

**FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
**“Center Church”**



United Church of Christ - ONA  
One Church Street

South Hadley, Massachusetts 01075

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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 31, 2026**

*Hope is a song in a weary throat.*

Pauli Murray

**PRELUDE**

Two settings of *Cwm Rhondda*

A. Viner, F. Peeters

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**INTROIT**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: We come seeking strength in each other's presence.

**People: Grant us wisdom, O God, for the living of these days.**

Leader: We come to be reminded that we are God's children,  
all the days of our lives.

**People: Make our broken spirits whole O God,  
for the living of these days.**

**\*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**

**In these days of political divisions and lack of moral leadership; help us to hear one another, O God, across all that divides us.**

**Assurance of Forgiveness**

God is loving and forgiving. This allows us to be honest with God, ourselves, and with each other.

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Silence**

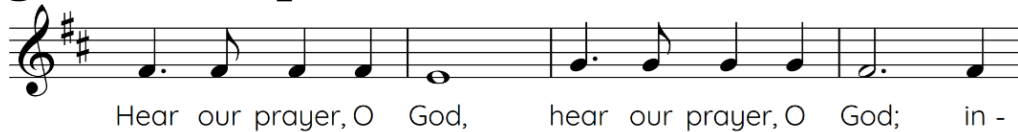
## Lord's Prayer (debts)

*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

Isaiah 40: 28-31

The name YAHWEH, is the name for God used in most of the Hebrew Scripture. YAHWEH is Being, the verb to be, the most irregular verb in all languages, past, present, future, all in one. It is being: has been, is now, shall be.

28 Have you not known? Have you not heard?

YAHWEH is the everlasting God,  
Creator of the ends of the earth.

YAHWEH does not faint or grow weary;  
Yahweh's understanding is unsearchable.

29 Yahweh gives power to the faint,  
and to those who have no might, Yahweh increases their strength.

30 Even youths shall faint and grow weary,  
The young shall fall exhausted;

31 but they who wait for Yahweh shall renew their strength;  
they shall mount up with wings like eagles;  
they shall run and not be weary;  
they shall walk and not faint.

## SERMON

**“What Does It Mean to Wait for Yahweh?”**

\*HYMN

*God Is My Shepherd*

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## OFFERING

Invitation

Offertory

*Homeward Bound*

Marta Keen

\*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

*In the Midst of New Dimensions*

black #391

\*BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Threefold Amen*

POSTLUDE

A Meditation on *Brother James's Air*

H. Darke

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

<b>Preacher:</b>	Rev. Winston Baldwin
<b>Liturgist</b>	Rev. Lori J. Souder
<b>Organist:</b>	Larry Schipull
<b>Choir Director:</b>	Ben Coakley
<b>Deacon:</b>	Martha Guild



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 Bev Howells  
who passed away this week  
Family and friends of Dave Nelson,  
Mary's dad, who died recently  
Hitesh Shroff, with cancer  
Bernice Strong, with pneumonia

**If you have submitted one of these  
when it is time to remove someone's**

**requests for prayer, please let us know  
name from the list,**

### **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

### **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

## 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.



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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 14<sup>th</sup> (there is a family renting the hall on the 13<sup>th</sup>) – drop off times will be announced soon!** Please contact Corinne Chartrand or Karen Anderson, if you can help.

### This Week at Center Church

Tuesday	<b>Church Council 7pm</b>
Thursday	AA 1:30pm    Dance 6pm
Sunday	<b>Worship 10am</b>

*Rev. Lori will be away June 1-14. Rev. Barbara Kerschner be available for Pastoral emergencies (570-449-8581) from June 1 – 7. She will preach on June 14. Rev. Randy Hyvonen (406-839-4440) will cover for Pastoral emergencies June 8 – 14. He will preach on the 7<sup>th</sup>.*

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 4<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.*

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



Southern New England Conference  
United Church of Christ  
*Changing the World & Saving of souls*



ACCREDITED

[www.SilverLakeCT.org](http://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 was written for the opening service and dedication of Riverside Church, New York City, which he served for twenty years.

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

## God Is My Shepherd

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Scottish Psalter, 1650  
*Adapt. Lavon Bayler, 1992*

Ps. 23

1 God is my shep-herd, I'll not want, I feed in pas-tures green.  
 2 Re - stored to life each morn-ing new, I rise up from the dust  
 3 When I must pass through shad-owed vale, where loss and death a - wait,  
 4 No en - e - my can o - ver - come, no power on earth de - feat  
 5 Good-ness and mer - cy all my days will sure - ly fol - low me;

God grants me rest and bids me drink from wa - ters calm and clean.  
 to fol - low God whose pres - ence gives me con - fi - dence and trust.  
 I will not fear for God is there, my shep-herd strong and great,  
 the ones a - noint-ed by God's grace and fed with man - na sweet.  
 and where God reigns in heaven and earth, my dwell-ing place will be.

Through dai - ly tasks, I'm blessed and led by One I have not seen.  
 I praise the name of God to - day; in God I put my trust.  
 Whose rod and staff will com - fort me and all my fears a - bate.  
 My cup is filled and o - ver-flows as I my Sav - ior greet.  
 My shep-herd bless - es, cares, and leads through all e - ter - ni - ty.

*The Scottish Psalter of 1650, developed over a span of 100 years, is still in use today. Its metrical version of Psalm 23 is the most popular entry in this classic work of Protestantism.*

Tune: BROTHER JAMES' AIR 8.6.8.6.8.6.  
*James Leith Macbeth Bain, c. 1840-1925*  
*Arr. Gordon Jacob, 1934*

# In the Midst of New Dimensions

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Julian Rush, 1985; alt.

Gen. 9:12-16; Exod. 13:21-22; Num. 14:14

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G7sus4 G7

1 In the midst of new di-men-sions, in the face of chang-ing ways,  
 2 Through the flood of starv-ing peo - ple, war-ring fac-tions and de - spair,  
 3 As we stand a world di - vid - ed by our own self - seek - ing schemes,  
 4 We are man and we are wom-an, all per-sua-sions, old and young,  
 5 Should the threats of dire pre-dic-tions cause us to with - draw in pain,

C C/B F C F Am7 Dm7 G C

Who will lead the pil - grim peo - ples wan-dering in their sep - arate ways?  
 Who will lift the ol - ive branch-es? Who will light the flame of care?  
 Grant that we, your glob - al vil - lage, might en - vi - sion wid - er dreams.  
 Each a gift in your cre - a - tion, each a love song to be sung.  
 May your blaz-ing phoe-nix spir - it res - ur - rect the church a - gain.

*Refrain*  
 Am Em F C F C G7 C Dsus4 D7 G7sus4 G7 Am

God of rain-bow, fier - y pil - lar, lead-ing where the ea-gles soar, We your

Em F C F C/E F C/E F C/E Dm7 G7 C

peo-ple, ours the jour-ney now and ev - er, now and ev - er, now and ev - er - more.

Julian Rush, an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, has spent more than a decade as director of the Colorado AIDS Project. He wrote this hymn on the theme of "diversity" for a meeting of the Rocky Mountain Conference (United Methodist).

Tune: NEW DIMENSIONS 8.7.8.7. with refrain  
 Julian Rush, 1985  
 Arr. The New Century Hymnal, 1994