to those who have not been in church for a while and/or do not pledge. They inquire about interest in retaining membership, but if they do not hear back, folks are moved to the "inactive" list and we do not pay dues on those folks. Later in the year, or the following year, letters will go out again and if there is still no reply, folks are moved to historical records. Just a little tidbit of info about church membership.



Many Hands Make **LIGHT** Work

**Next Saturday, April 8th, from 9am til noon,
you are invited to come and help
"Make the Sanctuary shine for Easter"
Supplies (and snacks) will be provided!**



Peterson Education Fund Scholarships



The Peterson Memorial Education Fund of Center Church was established in 1985 by Rev. Gus Peterson and his family. The stated purpose was in some small way to aid people whose financial situation made it difficult for them to continue their education. The family, as do we, believed that education was and is an important component toward being a positive and contributing member of society. Both Gus and Barbara Peterson were very involved in the Nueva Esperanza program in Holyoke and were particularly interested in working with that community with education being part of their encouragement. In the spirit of making the world a better place through education, the Fund has assisted members and friends of our congregation, woman at the Care Center in Holyoke (and Bard extension program); Girls' Inc. youth, area high school students headed for college, trade schools, certificate programs and religious endeavors. The one necessary criteria is that they all showed in their application that they were having difficulty meeting the financial needs of their education and were dedicated to improving their educational status. The awards are completely open to all.... regardless of age, race, national origin, sex, religious preference or gender identity.

You may still make a donation to help support this fund. These scholarships are totally funded by us, through interest on the principle, and contributions from our members. We are usually able to make small awards to three or four applicants each year. It is our hope that you will contribute to the Fund by sending in a check to the church office with "Peterson Fund" designated in the memo portion. Applications and further information are available in the church office.

Humor Sunday-April 23

Did Jesus have a sense of humor?

Did Noah count ALL the animals on board the ark?

Faith can be fed through humor.

Join us.



SAVE THE DATE

Hampshire Association Annual Meeting

May 21, 2023 3-5pm

Edwards Church 297 Main Street

Northampton, MA 01060

We will meet in person and stream on zoom.

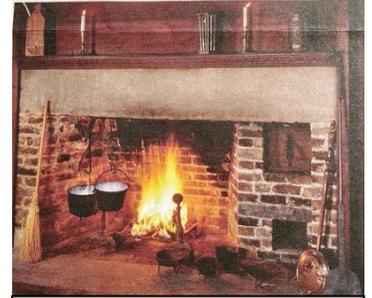
More details to follow!



From the Church Historian - April 2023

Life in Old South Hadley

During the early settlement of South Hadley, permanent homes weren't built until 1725. The meetinghouse was erected in 1733. The inhabitants lived a frugal and hardy lifestyle and they were persons of "small means." They had "industrious and stout hearts." They toiled "14-16 hours a day" to maintain their lives. Their clothing mostly consisted of "homespun" shirts and "woolen trousers." Boots were rare, but deerskin hides were used for various "forms of shoes and leggings." In the summer and fall, work was "done barefooted." Hats for working outside in the sun were made from "simple rush" material. "Sunday-go-to-meeting" clothes were made from flax. Various "natural dyes created in dye tubs" were used for special clothing."



An early South Hadley kitchen

Meals were made from "home grown" items. Bread and milk was a "common food for children" for breakfast and supper. Saturdays and Sundays, one might "partake of hasty pudding and milk" and also water and "apple-molasses" warmed after "toasted bread was crumbled into it." Dinner (the main meal) was served at noon. It would consist of corned beef or pork along with boiled potatoes, turnips and cabbage and cornbread. For an added "dessert" Indian pudding was served and was made from corn meal. Hardy, simple fare! Once cider was discovered, quantities were produced and available to all. Wild turkey was a plentiful source of food and their feathers were used for "feather beds and hand fans, and their quills for writing utensils." Another source of food (fish) came from the nearby Connecticut River.



Early dwelling

We mustn't forget the women. During the early days, they were really the "unsung" providers and workers! From dawn until dusk their work was constant. They brought the cows in from the fields and milked them. The livestock, consisting of chickens, geese, lambs and pigs were fed and cared for by them. Gardens were tended. Household chores were constant. Women were the spinners, weavers, seamstresses, nurses and health providers! In their "spare time" they formed "gossip groups or social groups" where they knit and mended clothes and kept up with the "goings-on!"



Early spinning wheel

Church was the "center of the community." In the beginning it was where the "village meetings" took place to work out policies and maintain order within the community. The village common was used to pasture cattle, and the meetings were where the schedules were created for the users. It was the meetinghouse that was the "center of village life!" Eventually brooks and streams were incorporated into their work world. Two main brooks, Bachelor and Stony, were the water power supply for various gristmills and sawmills. These made for an easier way to grind corn into meal and lumber into building material thus taking the burden off the household.

Today's inhabitants of South Hadley owe a huge debt of gratitude to our "founders!" Without their "trust and faith and hard work", we might not be enjoying this wonderful town and environment.

Tell Me the Stories - April 2023

My Hope is Built on Nothing Less (NCH 403) is also called *The Solid Rock*. Its text was written by Edward Mote, an English cabinetmaker, born in London of “very poor, ungodly parents.” It is considered a “grand hymn of faith” which was originally written in six stanzas followed by a refrain. He called it *The Gracious Experience of a Christian* or another source said *The Immutable Basis of a Sinner’s Hope*. He often attended church while he was apprenticing growing up and was converted to Christ around age 16. He moved to London for a while and then helped to build a church in Horsham, entered the ministry and served that Baptist congregation for 21 years. Mote wrote more than 100 hymn texts, but had no text in the NCH. The hymn tune “Solid Rock” was composed by William Bradbury in 1863 specifically for this text. Bradbury was one of the “foremost composers” of early Gospel music in the U.S. Bradbury also composed a number of well-known hymns (*Sweet Hour of Prayer*, *He Leadeth Me* are two of them) in addition to providing the music for a number of others. His name is associated with five PH hymns, including the next one below and four others in the NCH. He served as a church organist and also set up many music festivals at his NYC church. CAC Jul/Aug 10

Just As I am (NCH 207, PH 319) is one of our very familiar hymns. Many people know it today because of its association with the Billy Graham crusades. Charlotte Elliott was born in England in 1879, daughter and sister of ministers, granddaughter of a celebrated Evangelical preacher. An artist and a poet, she had “boundless energy” as a youth. When she was thirty, she developed a serious illness which no one could diagnose and became an invalid for life. After more than a year, she had become depressed and bitter. A visit one day by a famous Swiss evangelist was a turning point in her life. He listened as she spoke about her life and all the things that were wrong which she attributed to having done something wrong. He suggested that she bring this feeling to Christ – that He would welcome her just as she was. On that day, her outlook on life changed and a new spirit took over. Although not healed in body, she began to take part in life around her again, looking for ways to lift the spirits of all who came to visit her. The hymn began as a poem about 14 years later, which she penned for her brother’s fundraiser for a school for children of poor clergymen. The poem was printed and sold under the leaflet: “Sold for the Benefit of St. Margaret’s Hall, Brighton: Him That Cometh to Me I Will in No Wise Cast Out.” It was published that same year in *The Invalid’s Hymn Book*, “a collection which contained 115 of her original works.” She wrote about 150 hymns in all. She is considered “as one of the finest of all English women hymnwriters.” Although this was a popular hymn during the Civil War, it was made into “an altar call or song of invitation for salvation” by evangelist Billy Sunday. Billy Graham began using it in the 1940s during his revival meetings wherever he went in the world. It is considered an “American institution and a beacon of Christian faith.” Elliott had no hymns in the PH and just this one in the NCH. Upon her death, there were more than 1,000 letters found among her papers from people world-wide, saying how much this hymn had meant in their lives. It has had various hymn tunes coupled with it – “Misericordia” by Henry Smart, “Gwyneth” by John Price, “St. Crispin” by George Elvey, and the one we know best “Woodworth,” composed by William Batchelder Bradbury. While it was not originally written for this specific hymn, another gospel songwriter put the two together years later. Bradbury’s other hymn contributions in both hymnals are noted in the paragraph above. CAC May 06

Amazing Grace (NCH 547) did not make it into the PH, even though it has been a well-loved and well-known hymn for many years. John Newton, its author, learned many things from his mother before she died when he was only seven, including memorizing Bible passages and hymns. His father

was a sea captain, so he alternated between boarding school and a life on the sea (where he went at age 11) and although he wanted to live a Godly life, he could not seem to stay out of trouble. He served in the British Navy for a short while and then worked on a slave ship, eventually becoming a captain, and at one point was so depressed he thought about suicide. Then on March 9, 1748, a violent storm caught the crew by surprise and they feared for their lives. On that night, as he began to read The Imitation of Christ, by Thomas a Kempis, Newton promised "that if God would give him a second chance at life, he would become a moral man." Afterward he wrote that "the Lord came from on high and delivered me out of deep waters." Although he spent several more years at sea, he finally left it and returned to his wife in England" and looked for a way to serve God. He became one of "the most powerful evangelical preachers in British history, a powerful foe of slavery, and the author of hundreds of hymns." Having been refused holy orders at one point in his life, in 1764 he was offered the curacy at Olney. With a good friend, he published a well-known collection of hymns, Olney Hymns, in 1779 because he could not find enough hymns "that expressed the simple, heartfelt faith of his preaching." *Amazing Grace*, his most famous, was originally titled "Faith's Review and Expectation," which was based on his study of I Chronicles 17:16-17. It was one of almost 300 of his hymn texts included in that volume. God's mercy and grace were the dominant themes of his preaching and writing. One source said the hymn had six stanzas (we sing five) plus three additional ones which are not included in most hymnals, although one of them listed in my source book is in the NCH. Our final verse was added later by American John Rees, and appears in the 1859 Sacred Harp collection. Newton has two other hymns in the NCH including *Glorious Things of You Are Spoken*, which also appears in the PH along with two others. The American folk melody to which *Amazing Grace* was set was a plantation song called "Living Lambs." The tune was first published in 1831 in The Virginia Harmony. By the beginning of the Civil War, this hymn was one of the world's best-known Christian songs and, in the '60s, Judy Collins' version was at the top of the rock charts! CAC Oct 05

Our final hymn story belongs to *My Life Flows on in Endless Song* (NCH 476). This one is also entitled (and better known as) *How Can I Keep From Singing?* and has been arranged for solo vocal and instrumental renditions as well. It first appeared in a songbook Bright Jewels for the Sunday School but no composer was listed. The editor of that 1869 hymnal was Robert Lowry. The third stanza was written later in 1957 by Doris Plenn. Lowry was a Baptist preacher in the mid-Atlantic states as well as a music editor for at least 12 Sunday-school collections in the mid-to-late 1800s. It is thought that Lowry also wrote the tune "Endless Son" for this text, and that title comes from words in the opening phrase. Lowry composed a number of gospel hymns and also worked with another gentleman, William Doane, on a dozen or so collections. Lowry's name is listed with two PH hymns, including *I Need Thee (You) Every Hour* to which he added the refrain. The latter hymn, plus five others in the NCH are his as well. In the NCH, both our hymn's tune and #563 are the same. CAC Apr 10

Cindy Morrell, Associate in Music

Resources used: Ace Collins Stories Behind the Hymns that Inspire America (2003); Robert Guy McCutchen, Our Hymnody (1937); Robert J. Morgan Then Sings My Soul (2003); Kenneth W. Osbeck's 101 Hymn Stories (1982), Amazing Grace (1990) and 25 Most Treasured Gospel Hymn Stories (1999); Jane Stuart Smith and Betty Carlson's Great Christian Hymn Writers (1997); and The New Century Hymnal Companion, ed. Kristen Forman (1998).





- 01 Barbara Blank
- 02 Tom Hazen
AJ Procter
- 05 Richard Howe
- 06 Nolan Gage
- 10 Jean Hazen
Tom Waller
- 15 Karen Sabbs
- 21 Terri Waller
- 25 Izzy Cordes
Eileen Halkyard



Please let me know if your birthday does not appear in our listing - If you are not there it most likely means I don't have your information. Send your birthdate along to me at centerchurch@verizon.net or by phone.



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: Thia Jubinville
Sexton: Robert Farman



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



2023 Spring Programs at Silver Lake

Register now online at www.SilverLakeCT.org

Spring Action Weekend

Give something back to Silver Lake!

Catch up with old friends, make new friends, and work hard to prepare YOUR camp and retreat center for the coming season. From splitting wood to repairing buildings, moving picnic tables to raking leaves, there's a project for everyone, high schoolers through adult.

Action Weekends are open to youth in grades 9 through 12 and adults. Cost is \$45 per youth; free for adults 18+ Register at www.silverlakect.org.



MAY 5-7, 2023 WOMEN'S YOGA AND MUSIC SPIRIT RETREAT

Whether you're a yoga devotee or a novice, a seasoned singer or shy about your voice, we have a special place for you in our circle! We'll nourish our minds, bodies, and spirits so that we may return to our lives feeling more empowered and energized. We'll share new skills and tools for use throughout our lives.

Join us for the entire weekend, or just for the day on Saturday!
\$235 full weekend
\$100 Saturday only

Register online at www.silverlakect.org.



Open House

Sunday, May 21 - 1-5

A visit to Silver Lake before camp is the best way for a first time camper to know what to expect — you might even run into a new friend who will be in the same program this summer!

We'll provide the cookies, you bring your questions.

Register online at www.silverlakect.org.



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

SILVER LAKE

Camp & Retreat Center

223 Low Rd.
Sharon, CT 06069
860-364-5526

www.SilverLakeCT.org **LEARN MORE**

PRE-CAMP
June 25-29
Pioneer: Alumni Edition
adults, 18+

WEEK 1
July 2-8
My Loved One and Me
Sun-Wed
4 5
plus adult

WEEK 2
July 9-15
Day Camp
M-F 8:45-4:45
1 2 3

WEEK 3
July 16-22
Family Camp 1
Sun-Wed
all ages

WEEK 4
July 23-29
Family Camp 2
Wed-Sat
all ages

WEEK 5
July 30-Aug 5
Muggles and Wizards
4 5 6

GRADE IN SEPTEMBER 2023
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
Standard Program* Tiered Pricing:
\$745 / \$670 / \$595
*Some programs may have slightly different pricing, or an additional program fee.

My Loved One and Me
Sun-Wed
4 5
plus adult

Raise your Voice
6 7 8

Sing Praise
7 8 9

Faith 360
10 11 12

Team Lego
4 5 6

Fun in the Sun
7 8 9

Rock of Ages
9 10 11 12

Gone M.A.D.D.
4 5 6

FruitFULL Faith
7 8

Carry the Torch
9 10 11 12

Still Singing
9 10 11 12

Silver Lake Sampler
4 5 6

Fun in the Shade
7 8 9

This Just In
9 10 11 12

All a Board!
7 8 9

Reel to Reel
9 10 11 12

Southern New England Conference
United Church of Christ
Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

OPEN HOUSE Sunday, May 21
1-5 p.m.
registration requested

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR UCC SUMMER CAMP

Registration is open for United Church of Christ summer camp at Silver Lake Camp & Retreat Center. Silver Lake offers week-long overnight summer camp sessions for young people from 4th grade through high school. Silver Lake information and registration is available here: silverlakect.org Center Church is proud to offer partial scholarships for camp at Silver Lake. Please contact the church office for scholarship information. Scholarship deadline is

Upcoming Event

TOWN OF SOUTH HADLEY
AGE & DEMENTIA FRIENDLY

TUESDAY APRIL 4TH, 2023
3:30PM-6:00PM

Learn about South Hadley's Age and Dementia Friendly Goals

3:30-4:30pm Age and Dementia Friendly Panel
Overview of town-wide initiative with linkages to the South Hadley Master Plan, Town Departments and, state-wide initiatives. Moderated by Town Administrator, Lisa Wong.

4:30-5:30pm Dementia Friendly Awareness Program
Learn the difference between normal aged-related memory loss and dementia, and how South Hadley is working to be a Dementia Friendly Community.

5:30-6:00pm Mental Health Initiative
Learn about new initiatives by the South Hadley Police and a partnership between the SHCOA and WestMass ElderCare to provide services to those community members who struggle with mental health and wellness.

6:00pm Woodlawn Café
Tickets for a raffle basket and complimentary soup for those who attend all sessions.
Sponsored by the Friends of the South Hadley Seniors.

Register Today!

413-538-5030 South Hadley Council on
Option 3 Aging, 45 Dayton Street

Please join us!
This is a FREE program open to the public

Southern New England Conference
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Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

Daily Lectionary Scripture References - April 2023 (Year A)

<p>Sat., Apr. 1 Psalm 31:9-16 Lamentations 3:55-66 Mark 10:32-34</p> <p>Sun., Apr. 2 Palm/Passion Sunday Palm: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Matthew 21:1-11 Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54</p> <p>Holy Week</p> <p>Mon., Apr. 3 Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 36:5-11 Hebrews 9:11-15 John 12:1-11</p> <p>Tues., Apr. 4 Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 71:11-14 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 John 12:20-36</p> <p>Wed., Apr. 5 Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 70 Hebrews 12:1-3 John 13:21-32</p> <p>Thurs., Apr. 6 Maundy Thursday Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14 Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-17, 31b-35</p> <p>Fri., Apr. 7 Good Friday Isaiah 52:13-53:12 Psalm 22 Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9 John 18:1-19:42</p> <p>Sat., Apr. 8 Holy Saturday Job 14:1-14 or Lamentations 3:1-9, 19-24 Psalm 31:1-4, 15-16 1 Peter 4:1-8 Matthew 27:57-66 or John 19:38-42</p>	<p>Sun., Apr. 9 Easter Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43 John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10</p> <p>Mon., Apr. 10 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Exodus 14:10-31; 15:20-21 Colossians 3:5-11</p> <p>Tues., Apr. 11 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Exodus 15:1-18 Colossians 3:12-17</p> <p>Wed., Apr. 12 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 Joshua 3:1-11 Matthew 28:1-10</p> <p>Thurs., Apr. 13 Psalm 16 Song of Solomon 2:8-15 Colossians 4:2-5</p> <p>Fri., Apr. 14 Psalm 16 Song of Solomon 5:9-6:3 1 Corinthians 15:1-11</p> <p>Sat., Apr. 15 Psalm 16 Song of Solomon 8:6-7 John 20:11-20</p> <p>Sun., Apr. 16 Second Sunday of Easter Acts 1:4a, 22-32 Psalm 16 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31</p> <p>Mon., Apr. 17 Psalm 114 Judges 6:36-40 1 Corinthians 15:12-20</p> <p>Tues., Apr. 18 Psalm 114 Jonah 1:1-17 1 Corinthians 15:19-28</p> <p>Wed., Apr. 19 Psalm 114 Jonah 2:1-10 Matthew 12:38-42</p>	<p>Thurs., Apr. 20 Psalm 118:1-4, 12-19 Isaiah 25:1-5 1 Peter 1:8b-12</p> <p>Fri., Apr. 21 Psalm 118:1-4, 12-19 Isaiah 26:1-4 1 Peter 1:13-16</p> <p>Sat., Apr. 22 Psalm 118:1-4, 12-19 Isaiah 25:6-9 Luke 14:12-14</p> <p>Sun., Apr. 23 Third Sunday of Easter Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Psalm 118:1-4, 12-19 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35</p> <p>Mon., Apr. 24 Psalm 134 Genesis 18:1-14 1 Peter 1:23-25</p> <p>Tues., Apr. 25 Psalm 134 Proverbs 8:32-9:6 1 Peter 2:1-3</p> <p>Wed., Apr. 26 Psalm 134 Exodus 24:1-11 John 21:1-14</p> <p>Thurs., Apr. 27 Psalm 23 Exodus 2:15b-25 1 Peter 2:9-12</p> <p>Fri., Apr. 28 Psalm 23 Exodus 3:16-22; 4:18-20 1 Peter 2:13-17</p> <p>Sat., Apr. 29 Psalm 23 Ezekiel 34:1-16 Luke 15:1-7</p> <p>Sun., Apr. 30 Fourth Sunday of Easter Acts 2:42-47 Psalm 23 1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10</p>
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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Palm Sunday Gather on the Common 9am Palm Blessing Worship 10am Easter Egg Hunt for Children	3	4 HOLY WEEK Church Council 7pm	5	6 AA 1:30pm Maundy Thursday Worship 6:30pm	7 Good Friday Sanctuary open noon to 1pm Church office Closed	8
9 Easter Sunday Worship 10am 	10 Outreach Team 7pm	11 	12 Trustees 7pm	13 AA 1:30pm Dance Lessons 6pm	14	15 Food For Friends
16 Worship 10am Rev. Randy Hyvonen preaching	17	18 Deacons 7pm	19 	20 AA 1:30pm Dance Lessons 6pm	21	22 EARTH DAY
23 Worship 10am HUMOR SUNDAY CROP Walk 1pm Granby Common	24	25 	26	27 AA 1:30pm Dance Lessons 6pm	28 Church Office closed	29
30 Worship 10am Baptism	31					

Rev. Souder is away April 10 – 17.