

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH “Center Church”



United Church of Christ - ONA
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South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075
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website: www.centerchurchsouthhadley.org

Facebook: Center Church of South Hadley MA

Instagram: @centerchurchsouthhadley

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



**** The two center sections of the sanctuary are equipped with a hearing loop.
Turn on the T-coil in your hearing aid and sit in one of these sections
for better hearing**

March 1, 2026

It isn't the changes that do you in, it's the transitions. Change is not the same as transition. Change is situational: the new site, the new boss, the new team roles, the new policy. Transition is the psychological process people go through to come to terms with the new situation. Change is external, transition is internal. William Bridges

PRELUDE

Leoni

R. Proulx

Cwm Rhondda

F. Peeters

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross T. Smith & D. Hustad

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

CHORAL INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come, heaven and earth-feel the power of God.

People: Come, people of God-feel the power of God.

Leader: Come, great and small, and know that you are in the presence of God.

All: Come, let us worship God.

***HYMN**

God of Grace and God of Glory

black # 436

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

On River Jordan's banks I stand, and cast a wishful eye,

Upon the fair and happy land where my possessions lie;

I am bound for the promised land, I am bound for the promised land,

Oh, who will come and go with me? I am bound for the promised land.

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

MORNING PRAYERS

Prayer of Confession (unison)

There are times when we are unsure of the voices we hear, and we ignore them. In doing so, sometimes we ignore the voice of God. There are times we readily want to hear the call of those with whom we agree, and assume that God would only call us to affirm what we already think. This is when we ignore God. Forgive us, gracious God.

Assurance of Forgiveness

When we dare to lift our hearts as high and as wide as we can-we will know the vast and forgiving love of God. Amen

Pastoral Prayer

Silence

Lord's Prayer (debts)

Our Creator/Father/Mother, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your Kingdom come; your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

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

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

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

Congregational Response



READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Genesis 12:1-4a

12 Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” ⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

SERMON

TRANSITIONS

*HYMN

The God of Abraham Praise

black # 24

OFFERING

Invitation

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

J.S. Bach

Offertory

*Doxology

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

Prayer of Dedication

*HYMN

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

black # 224

COMMUNION

Invitation

Communion Prayer

Words of Institution

Distribution of the Bread and Cup

*It is our tradition to hold each of the elements until all are served
so that we may partake together.*

[Rice cake pieces are offered for those with allergies to gluten.]

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

**Bless these elements for our wholeness and new life in
the community of Christ. Amen**

***HYMN**

God of Change and Glory

black # 177

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Threefold Amen*

POSTLUDE

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

*The Deacons are asking you to refrain from clapping. If moved by the postlude or worship,
please shout out "AMEN!" We are implementing this to move away from worship being a
performance, to sharing a sentiment of having been filled by worship/music.*

**Please stand if you are comfortable.*



We hope that you find your worship experience meaningful.

If you are new to the community, we invite you to make this your church home.

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

In our Service Today


Preacher:	Rev. Lori J. Souder
Scripture Reader:	Bob Seem
Organist/Pianist:	Larry D. Schipull
Third Prelude Organist:	Cynthia J. Morrell
Choir Director	Ben Coakley
Deacon:	Karen Anderson



If you are visiting with us today, **WELCOME**. At the close of the service, please take a small welcome gift found in the baskets located at the sanctuary narthex and crossway doors. It is our token of saying "thank you for sharing worship with us, we truly feel blessed and we hope to see you again soon."

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

Continual:

Barbara Blank, on Hospice at Reeds Landing
Martha Guild's mother, June 
Eileen Halkyard
Elisa's young friend Elija, addiction recovery
Eunice Howes
Leila Mulder, attending boarding school
Mary Nelsons father, Dave, with cancer
Fay Paquette
Kendall Johnson-Smith, Preston Smith's
daughter, on hospice at home
Nikki Wolf, Linda's granddaughter
Those struggling with addiction,
with cancer, and with chronic disease

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

Situational:

Cynthia Baker
Dennis Banks, friend of Karen and Estelle Anderson, with cancer
Peg Dumbaugh, recovering from surgery
Bill Giles, recovering from surgery
Family and friends of Tom Hazen, who passed away
Robin Glossner, undergoing chemo
Elisa Morrison's step-mother Sandy, and brother Carl, with heart issues

Calling hours for Tom Hazen will be held on April 4, 10am - noon, at Beers and Story. A memorial service will follow, here at Center Church, at 12:30 followed by a reception at Willits- Hallowell.



This Week at Center Church

Tuesday	Church Council 7pm
Wednesday	Iftar @ ISWM 5pm
Thursday	AA 1:30pm Dance Lessons 6pm
Saturday	Vigil 10am
Sunday	Worship 10am Intergenerational luncheon

Center Church Announcements

Reminder: There are pillow cushions and afghans available in bins at the back of the Sanctuary for your comfort and warmth. Please use them! We also have bulletins with Hymns printed – if you prefer not to use a hymnal.



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



“GIFT” - GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER - ACTIVITY AND LUNCH ON MARCH 8th

We have a newly formed group for people interested in organizing and leading intergenerational meals and/or events. This group called GIFT or Growing in Faith Together. GIFT will organize at least two activities with family style luncheons a year, with a focus on intentional intergenerational fellowship and sharing a meal. With that said...

SUNDAY, MARCH 8TH, PLEASE COME FOR WORSHIP AND STAY FOR LUNCH! Tables will be set up for the GIFT activity for all - card making and worship bag decorating, followed by a luncheon served family-style. The menu includes Fruit Salad, Baked Cheese Strata, and Brownies. (Vegetarian and Gluten Free options available.) Sign up sheets are available in the crossway outside of the sanctuary and in Fellowship Hall. You may also call or email Thia in the church office to RSVP. Anyone is welcome to contribute fruit salad or brownies, which can be dropped off in fellowship hall that morning. If you can help make cheese strata at the church on Saturday morning, March 7th, please contact Kate Hoffman. All are welcome!

Kate Hoffman 413-561-8057 Khoffman0203@gmail.com

Church office 532-2262 centerchurch@verizon.net



Join Lori for the **Interfaith Iftar at the Islamic Society of Western MA on Wednesday March 4.** The event begins at 5pm. If you would like to carpool with Lori, please let her know; she will plan to leave the from Center Church at 4:15pm. The evening will include “greeting and socializing, sharing our fasting traditions, breaking bread together, Iftar, observing prayer and dinner spiced with love!”

EASTER FLOWERS

Once again, we will celebrate the Easter season by decorating our sanctuary with Easter Lilies, Tulips and Daffodils. If you would like to participate, **the deadline for placing your order is March 29.** Plants will be \$12 each.



Please make your check payable to “**First Congregational Church**” and note “**Easter flower**” in the memo.

Please leave your completed form and your check at the church office or place in the Offering plate before the deadline.

Number of plants you wish to order: Lilies____ Tulips____ Daffodils ____

Total payment enclosed _____

In loving memory of or In honor of (circle one)

(name(s))

(name(s))

Please check one of the following choices:

____ I will pick up after church on Easter Sunday

____ I would like my plant delivered to a shut-in



Given by _____



FOR SALE

CHAIRS \$2 each The Trustees are on projects of sorting, discarding, reorganizing, putting spaces and closets in order, about the church. We have come across a lot of folding metal chairs. Due to being them here and there, we did not realize how many are still around until just recently. These chairs were replaced with the padded chairs that are in Fellowship Hall. Over the years many have been sold. The chairs are sturdy, tan colored, work fine. Cost is \$2 each. Give the church a call, 413-532-2262, or speak to Karen Anderson or Eliot Chartrand after worship. How many would you like?

PEWS \$35 each

When the sanctuary floor was done a few years ago, several pews were removed and put in storage. They are for sale on Facebook. Many have sold, however slowly. The pews are 12 feet and 15 feet. The Trustees are requesting your help. Do you know someplace that could use a pew? maybe a woodworker? Other ideas? Speak to Eliot, he will help you out. Or leave a message at church. \$35, what a deal!

Registration for United Church of Christ summer camp at Silver Lake Camp and Retreat Center is open. Silver Lake offers one-week overnight camp sessions from June 21 – July 25 for campers entering 4th through 12th grade. Experience inclusive and nurturing Christian community, opportunities to grow and participate as Christ's disciples, and a model of sustainable environmental stewardship of God's world. Center Church has a limited number of \$275 Silver Lake summer camp scholarships for Center Church families. Summer camp information at silverlakeect.org Contact the Center Church office for scholarship information.

THE MINISTRY AT CENTER CHURCH

Ministers: All Church Members
Senior Minister: Rev. Lori J. Souder

Christian Education Program

Children: Vicki Scherer, Coordinator, - Emily Mulder, Teacher
Youth Coordinator: Kenneth Mulder
Nursery Caregiver: Annabelle Burke

Music

Organist: Larry Schipull
Choir Director: Ben Coakley
Associate in Music: Cynthia Morrell
Office Administrator: Cynthia Jubinville
Sexton: Robert Farman



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Summer Camp 2026 registration is OPEN NOW

[View all the sessions and register today!](#)



Summer Camp 2026

Week #

Grades 4-6

Grades 7-9

Grades 10-12

Tiered Pricing: **\$940 | \$850 | \$760** *Financial Assistance is available.*

1 JUNE 21-27 	PRAISE & PLAY ALL DAY Deans: <i>Stacy Stevens, Debi Mastroni-Kenyon</i> BRING ON THE MONSTERS Deans: <i>Brittany Romaniello, Rebekah Lyon</i> ARTS ALIVE Deans: <i>Emily McKenna, Tiffany Nakanishi</i> BABY CAMP Ages 0-3 & Adult Wednesday-Saturday Deans: <i>Chelsea Kordiak, Mike Kordiak, Anne Hughes</i>
2 JUNE 28- JULY 4 	FAMILY CAMP 1 All Ages Sunday-Wednesday Deans: <i>Sarah Rodriguez, Chris Miller</i> CIRCLE OF FRIENDS Deans: <i>Camryn Cicarelli, Aran Gillette</i> TBA Program Details to be Announced Soon! ADVENTURE CAMP! Dean: <i>Andrew Wicks</i>
3 JULY 5-11 	FAMILY CAMP 2 All Ages Sunday-Wednesday Deans: <i>Evelyn Cass Adams, Kelsey DeCarlo</i> WATER WORLD Deans: <i>Betty Geiling, Josh Geiling, Maureen Montrose</i> SING PRAISE Deans: <i>Valerie Tutson, Leanna Bonafini, Whendi Cook Broderick</i>
4 JULY 12-18 	MUGGLES & WIZARDS Dean: <i>Jennifer Long</i> FUN IN THE SON Deans: <i>Brian Lapis, Cameron Hull, Caitlin Mundy</i>
5 JULY 19-25 	GOD SONG Deans: <i>Victoria Bower, Brianna Gambacini</i> ALL ABOARD! Deans: <i>Brittany Anderson, Kaleb Oakleaf</i> SUMMERTIME S.T.E.A.M. Deans: <i>Vin Urbanowski, Donna Kaiser</i>



Southern New England Conference
United Church of Christ
Using the Love & Justice of Jesus



THE CHURCH
ACCREDITED

www.SilverLakeCT.org

[Silver Lake Camp & Retreat Center](#)

A Ministry of the [Southern New England Conference UCC](#)

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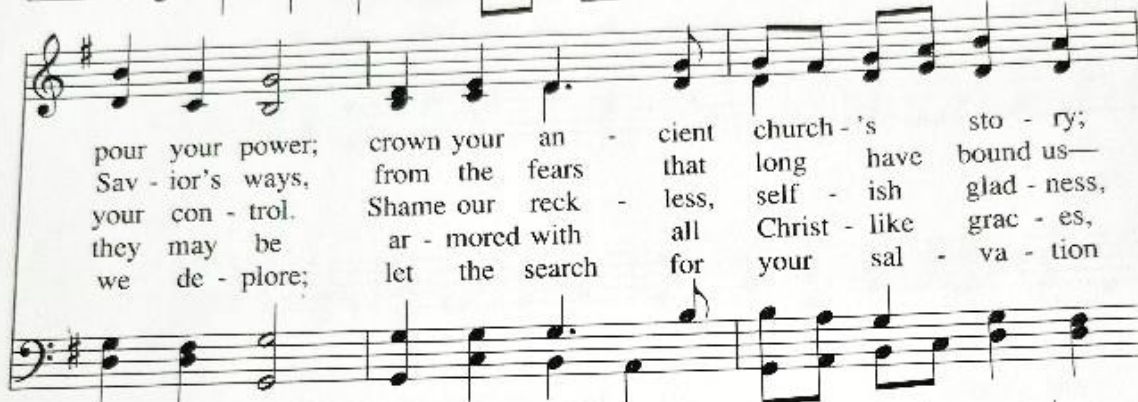
God of Grace and God of Glory

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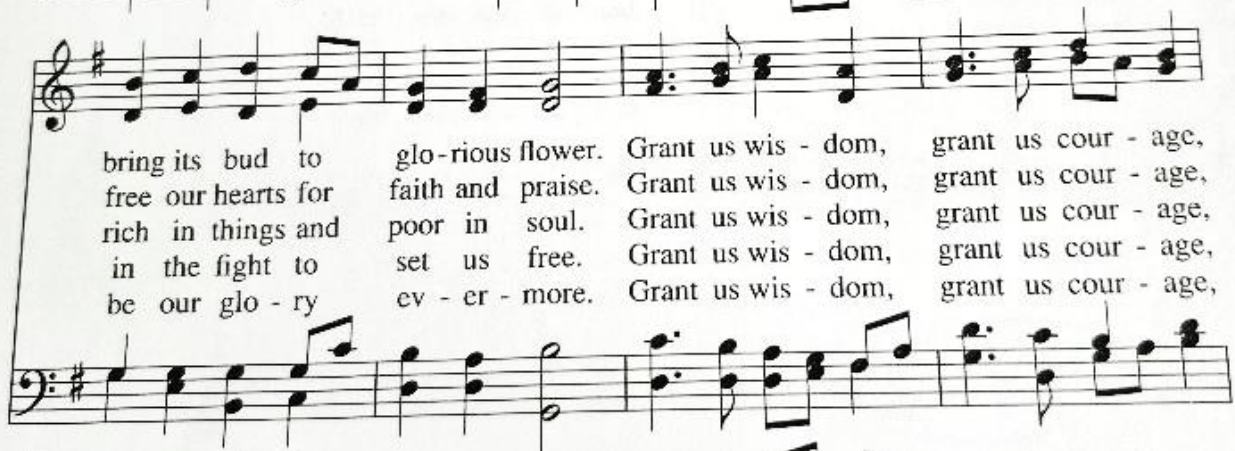
Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930; alt.



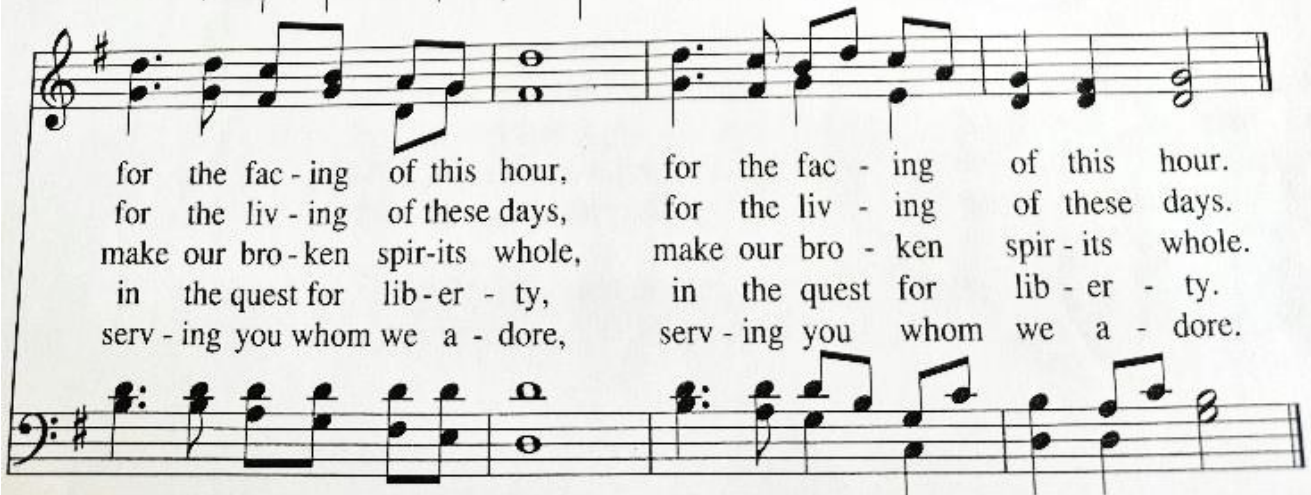
1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 From the e - vils that sur - round us and as - sail the
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Set our feet on loft - y plac - es; gird our lives that
5 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your power; crown your an - cient church - 's sto - ry;
Sav - ior's ways, from the fears that long have bound us—
your con - trol. Shame our reck - less, self - ish glad - ness,
they may be ar - mored with all Christ - like grac - es,
we de - plore; let the search for your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
free our hearts for faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
in the fight to set us free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
make our bro - ken spir - its whole, make our bro - ken spir - its whole.
in the quest for lib - er - ty, in the quest for lib - er - ty.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Harry Emerson Fosdick, a prophetic preacher and writer, taught at Union Theological Seminary from 1915 to 1946. This hymn

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.
John Hughes, c. 1907

Yigdal Elohim Chai

(The God of Abraham Praise)

Moses Maimonides, 12th century

Versification attrib. to Daniel ben Judah, c. 1400

Transl. Max Landsberg and Newton Mann, 1884; alt.

Gen. 12:1; 17:15-16; Exod. 3:14; Isa. 44:6; Rev. 4:8

1 Yig - dal e - lo - him chai v' - yish - ta - bach,
 1 The God of A - braham praise, all prais - es to God's name,
 2 God's spir - it free - ly flows, high surg - ing where it will;
 3 God has e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul;
 4 The God of Sar - ah praise, all prais - es to God's name,

nim - tza v' - ein eit el m' - tzi - u - to
 who was and is and is to be, for - e'er the same!
 God spoke of old in proph - et's word; that word speaks still.
 God's love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.
 who was and is and is to be, for - e'er the same!

E - chad v' - ein ya - chid k' - yi - chu - do,
 The one e - ter - nal God, be - fore what now ap - pears;
 Es - tab - lished is God's law, and change - less it shall stand,
 All praise the liv - ing God! Ex - tol that hal - lowed name,
 The one e - ter - nal God, be - fore what now ap - pears;

ne - lam v' - gam ein sof l' - ach - du - to.
 the First, the Last: be - yond all thought through time - less years!
 deep writ - ten on the hu - man heart, in ev - ery land.
 who was, and is, and ev - er shall be still the same!
 the First, the Last: be - yond all thought through time - less years!

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

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Gal. 6:14; Phil. 3:7-8

Isaac Watts, 1707; alt.

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross,
2 For - bid it, then, that I should boast,
3 From sa - cred head, from hands, and feet,
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine,

on which the Christ of glo - ry died,
save in the death of Christ, my God;
sor - row and love flow min - gled down!
that were a pres - ent far too small;

My rich - est gain I count but loss,
All the vain things that charm me most
Did e'er such love and sor - row meet,
Love so a - maz - ing, so di - vine,

and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
I sac - ri - fice them to Christ's blood.
or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Originally titled "Crucifixion to the World by the Cross of Christ," this hymn has been acclaimed as one of the finest in the English language. Isaac Watts' hymnody grew out of his dissatisfaction with the restraints of the

Tune: HAMBURG L.M.
Lowell Mason, 1825

God of Change and Glory

Al Carmines, 1973

1 Cor. 12:4-27

1 God of change and glo - ry, God of time and space,
 2 God of man - y col - ors, God of man - y signs,
 3 Fresh-ness of the morn - ing, new - ness of each night,

when we fear the fu - ture, give to us your grace.
 you have made us dif - ferent, bless - ing man - y kinds.
 you are still cre - at - ing end - less love and light.

In the midst of chang - ing ways give us still the grace to praise.
 As the old ways dis - ap - pear, let your love cast out our fear.
 This we see, as shad - ows part, man - y gifts from one great heart.

Refrain

Man - y gifts, one Spir - it, one love known in man - y ways.

Al Carmines, composer, playwright, performer, and teacher, has served as minister for two United Church of Christ congregations in New York City. This hymn, commissioned in 1973, was one of the first modern texts to claim diversity as a gift from God.

Tune: KATHERINE 6.5.6.5.7.7

Al Carmines, 1973

C F C F G
In our dif - fer - ence is bless-ing, from di - ver - si - ty we praise

C F G
one Giv-er, one Word, one Spir-it, one God known in man-y ways,

F C G7 C
hal-low-ing our days. For the Giv-er, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!