

CHURCH AT THE CENTER

APRIL 2024



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH "CENTER CHURCH"

United Church of Christ
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All are welcome at Center Church on the Common, an Open and Affirming UCC Congregation, where the Spirit of God stirs us to embrace our diversity, deepen our faith in Jesus, share our tears and laughter, and extend God's abundant love and justice into the world.

Our family dog was groomed today; Mac was pleased to be home with his shining brown eyes and less hair. There **is** a dog underneath all that hair! To my surprise, less hair makes him look younger.

There is so much more behind all our hair and finery. However, we do not acknowledge that. We make quick, unfair judgements on others. We make quick judgments about the news, about other's opinions, about the person who stole our parking space.

We forget people are hurting, are in treatment, are lonely. We, in the US, can forget so easily about the travesties in other countries. However, Jesus' life, death, and resurrection remind us to be aware, be compassionate, be loving.

Jesus has taught us we are the hope for a new world.

See you on Easter for the Hallelujahs!

Tenderly before Easter and Joyfully following, *Lori*

A Memorial Service for Ruth Cowan will be held here at Center Church on Saturday April 6th at 11am. the state of the s

Humor Sunday is coming soon, so.... Send Lori any funny Church jokes or puns you may have stored in your humor box. the state of the s

Vigil for Ceasefire in Gaza – Saturday April 6 – 10am All are invited to stand with Center Church for Peace throughout the world.



Join Lori at **Iona's Kitchen, Main Street in SH – April 10 – 8am** – enjoy breakfast or just a cup of coffee and join in discussion of current events.



2024 registration is open! Summer Camp

Look through all the camp sessions or Download the 2024 summer schedule

We run 1-week sessions (Sunday-Saturday) for campers entering grades 4-12. Plus, halfweek family camp programs for all ages. Learn more about summer camp at Silver Lake. Open House - Sunday, May 19, 1-5pm - register now

View the 2024 Summer Camp Information Guide - For more information about rules and what to expect, including a sample schedule and a packing list.

Summer Staff - 2024 <u>summer staff</u> applications are open!

Volunteers - Learn more about being a volunteer Dean or bunkroom Counselor and complete the Summer Camp Volunteer Application to indicate your interest in volunteering.

> Silver Lake Camp & Retreat Center slcrc@sneucc.org A Ministry of the Southern New England Conference UCC 223 Low Road | Sharon, CT 06069 | 860.364.5526 | Fax: 860.364.1000







Registration for United Church of Christ summer camp at Silver Lake Camp and Retreat Center is now open! Silver Lake offers one week "sleep away" camp sessions for 4th grade through high school, & half week family camp programs. More information on camp sessions and registration is available at www.silverlakect.org. Center Church members Julie Burke & Brian Lapis are Silver Lake parents and are happy to discuss their summer camp experience. A limited number of \$200 Silver Lake "camperships" are available for Center Church families. Contact Pastor Lori or Thia in the church office, for more info.

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

Continual:

Don Donihue

Joan Duffy

Muriel Graham, on hospice

Martha Guild's mother, June

Eileen Halkyard

Tom Hazen

Eunice Howes

Virginia Johnston

Phyllis Lacoste

Fay Paquette

Anna Sibley, on Hospice

Art Stanley

Nikki Wolf, Linda's granddaughter

Those struggling with addiction

We keep our Member-in-Discernment, Emily Carle, in our prayers, in her seminary studies at Louisville Seminary.

Hearts&

Prayers

Prayers for all those in Ukraine. and those who have fled for safety and for the victims of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

<u>Situational:</u>

Family and friends of Ruth Cowan, who passed away February 28

Peg Dumbaugh

Audrey Heaphy

Ryan Moore, Deb Moore's son

Leila Mulder, attending a new school

Kay Pryor, with cancer, family friend of Karen and Estelle Anderson

Charlie DeNagy, friend Peg Wesolowski

Joanne Santos grandfather, Edwardo, with cancer

Kendall Johnson-Smith, Preston Smith's daughter, with cancer.

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.

PETERSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND



On Sunday, April 7th we will have a special collection for the Peterson Memorial Scholarship Fund. This fund was established by the Peterson family after the death of Rev. Gus Peterson, who was well loved by all, and who served in the capacity of the voluntary Minister of Missions from 1990-2006. Contributions to this fund may also be sent to the church office. Applications for one of these scholarships are available in the church office. Deadline for

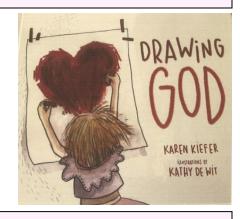
submission of the application is May 15th.

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

Promised Land Sunday School

During the month of April, the Promised Land Sunday School will explore ways to envision God, inspired by this delightful book. I'm excited to discover ways the children will uniquely and creatively express their visions of God!

Blessings, Kate Hoffman



Youth Group



For the month of March, Youth group has been focusing on Easter lessons. We took a break from lessons and played games as well as arts and crafts. Youth have been focusing on lessons that talk about what Jesus did and the importance of Easter.

Kayla

Adult Christian Education

Get ready to travel the seas! In April we will be discussing the first 12 chapters in The Book of Acts: How God moves in the early church. Join us for one session or all. No need to be a member of Center Church, UCC.

We meet from 10-11am in the Conference Room at Loomis Village (in the "Big House"). Use whatever bible translation you prefer.

April 11: Please read chapters 1-4 April 18: Please read chapters 5-8 April 25: Please read chapters 9-12

Ask yourself what is the message? How is the Holy Spirit working? How is the passage informing us to be disciples?

Lori will leave Center Church @ 9:40 if you wish to carpool with her.

From the Deacons

The joy of Easter has occurred as we enter into April. The sanctuary was decorated with lilies and tulips celebrating the resurrection of Jesus! Each Sunday after Easter are numbered until Pentecost as we follow the seasons of the church year. The deacons assist Pastor Lori with the worship service. We meet regularly to discussing the services, how the services went and how we can or need to make any changes. We welcome your input to make worship meaningful, carrying you throughout the days ahead. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday morning.

News from the Trustees for April 2024

The Trustees met on March 6 and John Hoffman, treasurer, noted that we should be at 17% of the 2024 budget at the end of February. He said the income is a bit lower than we would like at this time. In the past, we have gotten some of the larger pledges payments in by now, but we are early in the budget year. He will continue to monitor both our income and expenses as we move forward. On the positive side, as the weather begins to warm up, the heating costs will go down. In looking ahead to spring, we have met with and hired a young man from town to take over the lawn mowing duties for the season. We are most grateful for the service of the Anz family for the past several years – your work has been much appreciated!! We are continuing to work on upgrading the signs throughout the building to be more concise and helpful. We have replaced the final original ceiling on the Lancaster Building second floor room being used by the Tree of Life Program with a new dropped ceiling. As we move into April, we will be excited to see the work begin on the two Fellowship Hall Park St. side doors to really make us really handicapped accessible. We are also excited to hear about the work that will be / is being done to the church website. That has been a long time in coming and we thank those members who have kept pushing for this work. We have appropriated up to \$3,500 for this project. Stay tuned for more on that. We are awaiting quotes on the old boiler room (under the bell tower) walls and suggestions on what actually will need to be done. We look forward to our joint meeting with the Deacons and Al Duffy on April 14 to go over the safe church document and learn about the policies/procedures that have been set up (several years ago now) to keep us safe while in church.

Cindy Morrell, secretary

Notes from Church Council

The Council met virtually on Tuesday March 5. Brian Lapis of Stewardship was Lead pro-tem. He opened the meeting at 7:03 p.m. and Kate Hoffman led us in devotions. She presented a video about strangers meeting and sharing a meal. It showed how easily it is to get to know others and for breaking down barriers. Our *Think Tank* discussion centered around inter-generational interaction. There's much wisdom and knowledge passed from group to group. Center Church is an inter-generational church. As such, we need to find better ways to intermingle and communicate. We also discussed "double listening." We need to learn to ask questions that move the conversation. Our website conundrum needs professional input. We do have some funds to address this. We tabled the Memorial Gift donor policy discussion. For any team information, please refer to articles in the *Church at the Center* newsletter.

Center Church in Transition

Death: February 28, Ruth Dillingham Cowan, 93 years old.

Joined: March 3, Adiza and Dinko Hanaan Dinko, Barbara Kershner and Debra Moore.

March 10, Elisa Morrison.

Baptism: March 10, Elisa Morrison.

David C. Morrell, Clerk

Outreach Team



Cathedral in the Night is an outdoor Christian community in downtown Northampton, MA which seeks to create a safe place for all people: the homeless, the housed, the church-less, the churched, the student and the resident to explore, question and live out their spiritual beliefs; to gather for a meal and to

empower one another to engage in issues of social justice by working to fight the causes of inequality and homelessness.

Our church is providing the meal for CITN on Sunday May 19, sponsored by the Outreach Team. We will be needing sandwich supplies, water, food for the meal, people to make sandwiches, people to cook the meal, several of us to transport food to CITN in midafternoon, then serve after the 4:30 worship service. Please let John Hoffman know if you can help with any of these needs. Also, consider attending any Sunday evening of worship and communion and sharing of food at CITN. You will be blessed.



For 160 years so far, Girls Inc. has been dedicated to inspiring and equipping girls to reach their full potential. They have served millions of girls across the U.S. and Canada. We have Girls Inc. of the Valley right here in Holyoke, where girls come after school and over the summer to get academic experience, learn life skills, get support from a trusted mentor, learn to respect, and care for each other and explore career opportunities. You can go

to www.girlsinvalley.org to learn more about the organization and how you can help.



Let's have some fun in April! The local CROP Walk will take place on Sunday April 21st (rain date: 4/28).

Come join the team, get some exercise, walk with old friends and new friends, and have a great time raising money to fight hunger.

You can follow this link to join the team or donate money https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/team/center-church-south-hadley

https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/event/granbyma

You can also make a check out to First Congregational Church and designate CROP in the memo

CROP Hunger Walks are community-based walk fundraising events held in cities and towns across the United States, created to support the global mission of <u>Church World Service</u>, a faith-based organization transforming communities around the globe through just and sustainable responses to hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster. After a CROP Hunger Walk ends, 25% of the funds raised is returned to the host community to support local hunger fighting efforts.

Come join us for some great fun, conversation and exercise!

Activities Team



The 'English Spring Tea' returns May 11 and we invite you to mark your calendars and plan to join us for lunch and fun. Plan to put together a table of good friends to share tea, conversation, and a good time!

We will have tickets for sale in April, for open sittings starting at 11:00 am. Our plan is to serve sandwiches, tea cakes, hot and cold tea, and many other choices to include children and gluten free.

We are hoping church members can help us with baking and hands on prep, organizing tickets, and many other small planning details. Let Corinne or Karen know if you have questions and are available to volunteer.

We will have some plants available and are again planning a gifts table to provide special items, handmade by members, for your spring gift giving.



Corinne Chartrand 413 219-6563





























Adiza and Dinko Hanaan Dinko, Barbara Kershner, and Deb Moore joined the membership of Center Church March 3rd.

Adiza and Dinko Hanaan Dinko, and their son Dinko JNR (Sandow), moved to South Hadley from Denver CO, recently, as Dinko has started a tenure track position at Mount Holyoke. They are joining Center Church to worship the Lord and grow Spiritually. Dinko loves horses and loves to go horseback riding. Adiza enjoys going on long road trips. Dinko JNR will turn one, in just a couple of days.

Barbara Kershner was born and raised in Reading Pennsylvania, attended West Chester State University and was a music educator and church musician in Bellefonte before moving to Illinois and New York State. She felt a call to ministry early in life, but having been raised Roman Catholic, she wasn't sure what that meant for her as a woman. Through the guidance and inspiration of clergy, both Protestant and Catholic, she entered Andover-Newton Theological School in her forties and was ordained in 2000. Barbara then returned to Pennsylvania and served for 14 years at St. John's UCC in Orwigsburg (see our New Century Hymnal #486 for a hymn named after that small town). After "retiring" she returned to MA and served as interim minister in South Williamstown. Barbara has 2 grown sons and a granddaughter. She moved to SH this past October, and enjoys walking, reading, writing, and needlework of all kinds.

Deb Moore grew up in Southeastern MA, the oldest of 6 siblings. She is in her 2nd month of retirement after serving several churches in MA and NH as a Minister of Faith Formation. Deb is also a trained Spiritual Companion and hopes to resume that work after taking a break. While nature feeds her soul, she is finding pure delight in her 10 month old granddaughter, Kenzie Rose. Deb enjoys watching college women's basketball and the Red Sox, and spending time with her family in Southwestern MA. Deb presently facilitates a Community of Practice group for Faith Formation Leaders in WMA.

Elisa Morrison joined the membership of Center Church March 10th.

Following is a brief bio that Elisa wrote: I was born and raised in NJ and also lived in CO, CT, NYC and NH before moving to MA eight years ago. I have a degree in Fine Arts from The Cooper Union in NYC and worked in many jobs including gourmet cooking, marketing, data analysis, dressmaking, jewelry making and online sales. I've had my own business for more than 25 years and currently sell gemstone beads to jewelry makers. My dear husband Allen and I have been married for 26 years, and I'm a proud momma to 2 adult children Tara and Drew and their spouses Eric and Thy, and ecstatic grandmother to Tara and Eric's son Ezra who turns 1 in April. I enjoy hiking, bicycling, donkeys, and Scotland



From the Church Historian - April 2024

1924 -- One Hundred Years Ago!



Short hair, short hem, out for a dance.

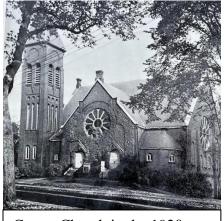
By 1924, Center Church was into the "flapper years!" Our quiet riverside town was feeling the "prosperity" movement as well.. Our farming community was adding more factories and other businesses. Nearby Center Church, Mount Holyoke College was also in a "growth" period with more dorms and classrooms. The Country (much like today) was in a "quest for normalcy." Upon the death of President Warren G. Harding on August 2, 1923, Northampton resident Calvin Coolidge was sworn in as President of the United States. His policy was "do nothing to rock the boat." The American economy began to boom. Americans craved excitement! Women were wearing their hair short and dresses were hemmed to knee length! The Charleston dance was all the rage! Since 1920, Prohibition had been in full swing. Visiting "speakeasies" was in vogue along with "bathtub gin." Silent movies with exotic costumes and settings were a popular pastime. Materialism flourished and religion began to flounder. However, many rural areas like ours read their Bibles faithfully.

The "Negro race" suffered from a "resurgence of racial hatred." The rebirth of the Ku Klux Klan, a white supremacist group, "reared its ugly head." The group swelled to four million followers in 1924! Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti were in the middle of their famous murder trial in Eastern MA.

Reverend Jesse Gilman Nichols was our pastor in 1924. The Annual Report stated we had 414 members. There were 11 infant baptisms, 46 new members joined, and our budget was \$5,000! Sunday school had 220 students and their curriculum was the "Cross and the Crown." The "youth group" paid for the "bulletin" in front of the church. The church had "watch-night" services on New Year's Eve. A new group was formed, called the



Rev. Dr. Jesse Gilman Nichols and wife Sarah 1906-1935



Center Church in the 1920s

Men's Community Association, with100 men! It provided community welfare "with a fine spirit of Democracy, Christian Fellowship, and brotherhood." They were men from different social, religious and business backgrounds. All agreed to "differ in some things, but in all essentials, be united!" Pastor Nichols proposed a New Year resolution for our church to go to the "depths of spiritual achievement and power" to gain "support and inspiration" from faith and hope. He reiterated that "the habit of worship is the need for the congregation." Rev. Nichols closed his report with the quotation "the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." Even after 100 years, Center Church still strives for spiritual awareness and unity!

Tell Me the Stories - April 2024

O God, How We Have Wounded (NCH 202) is really an update to O Sacred Head Now Wounded (PH 170). The original was attributed to Bernard of Clairvaux, Abbott of the monastery there. One source says that he "became one of the finest and most influential church leaders of that period" (early 1100s). A German translation appeared in 1656 by Paul Gerhardt, and an English translation in 1930 by James Alexander, a Presbyterian minister. Gerhardt, ordained to the German Reformed Church, wrote 132 hymn texts during his life. American James Alexander lived in the 1800s, served as a Presbyterian pastor and translated Latin and German hymn texts including this hymn. The text for the NCH hymn was written by Kevin F. Nichols, an Englishman born in 1929. He combined Luke 15 and 2 Corinthians 5 in this new text. He served as a lecturer, a national advisor for religious education and as a parish priest. The tune "Passion Chorale" or "Herzlich Tut Mich Verlangen" melody, based on a German love song, was adapted by Hans Leo Hassler, son of a renowned Nuremberg organist. Hassler himself, the first famous German musician who studied in Italy, is considered "to be one of the finest German composers of the late Renaissance, in both secular and sacred music." Bach liked this tune so much and he used it five times in his St. Matthew Passion and it is his harmonization of the melody in the NCH. The hymn tune, used only once in the PH, was used three times in the NCH. CAC 4/09

God Loved the World (NCH 208) was translated by August Crull from a German hymn first appearing in 1778. Crull, whose lifetime spanned 1845-1923, was born in Germany but came to the US after his father's death. He was ordained in the Lutheran ministry here in the US and served as a pastor in churches in WI and MI. The anonymous tune, first called "Tunbridge," became "Rockingham" after Edward Miller adapted it in 1790. He renamed it in honor of his patron and friend, the prime minister of Great Britain. Miller began his life working for his father as a paver, but it says "he ran away to study music." He played flute in Handel's orchestra and later became an organist in an English parish church. He played the harpsichord as well. "Rockingham" was used once in the PH but appeared three times in the NCH.

CAC 4/12

Journey to Gethsemane (NCH 219, Go to Dark Gethsemane PH 158) was written by James Montgomery twice! First, in 1820, then revised in 1825 and it is that version in the NCH. A Scot by birth, Montgomery (1771-1854) wrote many poems but also served as a journalist and editor for a local paper for 31 years, but did not find favor with the Tory government, and was thrown in jail twice because of that. In spite of that, he is recognized as "one of England's greatest hymnwriters." The NCH used five of his texts and the PH used 12 of his texts. He actually wrote and published over 400 hymn texts. The tune "Redhead No. 76" was so named because it was Richard Redhead's 76th tune written. Four other names have been associated with the tune. An Englishman by birth in 1820, he served as an organist at a Paddington, England church for 30 years. The tune, used three times in the PH, including with *Gracious Spirit Dwell with Me* but only twice in the NCH.

The final hymn is one we don't sing very often, Crashing Waters at Creation (NCH 326) and is in the Holy Baptism section of the NCH. We tend to use Child of Blessing with baptisms. It was written by Sylvia Dunstan to bless the baptismal waters during baptism for the UC Canada while she worked on editing those rites. Raised by grandparents, and ordained in that denomination in 1980, later in her life serving as chaplain at the Ontario maximum-security prison. The NCH has six of her texts. German Christian Witt compiled an important German Lutheran hymnal in 1716. It had many tunes, including perhaps over 100, written by him. "Stuttgart," named for that German City, appeared there. His father was a court organist and he also became an organist in Gotha for 30 years. There are four of his tunes in the NCH. CAC 2/12, 10/20

Cindy Morrell, associate in music

Resources used: Robert Guy McCutchen, <u>Our Hymnody</u> (1937); Robert J. Morgan, <u>Then Sings My Soul</u> (2003); Kenneth W. Osbeck's <u>Amazing Grace</u> (1990) and <u>101 More Hymn Stories</u> (1985); Great Christian Hymn Writers, Jane E. Smith and Betty Carlson (1979); and <u>The New Century Hymnal Companion</u>, ed. Kristen Forman (1998).



Barbara Blank 01

Tom Hazen 02

AJ Procter

Richard Howe 05

Nolan Gage 06

07 Carol Alldis

Tom Waller 10

15 Karen Sabbs

Terri Waller 21

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.



Food Bank of Western Massachu 25 Carew Street, Chicopee MA 01020 TEL: 413-247-9738 | FAX: 413-419-1089

foodbankwma.org FEEDING

March 13, 2024

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

Dear Rev. Souder

Thank you for your donation of \$929.00 to the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts on 2/15/2024. Every dollar you donate helps us build a Western Massachusetts where no one faces hunger, and everyone has access to nutritious food.

Your continued support of the Food Bank's work allows us to consistently provide nutritious food to over 100,000 individuals each month, ensuring our neighbors can eat today, and tomorrow, while developing lasting solutions to the underlying causes of hunger through SNAP enrollment, food assistance navigation and social service referrals, nutrition education, and public education and advocacy

We are so grateful to be a part of a community that believes access to nutritious food is a basic human right -- fundamental to living a healthy life with dignity. For information about the impact of your support, we invite you to subscribe to our E-Newsletter at foodbankwma.org/subscribe. You may also contact our Development team at donorrelations@foodbankwma.org or call us at (413) 203-4803.

We cannot do this important work without you. Together, We End Hunger!

Director of Development

Exempt 501(c)(3) 04-2751023 d Bank of Western Massachusetts did not provide any goods or se contributor in consideration, either in whole or in part, for the con-depart and inner os ell our donor list. We value your support and



THE MINISTRY AT CENTER CHURCH

Ministers: All Church Members

Rev. Lori J. Souder **Senior Minister:**

Member in Discernment: Emily Carle

Christian Education Program

Kate Hoffman and Chelsea Korzeniowski Children:

Youth: Kayla Scott-McDowell

Music

Organist: Larry Schipull

Choir Director: Mallory Coakley

Cynthia Morrell Associate in Music:

Office Administrator: Cynthia Jubinville

> Robert Farman **Sexton:**

