

# CHURCH AT THE CENTER

JUNE 2016



## FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH "CENTER CHURCH"

United Church of Christ

One Church Street

South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075

(413) 532-2262

email: [centerchurch@verizon.net](mailto:centerchurch@verizon.net)

website: [centerchurchsouthhadley.org](http://centerchurchsouthhadley.org)

*Welcome to Center Church where we roll up our sleeves to deepen our faith, extend God's abundant love and justice, and where laughter and tears are sacred.*

*Here's a snap shot of what the Confirmands plan to be doing at age 25. In twelve years from now what are your hopes and dreams, for yourself, for the church. May we support one another in our shared journey!*

**Samantha Beyer:** Director of movies and plays, She will have traveled a lot so she doesn't know where she will settle. She will be married.

**Ella Francis:** Unmarried, working for *National Geographic* traveling the world, living near Washington DC.

**Ryan Gage:** Living maybe in CA and married.

**Lily Griffin:** In graduate school, planning to be an inventor, unmarried, unclear where she will live.

**Zoe Huebner:** Working with small children, living in South Hadley, unsure about being in a relationship, definitely doing art.

**Avery Lapis:** In law school at Syracuse or University of Michigan, married or getting married, living in MA, will own a ½ pitbull/½ golden lab puppy.

**Zoe Lapis:** If there's no apocalypse, nurse practitioner, married, living in Hadley with a chocolate lab.

**JB Pontes:** Designer of a new Jurassic World, married with no kids, own wicked sports' cars, have homes in MA, Germany and Brazil.

**Allison Smith:** In graduate school, maybe living in MA.

**Fletcher Smith:** Not living with Ally, maybe in college, but definitely in MA, no significant relationship.

**Jared Waite:** In graduate school, owning a dog and living in MA.

**Logan Waite:** In graduate school, not living with Jared but somewhere in MA, participating in amateur sports.

**Olivia Wilson:** Interning in hospital as a radiologist, no significant relationship, unclear where she will reside.

*Blessings to all Lori*

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On **Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup>** we welcome **Attorney Hyman Darling** to share with us the latest ideas on making plans for the unknown future. He will discuss our concerns about health and family assets. Join us for an interesting and rewarding program after worship. Following this session we will serve a light luncheon. **PLEASE JOIN US!**

**Adult Education: Iona, Scotland.** A potluck and presentation in the chapel on June 8 between 6:00 PM and 8:00 PM. Randy Purinton and Anita Sarro will share their experience visiting the famous retreat center on the west coast of Scotland. Pictures of the visit will be arranged in the PowerPoint format. Bring an entree or a side dish - your personal favorite. Dessert and beverage will be provided.



**PLANT SALE** Thank you to all who donated plants, bought plants, or helped with the sale. In spite of the weather it was a wonderful success. When the books are closed the gross should be about \$1500.00! **Heartfelt thanks to Karen Anderson**, our outstanding Chairperson, who gave endless hours of her time to this project – and to her assistant David Morrell. We thank them for their leadership as well as that of Eliot Chartrand who headed up the “goodies” table. We are also grateful to the Morrells for their special contribution. Remember to save the containers from the plants you buy now for next year’s sale!



**Coffee Hour-** Thank you, Stewardship Team for being such wonderful hosts during our May coffee hours. During **June, the Human Resource Team** will be our hosts. This team oversees and coordinates terms and conditions of engagement and termination for all paid positions at the church, with the exception of the senior pastor. They make recommendations to the Trustees on compensation, benefits and periodic adjustments for staff. Human resource members work with the Pastor-Congregation Relations team for pastoral job performance evaluations as needed. The team is also responsible for the employee handbook, relative to the descriptions, conditions, and the like. Members of this team are: Brian Lapis (facilitator), Karen Anderson, Suzanne Cordes, Anita Sarro, Donna Theroux, Kiki Tipton (trustee designee) and Nancy Towne.



### Coffee Fellowship

### Important Reminder:

The next edition of **Church at the Center** will come out **June 22nd** and **will include information for July and August**. There is no August edition. Please think ahead to any team/group summer activity that will need to be “advertised” and plan to submit it to Thia **BY JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup>!** With summer hours and Thia away - time is limited!

**Thanks! And have a wonderful summer!!**

# Center Church Sunday School

## The Promised Land: Looking Back, Looking Forward!



What a year it's been in the Promised Land! We began in the fall with a unit on the miracle of the loaves and fishes, and found our own places of participation in Christ's ministry by creating toys for a local boy who is battling a serious illness, cleaning up Beachgrounds Park, and making sandwiches for Kate's Kitchen.

In October, five of our children celebrated their First Table with a beautiful service and festive coffee hour. We explored the story of Zacchaeus, reflecting that we are all called to friendship with Jesus. We raised funds for the

hungry in the CROP Walk and oversaw children's activities for our Columbus Day tag sale.



In November, our unit focused on the sisters Martha and Mary, and how we make time for God, while we made time for the veterans in our congregation by baking cinnamon twists to make Veteran's Day a little sweeter.



We had a simple shepherd pageant to celebrate the start of Advent, and gave out homemade sheep ornaments to our Center Church family.



Our December unit explored the idea that Christ is born in our hearts every day! We were glad to share ideas with Mrs. Giles and her good friend Hairy Bear as we prepared for a joyous Christmas celebration. We collected food and

delivered it to the Neighbors Helping Neighbors Food Pantry.



January was our month to WAKE UP! with the miracle of the raising of Lazarus and our Promised Land play. We woke up the congregation singing King of Kings with our wonderful choir and Linda Laderach on violin. We remembered our animal friends with bird feeders and a supply drive for Dakin Animal Shelter.



Our February focus was on Jesus as the Good Shepherd. We honored our community firefighters, EMTs, and police officers with “sheep cakes” to thank them for being Good Shepherds in South Hadley.

In March, we were honored to sing Adoramuste Christe with the choir, and we reviewed the events of Holy Week with our unit Empty Tomb, Full Hearts!

In April, we learned the parable of the sower, and talked

about how we can make our hearts into “good soil” to grow and share God’s love. We planted marigolds to take home to remind us of Jesus’ message.



And in May, we capped our year with a unit called We Are the Church! We reminded ourselves that the church is not made of bricks and bells, but of people, all gathered to explore the messages of the Gospel together.

We collected art supplies to share with temporarily homeless children as part of our “being the church” in outreach. And we are the church, indeed, not just on Sundays in worship, but every day, and everywhere. Wherever we walk, we walk with God. Amen!



Thank you to all our good friends at Center Church for your support of the Promised Land. We are so grateful to be able to play, pray, and share Jesus’ Good News in our beautiful space, with our wonderful families, in communion with you!

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*To the newest members of Center Church who joined by Confirmation on May 15<sup>th</sup>.*



*Samantha Beyer, Ella Francis, Ryan Gage, Lily Griffin, Zoe Huebner, Avery Lapis, Zoe Lapis, Allison Smith, Fletcher Smith, Jared Waite, Logan Waite and Olivia Wilson.*

*Check out the bios for the Confirmands later in this issue*

## News from the Trustees for June 2016

The trustees were very pleased to welcome our new church treasurer, John Hoffman, "on board" and to our meeting! Our operating funds should stand at 33% income and expenses for the end of April. [At our trustees' meeting each month, we receive a report on the financial health of the church up through the end of the previous month. Because of deadlines, each new CAC always looks like we are behind by one month. Rest assured that the office administrator and the treasurer are always up-to-date on our finances.] Our income stood at 37.3% while expenses have come in at 38% and we are carefully watching any lines which are listed with higher amounts than these. We were fortunate this past winter season to have snow removal assistance from Bob our sexton, Eliot Chartrand and other trustees in keeping the cost down. Of course, we are always happy when the income lines are higher than the expenses, especially when said income was not expected!

Lori reported excitedly that there will be 13 confirmands joining the church on May 15 and that this group has provided many thoughtful conversations and comments over their time together. She praised all who have been involved in the growth of these incredible young people over the years. Al Duffy reported that the fire drill for the Sunday School had gone very well and that the Fire Dept. folks were very please. They have made a couple of suggestions which will be acted upon. Town and College police also participated. Thanks to Stephanie for her hard work on this and to Al as well. In April, an outside group came to record their music up in the sanctuary and they want to come back again. It was a positive experience for all. We are pleased that Adam Suska, our window "expert" is back again working on the windows in the bell tower. The trustees, along with Shannon Walsh who has taken over from Greg Farmer, continue to work towards getting the church on the National Register of Historic Places. She hopes to have the paperwork ready for the State by July 31 and to hear back by Labor Day. Once that hurdle is crossed, then the application goes to the National Register folks. As is the custom, the trustees will be meeting as usual in June and then take one month off. As always, if you have any concerns about the building or our finances, please let Thia in the office know and she will direct you to the correct trustee.

*Cindy Morrell, for the Trustees*

## NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

At the May meeting of Council, we heard a presentation by Randy Hyvonen who is presently serving on the state UCC conference board of directors. He talked to us about the proposal that is being discussed at the state level which would combine the Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts conferences. He outlined the possible advantages and disadvantages to this union. After his presentation, council members discussed this proposal using guideline questions given to us by Randy. It was stressed that this is just a proposal that is being closely studied.

Council endorsed the appointment of Douglas Smith to fill a one year term on the Usher team.

Council then received reports from various teams.

### **Church in Transition-**

On May 15<sup>th</sup> the following Confirmands became members of Center Church:

Samantha Sue Beyer, Ella Manning Francis, Ryan Matthew Gage, Lily Grace Griffin, Zoe Elizabeth Huebner, Avery Rose Lapis, Zoe Lyn Lapis, Joao Bernardo Pontes, Allison Jean Smith, Fletcher Samuel Smith, Logan Christopher Maxwell Waite, Jared Clayton Maxwell Waite. Olivia Sinah Guild Wilson



## Outreach Partners of the Month

*"Hearts to Hands to Hope"*

### **Neighbors Helping Neighbors - An Outreach Partner for June**

Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN), the South Hadley food pantry, helps people with their food needs in an atmosphere of dignity and respect. On May 3rd, NHN participated in Valley Gives Day along with other charities in the Pioneer Valley. The Center Church Outreach Team pledged \$500 from its budget funds as a challenge fund that NHN could use on Valley Gives Day to appeal for matching funds from individuals. This approach garnered about \$500 of additional contributions.

NHN opened in January of 2011 and is located in the United Methodist Church, at 30 Carew Street. They are staffed with many dedicated volunteers and serve about 150 families a month. Fresh vegetables from the South Hadley Community Garden and other donors are available in season. NHN provides between six to eight days of food each month for each household member and also provides personal care products, household products, and dog and cat food.

Please consider adding your additional support for Neighbors Helping Neighbors by placing your contribution in the basket on Sunday (note NHN on your check or envelope); volunteering to sort food, stock the shelves, and bag groceries for clients; or donating food items. For more information about the Neighbors Helping Neighbors food pantry, talk to members of the Outreach Team, visit the NHN web site (<http://www.nhnfoodpantry.org>), or call NHN at 530-8240.

### **Blankets Plus - Thank You**

Thank you for your generous support for the Blankets+ collection on Mother's Day, May 8th. Donations of \$305.00 were received and sent along to Blankets+ Program of Church World Service (CWS) to help provide emergency resources and long-term assistance to help families around the world recover from disasters and build viable, sustainable lives and communities.

### **Thank You - from Girls Inc**

Suzanne Parker, Executive Director of Girls Inc, sent us a nice thank you letter for our donation in May of \$500. On behalf of the hundreds of girls in the program, Susanne thanked us for our loyal support over the years and for helping Girls Inc toward their fundraising goal this year.

### **New Americans Project**

They're ready! The kitchen and bathroom collection boxes are up by the Church Street entrance and they're already filling up with essentials for the newest Americans arriving this month! In May we completed and delivered 2 kitchen and 3 bathroom kits! Lists of needed items are posted by each box and in the worship bulletin and include cooking and tableware, kitchen towels, soap, toothpaste, band-aids, etc. We expect to collect through June and then post new lists of other needed items this fall. Thank you, thank you!!

There are eleven family groups expected to arrive in May, several related to each other, most from the Democratic Republic of Congo in Central Africa and Bhutan in South Asia. As refugees, they are coming with very few possessions and certainly many mixed emotions. Jewish Family Service (JFS) will have apartments lined up, greeters, guides, and a whole list of services in place to help folks settle in, find work and learn how to make their way in this new place.

As some of us learned in a visit to JFS, we can help with household kits and in other ways as well. Volunteers clean and set up apartments for new residents. They help tutor new language learners, either in English as a second language, or in basic literacy, using a prepared curriculum. They help aspiring citizens prepare for an interview about their applications for citizenship. Sometimes volunteers act as community guides or just friends, going grocery shopping or to a playground with new residents.

In order to provide continuity, JFS would like tutors to commit to 1 ½ to 2 hours once a week for a minimum of six months, or, if we create partnering or paired tutors, we might explore an every other week or another kind of more flexible commitment. Tutoring happens in Springfield, so we might consider forming a weekly carpool. Please let anyone on the subcommittee know of your interest in this or other volunteer roles, and to receive a volunteer application form. (Members are Betty Innocent, Karen Hyvonen, Del Borah, Anita Sarro, and Don Sibley).

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## **STEWARDSHIP UPDATE**

It was a pleasure to be able to host Coffee Hour in May. We hope all enjoyed great fellowship. An extra "thank you" and congratulations are in order for our youth, confirmands and all the moms among us who made so many of our Fellowship hours in May extra special!

**THANK YOU for your generosity to Center Church!** Thanks to so many who took a great *Leap of Faith* and pledged what they could to help Center Church meet its many ambitious goals and crucial needs. As of today, the pledge status is...

**2016 TOTAL PLEDGED ~ \$169,516.00**

**2016 pledge fulfillment to date ~ \$65,908.00**

**2016 pledge fulfillment *expected* to date ~ \$56,500.00**

**Current year pledge fulfillment *difference* to date ~ + \$9,408.00**

As we head into summer, please try to keep your own pledges current and up to date. Mid-year pledge statements will be mailed in July if you are unsure of your own status. And please also note that while these numbers may appear positive, many in our community have already paid their total pledge for the year in advance, and our total dollars pledged come year-end will still be far short of what is required to fully balance the budget. Staying current – or even ahead – with your own pledge fulfillment will be critical as the year progresses and comes to an end. And it is never too late to pledge if you haven't already.

***Your Stewardship Team***

## Getting to Know You – June 2016

### 2016 Confirmation Class



**Samantha Sue Beyer** Samantha is in the 9th grade, she goes to South Hadley High for 1/2 day for her academics, and the other 1/2 of the day she goes to LPVC (Lower Pioneer Valley Collaborative) aka C-tech in West Springfield for Digital Visual Communication. She is learning about Photoshop. She likes to go to the beach and look for sea glass and shells (Beach combing). Samantha enjoys putting movie clips and music together to make her own type of video. She has been at Center church for 3 years now.

**Ella Manning Francis** Ella is a seventh grader at Michael E. Smith Middle School. She has been going to Center Church for almost five years. In her free time, she likes to read, listen to music and play basketball. She is also part of the drama club at the middle school with her friends and has recently been inducted into the National Junior Honor Society.

**Ryan Matthew Gage** Ryan has been attending Center Church since preschool, about nine years. He is in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade at the Michael E. Smith Middle School. Ryan enjoys playing soccer, hanging out with friends, playing video games and eating snacks. His favorite subjects are Math, PE and Lunch.

**Lily Grace Griffin** Lily is thirteen years old. She is in seventh grade at The Macduffie School. She loves to play Soccer, Basketball and golf with her dad. She also loves to read and be outdoors. She feels blessed to be part of the Center Church community and always feels welcomed.

**Zoe Elizabeth Huebner** Zoe is 13 years old and lives in South Hadley. She is in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade at Granby Jr. Sr. High school. Zoe has been attending the church all of her life. She has mom, and 3 sisters, a dog and 2 rabbits. She loves art and babysitting.

**Avery Rose Lapis** Avery is a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at Hopkins Academy. She plays soccer, softball and is a cheerleader. She sings in the chorus at Hopkins and plays the clarinet in the band. Avery has been coming to Center Church ever since she was born (13 years). She enjoys spending time at Silver Lake, her UCC summer camp and winter retreat center.

**Zoe Lyn Lapis** Zoe is a seventh grader at Hopkins Academy. She has been at Center Church since she was born. Zoe has been dancing at Northampton School of Dance for 4 years, and has been on a competitive tap dancing team for 3 years. Her home away from home is Silver Lake Conference Center, where she enjoys UCC summer camp, and retreats all year round. ("Come to think of it, I've been going to Silver Lake since I was a baby!") Zoe's favorite subject in school is math.

**João Bernardo (JB) Pontes** Joao (joo-oun), also known as J.B. attends Paul R Baird Middle School, in Ludlow MA. He is in seventh grade. He is an honor student and enjoys many activities. Joao has been coming to Center Church for about 4 years now and really enjoys his youth group friends. He plays soccer and basketball and is running track and field this Spring. Joao's interests include cars, legos, technology and watching soccer. He enjoys reading fantasy and some non-fiction books. Joao lives with mom Joanne and dad Hugo and his brother Sammy.

### **Allison Jean Smith**

Allison is a seventh grader at Michael E. Smith Middle School. She's been going to Center Church for twelve years. She plays soccer, participates in her school's band, and does a variety of other activities.

### **Fletcher Samuel Smith**

Fletcher is a ninth grader at South Hadley High School. He's been going to Center Church for about twelve years. He loves to ride roller coasters and also is in the school band. He likes to play Minecraft and build Legos.

**Logan Christopher Maxwell Waite** Logan is 14 years old, in 8th grade at Michael E Smith Middle School (high honors) and plays AAU basketball for the Jaguars right now. He has a Jr. membership to the Orchards golf course and plans on spending his summer golfing, playing basketball, hanging out at the Commons with his friends, fishing, being outdoors, and mowing the lawn for his parents (though he may not truly enjoy the last one).

**Jared Clayton Maxwell Waite** Jared is 14 years old, in 8th grade at MESMS (high honors) and plays baseball for the South Hadley Tigers right now. He has a Jr. Membership to the Orchards and plans on playing as much golf as possible. Jared loves basketball and hanging with friends, and collecting key chains from every state. He's looking forward to camping in VT again this summer and going to Maine.

**Olivia Sinah Guild Wilson** Olivia is a 9th grader at South Hadley high school. She excels in her studies and made the varsity field hockey team as a freshman. She has attended Center Church since first grade and took her First Table Fellowship here while also attending the Promised Land Sunday school classes through out elementary school. Olivia has confidently served as an acolyte during Easter services. During middle school she was an active member of youth group and has attended several retreats at Camp Becket. Olivia enjoys playing field hockey, baking and spending time with her friends and family.

# 1 WOODBRIDGE STREET (MOUNT TOM ACADEMY)

During our recent successful annual plant sale, a volunteer helping with the sales asked about 1 Woodbridge Street. "What is that building on the corner across from us?" Many of us pass it everyday. From the outside, it is a brick building resembling someone's home. But after looking back in the archives, it was much more than that!

The original parcel of land may have been part of Center Church's property that was granted by the King of England in the early 1700s for a place of worship. About 100 years later, the land was owned by the Woodbridge family and that lot was sold to Maltby Strong. In 1833, Mr. Strong sold it to Edward Hooker who was a young lawyer. Mr. Hooker's wife was the former Mary Anna Dwight whose family owned the house which is now a bed and breakfast establishment on the corner of Silver and Woodbridge Streets. It was relocated there from the corner of Church and College Streets (where Dwight Hall now stands). The 1 Woodbridge Street lot remained empty and sold back to Center Church in 1846. In May of 1851 the Church then gave permission to Moses Montague and a 19-member "corporation" of the parish to form the South Hadley Academy Association. A building had already been erected and became known as the Mount Tom Academy. It was to compete with the Hopkins Academy in Hadley and the Deerfield Academy in Deerfield, but it was not successful.

From 1857 until 1864, it was used as the town's high school. After that, it was "conveyed" back to Center Church which used it as a chapel for weekly prayer meetings. From 1865-81 the "corporation" sold two shares to the "famous" area Ingraham Band, so that they might have a place for their rehearsals. The band played for many community and college functions. One of their major events was the popular annual "skating carnival" held at Mount Holyoke College. John D. Rockefeller donated the funds to have a skating rink built for the gathering. Once the Band disbanded, College president, Elizabeth Mead (wife of our former minister Hiram Mead) refused to hire any "outside" bands to take their place. At that point, skating carnivals ceased on campus.



**1 Woodbridge Street**  
(Mount Tom Academy)

In 1882, the building was sold to Miss Elizabeth Newell. She rented the first floor as doctors' offices. She operated a hat shop for women on the second floor. In 1912, Miss Newell sold the building to Mr. Robert Glesmann, whose family owned and operated Glesmann's Drug Store (known to the locals as "Glessie's"). It was Mr. Glesmann who finally turned it into a bonifide residence for his family. After his widow died, it was sold to Mount Holyoke College in 1974. Today it is used as various offices for the College.

**David Morrell,**  
Center Church historian

## Tell Me the Stories – June 2016

*Shall We Gather at the River?*'s (NCH 597) anthem version has been one of the choir's favorites. Both the hymn tune and words were written by Robert Lowry. A Baptist preacher in the mid-1800s in the Eastern U.S., his sermons could "thrill an audience with his vivid descriptions." He is best known however, for his hymns for which he actually began writing tunes in childhood. As he matured, he realized that he could get his message to many more folks using hymns instead of sermons. He wrote both hymn tunes or words or both, depending on the circumstances. This hymn is his best known. This is actually a song about heaven, even though some churches use it for baptisms. He said that he wrote it on a summer day in "Hanson Place", Brooklyn – hence the name of the hymn tune. The day was very hot and he was thinking about the "cool, crystal river that flows through the city of God" as described in Revelation 22. The verses began to come to him with a question "Shall we gather?" and were answered with a chorus of "Yes, we'll gather." He said the hymn developed itself and the music just came along with the words. [Originally written for March 2005.]

We sang *This is My Song* (NCH 591) last Sunday (5/22). The words were written in the years between WW I and II by Lloyd Stone. A Californian by birth, he moved to Hawaii in 1936 where he taught both public school and at the University. In addition to writing the two stanzas that we sang, a third one was also written at the request of the Wesleyan Service Guild and the hymn became a favorite of the Methodist Church. The hymn tune which is very familiar to us all, "Finlandia," was written as a "tone poem" by Jean Sibelius of Finland. Sibelius wrote many of his musical pieces based on folk tales and national myths. It is said that when this piece was first performed in Helsinki, it was such a hit that the occupying Russian government then refused to allow it to be performed again. It is a plea for peace "among all nations, races and cultures" and it ended our service. It was a very poignant selection to follow Randy Hyvonen's sermon about their connection to Terezin but also resisting the power of evil. The sentiment expressed is one that speaks to the state of our very fractured world today (as it did in 2007). [Updated from July/August 2007.]

*All Things Bright and Beautiful* (PH 478) was composed by Cecil Alexander whose husband, William, advanced from parish minister to bishop and finally archbishop of Ireland. While we don't remember much about her husband, we do remember Cecil because of her hymns. She wrote a number of poems which were then turned into hymns. Three of her other well-known hymns are *Once in Royal David's City*, *Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult*, (featured in the March '07 hymn writeups) and *There is a Green Hill Far Away*. She was a Sunday school teacher who developed a variety of simple hymns "to explain the phrases and truths of the Christian faith to little ones." Published in 1848, *Hymns for Little Children* became "one of the most successful hymn-publishing projects in history" with over 100 editions. She also wrote a number of other books and hymnals. The hymn was originally set to John Stainer's tune "God in Nature." The PH lists the tune name as "Royal Oak" and says it was a traditional English melody adapted by Martin Shaw. In case the words "All Creatures Great and Small" ring a bell, you may recall four popular books (and a very successful PBS series) written by James Herriot, a country veterinarian, using the words of her refrain. [Written for September 2007.]

*Let Us With a Gladsome Mind* (NCH 16) is based on Psalm 136 and was one of 19 psalm paraphrases written by John Milton. Milton was still a student in England when he wrote this piece at age 15. He was a supporter of Oliver Cromwell's revolution. Blindness forced him to dictate many of his poems including *Paradise Lost*. Thomas Troeger adapted his original words for the NCH version. The hymn tune "An Ancient Litany" was first printed in 1850, but was later changed to "Innocents" because it was originally composed to honor the children martyred by Herod and sung on December 28.

Cindy Morrell, Associate in Music

Resources used: Ace Collins' *Stories Behind the Hymns that Inspire America* (2003); James Moffatt, ed. *Handbook to the Church Hymnary* (1927); Robert J. Morgan's *Then Sings My Soul* (2003) and *Book 2* (2004); Kenneth W. Osbeck's *Amazing Grace* (1990), *101 Hymn Stories* (1982), *101 More Hymn Stories* (1985), 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).

# Columbus Day Fair - 2016

Please don't forget us!! This major fundraiser depends on you! Of course we need your help in October for a myriad of tasks during the sale itself.... and we need your support in the purchase of the many emporium items....HOWEVER, we also need your help now to supply those items you no longer want; but that someone else will think is a "find"! Items can be dropped off in Fellowship Hall anytime that the church office is open. Most Tuesday mornings there will be folks there to help you bring the items in from your car. If you would like to drop items off at a time when the church is not open, please just call the office and we will arrange a time convenient for you. Thanks...

## SPRING HOUSECLEANING....

remember the Columbus Day Fair Emporium....



Bring your items to Fellowship; Hall....  
Please have them clean and in working order....

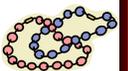
## WHAT DOES SELL....

*We look forward to receiving, marking (pricing) and selling:*



Dishes   Glassware   Knick knacks   Jewelry   Lamps

Artificial flowers   Linens   Decorative pillows   Vases



Small appliances in good condition   Pots and pans   Hardware items

Pictures   Frames   Purses & bags   Baskets   Hard cover books



Decorations (indoor or outdoor) for any holiday   Paperback books

Toys   Games   Puzzles   Stuffed animals   outside children's toys



*This is not an all inclusive list. If any questions, give us a call!*

**Please remember we are NOT accepting....** Electronics, most sporting good items, records, reference books, old magazines and large household replacement items such as chandeliers, kitchen fixtures, etc.



- 01 Marjorie Buschner  
Cory Rundle  
Pam Thornton
- 04 Laura Jubinville
- 05 Brian Irish  
Tim Pietras
- 07 Emily Pietras  
Chad Irish
- 09 Kristina Constant
- 10 Chelsea Narey
- 11 Becky McArthur
- 12 David Morrell
- 14 Joyce Roberts
- 18 Gregg Rundle
- 22 John Hoffman
- 24 Lucy Hough
- 27 Estelle Anderson



### Summer Office Hours

Tuesday - Thursday

9am - 4pm

Thia Vacation time

June 23 - July 5      July 19 - 21  
August 16-18

The Church Office will be open from  
9am-noon when Thia is away.

*Thank You Karen Sabbs for office-sitting.*

### Joint Summer Services



July 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31  
Church of Christ Granby 10am  
235 State Street

August 7, 14, 21 and 28  
Center Church 10am

*Please remember to keep your pledges up to date over the summer months. Although we are not always worshiping in our building, the bills continue to arrive daily. Be assured that if you put your envelope or check in the collection plate at the Granby church, it will be picked up and delivered to Center Church. Or, if you prefer, you can mail your check directly to the church at One Church Street. Pledge statements will be sent out the middle of July.*

*Thanks and have a great summer!*

### Social Dance Lessons @ Center Church



Thursday Beginner / Intermediate Group

6:30 - 7:30pm \$5/person/lesson

October 20 - December 8 2016

Learn Swing, Rumba, & More!      No Partner Needed

Social Dance Time 7:30 - 8 pm is included



Your Instructor: Jeannette LoPresti [JLoPresti@Charter.net](mailto:JLoPresti@Charter.net)

**Stop in - Join in - Have Fun!**



**SAVE THE DATE! June 14<sup>th</sup> Edwards Church 6pm  
Special Hampshire Association Meeting to  
Discuss the Proposed Merger of the  
MA, CT and RI U.C.C. Conferences  
With a Presentation by**

**Rev. Kelly Gallagher, Associate Conference Minister**

Background information available at [www.macucc/rimact.org](http://www.macucc/rimact.org)

The Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst's  
**Big BIG Tag Sale** is happening on Saturday, June 4, 2016 from  
9am-3pm in the Meetinghouse at 121 N. Pleasant Street, Amherst.

Don't miss this event filled with great items, including collectables, kitchenware,  
small appliances, toys, office supplies, art objects, small furniture and more.  
Come for the sale; stay for the fun. All proceeds support the environmental,  
social justice and other ministries of the UU Society of Amherst. For more  
information, contact [sandysladden@gmail.com](mailto:sandysladden@gmail.com)



**On the first Sunday of each month,  
please bring any of the following items to worship:**

Canned vegetables

Canned fruits

Cereals

Soups

Dried Pastas

Rice

Canned beans

Tuna Fish

Peanut Butter

Jam/Jelly



Juices

Crackers

Spaghetti sauce

Meals in a can

The monthly offering is used for direct appeals to Center Church  
and for donation to local food pantries.

Our gifts are extended to the hungry and the poor - those who need them most!  
Food offerings may be left inside the Church Street entrance at other times.

**Thank you for your compassionate response!**

## **THE MINISTRY AT CENTER CHURCH**

Ministers:

All Church Members

Senior Minister

Rev. Lori J. Souder

Minister Emeritus:

Rev. Charles P. Blakney

### Christian Education Program

Children: Stephanie Strand

Youth: Claire Houston

Adult: Randy Purinton and

Betsy Bergen, Team Chairs

### Music Program

Organist: Larry Schipull

Choir Director: Cheryl Cobb

Associate in Music: Cynthia Morrell

Office Administrator: Cynthia H. Jubinville

Sexton: Robert Farman



# Massachusetts Conference United Church of Christ 217th ANNUAL MEETING

Friday/Saturday  
June 17 & 18, 2016  
Registration Deadline - May 25, 2016  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Please join Rev Lori and others in attending the **MACUCC Annual Meeting** to be held at UMASS Amherst Friday and Saturday June 17 & 18, 2016. A Children's Program is offered simultaneously.

The theme of the conference is  
**BE BOLD and BRAVE!**

Information and Registration Materials are available in the Church Office – Stop by to pick one up or let Thia know if you would like a copy sent to you.

*Shine with the boldness, the cheekiness, the impudence of the audacious good news of Jesus the Christ. Come celebrate, worship and be joyful together as the Body of Christ!*



## KEYNOTE SPEAKER - The Rev. Otis Moss III

The Rev. Otis Moss III serves as senior pastor of Trinity United Church of Christ in Chicago, IL. He is an ordained minister in the Progressive National Baptist Convention and the United Church of Christ, carrying dual standing in both denominations. The Rev. Dr. Moss received his Bachelor of Arts in religion and philosophy from Morehouse College and a Master of Divinity from Yale University.

The Rev. Dr. Moss, who is married with two children, is an accomplished author, speaker, and activist who has done extensive research in the areas of African American culture, theology, and youth development. His essays, articles, and poetry have appeared in *The African American Pulpit*, *Sojourners*, and *Urban Spectrum*, and he is the author of *Redemption in a Red-Light District* (Four-G Press). In 2006, Pastor Moss co-wrote the book, *The Gospel Remix: Reaching the Hip Hop Generation* (Judson Press). The African American Pulpit named Rev. Moss one of the "Twenty to Watch" ministers under forty who are positively affecting the future of the African American church.

You can follow him on twitter @om3 where he describes himself as: A Jazz influenced Pastor with a Hip-Hop vibe, Saved by Jesus, Inspired by Zora Neale Hurston, Blessed by Howard Thurman & Amazed by August Wilson.

## WORSHIP LEADER - Ken Medema

Across the years, Ken has shared his passion for learning and discovery through storytelling and music with an ever-growing circle of followers around the world. Ken has been performing for over 40 years in different venues for groups ranging from 50 to 50,000 people. Though blind from birth, Ken sees and hears with heart and mind, singing stories from his audience and accenting themes and perspectives from speakers and workshop leaders. Ken custom designs every musical moment through



## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE ~ 217th Annual Meeting ~ June 17-18, 2016

| FRIDAY, June 17, 2016 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | SATURDAY, June 18, 2016 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2:00 PM               | Registration & Marketplace Open<br><i>Campus Center, UMass, Amherst</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 7:00 AM                 | Blue Wall Café Opens for Breakfast<br><i>Campus Center</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 3:00 – 4:15 PM        | Opening Plenary I - <i>Campus Center Auditorium</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opening to the Spirit! – 20 lively minutes of scripture and song</li> <li>Introductions, appointments</li> <li>Presentation on the Budget</li> <li>Theological Reflection in Music – <i>Ken Medema</i></li> </ul> | 7:30 AM                 | New Delegate Breakfast Tables<br><i>Blue Wall Café, Campus Center</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 4:30 – 5:30 PM        | Stories of Boldness<br><i>Campus Center breakout rooms</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                         | Registration and Marketplace Open<br><i>Campus Center</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 5:30 PM               | Dinner<br><i>Blue Wall Café, Campus Center</i><br>Welcome Tables will be available for new delegates                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 8:45 – 10:00 AM         | Hearings and Forums<br><i>Campus Center breakout rooms</i><br>Smaller group opportunities for engaging the issues at hand, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>United Church Mission update and Conference Budget</li> <li>Clergy compensation guidelines</li> <li>Forum with the Rev. Otis Moss III</li> <li>Forum/Music with Ken Medema</li> </ul> |
| 7:15 PM               | Plenary II<br><i>Campus Center Auditorium</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elections</li> <li>Keynote Address/Concert with the Rev. Otis Moss III and Ken Medema</li> </ul>                                                                                                                        |                         | (Note: As of the date of this publication, there have been no resolutions of Christian conviction presented to the Annual Meeting Committee.)                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 9:15 – 10:30 PM       | Reception<br><i>Marriott Center, Campus Center, 11th floor</i><br>A gathering time for clergy, delegates and friends                                                                                                                                                                                         | 10:15 – 11:30 AM        | Plenary III<br><i>Campus Center Auditorium</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Storytelling, Theological Reflection and Song</li> <li>Actions on the Budget</li> <li>Minister and President's Address</li> <li>Action on Clergy Compensation Guidelines</li> <li>Other business</li> </ul>                                                                  |
|                       | <i>The Marketplace will be open until 10:00 PM.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 11:45 AM                | Luncheons – NEW! - location TBD (pre-registration required)<br><i>See luncheon choices on page 5.</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 1:00 PM                 | Worship and Communion<br><i>Campus Center Auditorium</i><br>The Rev. Otis Moss III preaching; musical liturgy by Ken Medema                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 2:30 – 4:30 PM          | Plenary IV - <i>Campus Center Auditorium</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Storytelling and Song</li> <li>Board Chair report</li> <li>Actions on Resolutions</li> <li>Other actions</li> <li>Closing worship with Ken Medema</li> </ul>                                                                                                                   |

## Daily Lectionary Scripture References June 2016 (Year C)

### Wed., June 1

Psalm 1  
Proverbs 5:1-23  
Luke 14:34-35

### Thurs., June 2

Psalm 96  
1 Kings 12:20-33  
2 Corinthians 5:11-17

### Fri., June 3

Psalm 96  
1 Kings 16:29-34  
2 Corinthians 11:1-6

### Sat., June 4

Psalm 96  
1 Kings 18:1-19  
Luke 4:31-37

### Sun., June 5

*Ascension of the Lord*  
1 Kings 18:20-21 [22-29] 30-39  
Psalm 96  
Galatians 1:1-12  
Luke 7:1-10

### Mon., June 6

Psalm 135  
Ezekiel 8:1-18  
Acts 8:26-40

### Tues., June 7

Psalm 135  
Ezekiel 14:1-11  
Acts 3:1-10

### Wed., June 8

Psalm 135  
Ezekiel 14:12-23  
Mark 7:24-30

### Thurs., June 9

Psalm 146  
Exodus 29:1-9  
Acts 22:6-21

### Fri., June 10

Psalm 146  
Numbers 15:17-26  
Acts 26:1-11

### Sat., June 11

Psalm 146  
Joshua 9:1-27  
Matthew 9:2-8

### Sun., June 12

1 Kings 17:8-16 [17-24]  
Psalm 146  
Galatians 1:11-24  
Luke 7:11-17

### Mon., June 13

Psalm 68:1-10, 19-20  
Job 22:1-20  
Galatians 2:1-10

### Tues., June 14

Psalm 68:1-10, 19-20  
Job 24:9-25  
Galatians 2:11-14

### Wed., June 15

Psalm 68:1-10, 19-20  
Job 31:16-23  
Luke 8:40-56

### Thurs., June 16

Psalm 5:1-8  
1 Kings 20:1-22  
James 4:1-7

### Fri., June 17

Psalm 5:1-8  
1 Kings 20:23-34  
Romans 11:1-10

### Sat., June 18

Psalm 5:1-8  
1 Kings 20:35-43  
Luke 5:17-26

### Sun., June 19

1 Kings 21:1-10 [11-14] 15-21a  
Psalm 5:1-8  
Galatians 2:15-21  
Luke 7:36-8:3

### Mon., June 20

Psalm 83  
Genesis 31:17-35  
Galatians 3:1-9

### Tues., June 21

Psalm 83  
2 Samuel 19:31-43  
Galatians 3:10-14

### Wed., June 22

Psalm 83  
Malachi 3:5-12  
Mark 2:1-12

### Thurs., June 23

Psalm 42 and 43  
Genesis 24:1-21  
Romans 2:17-29

### Fri., June 24

Psalm 42 and 43  
Job 6:14-30  
Galatians 3:15-22

### Sat., June 25

Psalm 42 and 43  
Proverbs 11:3-13  
Matthew 9:27-34

### Sun., June 26

1 Kings 19:1-4 [5-7] 8-15a  
Psalm 42 and 43  
Galatians 3:23-29  
Luke 8:26-39

### Mon., June 27

Psalm 59  
2 Kings 9:1-13  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31

### Tues., June 28

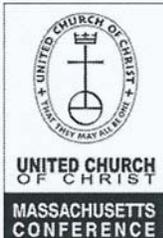
Psalm 59  
2 Kings 9:14-26  
Ephesians 2:11-22

### Wed., June 29

Psalm 59  
2 Kings 9:30-37  
Luke 9:37-43a

### Thurs., June 30

Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20  
1 Kings 22:29-40, 51-53  
2 Corinthians 13:5-10



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