

CHURCH AT THE CENTER ’

MAY 2016



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH "CENTER CHURCH"

United Church of Christ

One Church Street

South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075

(413) 532-2262

email: centerchurch@verizon.net

website: 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.

Jesus must have studied Pointillism (the school of art in the last half of the 19 C where a thousand plus small brush strokes create a beautiful scene)! Let me explain. Jesus was very much present on an individualized basis healing, eating, teaching, and preaching, yet he managed to get the whole picture, the whole canvas of Palestine 2000 years ago.

I've been fascinated by Pointillism. Georges Suerat's small brush strokes, almost dot-like smudges, command power on their own. However, if we step back five feet, then 12 feet from his oils, another picture emerges, the whole picture, the whole vision.

I think Jesus mastered the small strokes, the individual relationships, as well as the whole painting, the realm of God.

We are asked to do the same. Be intentionally present in conversation, interactions, and in service AND give oneself enough room to step back to see the process, the vision, the realm of God working within our small lives.

While each of us is a small brush stroke, together we can create a canvas of hope and peace.

Blessings, Lori

BOOK OF ACTS BIBLE STUDY

MAY 5: Acts 2:1-21 Pentecost

MAY 12: Acts 8:1-8 and Acts 9:1-22 Saul/Paul

MAY 26: Acts 9:36-43(Miracle of Tabitha) and Acts 20: 7-16 Eutychus and travels

JUNE 2: Acts 27 Paul's voyage to Rome

See below the territory the men and women traveled, especially Paul.

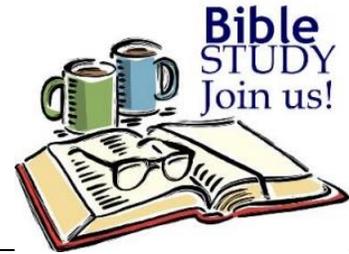


All are welcome to participate, just like the early followers of Jesus.

Book of Acts Bible Study

At Loomis Village

Please call the church office if you would like to meet Lori in the Church parking lot to ride with her to Loomis.



Bible Study Join us!

May 5 at the home of Audrey Heaphy Apt. 125

May 12 at the home of Barbara Blank Apt. 124

May 26 at the home of Barbara Blank Apt. 124

June 2 at the home of Betty Kelsey Apt. 225

ALL are Welcome!

HELP WANTED

Center church is looking for someone to mow the Church property this coming season. During the summer and early fall the commitment is once a week; Spring and late fall may require only biweekly mowing. Please call the Church Office (532-2262) if you are interested in the job or know someone who may be. Thanks!



Want an easy way to help the church raise funds? Bake a dozen muffins – it's that simple. The Activities Team will sell muffins and coffee at the Plant Sale on May 7th. Please let Thia in the Church office know if you could bake a dozen muffins for the sale – we would need them at the Church by 8:30am Saturday morning – you can bring them in on Friday or even before.



Coffee Fellowship

Thank you so much, Ushers, for being such wonderful hosts during our coffee hours in April. During May our hosts will be the Stewardship Team. This team educates and motivates church members to be good stewards, wise stakeholders and committed disciples. They solicit pledges and raise money by planning and implementing the annual stewardship campaign. They coordinate, with the trustees, the development of the annual budget and efforts to assure the church's continuing financial integrity and viability. (wording taken from the revised Constitution). Members of the team are: John Anz, Don Donihue and Bob Russell.

On June 5, 2016, we welcome Attorney Hyman Darling to speak to us after the service at 11:00am. He will discuss some important 'lifetime' planning options which can positively impact your personal and financial future. Some of the topics will be: the making of medical and financial decisions for you in the event of incapacity, determining the roles of family in the making of decisions, and preservation of assets if long term care is necessary. The discussion will also include estate tax savings options and charitable giving techniques.

A light lunch will be served. Plan on some helpful information presented in an entertaining way.

Center Church Sunday School

News from the Promised Land

What do we mean by "church"? A building? A doctrine? An authority?

Or do we mean people, working together to live as Jesus taught?

That's our big question in the Promised Land this month. And our big answer (spoiler alert!) is simply this: We are the church.



At Center Church, we're so lucky to gather for worship in such a beautiful, historic building, lovingly maintained, and right in the hub of South Hadley. But what makes us even luckier are the people, all bringing their gifts and passions and talents, and offering them to the community.

As St. Paul wrote, "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."
(1 Corinthians 12: 4-7)

In the Promised Land Sunday School, we benefit so much from the talents of our wonderful volunteers, and it will be our pleasure to thank them during the Intergenerational Worship Service on May 29th.



In the meantime, we have much to keep us busy! Mrs. Giles and Hairy will back, and we'll help get Fellowship Hall ready for the Confirmation celebration on the 15th. We'll be making a little video/slideshow for the end of the year, learning the Lord's Prayer set to music, to sing with the wonderful choir, and collecting art supplies for temporarily homeless children. And we'll be getting ready to open our Little Free Library.

That's a lot of churching!

We are very grateful in the Promised Land for all the good support we receive from our Center Church family. Thank you, again and again.

Who is the church? We are the church, day after day, moment to moment. Amen.

The Children's Christian Education Committee

Invites Everyone
to attend the

All Church Family Pot Luck Picnic

Sunday, May 29th in Fellowship Hall following worship.



Children's CE will provide sandwiches, cake and beverages. Please bring your favorite picnic food item to share. Everyone is welcome to celebrate a Sunday School year filled with many blessings!

Youth Group

Well, youth group for the year is over! We were busy in April learning about Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus, and how that was important to both Christians at the time, and in our lives today. Our final lesson concluded with a great day of camp days led by Brian Lapis. As a strong proponent of church camps, I hope that many of you choose to attend this summer! I thank you for the few months I had with the youth, and look forward to coming back in the fall! Stay safe and have a good summer.

News from the Trustees for May 2016

At our March meeting, we were pleased to hear that some unexpected "gifts" had been received for which we are most thankful. We were thrilled to hear that the Easter collection raised a considerable amount for the Deacon's Fund – thank you to all! We are watching the budgeted lines for building upkeep and telephone closely which are being eaten up fairly quickly and will continue to monitor them. We did hear that our investments did very well in March after a couple of lower months and hope that the upward slope continues through the rest of the year. We were pleased to hear that our building safety committee has been expanded, and thank both the moderator and those new folks who have agreed to serve on it. Trustees are continuing to work on projects around the building and are grateful that the rather ugly "patch" under the north rose window has been made less unsightly – thanks to Bill. We are also pursuing adding an additional lavatory on the first floor next to the current restroom. It will take over the current janitor's closet. When we have events in Fellowship Hall or all through the church, one restroom there does not handle the traffic well. We want to thank the Activities Team for its purchase of 100 lovely new padded back/padded seat chairs for Fellowship Hall. We are hoping to sell at least 100 of the older chairs and have already sold 35 (thanks Bob F.). We are also in the process of trying to sell the risers which were purchased for the choir a number of years ago and are no longer of use. Hopefully some other organization will find a use for them and take them off of our hands for a good price. Work is continuing with regards to historic preservation and our church building. And we are working toward a new ceiling in the Fellowship Hall kitchen and entryway and are looking into thoroughly cleaning the FHall floor. These upgrades will help as we "market" the buildings to raise additional monies for our programs. We are actively looking for folks who would like to use our facility for concerts, dance classes, etc. If you know of anyone who might be interested, please let one of the trustees know or tell Thia in the office.

Cindy Morrell, for the trustees

NOTES FROM CHURCH COUNCIL

Council members gave unanimous approval to the nomination of John Hoffman for the position of Treasurer of Center Church. They further endorsed the plan to have a special one agenda meeting of the congregation on May 1st to act upon John's nomination.

The plan for the evacuation drill for the Sunday School on April 17th were also reviewed. Team updates were shared with council members.



Outreach Partners of the Month

"Hearts to Hands to Hope"

Outreach Partner for May - Girls Inc



Inspiring all girls
to be strong,
smart, and boldSM

The Outreach Team is sending a \$500 contribution to Girls Inc of Holyoke. Several of members of our congregation attended the Girls Inc breakfast in April.

The mission of Girls Inc is to inspire all girls to be strong, smart and bold by providing them the opportunity to develop and achieve their full potential. Their purpose is to provide girls ages 5-18 with engaging and educational youth development programs that are cutting edge, research driven and designed to meet the specific needs of girls. Girls are at the center of everything they do.

Girls Inc advocates for and provides an environment in which:

- Girls explore career choices that are not limited by their gender.
- Girls think critically about their economic, social and political environment.
- Girls actively work for positive change as leaders in the community.
- Girls explore their creativity and self-expression in a supportive setting.
- Girls respect and care for themselves in mind, body and spirit.
- Girls embrace all types of diversity within and outside of their community.
- Girls value education as a means to achieve economic independence.

Girls Inc listens to girls, responding to their needs and providing them with the opportunity to make positive change in both their community and in their own lives.

GIVE HOPE - TAKE ACTION - BLANKETS PLUS



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE
BLANKETS+

Through the Blankets+ Program of Church World Service (CWS), you can provide emergency resources and long-term assistance to help families around the world recover from disasters and build viable, sustainable lives and communities.

Some 8,000 congregations and groups across the U.S. hold CWS Blankets events, providing funds to help people in need around the world. For over 60 years, CWS has worked in partnership with local communities to identify their needs and access the resources they need to build the foundation for a more viable future, including: blankets, tents, food and other emergency supplies in the wake of a disaster, tools and seeds for refugees returning home to replant their fields, and to provide clean, safe water to drink.

Contributions to the Blankets + Program will be received on May, 8th, Mother's Day. Please be generous in your support of Blankets+ and send a powerful message to people in crisis: "You matter to us."

NEW AMERICANS PROGRAM



In the Church at the Center last month the Outreach Team shared information on the refugee crisis worldwide and some of the resettlement efforts taking place in our area.

We think it's worth noting again that at this moment there are 60 million displaced persons in the world due to war, famine, and natural disasters. Many people have spent their whole lives in camps that are over-crowded, squalid, and at times dangerous. A book I, Betty, read recently, "The City of Thorns", describes life in the largest refugee camp in the world. Dadaab is a complex of 5 camps in northeast Kenya where over 300,000 refugees live most of whom are fleeing the strife in Somalia. Refugees in Dadaab live in hope of starting new lives in safety for themselves and their children.

Since the start of its refugee resettlement program five years ago, Jewish Family Services (JFS) has settled 1,000 newcomers. Already this year 126 people have been received into this area and more are expected throughout 2016. JFS assists new Americans with housing, jobs, counseling, transportation and other immediate needs. JFS enlists local communities in providing friendship, adult literacy tutoring, lessons in citizenship, and welcome kits comprised of household items. Center Church has an opportunity to reach out to new arrivals, who have left everything behind by furnishing household items.

Soon you will see boxes located in various places around the Church where you can donate new and like new things. There are five basic kits: kitchen kit, cleaning kit, bathroom kit, household kit, and child and baby supply kit. We will start to collect items for the kitchen and bathroom kits. A list will be posted on our outreach board in Fellowship Hall, in the Church weekly bulletin, and at the collection locations.

Next month we hope to be able to outline some ways in which church members can connect directly with the new Americans through tutoring, citizenship training, transportation and visits. Stay tuned.

As people of faith, our scriptures teach us to feed the hungry, cloth the naked, and welcome strangers in our midst. We have been presented with a challenge to engage in this resettlement process by reaching out in love and friendship.

Members of the sub-committee of Outreach are Del Borah, Karen Hyvonen, Don Sibley, Anita Sarro and Betty Innocent. For more information speak to one of the members or go to Jewish Family Services at jfswm.org.



Tuesday Club

On Tuesday, **May 24, 2016** Tuesday Club members will meet (all women of the Church are invited) at the Valley View Grill at the Ledges Golf Course SH, for our annual dinner meeting. We will gather at **6:30pm for a social time with orders taken at 7:00 pm** (order off the menu, separate checks.) Please call Karen Anderson (536-0005) by May 22nd to let her know you will attend. We will discuss plans for

future meetings so please come with ideas!

Interesting fact – Last year we were able to cover a good portion of the expense of Coffee Hour by donations to the basket on the table. What a great help to our budget bottom line! We are hoping to do that again this year so please consider helping out. We would like to continue to offer good quality **fair trade coffee** - which cost a bit more but tastes so much better.

HENRY J. PRESTON 1840-1913 CENTER CHURCH'S ARCHITECT



*Henry J. Preston
Architect
1840-1913*

The newly formed Preservation Committee, looking for ways to raise funds for needed repairs to our 121 year-old church building, sought a consultant for help. The consultant then asked for some information about our church and the architect. After some searching through our various records, the name Henry J. Preston (quite faded) was discovered on the original blueprints.

Researching Mr. Preston became a challenge. One source mentioned that he was the brother of Lyman Preston (a member of our congregation) and that Henry was born in South Hadley on September 20, 1840. His parents were Joel Preston and Mabel (Smith) Preston. Our old records are "spotty" with very little further information. When Henry was born, he was probably baptized in the second meeting house by Reverend Joseph Condit (1835-1847). Mr. Condit was very influential in getting Mary Lyon to establish her Mount Holyoke Female Seminary here in South Hadley in 1837. She boarded with the Condits while the Seminary was being built and Rev. Condit was a highly valued trustee of the

Seminary. As Henry grew, he would have attended church in the third meeting house (1844-1876) along with Miss Lyon and her students. Henry would have been nine years old when Mary Lyon died in 1849. Mr. Preston was 21 at the start of the Civil War and may have served the Union in some capacity.

By 1879, he had been educated and was running his own architectural business at 14 Pemberton Place in Boston. He settled in Newtonville, a suburb of Boston. He was noted for designing high quality residential and business buildings. Our Romanesque-designed church may have been his only church. The Ashmont Hill district of Dorchester, MA has some of his homes. It is considered a Boston area landmark. He built residences in the Jones Hill (Hilltop Enclave) district. In South Boston, he designed a lavish horse stable with solid granite flooring throughout. He also designed a medieval home in the St. Mary's district of Boston. The Berger Factory (1902) on Williams Street in Boston is Preston's design and is now on the National Historic Register.

Some of Mr. Preston's architectural "traits" are characterized by a graceful "play" of curving and sharp angled lines. He liked using oval and round window designs. He felt that an expanse of lawn in front helped to showcase a building's lines. He used pyramidal-shaped "cone" tops for his towers, along with louvered and elongated windows. So, by 1894, when Mr. Preston was 54, he incorporated many of his favorite characteristics into our Center Church (do check out our bell tower). He no doubt conferred with a committee and with Reverend Newton Jones (1890-97) on the project which started on May 21, 1894. Our fifth church was erected by the Thorpe Brothers of Holyoke at a cost of \$23,300. It was completed in January 1895. Furnishings, etc., added \$4,700 making the total \$28,000!

Mr. Preston died in what is now Newton, MA on February 9, 1913 at the age of 72. We are grateful for his creative expertise which we can admire everyday in every season! Let us become pro-active to preserve this magnificent edifice he so carefully designed for us!

David Morrell, Center Church Historian

PLANT SALE ALERT



Spring is on its way and we are starting to get ready for our 17th annual plant sale. This is a reminder to those of you who are garden enthusiasts. As you are starting to look at those perennials that are coming back to life after a long cold winter, please think about which ones need dividing and what you might share.

Our annual Plant Sale will take place on **Saturday May 7th** from 9 am to 2 pm. In order for this to be successful, we need **lots of plants**. We hope that all of those who garden will support the Activities Committee and share your plants for this event. Plants should be potted 2 weeks prior to the sale (by April 23rd) to look their best. Composed soil is available at the SH Landfill if needed.

The community looks forward to this event, so let's be sure to have a wide variety and large number of plants to sell. Help the committee know what to expect by returning the form below acknowledging your involvement.

Thank you in advance!!

----- I want to help the day of the sale

----- I need pots

----- I need help with potting



----- I will donate plants

----- I can help with potting

Name -----

***Call Karen Anderson(536-0005) or David Morrell (532-1864)
if you need pots or help with anything!***



Want an easy way to help the church raise funds? Bake a dozen muffins – it's that simple. The Activities Team will sell muffins and coffee at the Plant Sale on May 7th. Please let Thia in the Church office know if you could bake a dozen muffins for the sale – we would need them at the Church by 8:30am Saturday morning – you can bring them in on Friday or even before.

Columbus Day Fair - 2016

We're open for "business"!

We to welcome items for our Columbus Day week-end Tag Sale! We especially need Children's toys, stuffed animals and puzzles.

Please read our "ad" below about what is acceptable and what items we cannot accept. Also, once again we want to highlight the guidelines that games and appliances must be in working order. ALSO, ***please clean up the items before you drop them off***.....they sell better plus if we have to spend a lot of time cleaning up items, we have difficulty getting everything marked!

Although items may be dropped off any time the church office is open Monday Thursday, we will be able to help you unload items for the tag sale on most Tuesday mornings from 8:30 -11:30 A.M. If you would like to make special arrangements for pick up/drop-off, please call the church office or 533-3833.

Thank you so much....we look forward to another successful Columbus Day Event.

SPRING HOUSECLEANING....

Remember the Columbus Day Fair Emporium.....

Bring your items to Fellowship Hall.....

Please have them clean and in working order.....

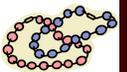
WHAT DOES SELL....

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 Bobbie Ayers
- 04 Jay Roberts
- 06 Julie Deshaies
- 12 Cathy Bozek
- 20 Tyler Narey
- 22 Lillian Leviton
- 23 Gayle Kenneson
- 26 Dennis Ashworth
- 27 Ken Bozek
- 28 Emily Bangs-Orsini
- 30 Becky Buckley



Joining Center Church by Confirmation May 15th

- Samantha Beyer (Reaffirming)
- Ella Francis
- Ryan Gage
- Lily Griffin
- Zoe Huebner
- Avery Lapis
- Zoe Lapis
- J B Pontes
- Allison Smith
- Fletcher Smith
- Jared Waite
- Logan Waite
- Olivia Wilson



Registration for UCC Summer camp is now open! Send your 4th grader -High Schooler to a life changing week of outdoor ministry this summer at Silver Lake Conference Center in Sharon, Ct. www.silverlakeect.org Adult & family summer conferences are available at Star Island, off the coast of New Hampshire <http://starisland.org/> \$150 scholarships for youth and family outdoor ministry re available from Church Council. Contact the church office for details.



**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



**Food Pantry
Ministry**

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!

Cathedral in the Night
867 North Pleasant Street
Amherst, Massachusetts 01002

www.cathedralinthenight.org
info@cathedralinthenight.org



April 12, 2016

First Congregational Church
One Church Street
South Hadley, MA 01075

Dear friends,

Thank you for your contribution of \$100 received in the first quarter of 2016.

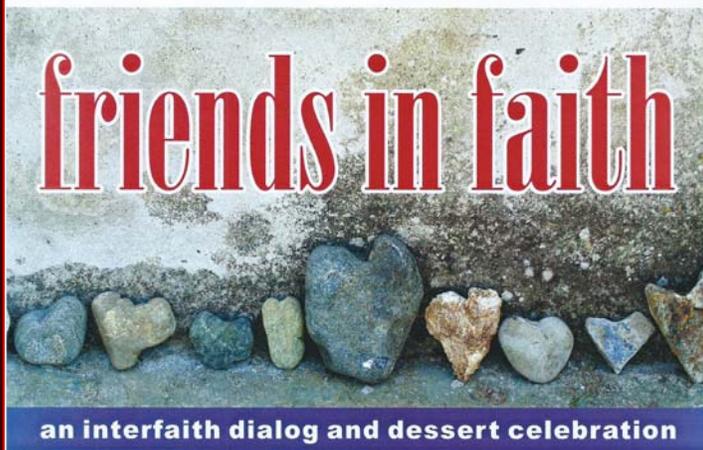
Thanks to you, Cathedral in the Night continues to grow in ministry and community. Last month, we gathered for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday services. We continue to have weekly meetings of the women's group for art, conversation and tea, and a weekly coffee hour for informal discussion on spirituality, faith and life. Of course, on Sunday evenings the community gathers for worship and a meal on Main Street in Northampton.

A new initiative starting this month is a Peer Chaplain program to bring up new leaders from within the community. The training program will start with a retreat to the Genesis Center in Westfield. Please consider a gift of \$50 to sponsor a chaplain's retreat participation.

We extend a special invitation for you to join us in Northampton any Sunday at 5pm for worship and fellowship. God's Peace be with you!

Nat Larson
Cathedral in the Night Ministry, Treasurer
Treasurer@cathedralinthenight.org

www.cathedralinthenight.org
Mailing address: 867 N. Pleasant St., Amherst, MA 01002
Pastor Stephanie Smith cell: 413-575-0845 email: pastorstepsmith@gmail.com



Sunday, May 15
2:00-4:00 p.m.
JFK Middle School

Join us as a community coming together to increase understanding among groups of different faiths and backgrounds. There will be presentations, questions and answers, and desserts.

SPEAKERS:

- Rev. Corey Sanderson, 2nd Congregational Church of Greenfield
- Tahirah Amatul-Wadud, Attorney and Western Massachusetts Representative to the Council of American Islamic Relations
- Rabbi Benjamin Weiner, Jewish Community of Amherst
- Dr. Wisam Abdul-Baki, Imam of the Islamic Society of Western Massachusetts

SPONSORED BY THE PIONEER VALLEY INTERFAITH REFUGEE ACTION GROUP WITH SUPPORT FROM:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| Congregation B'nai Israel,
Takum Olam Committee | Haydenville Congregational Church,
Peace & Justice Committee | Northampton Friends Society |
| Edwards Church of Northampton | Islamic Society of Amherst | Unitarian Universalist Society
of Northampton and Florence |
| St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish | Islamic Society of Western Massachusetts | Western Massachusetts American Friends
Service Committee |
| First Churches of Northampton
Peace & Justice Committee | St. John's Episcopal Church | |
| | Mount Toby Friends Meeting | |

WANTED: NAMES OF GRADUATING STUDENTS - PRESCHOOL, MIDDLE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE, GRAD SCHOOL..SO THAT WE MAY HAVE AN ACCURATE LISTING FOR OUR BULLETIN IN JUNE. CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE 532-2262 WITH THE INFO!



2016 NAKBA COMMEMORATION | NORTHAMPTON, MA



THE EXILED PALESTINIANS

An evening with Mariam Fathalla and Amena Ashkar, stateless Palestinians from refugee camps in Lebanon

May 4, 2016 | 6pm to 9pm

First Churches (Lyman Room)
129 Main Street, Northampton, MA
(use side entrance on Center Street)

On May 14, 1948, as a Jewish state was established in Israel, Zionist troops drove out the inhabitants of the ancient Palestinian town of al-Zeeb. 18-year-old Mariam Fathalla was one of them.

By year's end, her 4,000-year-old community had been leveled. More than half of all Palestinians were killed or expelled and more than half of the cities, towns, and villages disappeared, a tragedy Palestinians call al-Nakba ("the Catastrophe").



Now 86 years old, Mariam has spent the last 68 years in crowded refugee camps in Lebanon. She and Amena Ashkar, the great-granddaughter of Nakba survivors, are traveling throughout North America to share their stories as refugees of the Nakba.

Mezze by Dita Donkate
Free to all.
Donations welcome.

North America Nakba Tour organized by the Free Palestine Movement, International Solidarity Movement-Northern California, and al-Awda Palestine Right to Return Coalition. Co-sponsored by the Western Mass Chapters of Jewish Voice for Peace, CODE Pink and American Friends Service Committee, and by Western Mass Coalition for Palestine, Trepoek Center for Peace & Justice, Peace & Justice Committee of First Churches, Alliance for Social Justice, the Islamic Society of Western Mass, Kairos/Franklin County Justice for Palestine, Mount Toby Friends Peace & Social Concerns Committee, and the Northampton Committee to Stop War.



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

- 2:00 PM Registration & Marketplace Open
Campus Center, UMass, Amherst
- 3:00 – 4:15 PM Opening Plenary I - *Campus Center Auditorium*
 - Opening to the Spirit! – 20 lively minutes of scripture and song
 - Introductions, appointments
 - Presentation on the Budget
 - Theological Reflection in Music – *Ken Medema*
- 4:30 – 5:30 PM Stories of Boldness
Campus Center breakout rooms
- 5:30 PM Dinner
Blue Wall Café, Campus Center
Welcome Tables will be available for new delegates
- 7:15 PM Plenary II
Campus Center Auditorium
 - Elections
 - Keynote Address/Concert with the Rev. Otis Moss III and Ken Medema
- 9:15 – 10:30 PM Reception
Marriott Center, Campus Center, 11th floor
A gathering time for clergy, delegates and friends

The Marketplace will be open until 10:00 PM.

SATURDAY, June 18, 2016

- 7:00 AM Blue Wall Café Opens for Breakfast
Campus Center
- 7:30 AM New Delegate Breakfast Tables
Blue Wall Café, Campus Center
- Registration and Marketplace Open
Campus Center
- 8:45 – 10:00 AM Hearings and Forums
Campus Center breakout rooms
Smaller group opportunities for engaging the issues at hand, including:
 - United Church Mission update and Conference Budget
 - Clergy compensation guidelines
 - Forum with the Rev. Otis Moss III
 - Forum/Music with Ken Medema

(Note: As of the date of this publication, there have been no resolutions of Christian conviction presented to the Annual Meeting Committee.)

- 10:15 – 11:30 AM Plenary III
Campus Center Auditorium
 - Storytelling, Theological Reflection and Song
 - Actions on the Budget
 - Minister and President's Address
 - Action on Clergy Compensation Guidelines
 - Other business
- 11:45 AM Luncheons – NEW! - location TBD (pre-registration required)
See luncheon choices on page 5.
- 1:00 PM Worship and Communion
Campus Center Auditorium
The Rev. Otis Moss III preaching; musical liturgy by Ken Medema
- 2:30 – 4:30 PM Plenary IV - *Campus Center Auditorium*
 - Storytelling and Song
 - Board Chair report
 - Actions on Resolutions
 - Other actions
 - Closing worship with Ken Medema



Heifer International gratefully recognizes

South Hadley First Congregational Church

for your contribution of healthy animals and training
in their care to help struggling families overcome a life of hunger and poverty.

"The Earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." Psalm 24:1

Pierre U. Ferrari

Heifer International

March 2016

Date



000003

CONCERT



1 World Avenue • Little Rock, AR 72202
888.5HUNGER • 888.548.6437
www.heifer.org • info@heifer.org

THANK YOU!

Thanks to your generous spirit, Heifer International is helping families in need all over the world. Together we are providing the right tools and opportunities to help them achieve self-reliance.

Donor ID: 00055691N

Receipt #: 12819244

Date Received: 3/28/2016

Amount: \$1700.00

General Fund -

0004851 RN02 4/1/2016 N: E: K: M: P:
South Hadley First Congregational Church
1 Church St Ste 1
South Hadley, MA 01075-1508

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your generosity and gift to Heifer International. The end of extreme poverty is within our grasp, and your help matters. Your commitment to helping others gives hope to families who once struggled with hunger and poverty and provides the foundation for strong farming families.

Families in rural villages in places like Peru, India and Ghana have more secure futures to look forward to as well, because of your generosity. Best of all, through Heifer's tradition of Passing on the Gift®, your gift will be multiplied for many seasons to come.

Thank you for investing in Heifer International to help make a better world - one family at a time.

Sincerely,

Pierre U. Ferrari

Pierre U. Ferrari
President and CEO



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Marching as OPEN and AFFIRMING churches



NOHO Pride Day

WHEN

May 7, Saturday - Northampton, MA

WHERE

The STARTING LOCATION is Hampton Ave. in the parking lot which is directly across from the Northampton Brewery.

We will gather at 11:00 AM

REGISTER

**Godandep@yahoo.com - subject: NOHO Pride Parade
Registration must take place by April 15. Please include your church's name, approximate number of marchers and the name, cell phone number, and email of a contact person.**

Daily Lectionary Scripture References May 2016 (Year C)

Sun., May 1

Sixth Sunday of Easter
Acts 16:9-15
Psalm 67
Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5
John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9

Mon., May 2

Psalm 93
1 Chronicles 12:16-22
Revelation 21:5-14

Tues., May 3

Psalm 93
2 Chronicles 15:1-15
Revelation 21:15-22

Wed., May 4

Psalm 93
2 Chronicles 34:20-33
Luke 2:25-38

Thurs., May 5

Ascension of the Lord
Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47 or Psalm 93
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:44-53

Fri., May 6

Psalm 97
Exodus 33:12-17
Revelation 22:6-9

Sat., May 7

Psalm 97
Exodus 33:18-23
John 1:14-18

Sun., May 8

Seventh Sunday of Easter
Acts 16:16-34
Psalm 97
Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21
John 17:20-26

Mon., May 9

Psalm 29
Exodus 40:16-38
Acts 16:35-40

Tues., May 10

Psalm 29
2 Chronicles 5:2-14
Acts 26:19-29

Wed., May 11

Psalm 29
Ezekiel 3:12-21
Luke 9:18-27

Thurs., May 12

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Isaiah 32:11-17
Galatians 5:16-25

Fri., May 13

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Isaiah 44:1-4
Galatians 6:7-10

Sat., May 14

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
2 Kings 2:1-15a
Luke 1:5-17

Sun., May 15

Day of Pentecost
Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21
John 14:8-17 [25-27]

Mon., May 16

Psalm 48
Joel 2:18-29
1 Corinthians 2:1-11

Tues., May 17

Psalm 48
Ezekiel 11:14-25
1 Corinthians 2:12-16

Wed., May 18

Psalm 48
Numbers 24:1-14
Luke 1:26-38

Thurs., May 19

Psalm 8
Proverbs 3:13-18
Ephesians 1:17-19

Fri., May 20

Psalm 8
Proverbs 3:19-26
Ephesians 4:1-6

Sat., May 21

Psalm 8
Proverbs 4:1-9
Luke 2:41-52

Sun., May 22

Trinity Sunday
Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
Psalm 8
Romans 5:1-5
John 16:12-15

Mon., May 23

Psalm 124
Proverbs 7:1-4
Ephesians 4:7-16

Tues., May 24

Psalm 124
Proverbs 8:4-21
Ephesians 5:15-20

Wed., May 25

Psalm 124
Daniel 1:1-21
Luke 1:46b-55

Thurs., May 26

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15
Proverbs 13:1-12
Romans 5:12-6:2

Fri., May 27

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15
Proverbs 15:1-9
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Sat., May 28

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15
Isaiah 30:8-17
John 16:1-4a

Sun., May 29

Sirach 27:4-7 or Isaiah 55:10-13
Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15
1 Corinthians 15:51-58
Luke 6:39-49

Mon., May 30

Psalm 1
Jeremiah 24:1-10
1 Corinthians 16:1-12

Tues., May 31

Psalm 1
Jeremiah 29:10-19
1 Corinthians 16:13-24



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST
MASSACHUSETTS
CONFERENCE

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