



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH “Center Church”



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

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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 SixDegrees 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 On River Jordan's Banks I Stand.

*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

page 939

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

H. Fleischer

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:	Rev. Lori J. Souder
Scripture Reader:	Karen Anderson
Message for All:	Kate Hoffman
Organist:	Larry Schipull
Second Prelude Organist:	Cynthia J. Morrell
Choir Director:	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 sign-up 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 11th. 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 [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 [summer staff](#) 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.silverlakeect.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.

"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 anzfam4@gmail.com.

MUSIC at the **CENTER**
presents a
Jazz Productions
CD release and live performance for
Someday, Somewhere...
The Music of Johnny Anz

featuring
The Benny Benack Band
Benny Benack III (t, v), Alex Claffy (b), Joe Peri (d), Miki Yamanaka (p)

with very special guest, Anais Reno (v)

Saturday, June 15, 2024
Center Church | One Church Street | South Hadley, MA

Doors open at 6:00 pm
Concert at 6:30 pm

Admission:
\$25 in advance
\$30 at the door

Advance individual & preferred package ticket sales at:
www.eventbrite.com

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

270

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1982

Isa. 38:14; Rom. 8:26; 12:4-5; John 15:1-5

1 Like the mur - mur of the dove's song, like the chal - lenge of her
 2 To the mem - bers of Christ's bod - y, to the branch - es of the
 3 With the heal - ing of di - vi - sion, with the cease - less voice of

flight, like the vig - or of the wind's rush, like the
 Vine, to the church in faith as - sem - bled, to our
 prayer, with the power to love and wit - ness, with the

new flame's ea - ger might:
 midst as gift and sign: Come, Ho - ly Spir - it, come.
 peace be - yond com - pare:

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

163

Cyprian of Carthage, "De unitate ecclesiae," 252 C.E.
 Swedish paraphr. by Anders Frostenson (b. 1906)
 Transl. David Lewis, 1983

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

Unison

1 Man - y are the light-beams from the one light. Our one
 2 Man - y are the branch-es of the one tree. Our one
 3 Man - y are the gifts given, love is all one. Love's the
 4 Man - y ways to serve God, the Spir - it is one; ser - vant
 5 Man - y are the mem - bers, the bod - y is one; mem - bers

light is Je - sus. Man - y are the light-beams
 tree is Je - sus. Man - y are the branch-es
 gift of Je - sus. Man - y are the gifts given,
 spir - it of Je - sus. Man - y ways to serve God, the
 all of Je - sus. Man - y are the mem - bers, the

from the one light; we are one in Christ.
 of the one tree; we are one in Christ.
 love is all one; we are one in Christ.
 Spir - it is one; we are one in Christ.
 bod - y is one; we are one in Christ.

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 Widstrand (b. 1906)
 Arr. Darryl Nixon, 1987

Sun of My Soul, O Savior Dear

96

*John Keble, 1820; alt.**Luke 24:29; John 15:4-5*

1 Sun of my soul, O Sav - ior dear, it is not
 2 A - bide with me from morn till eve, for with - out
 3 Watch by the sick; en - rich the poor with bless - ings
 4 Come near and bless us when we wake, as through the

night if you are near; O may no earth - born
 you I can - not live; A - bide with me when
 from your bound - less store; Be ev - ery mourn - er's
 world our way we take, Till through your love which

cloud a - rise to hide you from your ser - vant's eyes.
 night is nigh, for with - out you I dare not die.
 sleep to - night, like in - fants' slum - bers, pure and light.
 knows no end we gain at last the peace of heaven.

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