

JULY / AUGUST 2024



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH "CENTER CHURCH"

United Church of Christ One Church Street South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075

(413) 532-2262

Email: <u>centerchurch@verizon.net</u> Website: <u>centerchurchsouthhadley.org/</u> 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.

Confirmation: Wanted...youth for Confirmation classes and Adults who wish to present their spiritual passions. Looking for youth in 7-10th grade who have yet to be confirmed (which in church lingo means to reaffirm your baptism and join the church with some hands - on lessons). Please let Lori know if your youth is interested in Confirmation this year. We will explore using all our senses.

We will have many church members involved to share the Spirit as to how one walks the path of Jesus. This is an opportunity for youth to discover the different ways members follow their faith: music, interfaith work, work with your hands, taking photography, love of books, etc...

"It takes a village," and joyful blessings, *Lori*



For worship in July, we are invited to join with our friends at the **Church of Christ, Granby** for worship **10:30 am**. (note later time) For the month of **August**, will worship together **at Center Church – worship at 10am**.

Please remember to keep your pledge payment current during the summer! If you bring your pledge offering to worship in Granby, please clearly mark that it is for Center Church and they will send it on to us. You may mail it in if you prefer. Have a wonderful summer!

The **Church office will be closed the weeks of July 2nd, July 11 - 23, and the week of August 19**th. Rev. Souder may be reached directly – email <u>lorijeansouder@gmail.com</u> or <u>cell 413-455-4401,</u> through the 17th of July. **Lori will be away July 18-26**, plus may take a vacation day or two to visit a grandbaby, who is favoring the womb, not making her entrance. Rev. Audrey Walker, Pastor of the Granby church, will be on pastoral call the week Lori is away – she may be reached on her cell phone at 413-530-1447.

Saturday July 6 – 10am Saturday August 3 – 10am Vigil for cease fire/release the hostages/no more genocide We have signs to use if you wish not print out one for yourself.

Hymn Sing: August 11th - Get ready by emailing the church office (<u>centerchuch@verizon.net</u>) with your favorite hymns from the Pilgrim or New Century Hymnal by August 6. We will sing the first two verses.

No Bible Study in July. Will have a **Bible Study**, the first three Thursdays **in August**. All are invited to join, in the Conference Room at Loomis Village.

Breakfast Conversations: July 10 - we will discuss gratefulness. Please send an interesting article or podcast to me if you wish to talk about it. After an extensive search, we will meet in Fellowship Hall in the church at 8am. Light food and beverage will be provided. Donations welcome.

DATES FOR TAG SALE DONATIONS DROP-OFF

Wednesdays 9am - noon July 3, 10, 17, 24 & 24 August 7



9am – Noon August 12 – 16, 19 - 23

> 9am - 3pm August 23 - 30



Last day to drop off donations - Sunday September 1

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

Situational:

Nancy Bozek, recuperating

Ryan Moore, Deb Moore's son

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

Sophia, MHC student, recuperating

If you have submitted one of these requests for prayer please let us know when it is time to remove someone's name.

ALL ARE WELCOME

And we like to know our visitors names ...

So, since they didn't fill out a visitor card we took a vote and named them.... meet...

Faith and Hope who came up the front stairs – and... *Patience* who checked us out from the tree across the street.

Rachel Alldis won first place by submitting all the winning names, but as she could only have one prize, Corinne Chartrand was awarded the second place prize for her entry of *Acorn* for the bear in the tree!



Faith and Hope



Patience – sometimes known as Acorn

CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION

The Promised Land Sunday School concluded the year with an opportunity to enhance the Church Street entrance with pollinator plants and flower seeds. The flower stems are beginning to appear and hopefully will attract butterflies and bees looking to flourish in their natural habitat. When Sunday School resumes in September, we will enjoy seeing the beauty of this lovely garden. Summertime is an opportunity for the Promised Land Sunday School to regroup and prepare for the next year. We wish you all a safe and blessed summer and look forward to seeing you back on September 8th . We may also have an informal gathering sometime in August – stay tuned! Be Well, and Happy Summer!

Kate Hoffman Director of Faith Formation for Children

Our Seminarian

GRANTING OF SPECIAL AWARDS (ilen K. Gray, '02 MDiv, '16 DMin Debra Mumford, Andrew Pomerville, Emalee Rose

The James W. Tinsley Award honors a graduating senior who has demonstrated commitment and perseverance in preparation for congregational ministry

The James W. Lewis Prize honors the graduating Master of Arts in Religion student who has maintained the highest GPA and demonstrated excellence in theological studies

The Joseph T. Sudduth Award honors the graduating senior who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in biblical studies

The Field Education Award is provided by the Presbyterian Women of St. Andrew Presbytery. It is given to a graduating senior who has shown outstanding accomplishments in their field education placements while maintaining a "B" average in other coursework

The Melanie Lane Preaching Award is given to an outstanding female student preacher

The Westminster John Knox Press Award for Creative Integration of Theology and Marriage and Family Therapy recognizes a graduate who has demonstrated outstanding creativity and ability to bring together theology, personal faith tradition, and marriage and family therapy theory in the clinical practice of marriage and family therapy

The Blue Lyles

Commencement Award honors the graduating senior who has made the greatest contribution toward seminary community life on the campus

The Bernice Bean and Gladys Kendall Prize for Academic Excellence honors the graduating senior who has distinguished themself for academic excellence during their course of study

The Alumni Award for the Outstanding Graduating Senior honors the graduate who excels in all facets of their education and potential for ministry

To the left is the listing of Awards given at the graduation ceremony at Louisville Seminary. Those with the check mark next to them went to our own Seminarian, Emily Carle. Congratulations Emily! You will surely be a blessing to those you serve.



Notes from Church Council

The Council met virtually on Tuesday June 4. Corinne Chartrand of Activities was Lead pro-tem. She opened the meeting at 7:01 p.m. Brian Lapis led us in a prayer for devotions. This then engendered a discussion about the use of laity in our church. Our *Think Tank* discussion revisited how and when we can utilize the "Big Brunch Meeting." Perhaps we can do this type of meeting on a "seasonal basis" and involve more participation by our members. It was agreed that Rachel Alldis, Corinne Chartrand and Brian Lapis would begin organizing such a meeting for after worship on September 29th. It is the Council's hope that these meetings will help to build "community." All the meetings will be open and attendees can come and go as needed. It is also hoped that these meetings will answer the problem of trying to find a "good time to meet" and eliminate redundancy. We don't need a model for these gatherings. It would be building on how we met during the recent "Sharing Brunch." This type of meeting would also help strengthen inter-generational get togethers. For any team information, please refer to their articles in the *Church at the Center* newsletter.

6/23/24

David C. Morrell, Clerk

News from the Trustees for July 2024

At its June meeting, it was noted that our 2024 church budget should be at 42% of its projected income and the same for the expenses. While the income came to 43.5%, the expenses were at 55.89% so both a just a tad over projections. Our final scholarship check was sent off to Emily Carle to help with her last semester of her master's of divinity studies. We send our congratulations to Emily for all her hard work over these three years and wish her well as her continues her journey toward ordained ministry! We also paid money toward the revamped church website, money toward a fire alarm system repair, purchased a second AED to be placed in the sanctuary (we now own two of them!) and we helped out with the insurance cost for the damage to a Tree of Life staff member's car due to ice falling from the back sanctuary roof. We were also thrilled to hear that our invested funds gained \$48,000 this past month! A painter was hired to work on the south end stairwell of the Lancaster building for the Tree of Life (TOL) folks (per state inspection). We are investigating two other painting projects as well for the summer months.

The TOL will be using the choir room for the little ones over this summer. The Odyssey continues to like and use our sanctuary for some of its author readings/book signings. The Lutheran Church is continuing to prepare meals occasionally as their contribution to the Cathedral in the Night in Northampton with David Morrell serving as their "clean-up guy." We also congratulated Randy P. (current trustee) as celebrating 40 years since his UCC ordination.

Barring any emergencies, the trustees will not meet in July but will return in August for a formal meeting. If you need to reach us, you can leave message with Thia in the office (532-2262) or contact Eliot Chartrand at (413-335-5559).

As always, please remember that even though we are not celebrating services at Center during July, there are still staff members working, building things happening, expenses to be paid. You are welcome to send your pledge payments directly to the church office anytime during the month or even drop by and hand it in directly whenever Thia is at work. You can also leave it in the Granby July Sunday collection plate and they will be sure to get it to us.

Happy summer - cindy morrell for the trustees

Outreach Team



Operation Backpack is a non-profit started by Sheila Adams of South Hadley to help children get school supplies required for school. Center Church will continue to collect items for our local kids.

Items needed are things like pens, pencils, markers, colored pencils, crayons, lined paper, 1 - 3 subject notebooks, rulers, glue sticks, pencil top erasers, erasers, scissors, backpacks and whatever you know kids need at various grade levels. Watch those school supply sales to start in early August or even

before that. Staples and Target usually have great prices.

During August the collection box will be on the sanctuary floor near the front, so you can bring your items on Sunday mornings. We will dedicate the school supplies on August 18 and then take them to Sheila. So Let's prepare to go shopping and fill that box to overflowing! Thank you Center Church.

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	Phone #: 4134677919	E-mail address: ginetteld	@comcast	net			
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Report on the 2024 CROP Walk from Ginette Desrochers of the Granby Church of Christ. Center Church sent \$375 to the cause.

Deacon's Message

Every Deacons meeting we start by having devotions, which can be a prayer, a poem, a reading, an article. It's up to the presenter. We take turns alphabetically. For our June 16th meeting, Rachael Alldis read the following from the book "The Pivot Year" by Brianna West.

Day 16

You may fear the quiet times in your life, when your soul goes through the winter. However, it's often those same times when the most profound and human work of all is being completed. Be still. Do nothing. It is both the quiet and the noise that writes the symphony, the blank canvas and the paint that makes the picture, the rest and the movement that gives you the wisdom, insight and clarity to press forward more boldly than ever before.

When we all reflected on the reading, we realized how it was a nice follow up to Pastor Lori's sermon which emphasized patience that day. No coincidences!

Activities Team

It's that time of year.... We are accepting donations for the tag sale! **Donations can be dropped off after church every WEDNESDAY in July and August 7, from 9am to noon; August 12-16 and 19-23 - 9am – noon; August 23 – 30 most of the day 9am – 3pm.** We all know this does not always work, so if you need to drop off at a different time in July, please call Karen (374-9156) or Corinne (219-6563); in August, please leave a message with the church office, 532-2262, and a team member will get back to you to arrange a time that is convenient. In consideration of the volunteers working, the last day for donations is Sunday, September 1st.

Event Dates: These are <u>new</u> dates. Please share!

Fall Fair & Tag Sale - September 7th and 8th

Holiday Bazaar - November 24th and 25th

Vendor Craft Fair- **December** 7th - We are now accepting applications.

The Tag Sale is an all-church event; its success is largely dependent on the items you bring in to be sold, and your willingness to help in the many tasks to put it together. During any of the drop off times, we welcome folks to help with set up. Please feel free to stop by for 1 to 2 hours or more and lend a hand.

Be sure to review the "What Does Not Sell" page as you pack up your treasures that need a new home.

Thank you!

REMEMBER... review the next page as you pack up your treasures!!



WHAT DOES SELL....

Please ONLY clean and in working order.....



Dishes Glassware Knick knacks Lamps Vases Jewelry

Artificial flowers Linens Decorative pillows <u>Small</u> furniture (end tables, bookcase)



Small appliances <u>in good condition</u> Pots and pans Hardware items

Art work Frames Baskets Purses & bags Hard cover & Paperback books

Decorations (indoor or outdoor) for any holiday <u>NOT Christmas</u> – we will have another collection time for Christmas Bazaar





ToysGamesPuzzlesStuffed animalsOutdoor children's toys



Please remember we are NOT accepting....

Large Furniture (couch, bed frames), Electronics, most sporting good items, records, reference books, old magazines and large household replacement items such as chandeliers, kitchen fixtures, etc.



Do you shop at Marshalls, The Christmas Tree Shop – or order from Amazon? Well the next time you have something wrapped up so it won't break, **save that wrapping for the Activities Team** to use when wrapping items from the Tag Sale. Newspaper can make for dirty items and dirty hands – so clean wrapping paper is much better. Please tuck it away and when you have a small pile drop it off at the church – or include it with your donating items. Thanks so Much!!



From the Church Historian



Mary Lyon 1797 - 1849

CENTER CHURCH AND MARY LYON

We embarked on an historic partnership with Mary Lyon and her Mount Holyoke Female Seminary in 1835. Our Center Church membership was

asked to make a donation towards the construction of the institution. It is said that she collected the donations in a "green velvet bag." In one day, our church raised \$8,000! That is an equivalent of over \$400,000 in today's dollars! The seminary building was completed in 1837. 80 students were admitted on November 8. We shared our second church

building with those students. One of the original incorporators of the Seminary who also became the first secretary of their Board of Trustees was our minister, Rev. Joseph Condit. He was a loyal friend and confidant of Miss Lyon. Our third church building was built to accommodate the growth of the student population. It was also used as the graduation site for many years! In



Rev. Joseph Condit our Minister from 1835-1847



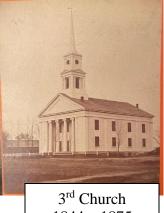
1844, Mary Lyon presented our church a new pulpit bible which is now known as the "Mary Lyon Bible." It was rescued from two fires and has become one of our church's "sacred relics!"

Mary Lyon was born February 28, 1797 (becoming one of eight siblings) in Buckland, MA. Her parents, who were married in 1784 on September 2, were Aaron Lyon, Jr. (a Scottish farmer) and Jemima Shepherd. Mary was educated in area schools and then went to Amherst Academy. Considered a pioneer in women's education, she eventually established Wheaton Female Seminary (now

Wheaton College) in 1834. Three years later Mount Holyoke Female Seminary (now Mount Holyoke College) was founded. At the seminary, she incorporated the curriculum of Amherst College. She endeavored to instill in her students the "importance of education for women." They were encouraged to "be as cornerstones" and taught to "go into the world and be instruments of good works." Her motto was "Go where no one else will go. Do what no one else will do."

Miss Lyon was the first president of the Seminary and was its administrator as well as a teacher. She became a member of Center Church in 1837. Over the years, we have evolved through a rich patchwork of history. Mary Lyon is an honored part of our 290 years (to date) history! We have reaped the reward of her steadfast courage to educate women and let the community know who we are through our strong ties with Mount Holyoke College! Mary Lyon died at the age of 52 of an influenza type of disease on March 5, 1849. She is buried on her beloved campus which is still a strong force in the world!

David C. Morrell, Center Church historian



1844 - 1875Destroyed by fire

07/2024

Tell Me the Stories – July 2024

Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior (NCH 551) actually comes with several source explanations. Fanny Crosby, who was blind at birth, was one of the best-known gospel hymn writers. She produced thousands of gospel hymn texts and is probably "the most widely sung hymnist in the world." She has four other texts in the NCH. It says she wrote this text in 1868 after visiting a NYC prison. She sent it to William Deane that evening saying she felt "completed to send him this hymn." He composed the music "Pass Me Not" that evening. They collaborated on many other hymns as well, including three additional ones in the NCH. Deane composed more than 2,200 hymn tunes over his lifetime and published over forty collections of songs. *CAC* 11/16

Our second hymn is *What a Covenant* or *What a Fellowship* (NCH 471). This hymn is listed in one of my sources as *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms* and these words are actually part of the text. The idea for the text came at a suggestion of a music publisher, Anthony Showalter. Showalter held singing schools in the South in local churches. He was most interested in his students and kept in touch with them in succeeding years. In 1887 after leading one such event, he was reading letters from two former pupils who had just lost their wives. He wanted to send them comforting words and came across a biblical passage (Deuteronomy 33:27) mentioning "everlasting arms." The words for a refrain came to him and he wrote Elisha Hoffman, one of his hymnist friends, saying that he could not come up with verses to go along with them. Elisha, a Pennsylvanian who was an ordained Evangelical minister, wrote the three stanzas and sent them back and the rest, as they say "is history." Hoffman served as an editor for an evangelical publishing house for a number of years. A Virginian born in 1858, Showalter, was both a composer, music teacher, and had his own publishing company, composed the tune "Leaning." This hymn has been published in more than 1,000 music books and translated into almost every language. *CAC* 7/12

As you can see, *Immortal Love, Forever Full* (NCH 166, PH 232) appears in both of our hymnals. One of my resources only gives it four short lines of explanation. It was based on the John Greenleaf Whittier poem "Our Master" which contained 38 stanzas when published in 1866! Born and growing up on a MA farm, Whittier discovered poetry at age 20. He became a journalist who was very active in the anti-slavery movement, and was a lifelong member of the Society of Friends. Whittier is quoted as saying "a good hymn is the best use to which poetry can be directed." While it was not his original intent, others of his time decided that it would actually be put to good use as a congregational hymn. The main difference comes in the "updated" wording found in the last three stanzas. Whittier has the text for two other hymns in the NCH. William Wallace composed the tune "Serenity" for a secular Scottish love song in 1856 and this is his hymn in either hymnal. A Brooklyn church organist, Uzziah Burnap, adapted the first section into a hymn tune. The title captures the sentiment of the poem. Wallace was an Irishman who became a professional musician at 15. He traveled extensively all over the world giving concerts but he also wrote seven operas as well as piano music. *CAC* 2/19

Thank Our God for Sisters, Brothers (NCH 397) is one of the newer hymns to us. It was actually written in 1948 for a Thanksgiving union service and was later used at the first gathering of the National Council of Churches in 1952. It was written by Roger Powell, an ordained American Baptist minister, who later became affiliated with the Colgate Rochester Divinity School. Looking at the words closely, you can see why it is/was a good one for either union services or services between different congregations or denominations. Powell actually has words for another hymn in the PH *Lord, We Thank Thee for Our Brothers* (268) but it is set to a different tune. The words are strikingly similar to the NCH one but are definitely updated. The anonymous tune "Pleading Savior" first appeared in <u>The Christian</u>

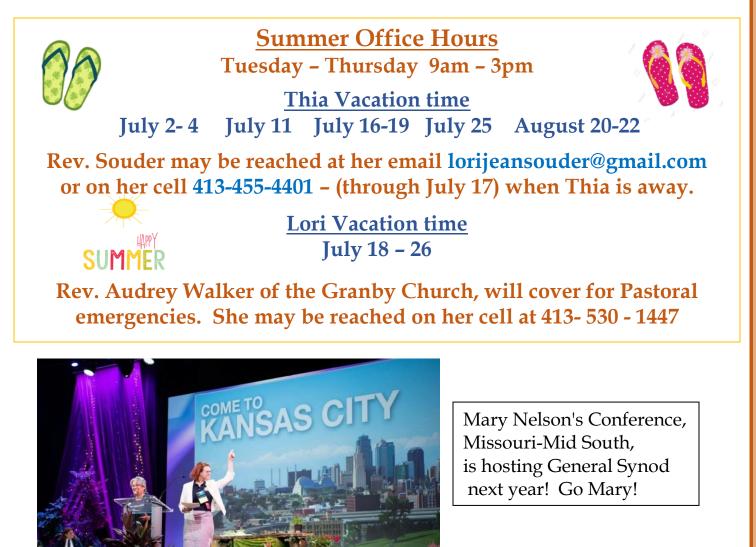
Lyre in 1831. That collection of hymns was considered a "landmark in American hymnals" although it was panned by some musical scholars at the time. When used in England, the tune was sometimes called "Saltash." The tune is also used once in the PH with different hymn. *CAC* 3/17

Our final hymn this time is *Incarnate God, Immortal Love* (NCH 414, PH 357). The latter is titled *Strong Son of God, Immortal Love*. The words were written in 1833 as a long poem by Alfred Tennyson after a good friend died but were not published until 1850. These text words came from the prologue to that poem. Tennyson was born in England, is considered one of her greatest poet, and became poet laureate in 1850. It is said that he was "affected by melancholy" most of his life. The tune "Rockingham" was adapted by Edward Miller, an Englishman, in 1790 from "Tunbridge" and was also called "Mayhew". It was named for Miller's patron and friend, the Marquis of Rockingham. The tune came from one of the most successful English hymnal collections which he edited. Miller himself was an accomplished organist, flautist and harpsichordist. Tennyson is associated with one other PH hymn but none others in the NCH, but Miller's tune is used for three NCH hymns and no others in the PH.



Cindy Morrell, associate in music

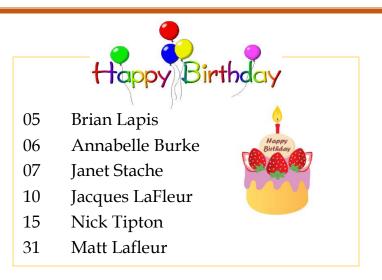
Resources used: <u>Handbook to the Church Hymnary</u>, ed. James Moffatt (1927); Robert J. Morgan's <u>Then Sings My Soul</u>, Book 1 (2003) and <u>Book 2</u> (2004); Kenneth W. Osbeck's <u>Amazing Grace</u> (1990); Jane Stuart Smith and Betty Carlson's <u>Great</u> <u>Christian Hymn Writers</u> (1997); Ronald Thomson's <u>Who's Who of Hymn Writers</u> (1967); and <u>The New Century Hymnal</u> <u>Companion</u>, ed. Kristen Forman (1998)





- 05 Helen Gage
- 12 Chloe Hough
- 22 Cora Hough
- 25 Klara Sokop







Thia's family welcomed baby Brayden (Brady) William Lubold on June 5th - (just 3 hours and 45 minutes after his mom's birthday).

He is much loved by his big sister Brynley, as well as his mom and dad, Laura and Rob, his Grammy Thia, and his Auntie Kate.

As of today, Lori's family still awaits the birth of Lori's granddaughter! We'll have a picture for the September C@C.

THE MINISTRY AT CENTER CHURCH

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

Christian Education Program Children: Kate Hoffman Youth:

Music

Organist: Choir Director: Associate in Music:

Larry Schipull Mallory Coakley Cynthia Morrell

Office Administrator: Sexton:

Cynthia Jubinville Robert Farman



The Church Office will be closed the weeks of July 1 and 15 when Thia is on vacation. It will also be closed July 11 and 25

Worship is at the Church of Christ in Granby at <u>10:30 am</u>

July 3 Tag Sale Drop off 9am - noon

July 6 Vigil for cease fire/release the hostages/no more genocide

July 10 Breakfast Conversation 8am FHall Tag Sale Drop off 9am - noon

July 17 Tag Sale Drop off 9am - noon

July 24 Tag Sale Drop off 9am – noon

July 31 Tag Sale Drop off 9am - noon

Tag Sale donations are alco accepted on Sundays following worship.

There are NO TEAM MEETINGS IN JULY



The Church Office will be closed the week of August 19 when Thia is on vacation.

Worship is at Center Church at 10am

August 7 Tag Sale Drop off 9am - noon

August 3 Vigil for cease fire/release the hostages/no more genocide

August 6 Church Council 7pm Zoom

August 12 Outreach Team 7pm

August 14 Trustees 7pm Zoom

August 12-16 Tag Sale Drop off 9am-noon

August 18 Deacons 11:30am

August 23– 30 Tag Sale Drop off 9am -3pm

Tag Sale donations are alco accepted on Sundays following worship. The LAST DAY for dropping off donations will be Sunday September 1

Summer Worship Schedule

July August Joint Worship at the **Church of Christ Granby** <u>10:30am</u> Joint Worship at **Center Church** <u>10am</u>

Center Church on the Web

Website: https://centerchurchsouthhadley.org/

Email: centerchurch@verizon.net Facebook: Center Church of South Hadley MA

Instagram: @centerchurchsouthhadley

