

CHURCH AT THE CENTER



MARCH 2026



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/

Facebook: Center Church of South Hadley MA

Instagram: @centerchurchsouthhadley



*ALL ARE WELCOME AT CENTER CHURCH ON THE COMMON,
AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING UCC CONGREGATION,
WHERE THE SPIRIT OF GOD STIRS US TO EMBRACE OUR DIVERSITY,
DEEPEN OUR FAITH IN JESUS, SHARE OUR TEARS AND LAUGHTER,
AND EXTEND GOD'S ABUNDANT LOVE AND JUSTICE INTO THE WORLD.*

The month of March always bring me hope. Winter is waning. Birds are finding their way back to sing us sweet morning songs. And spring is almost a nod away. No crocus' yet, though, popping up alongside our Church Street brick wall.

Memories from childhood pop up as surprisingly as crocus' in March. Memories guide us in the days ahead and may even warn us or protect us or remind us how much we have grown. I was thinking about the times when anxiety made me stronger. Do you recall a time when an event toughened you. From Matthew 6:24 Jesus said, "*Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.*"

I was in 8th grade PE class and in the month of March we learned diving from the 3 meter and 10-meter boards. We were told that by the end of the month we had to do a backward dive off the 3-meter board and a front dive off the 10 meter. No way. My stomach would cramp just thinking about it. I would dread when it was my turn to climb up on either board. Mrs. Wolfart (yes that was her name) had no sympathy nor did she listen to anybody's excuses. Somehow, some way I passed the month- long unit of diving. I actually enjoyed diving backwards, but the 10-meter dive played out in my dreams even afterwards. The experience did make me stronger and gave me confidence. And I learned how being anxious did not help me. I just had to face it.

Whatever you have to face, do it now. No need to be anxious. You have a community surrounding you and God to love you.

Blessings, *Lori*

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!"

Breakfast and Conversation **Wednesday March 11 - 8am - in Fellowship Hall.**

Topic: The Moral Implications of AI.

Reading materials will be available on the table in the Church Street entrance. Hope you can join us.

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 _____



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 in February

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 be here at Center Church at
12:30 followed by a reception at Willits-
Hallowell.



A reminder that Daylight Savings Time begins March 8th -
Spring ahead so you make it to church at the beginning of
the Service - not at the end!



CHILDREN'S



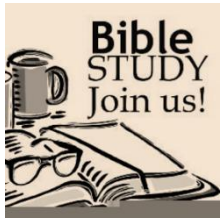
Faith Formation

This month in the promised land we will be talking about who is Jesus. We started this last week by talking about the Good Shepherd. We are also working on decorations for the lunch on March 8th. Finally, we are coming up with questions to ask the Sunday school students at United Community Church in St. Johnsbury.

Vicki

Adult Christian Education

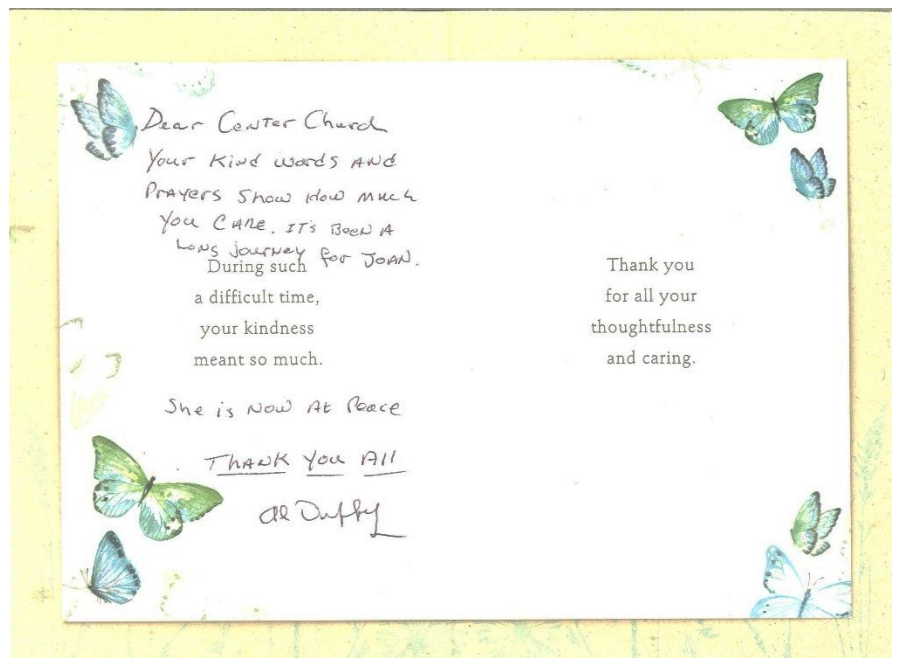
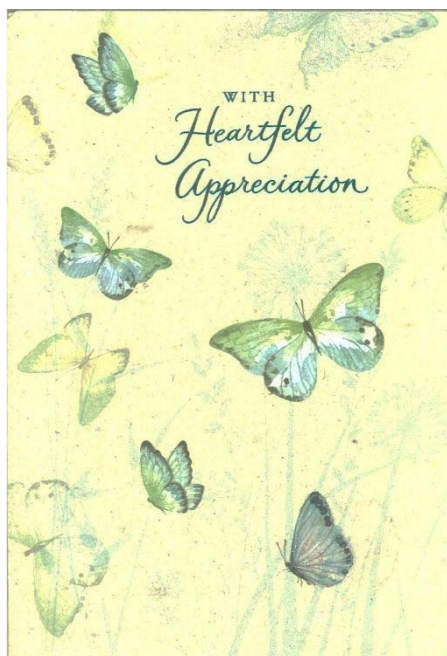
**Bible Study at Loomis Village March 12, 19, and 26
11am-noon, in the Conference Room**



All are welcome to join us as we continue to discuss miracles: the healing of the paralyzed man, feeding the crowds, and walking on water. What to read? There are packages of reading material by the Church St entrance and for the Loomis residents the reading material will be placed in mailboxes. Do consider joining us.

Deacon's Notes

We are now in the liturgical season of Lent. At our February deacons meeting, a discussion revolved around what we as individuals need be reminded of doing during the 40 day season of lent. Pastor Lori spoke about this being a time of prayer, fasting, and giving to charity. We are preparing for Easter, reflecting on the time Jesus spent in the desert, and his sacrifice. We are passing on this message to each of you as part of your spiritual journey. May this time of reflection be a spiritual awakening.



News from the Trustees for March 2026

Leading up to the Annual Meeting, the trustees had several meetings focusing mainly on the 2026 budget. That cannot happen until at least early February when we know exactly how the previous year's budget actually "closed." Our special thanks to Thia Jubinville and John Hoffman for their hard work during that time. The final figures showed that we took in \$245,216 in income which was 92.6% of the projected budget. Our expenses came in at \$277,517 which was 93.54% of the proposed budget. A benefactor's gift of \$10,000 given in 2024 was put toward payroll expenses for 2025. Once all this information was combined, we ended the 2025 budget year with a deficit of \$32,300 which we voted to take from our permanently restricted endowment so that the end result would be -0-. At the Annual Meeting, the 2026 budget was approved, with a proposed deficit of \$ 35052.00.

Other information to share - we welcome Camila Mugnani-Hallett, MHC 2015, an elocution/speech/voice pathologist who will be using the Meetinghouse Room for lessons as a "casual user" for the moment. We were also pleased to hear that the Odyssey will continue to use the sanctuary for book signings as needed, an arrangement which has been beneficial for us both. A group of the trustees has been working on cleaning up several areas of the building which are in need of some new "organizing." At the February 10 meeting, Eliot Chartrand and Winston Baldwin agreed to serve as chair and vice-chair for this year. We are still working out other assignments, so more to come on that. **Again, we thank everyone who came forward in 2025 to help us keep the deficit as low as we could. We are always thankful for any gifts and pledges which help to keep operating our buildings and meet our payroll for our hard-working staff. And we especially thank the Activities Team for their help in fundraising as well.**

If you ever have building or financial concerns, please feel free to leave your concerns with Thia in the office and she will relay them on to the appropriate trustee(s). We would also be remiss if we did not profusely thank Bill Giles for his service on our board and wish him well going forward. And we also welcomed back Randy Purinton after a short hiatus.

Cindy Morrell for the trustees

Notes from Church Council

The Council met virtually on February 3. Rachel Alldis of Deacons opened the meeting at 7:03 p.m. and called on Rev. Souder for devotions. Lori spoke about how much of our lives we are waiting. During our stressful moments of waiting, we need to let our Creator show us the way. The *think tank* discussion centered on what Center Church membership means to us. Why are our emails and letters to possible new members not replied to? Maybe it's the commitment/expectation of pledging, etc. It's important to us to have active members. Through old business, we revisited fundraising efforts. We also agreed that this should be brought before the upcoming Annual Meeting. New business discussed the planning of a future intergenerational luncheon. March 8 is the chosen date. The next scheduled Zoom meeting is March 3 at 7:00 p.m. Rachel Alldis will lead and Brian Lapis will present devotions.

Center Church in Transition

Marriage: January 23 Mathieu E, LaFleur to Kathleen D. Terry.

Death: Dr. Thomas Bernard January 23, former member, 94 yrs. of age.
Thomas Norman Hazen February 16, 90 yrs. of age.

Outreach Team



One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is one of several special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ and other denominations, which helps in disaster, refugee/immigration, and development ministries throughout the world. Center Church will collect an OGHS offering on March 15, 2026.

Your offering provided eco-stoves to Esmerelda Robles and 58 families in rural Honduras so they can prepare meals without increasing environmental pollution. She and others use less firewood, cook faster, and save time preparing meals for their families. In addition, Esmerelda and her neighbors receive training on planting crops, producing fertilizers, and implementing irrigation techniques. Your dollars to One Great Hour of Sharing empower families like Esmerelda's to thrive in unimaginable ways. Her community is more food secure and healthier, because of your generous offering.

*thank
you*

Many thanks, again this year, for gifting warm clothing items to your Outreach Committee for delivery to needy families in our Valley. This year's donated items went to **Granby-To-Go** who gifted needed items to families of school children in Granby and South Hadley. Our collection ended at the end of February.

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!

Activities Team



Please mark your calendars for the **English Spring Tea!** This year, our plan is to hold our fourth annual event **May 2nd**, to allow Mother's Day weekend to involve existing family plans and travel. Our event will take on a welcome to May, with warmer weather, flowering plants, and celebration! Spread the word and then join us with your friends and family, reserve a table, see what the menu offers!

The very active Activities Team recovers from a busy Tag Sale and Holiday Bazaar in the winter months, but our work is never done! We are actively open to helping your friends, family and neighbors, who are downsizing their living quarters, donate any items available for our projects, instead of to the landfill. We have a team that will pack, pick up, or move and store at our location. We are available to suggest the best items we can sell and suggest alternatives for items not on the list.

Join our team this spring! We have ways to use your skills, and your help can be used to make our projects happen.

Karen Anderson
Corinne Chartrand



The South Hadley Chorale will present its annual concert on Sunday, March 15, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. in Abbey Memorial Chapel at Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Massachusetts. The program will feature Vivaldi's *Gloria*, a selection of inspiring and beautiful spirituals, and Allen Bonde's *A Choral Benediction*. The Hampshire Young People's Chorus, directed by K.C. Conlon, is also be featured.

Music Director Anita Anderson Cooper will conduct. Ms. Anderson Cooper is a well-known area musician, conductor, teacher, and composer. She received degrees from Westminster College, Boston University, and Delta State University. She also directs the chorus of the Paul R. Baird Middle School in Ludlow and conducts the Smith College Handbell Choir.

Tickets may be purchased at the door for \$25 general admission, \$20 for senior citizens, and \$5 for students and children. Tickets may also be purchased prior to the concert day from Chorale members; at the Odyssey Bookshop, South Hadley; or online at www.eventbrite.com for \$20, \$15, and \$5.

This program is supported in part by grants from Peoples Bank and the South Hadley Cultural Council, a local agency that is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. For further information, please visit www.southhadleychorale.org or call 413-533-3833.

The Peterson Scholarship Fund

The time of the year is upon us to activate the Peterson Scholarship Fund information. The article below tells you a little about how this scholarship was founded and continues to be administered yearly by our church. Each year we have a special collection for contributions to allow us to continue this worthy cause. This allows the endowment to stabilize. The date of this year's special collection will be Sunday, April 19th. It seems appropriate to refresh our minds a little as to the origin of this fund.

The fund was established in 1985 after the death of Gus Peterson's wife, Ginger. This couple had come into the life of Center Church when Gus founded and edited "The Town Reminder". Gus and his 3 daughters, with the guidance of our Trustees, set up a scholarship program with the memorial gifts that had been given in Ginger's memory. The family strongly believed that education could go a long way toward solving the problems of individuals, communities, and nations. They were especially concerned with a minority status of many individuals which helped create a situation in which the individuals could not get the education needed to fully utilize their potential. Thus, was born the Peterson Memorial Education Scholarship Fund. In 1991, at the request of Gus, the administration of the fund was given over to our church. The Trustees oversee the memorial contributions and interest incurred by the fund with an ad hoc team of the church seeking and determining applicant awards. Awards are based on the number of applicants and the award money available that is subject to the interest earned on the principle plus the contributions made by his family and by our special collection allocation to this project.

Now who was Gus Peterson? While running the "Town Reminder", Gus took courses at Hartford Seminary to fulfill his desire to enter the ministry. In October of 1991, we gathered in our sanctuary to witness his ordination. We quickly gave him the title of Minister of Mission and Visitation (both volunteer) and paid him with one cord of wood a year...actually, a bundle of tiny sticks delivered at the annual meeting and fitting in one's hand. For over ten years Gus and his second wife, Barbara, were very involved with Nueva Esperanza in Holyoke. His work with them, his compassion, and his belief in them was amazing. Gus did visit our homebound and those dealing with illness; but we all benefitted from just being around him and hearing his words of wisdom, (Laced with a keen sense of humor); witnessing the living out of his strong faith in God and participating in his visions. He didn't do things with a "splash" (although he had a pool in his back yard); but rather with a behind the scenes quietness that accompanied action. Gus died in May of 2006 and memorial contributions received were designated to the already existing Peterson Memorial Scholarship Fund.

The scholarships are relatively small, in number and amount. There are usually 3-5 awards given in the amount of \$200-\$500. The committee looks at need, as well as past, present and future involvement in human relations and service to others. However, most importantly there is the belief that along with the financial aspect comes the contribution that we give through the encouragement that the check represents...the encouragement to individuals...a belief that they can succeed and that we believe in them.

Although contributions to this fund may be given at any time during the year; we hope that you will consider a gift to this fund during our special collection on Sunday April 19th. You may also send a check to the church office with the Peterson Memorial Scholarship Fund named in the memo section of the check. **Applications for the Peterson Memorial Scholarships** are available in the church office. Please note that the deadline for filing is May 5, 2026. All persons affiliated with Center Church are encouraged to consider this opportunity to apply.

From the Church Historian – March 2026

The Mount Holyoke Female Seminary

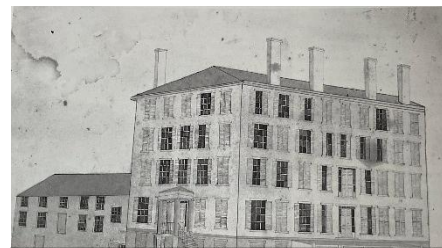
Considered the “chief glory of South Hadley” The Mount Holyoke Female Seminary/College became known “to all parts of the habitable globe.” Back in 1836, locating such an institution in South Hadley, was “unthinkable.” The future founder, Mary Lyon, was encouraged to visit South Hadley by her many friends. Through them, she was persuaded to choose South Hadley (over Sunderland and South Deerfield) and seek out a suitable location. Center Church raised \$8,000 in one day to secure her endeavor! The gift was considered “from the Stewards of the Lord.”



Rev. Condit

Trustees for the seminary were incorporated February 10, 1836. Among them was our pastor Rev. Joseph D. Condit. After much “back and forth” between the Falls and the Center, the Center location won out. At that time, the proposed name of the institution was: “The Pangynaskean Seminary.” Translated, it means “all the powers of women should be cultivated.” It was “soundly rejected” because of too much negative criticism.

Excavation of the basement was completed in September 1836 after a defect in the foundation was discovered. So it had to be moved 60 feet from the existing highway. More problems arose with the local bricks used to erect the walls. One morning after the masons had completed a portion of their work and went to breakfast, they returned to find the walls totally collapsed into a heap. Miss Lyon responded “thank God no one was injured!” While the building was under construction, Mary Lyon boarded with the Condit Family. She was able to give “all of her time overseeing the workers.” They appreciated the “energetic little woman.” She had “keen blue eyes that looked everywhere.” The cornerstone was put in place on October 3, 1836. The completed building was 94 feet long by 50 feet wide and four stories high. It would accommodate 80 students and their teachers. The Mount Holyoke Female Seminary opened on November 8, 1837.



1838 Seminary



Mary Lyon was born on a farm in Buckland, MA on February 28, 1797. Her parents were Aaron and Jemima (Shepard) Lyon. Miss Lyon was considered an American pioneer of women’s education. Mary died from acute influenza on March 5, 1849 in South Hadley and is buried on the Mount Holyoke College campus. For nearly 12 years during her teaching tenure, 1,900 young women “entered upon the course of higher education.” The students became known as “cornerstones.” After her death, her dream continued. In 1888, the school was chartered as Mount Holyoke Seminary and College and then in 1893, the name became solely Mount Holyoke College. It endures to this day and is going on 200 years!



We, who have inherited Center Church’s many accomplishments, need to proudly acknowledge our heritage!

Tell Me the Stories - March 2026

This Little Light of Mine (NCH 524/25) is an African American traditional “parting” hymn. It is thought that the “evening sky” was its inspiration – many of their services happened in the evenings, out of doors. Many of these hymns referenced light, perhaps from Jesus’ suggestion to “let your light shine.” Since God created stars and light and gave us purpose, each of us has the “gift of shining.” As with many of the spirituals, the text is not necessarily attributed to one person. Although we chose to sing the 525 words sometimes since they were easier to follow, we usually used the 524 tune. For our recent service, we actually did use the 524 words as well. That tune is called “This Joy” because of the first word in the alternate words that can be used with them. It was arranged by Jeffrey Radford, one of our younger composers and a member of the NCH committee. The tune is again part of the African American tradition with no known composer. Radford also arranged seven other spirituals for us in the NCH. CAC 3/11

Our next hymn this month is *Renew Your Church* (NCH 311). It was written in 1960 by Kenneth Cober as part of a five-year program encouraging evangelism in the Baptist church. Cober was a Baptist pastor in New York before he became executive director of the American Baptist Church’s Div. of Christian Education. Cober grew up in Puerto Rico. The tune itself “All is Well,” an old English melody, is thought to have been taken from the ending of the text. The tune may be more familiar to you from the Mormon hymn *Come, Come Ye Saints*. That particular hymn text was written as they journeyed from the East out to Utah. There is some suspicion that the tune really is not English, but comes from the USA, perhaps from a book, *Songs of Zion*, published in Boston in 1842. It is an appropriate hymn to use as we think about “renewing” our church through our stewardship. The 2nd, 3rd and 4th stanzas start “Teach us your word”, “Teach us to pray”, and “Teach us to love”. Next time you are in the sanctuary, I encourage you to read carefully and thoughtfully through all four stanzas. They are very powerful words! CAC 11/15

O Love, How Vast, How Flowing Free (NCH 209, PH 151) was originally written by Benjamin Webb for the *Pilgrim Hymnal*. It was based on a 23rd stanza of a 15th century Latin poem. It is said that the original was a “Nativity hymn of great piety.” The NCH version was developed in 1994 specifically for this hymnal and was updated from the original. The six stanzas that we sing tell of the life of Jesus. The tune is actually known by two names. The first is “Agincourt”, coming from a folk song melody talking about Henry V’s Agincourt victory in 1415. Henry, however, did not like the secular song and wanted to refocus the victory to give thanks and praise to God for that victory. Its second, more sacred, name is “Deo Gracias” which set the focus as Henry wished. Both Larry and I have organ pieces for that tune! The hymn tune “Deo Gracias” or “The Agincourt Song” was composed as a ballad celebrating Henry V’s win at Agincourt. Wondering if that hymn tune seemed familiar? We sang that tune with *O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair* the previous week. The NCH is the first UCC hymnal to include it. No one knows who actually composed the tune. We know the tune in the PH with *O Love, How Deep, How Broad*, and it was used with three in the NCH. CAC 3/15

The final hymn I selected this month is *Lord Jesus, Who Through Forty Days* (NCH 211, PH 153) is one of our Lenten hymns. It was also the second hymn during March which was in both hymnals, the major difference between the two is with the pronouns. Claudia F. Hernaman was a composer in the later part of the 1800s. This hymn was written for children and published with 36 other original hymns and Latin translations in 1873. She was born in Surrey, England in 1838, daughter of an Anglican priest. She married a minister who interestingly was also listed as a school inspector. During her 59 years, she wrote most of her 150 hymns and hymn collections for children. The tune has been given many names since first published in 1562, in a book called *Day’s Psalter*, but it was renamed “St. Flavian” in 1875. The tune was also called “Redhead No. 29” or “Old 132 ND.” St. Flavian was the bishop of Constantinople. The tune was also put with two other NCH hymns - 318 and 342. CAC 4/14

Resources used: *Wonderful Words of Life*, ed. Richard J. Mouw & Mark A. Noll (2004); and *The New Century Hymnal Companion*, ed. Kristin Forman (1998).



Cynthia J. Morrell, Associate in Music



March BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Sharyn Kovalesky
- 03 Cathy Irish
- 12 Oliver LaBonte
- 13 Avery Lapis
- Zoe Lapis
- 14 Rod Kenneson
- 17 David Blank
- Karen Hyvonen
- 18 Janis Sokop
- 19 Yvette Clarke
- 26 Drew Alley
- 27 Rachel Alldis
- Alison Smith
- 28 Patrick Sabbs



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

Daily Lectionary Scripture References – March 2026 (Year A)

Sun., Mar. 1 <i>Second Sunday in Lent</i> Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 121 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9	Thurs., Mar. 12 Psalm 23 1 Samuel 15:10-21 Ephesians 4:25-32	Mon., Mar. 23 Psalm 143 1 Kings 17:17-24 Acts 20:7-12
Mon., Mar. 2 Psalm 128 Numbers 21:4-9 Hebrews 3:1-6	Fri., Mar. 13 Psalm 23 1 Samuel 15:22-31 Ephesians 5:1-9	Tues., Mar. 24 Psalm 143 2 Kings 4:18-37 Ephesians 2:1-10
Tues., Mar. 3 Psalm 128 Isaiah 65:17-25 Romans 4:6-13	Sat., Mar. 14 Psalm 23 1 Samuel 15:32-34 John 11:1-9	Wed., Mar. 25 Psalm 143 Jeremiah 32:1-9, 36-41 Matthew 22:23-33
Wed., Mar. 4 Psalm 128 Ezekiel 36:22-32 John 7:53-8:11	Sun., Mar. 15 <i>Fourth Sunday in Lent</i> 1 Samuel 16:1-13 Psalm 23 Ephesians 5:8-14 John 9:1-41	Thurs., Mar. 26 Psalm 143 1 Samuel 16:11-13 Philippians 1:1-11
Thurs., Mar. 5 Psalm 95 Exodus 16:1-8 Colossians 1:15-23	Mon., Mar. 16 Psalm 146 Isaiah 59:9-19 Acts 9:1-20	Fri., Mar. 27 Psalm 31:9-16 Job 13:13-19 Philippians 1:21-30
Fri., Mar. 6 Psalm 95 Exodus 16:9-21 Ephesians 2:11-22	Tues., Mar. 17 Psalm 146 Isaiah 42:14-21 Colossians 1:9-14	Sat., Mar. 28 Psalm 31:9-16 Lamentations 3:55-66 Mark 10:32-34
Sat., Mar. 7 Psalm 95 Exodus 16:27-35 John 4:1-6	Wed., Mar. 18 Psalm 146 Isaiah 60:17-22 Matthew 9:27-34	Sun., Mar. 29 <i>Passion or Palm Sunday</i> Palms: Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Matthew 21:1-11 Passion: Isaiah 50:4-9a Psalm 31:9-16 Philippians 2:5-11 Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54
Sun., Mar. 8 <i>Third Sunday in Lent</i> Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42	Thurs., Mar. 19 Psalm 130 Ezekiel 1:1-3; 2:8-3:3 Revelation 10:1-11	Mon., Mar. 30 Isaiah 42:1-9 Psalm 36:5-11 Hebrews 9:11-15 John 12:1-11
Mon., Mar. 9 Psalm 81 Genesis 24:1-27 2 John 1-13	Fri., Mar. 20 Psalm 130 Ezekiel 33:10-16 Revelation 11:15-19	Tues., Mar. 31 Isaiah 49:1-7 Psalm 71:1-14 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 John 12:20-36
Tues., Mar. 10 Psalm 81 Genesis 29:1-14 1 Corinthians 10:1-4	Sat., Mar. 21 Psalm 130 Ezekiel 36:8-15 Luke 24:44-53	
Wed., Mar. 11 Psalm 81 Jeremiah 2:4-13 John 7:14-31, 37-39	Sun., Mar. 22 <i>Fifth Sunday in Lent</i> Ezekiel 37:1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45	

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THE MINISTRY AT CENTER CHURCH

Ministers: All Church Members

Senior Minister: Rev. Lori J. Souder

Christian Education Program

Children: Vicki Scherer, Coordinator - Emily Mulder & Julia Nogales, Teachers

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



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.

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



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



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223 Low Road | Sharon, CT 06069 | 860.364.5526 | Fax: 860.364.1000

slrc@sneucc.org

