

## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH "Center Church"



United Church of Christ - ONA One Church Street South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075 (413) 532-2262

email: <u>centerchurch@verizon.net</u>

website: <u>www.centerchurchsouthhadley.org</u>
Facebook: Center Church of South Hadley MA
Instagram: @centerchurchsouthhadley

We, the congregation of the First Congregational Church of South Hadley, MA, UCC, also known as Center Church, declare ourselves to be Open and Affirming. Our congregation is welcoming to all, embracing those of differing sexual orientation, transgender/gender identity and expression, marital status, age, mental and physical health and ability, racial and cultural background/identity, and educational/socioeconomic status. We are open to all to share in Christ's bountiful love through life, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings, and joys. In the spirit of Paul in Galatians, we celebrate the diversity in which God has created us!



\*\* The two center sections of the sanctuary are equipped with a hearing loop.

Turn on the T-coil in your hearing aid and sit in one of these sections

for better hearing

## April 28, 2024

Nonviolence is a powerful and just weapon, which cuts without wounding and ennobles the man who wields it. It is a sword that heals.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

**PRELUDE** 

Two settings of *Bridegroom* M.B. Bennett, M. Burkhardt *To God Be the Glory* T. Smith & D. Hustad

We light the Good News Candle for the Payson High School (Utah) students who assembled 5,000 community resource kits for actor Kevin Bacon's <u>SixDegrees</u> charity, celebrating the 40th anniversary of the movie "Footloose" being filmed at their school and a visit last Saturday by the actor, who starred in the movie. We light the candle as well for humanitarian workers bringing relief to Yemen's deep famine, an end to the brutalities in Israel/Palestine, and for peace and resilience in Ukraine.

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### PASSING OF THE PEACE

#### **INTROIT**

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: God has made this day.

People: Let us rejoice and be glad.

Leader: The God who raised Jesus from the dead,

raises us to new life daily.

People: Thanks be to God.

\*HYMN Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song black # 270

#### MESSAGE FOR ALL

At the conclusion of the message, the children will leave to go to "The Promised Land" as the congregation sings the first verse of <u>On River Jordan's Banks I Stand</u>.

On River Jordan's banks I stand, and cast a wishful eye, Upon the fair and happy land where my possessions lie; I am bound for the promised land, I am bound for the promised land, Oh, who will come and go with me? I am bound for the promised land.

#### JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

#### **MORNING PRAYERS**

**Prayer of Confession** 

Gracious God, Dresser of Vines, we confess that we have been more willing to consume the fruits of others than to bear fruit ourselves. We have refused to give of ourselves when the harvest is uncertain. We have not been fruitful because we depended too much on ourselves, and not enough on you. Help us, God, to be channels for your grace, branches who feed on your life-giving Spirit, bearers of your word of love and joy, in Jesus Christ. Amen

**Assurance of Forgiveness** 

As children of God, we are forgiven. Praise be to God!

**Pastoral Prayer** 

**Silence** 

Lord's Prayer (debts)

Our Creator/Father/Mother, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your Kingdom come; your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen

**Congregational Response** 





#### READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

John 15: 1-8

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**SERMON** 

**WWJD** 

\***HYMN** *Many are the Lightbeams* black # 163

**OFFERING** 

Invitation

**Offertory** Gracious Spirit, Dwell With Me

arr. K Lee Scott

\*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Christ the Word in flesh born low,
Praise Holy Spirit evermore,
One God triune whom we adore. Amen
Prayer of Dedication

\*HYMN Sun of My Soul, O Savior Dear black # 96

\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE Threefold Amen

**POSTLUDE** *Hursley*We invite you to remain quietly and celebrate the conclusion of worship in the postlude.

\*Please stand if you are comfortable.



We hope that you find your worship experience meaningful. If you are new to the community, we invite you to make this your church home.

Please stay after worship for refreshments and fellowship downstairs in the Fellowship Hall.

## **In our Service Today**

Preacher:
Scripture Reader:
Message for All:
Crystian
Karen Anderson
Kate Hoffman
Larry Schipull
Cynthia J. Morrell
Mallory Coakley

**Deacon:** Martha Guild



If you are visiting with us today, **WELCOME**. At the close of the service, please take a small welcome gift found in the baskets located at the sanctuary narthex and crossway doors. It is our token of saying "thank you

for sharing worship with us, we truly feel blessed and we hope to see you again soon."

#### PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

#### Continual:

Don Donihue

Joan Duffy

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.

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

#### Situational:

Pricilla Finn's brother-in-law, Zach Family and friends of Muriel Graham,

who passed away on April 22nd

Audrey Heaphy

Family and friends of Don Hooton, who passed away on April 21st

Ryan Moore, Deb Moore's son

Jen and Matt Moore

Allen Morrison, Alisa's husband, hospitalized following a heart attack

Leila Mulder, attending boarding school

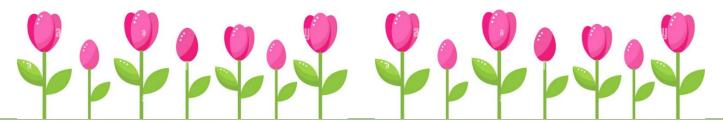
Kay Pryor, with cancer, family friend of Karen and Estelle Anderson

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.



## This Week at Center Church

Thursday AA 1:30pm Dance Lessons 6pm

Friday NA 7:30pm

Saturday Youth Group to NOHO Pride Parade

Sunday Worship with Communion 10am Randy Hyvonen preaching

## **Center Church Announcements**

Please sign up to read Scripture during Sunday worship. There is a signup sheet on the table in the Bock Crossway. Also, please consider being a greeter as folks come into the Sanctuary – signup sheet also in Bock Crossway.



Mark your calendars for our "English Spring Tea" in honor of our Mother's Day celebration, May 11<sup>th</sup> We will serve lunch starting at 11:30 am, with sandwiches, tea cakes and tea, and more, to include a children's plate and gluten free option. Join

us for fellowship and fun! Tickets will be available mid-April at the church office, and we will again provide a benefit for Alianza, supporting women and children in crisis. Call us to reserve your table, 413-532-2262.



This coming Saturday the **Youth** will join with Kayla and Lori, to participate in the **NOHO Pride Parade** and enjoy time together for lunch and a fun activity. Let Lori know if you'd like to join them.



There will be **NO VIGIL in May** – will resume in JUNE!

#### **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

#### **Music**

**Organist:** Larry Schipull

**Choir Director:** Mallory Coakley **Associate in Music:** Cynthia Morrell

**Office Administrator:** Cynthia Jubinville

**Sexton:** Robert Farman



#### 2024 registration is open!

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, half-week 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 <u>2024 Summer Camp Information Guide</u> - For more information about rules and what to expect, including a <u>sample schedule</u> and a <u>packing list</u>.

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

**Volunteers** - Learn more about being a volunteer <u>Dean</u> or <u>bunkroom</u>

<u>Counselor</u> and complete the <u>Summer Camp Volunteer Application</u> 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 4<sup>th</sup> grade through high school, & half week family camp programs. More information on camp sessions and registration is available at <a href="www.silverlakect.org">www.silverlakect.org</a>. 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.

# "Someday, Somewhere..." ~ The Music of Johnny Anz / CD Release Concert

Saturday, June 15, 2024 - 6:30 pm (doors open at 6)

Center Church

Tickets/Reservations go on sale April 1st with special pricing for church members:

- \* \$22.50 (general admission)
- \* \$90 (2 VIP / Preferred reserved seats, plus a CD)

Reservations w/ payment can be made through the church office or directly with John Anz (checks payable to Center Church).

And, if you are interested in helping the night of the concert, please contact John at <a href="mailto:anzfam4@gmail.com">anzfam4@gmail.com</a>.



## Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

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Carl P. Daw, Jr., wrote this text for The Hymnal 1982 (Episcopal), and expressly for the tune Bridegroom. Born and educated in England, composer Peter Cutts has served as music director for churches in Massachusetts and on the faculty of Andover Newton Theological School.

Tune: BRIDEGROOM 8.7.8.7.6.

Peter Cutts, 1969

### Many Are the Lightbeams

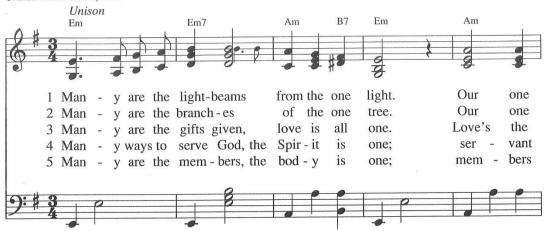
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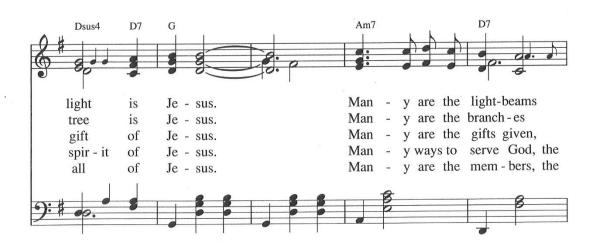
Cyprian of Carthage, "De unitate ecclesiae," 252 C.E.

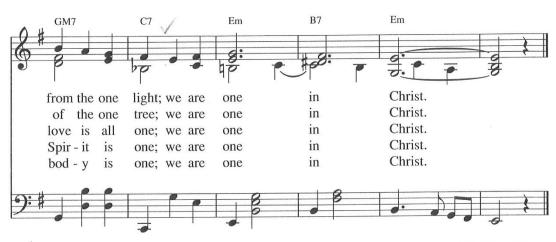
Swedish paraphr. by Anders Frostenson (b. 1906)

John 8:12; 9:5; 15:1–5; 1 Cor. 12:4–27; Gal. 3:28

Transl. David Lewis, 1983







The text upon which this hymn is based is by a bishop of the early church, Cyprian of Carthage. It was paraphrased from his 252 C.E. work, "De unitate ecclesiae" (Of church unity). He was martyred in Carthage c. 258.

Tune: LIGHTBEAMS Irr. Olle Widestrand (b. 1906) Arr. Darryl Nixon, 1987





John Keble, known for his volume of poems The Christian Year, helped to initiate the Oxford Movement in 1833 with his sermon on "National Apostasy." This movement sought to reinstate the liturgical practices of the medieval church. Tune: HURSLEY L.M.

Adapt. from GROSSER GOTT, WIR LOBEN DICH
Katholisches Gesangbuch, Vienna, c. 1774