



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ - ONA

One Church Street

South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075

(413) 532-2262

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Facebook: Center Church of South Hadley MA

Instagram: @centerchurchsouthhadley



WELCOME TO CENTER CHURCH

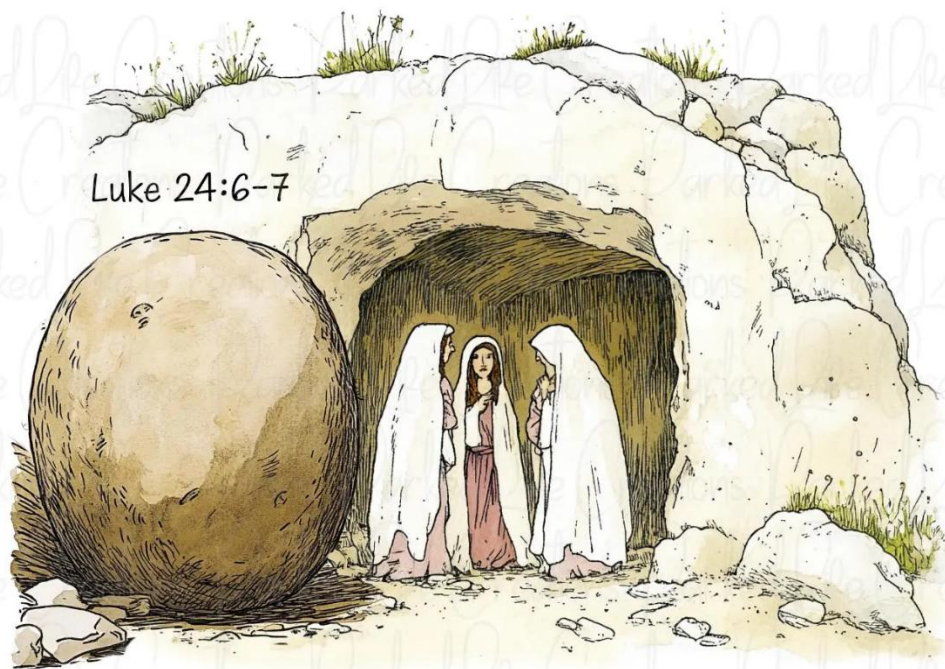
WHERE WE STIR UP THE SPIRIT OF GOD

Easter is the time to remember that God's love is stronger than any obstacle. It's a time to remember that new beginnings are always possible. As we celebrate your presence today, we wish you a fresh and joyful start.

Rev. Lori Souder

We welcome you to our Easter Morning worship service. We hope you experience a meaningful hour of worship as we gather in person. For many of us, there is a special feeling of spirituality as we share the words and the music of Sunday worship. We hope that you will also feel this, and join us again in the weeks ahead.

Happy Easter - and may we find joy and peace as we practice our faith in the weeks ahead!



He is not here, he has risen!



**APRIL 5, 2026
EASTER SUNDAY**



Children are invited to count how many **Alleluia's** are spoken or sung during the worship service. If you keep tally, bring your answer to a deacon by the side door or back door, and you will receive an Easter gift.

PRELUDE

*Vruechten
Llanfair*

K. Kolander
R.J. Powell

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Jesus Christ has risen today,

People: Alleluia

Leader: Our triumphant holy day,

People: Alleluia

Leader: Who died once upon the cross,

People: Alleluia

***HYMN**

What Wondrous Love Is This

black # 223

MESSAGE FOR ALL

At the conclusion of the message the children will return to sit with their families.

Activity packets are available at the back of the sanctuary.

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

MORNING PRAYERS

Prayer of Confession

The dark hour has passed, God. Free us to live anew and be transformed by the forgiveness you have granted to us.

Assurance: Alleluia! We are free to release our burdens, to forgive, and be forgiven. Praise be to 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

John 20:1-22

20 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” ³ Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴ The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵ He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷ and the cloth that had been on Jesus’s head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed, ⁹ for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples returned home..

¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb, ¹² and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” ¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, “Do not touch me, because I have not yet ascended.”

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side.

Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

SERMON

TAKE JESUS WITH YOU

HYMN

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

black #240

OFFERING***

Invitation

Offertory

Hallelujah Chorus

G. F. Handel, arr. B. Coakley

(the Congregation will please remain seated)

***Doxology (unison)**

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

Because You Live, O Christ

black # 231

BENEDICTION

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *Threefold Amen*

POSTLUDE

Fanfare for the Good

M. Ploof

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.



*** As is our custom, the **Easter plate** offering will be dedicated to replenishing the "Deacon's Fund" which is used to help those in need. This fund is used at the discretion of the Pastor and Deacons. Please consider an extra donation to this very important fund. Thank You!

In our Service Today



Preacher:

Rev. Lori J. Souder

Scripture Reader:

Elisa Morrison

Message for All:

Rev. Lori & Rev. Winston

Organist:

Larry Schipull

Trumpeter:

Michael Ploof

Choir Director:

Ben Coakley

Deacon:

Karen Anderson

Greeter:

Kate Hoffman

PLEASE KEEP THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS

Continual:

Barbara Blank, on Hospice at Reeds Landing
Turned 100 on April 1
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, at Reeds Landing
Nikki Wolf, Linda's granddaughter
Those struggling with addiction,
with cancer, and with chronic disease

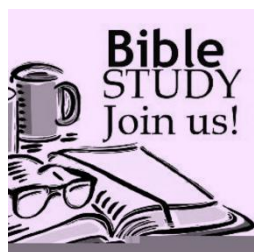


Situational:

Cynthia Baker
Dennis Banks, friend of Karen and
Estelle Anderson, with cancer
Dianne Clinton's friend Sally, on the passing
Of Sally's son at age 56
Family and friends of Peg Dumbaugh,
who passed away
Robin Glossner, undergoing chemo
John Hoffman's parents, Jean and John
Preston Smith and family on the passing of
his daughter, Kendall Johnson-Smith
Elisa Morrison's step-mother Sandy, and
brother Carl, with heart issues

**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**

The Gospel of Mary Magdalene



April 16 and April 23 in the Conference Room at Loomis Village. All are welcome. Copies will be available on the table at the Church Street entrance. Those living at Loomis will receive a copy in their mailbox. The Gospel of Mary Magdalene never made it into the Bible, but is a respected source.



Center Church Announcements

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 Crossway.



On April 19th we will have a special collection for the **Peterson Memorial Scholarship Fund**. This fund was established by Rev. Gus Peterson, who served in the capacity of the volunteer Minister of Missions at Center Church from 1990-2006. The fund's statement of purpose says "The fund exists to assist people who wish to pursue their education to help them reach their fullest potential, but whose financial situation makes it difficult for them to do so." The Peterson Scholarship team selects recipients and distributes the scholarships. Contributions to this fund may also be sent to the church office. Applications for one of these scholarships are available in the church office. Deadline for submission of the application is May 5th.

Humor Sunday April 19 we will be celebrating Humor Sunday, when "God had the last laugh at the Devil." Sure, we do not believe in the Devil, but evil exists and we need ways to respond...through laughter. Join us.

Let's Find Out: We know there are friends of Center Church who attend quite frequently. Do you wish to know more about the church? Do you wish to join or be reinstated? What times work best for a meeting? - during the early evenings or after church? Please let Lori know.

Happy Easter

This Week at Center Church

Tuesday	Church Council 7pm
Thursday	AA 1:30pm Tree of Life in FHall 5:30pm
Friday	Church Office Closed
Sunday	Worship 10am Randy Hyvonen preaching

There is NO Breakfast and Conversation in April - Rev. Lori will be away.



Spring has arrived and our **English Spring Tea, Saturday, May 9th, Noon - 3pm**, is on the horizon! This is a CHANGED DATE and TIME. "Take time for Tea" is our theme, again this year, and we hope you have marked your calendars and plan to attend. Call the church office, 413-532-2262 for reservations and tickets (\$20 adults, \$10

children). There will be spring flowers and small gifts available to purchase. This project supports the church, our fellowship, and Allianza, a local support organization providing rescues for Mothers and Children in abusive situations. Spread the word and invite a guest or two and reserve your table!

We are actively looking for team members to join our efforts at the English Spring Tea (and hopefully for the Tag Sale in September.) Many hands make the work easier and we'd love to share the fellowship.



Are you a South Hadley resident interested in our town's history? The South Hadley Historical Commission is about to start work to create the first Town of South Hadley Historical Preservation Plan. We will be working with the Massachusetts Historical Commission. We have six commission members, but we need one more! You can apply at <https://www.southhadley.org/692/Board-Vacancies>. For more information, or if you have a question, please contact Bob Judge at RobertJudge@gmail.com.

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: <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



ACCREDITED

www.SilverLakeCT.org

[Silver Lake Camp & Retreat Center](#)

A Ministry of the [Southern New England Conference UCC](#)
 223 Low Road | Sharon, CT 06069 | 860.364.5526 | Fax: 860.364.1000

slcrc@sneucc.org





Dear Friend:

I'm reaching out because our loved ones in Hawaii are experiencing two significant Kona storms, causing relentless flooding throughout the Hawaiian Islands. Three of our local congregations, Waialua UCC, Liliuokalani, and Topside Molokai, are directly impacted by the flooding, which is also causing destruction to schools, homes, roads, and airports. UCC churches in other impacted communities are operating as emergency shelters to help as many people as possible.

The UCC Global HOPE team is actively working with our siblings at the Hawaii Conference to link them with immediate response resources to try to lessen the impact of this unimaginable loss for our congregations.

The UCC is accepting donations for this emergency. Your kindhearted generosity continues to remind our local congregations that they are not facing these widespread disasters on their own, that we are here praying and sending support to facilitate the long-term recovery of their neighborhoods and churches. If you wish to help, you may mail a check **directly to the UCC fund** (*Center Church will not be taking a separate collection*) payable to the **United Church of Christ**, PO Box 71957, Cleveland, OH 44194. Please be sure to note "Hawaii Flooding 2026" in the memo section of your check.

Thank you for your prayers and support. We are constantly amazed at the innumerable ways you step up to help! Please click here to learn more about how you can make a difference.

With gratitude,
Michelle A. Carver, MBA
Director of Philanthropy

What Wondrous Love Is This

John 19:17; Rev. 5:13

19th century, United States; alt.
First published in Mercer's Cluster, 1836

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul! O my soul! What
 2 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to
 3 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and

won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is
 God and to the Lamb, I will sing; To God and to the
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on! And when from death I'm

this! that Christ should come in bliss to bear the heav-y cross for my
 Lamb who is the great I Am, while mil-lions join the theme, I will
 free, I'll sing and joy-ful be, and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the heav-y cross for my soul!
 sing, I will sing; while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.
 on, I'll sing on, and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on!

This anonymous folk hymn, with its modal (dorian) tune, has appeared in many versions. William Walker, compiler of


Tune: WONDROUS LOVE 12.9.12.12.9.
(CHRISTOPHER)

First Published in Walker's Southern Harmony, c. 1843

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

Matt. 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-10

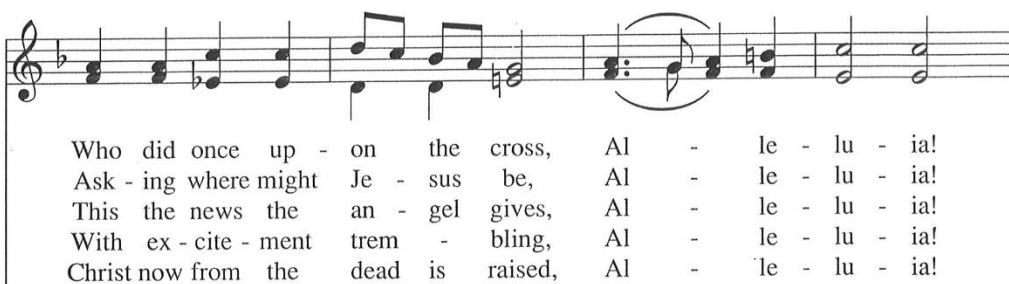
St. 1 transl., Lyra Davidica, London, 1708
St. 2-5 transl., The New Century Hymnal, 1994



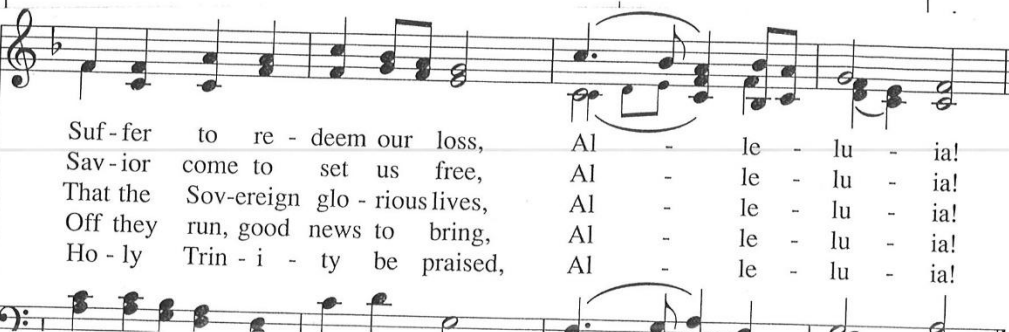
1 Je - sus Christ is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
2 To the tomb the wom - en bring, Al - le - lu - ia!
3 There the an - gel clothed in white, Al - le - lu - ia!
4 "Has - ten now to Gal - i - lee," Al - le - lu - ia!
5 Christ ap - pears in full ar - ray, Al - le - lu - ia!



Our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
Spic - es rich, an of - fer - ing, Al - le - lu - ia!
Tells the news with great de - light, Al - le - lu - ia!
"Tell the oth - ers what you see!" Al - le - lu - ia!
Sing with joy this Pas - chal day, Al - le - lu - ia!



Who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
Ask - ing where might Je - sus be, Al - le - lu - ia!
This the news the an - gel gives, Al - le - lu - ia!
With ex - cite - ment trem - bling, Al - le - lu - ia!
Christ now from the dead is raised, Al - le - lu - ia!



Suf - fer to re - deem our loss, Al - le - lu - ia!
Sav - ior come to set us free, Al - le - lu - ia!
That the Sov - er - eign glo - rious lives, Al - le - lu - ia!
Off they run, good news to bring, Al - le - lu - ia!
Ho - ly Trin - i - ty be praised, Al - le - lu - ia!

Because You Live, O Christ

Luke 24:1-10

Shirley Erena Murray, 1987

1 Be - cause you live, O Christ, the gar - den of the
 2 Be - cause you live, O Christ, the spir - it bird of
 3 Be - cause you live, O Christ, the rain - bow of your

world has come to flow - er, the shad - ows of the tomb
 hope is freed for fly - ing, our ca - ges of de - spair
 peace will span cre - a - tion, the col - ors of your love

are flood - ed with your res - ur - rec - tion pow - er.
 no long - er keep us closed and life - de - ny - ing.
 will draw all hu - man - kind to ad - o - ra - tion.

The stone has rolled a - way and death can - not im - pris - on! O

New Zealand hymnwriter Shirley Erena Murray expressed her aims in writing this new text for the beloved Easter tune Vreuchten: "I wanted a fresh expression of community joyfulness, with light, color, and the vision of the covenant rainbow through the Resurrection."

Tune: VRUECHTEN 6.7.6.7.D.
 Melody in David's Psalmen, 1685
 J. Oudaen, Amsterdam

EASTER

sing this Eas - ter Day, for Je - sus Christ has ris - en, has

ris - en, has ris - en, has ris - en!