



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
“Center Church”



United Church of Christ - ONA
One Church Street

South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075

(413) 532-2262

email: centerchurch@verizon.net

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!

May 24, 2026

*The Holy Spirit... calls, gathers enlightens and makes holy,
the whole Christian Church.*

Martin Luther

PRELUDE

Munich
Scherzo-Trio on *Nettleton*

F. Peeters

D. Schelat

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: On this day of Pentecost,

People: It is the spirits of ordinary people that catch fire with joy,

Leader: Consuming the attitudes and customs, that divide them,

People: Creating good will between them.

**All: The Spirit that is Holy appears to those who discover
and delight in each other.**

***HYMN**

On Pentecost They Gathered

black # 272

MESSAGE FOR ALL

CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATES

Annabelle Burke and Samuel Pontes

*At the conclusion of the celebration, 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

O spirit of dreams, we struggle because we have forgotten our visions. We crowd them out with our to-do lists' and then for some of us, our bodies are fragile. Turn us around so that we share our dreams and visions by talking and listening to one another. Blow through us so we can celebrate our birthday once again.

Assurance of Forgiveness

In our brokenness, God is ever near. Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

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



Hear our prayer, O God, hear our prayer, O God; in -



cline your ear to us, and grant us your peace. A - men.

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Acts 2: 1-21

2 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. **2** And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. **3** Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. **4** All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

5 Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. **6** And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. **7** Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?" **8** And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? **9** Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, **10** Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, **11** Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." **12** All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" **13** But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I

say. ¹⁵ Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. ¹⁶ No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:
¹⁷ 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. ¹⁸ Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. ²⁰ The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. ²¹ Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

SERMON

PLENTY OF SIGNS

***HYMN**

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

black # 59

OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory

Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel

***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**

Come, O Spirit, Dwell among Us

black # 267

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Threefold Amen

POSTLUDE

Ebenezer

A.D. Miller

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:	Annalise Hamel-Acosta
Organist:	Larry Schipull
Choir Director:	Ben Coakley
Deacon:	Bill Giles
Greeter:	Julie Burke



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
Eileen Halkyard
Elisa's young friend Elija, addiction recovery
Eunice Howes
Elisa Morrison's step-mother Sandy, and
brother Carl, with heart issues
Leila Mulder, attending boarding school
Fay Paquette
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
Bob Cocker, Rob Cocker's dad, after a fall
Robin Glossner, undergoing chemo
John Hoffman's parents, Jean and John
Family and friends of Dave Nelson,
Mary's dad, who died Tuesday
Hitesh Shroff, with cancer

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

This Week at Center Church

Monday **Memorial Day**
Thursday AA 1:30pm
Sunday **Worship 10am Rev. Winston Baldwin preaching**



Rev. Lori will be away June 1-14. Rev. Barbara Kerschner and Rev. Randy Hyvonen will share coverage for Pastoral Emergencies.

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 the Crossway.

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.



2026 Graduates

High School



Annabelle Burke
West Springfield High

Samuel Pontes

Ludlow High School



College



Teagan Anz
Lasell University

Jonas Clarke

Harvard



Lily Griffin

Queen's University, Canada



Graduate School

Bethany Sissons

Dianne Clinton's granddaughter

Syracuse University College of Law





This morning, Center Church will join congregations across the United Church of Christ in receiving the **Strengthen the Church** special mission offering—one of the UCC's four annual offerings dedicated to nurturing new life, new leaders, and new ministries in our wider church.

The Strengthen the Church Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to build up the church together. Gifts to this offering support ministry innovation within the Southern New England Conference, with a special focus this year on expanding opportunities for Youth and Young Adults. With new leadership and renewed energy, these ministries are growing to meet young people where they are and invite them more fully into faith, community, and leadership. Through your generosity, you strengthen the Body of Christ in Southern New England and support our sibling congregations across the wider UCC.



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

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



The Church Council and the Trustees have been discussing the viability of the Fall Tag Sale Fundraiser. This project, along with the Holiday Bazaar and the Spring Tea, generated **over \$19,000 in 2025 to the church**, growing annually. The current discussion wonders if pledges can increase to not only cover normal operating expenses each year for the church, but the loss of this income.

To continue the Fall Tag Sale Fundraiser, we need additional *committed* help to deliver a fundraiser that attracts our community successfully. Traditionally, we draw donations and buyers to a well-oiled project that has grown since humble beginnings in 1996. This project needs more hands and volunteer hours “on the floor”, to happen this fall. We have changes being discussed to control the hours the project takes to complete, but volunteer hours are what is needed.

By the way, the most time-consuming parts of the fair preparation are:
Pricing...Sorting into categories...Cleaning donations

The fair always needs Donations!!! That are sale-able!!! We are always interested in donations that are *oriented to our market*. The time to plan for our early fall fundraiser starts in May. **We will be accepting donations after June 13 (there is a family renting the hall on the 13th) – drop off times will be announced soon!**

Please contact Corinne Chartrand or Karen Anderson, if you can help.

Members of the Hampshire Association, UCC are invited to attend the installation of

Larry Picard, Lay Pastor

North Congregational Church, UCC 243 River Drive Hadley, MA 01035

Sunday, May 24, 2026 3PM

Visitors are welcome

2026 Annual Meeting

HAMPSHIRE ASSOCIATION
of the Southern New England UCC

June 7, 2026, at 3pm

Plainfield Congregational Church
356 West Main Street Plainfield, MA

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 www.silverlakect.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 Braderick
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
Changing the World & Saving of souls



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

slrc@sneucc.org



On Pentecost They Gathered

Acts 2:1-24, 32-47

Jane Parker Huber, 1981; rev. 1993

1 On Pen - te - cost they gath - ered quite ear - ly in the day,
 2 The peo - ple all a - round them were star - tled and a - mazed
 3 God pours the Ho - ly Spir - it on all who would be - lieve,
 4 O Spir - it, sent from heav - en on that day long a - go,

a band of Christ's dis - ci - ples to wor - ship, sing, and pray.
 to un - der - stand their lan - guage, as God in Christ they praised.
 on wom - en, men, and chil - dren who would God's grace re - ceive.
 re - kin - dle faith a - mong us in all life's ebb and flow.

A might - y wind came blow - ing, filled all the swirl - ing air,
 What un - i - ver - sal mes - sage, what great good news was here?
 That Spir - it knows no lim - it, be - stow - ing life and power.
 O give us hearts to lis - ten and tongues a - flame with praise,

and tongues of fire a - glow - ing in - spired each per - son there.
 That Christ, once dead, is ris - en to van - quish all our fear.
 The church, formed and re - form - ing, re - sponds in ev - ery hour.
 so folk of ev - ery na - tion glad songs of joy shall raise.

Jane Parker Huber explained that she wrote this text in 1981
 "to fill a gap in current hymnody," in that "many of the hymns
 concerning the activity of the Holy Spirit do not mention
 Pentecost"

Tune: MUNICH 7.6.7.6.D.
 Neuvermehrtes Gesangbuch, Meiningen, 1693
 Harm. Felix Mendelssohn, 1847

Holy Spirit, Ever Dwelling

Timothy Rees, 1922; alt.

1 Ho-ly Spir - it, ev - er dwell - ing in the ho - liest realms of light;
 2 Ho-ly Spir - it, ev - er breath - ing on the church the breath of life;
 3 Ho-ly Spir - it, ev - er work - ing through the church - 's min - is - try—

Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er brood - ing o'er a world of gloom and
 Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er striv - ing through your peo - ple's cease - less
 Quick - ening, strength - ening, and ab - solv - ing, set - ting cap - tive sin - ners

blight; Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er rais - ing earth - bound souls to glo - ry
 strife; Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er form - ing in the church the mind of
 free; Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er bind - ing age to age and soul to

high; Liv - ing, life - im - part - ing Spir - it; you we praise and mag - ni - fy.
 Christ: In our wor - ship we will praise you for your fruit and gifts un - priced.
 soul, In com - mu - ni - ty un - end - ing you we wor - ship and ex - tol.

Timothy Rees, Welsh curate, lecturer, chaplain, and winner of the Military Cross in World War I, was appointed Bishop of Llandaff in 1931. These words were written for the Anglican Community of Mirfield, Yorkshire, of which he was a member.

Tune: NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D.
John Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813

Come, O Spirit, Dwell among Us

Janie Alford, 1979; alt.

Acts 2:1-36; Exod. 13:18-22; Ps. 118:19-29

1 Come, O Spir - it, dwell a - mong us, come with Pen - te -
 2 We would raise our al - le - lu - ias for the grace of
 3 Come, O Spir - it, dwell a - mong us; give us words of

cos - tal power; give the church a strong - er vi - sion,
 for - mer years; for to - mor - row's un - known path - way,
 fire and flame. Help our strug - gling voic - es praise you,

help us face each cru - cial hour. Built up - on a firm foun - da - tion,
 hear, O God, our hum - ble prayers. In the church's pil - grim jour - ney
 glo - ri - fy your ho - ly name. Good Cre - a - tor, Sav - ior, Spir - it,

Je - sus Christ, the Cor - ner - stone, still the church is
 you have led us all the way, still in pres - ence
 Three in One: what mys - ter - y! We would sing our

called to mis - sion that God's love shall be made known.
 move be - fore us, fire by night and cloud by day.
 loud ho - san - nas now and through e - ter - ni - ty.