

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
“Center Church”



United Church of Christ - ONA
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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!

June 14, 2026

*Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.
Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God for
everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 5: 19-20*

PRELUDE

*Sparrow
Amazing Grace*

W. Held
T. Smith & D. Hustad

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

INTROIT

CALL TO WORSHIP (*portions of Psalm 96/98*)

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song. Sing to the Holy One, all the earth.

People: **Let the heavens rejoice. Let the earth be glad.**

Leader: Let the sea resound and all creatures in it.

Let the fields and forests sing for joy.

People: **Let the rivers clap their hands
and the mountains rumble their praise.**

All: **Let us all sing to the Holy One
whose splendor is beyond imagining.**

***HYMN**

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

black #12

MESSAGE FOR ALL

Kenneth Mulder

*At the conclusion of the message, the children will return to sit with their families.
Activity bags are available at the back of the Sanctuary.*

JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

MORNING PRAYERS

Prayer of Confession

God of all creation, we confess that we are not always faithful to you. We complain and criticize instead of being grateful. We express fear and doubt when we are faced with change. We look to satisfy ourselves and make light of the needs of those around us. Forgive us and open our hearts to the new and abundant life you offer us in Jesus Christ.

(Silence for reflection)

Assurance of Forgiveness

We have reason to sing, because we are being saved by the grace of God. We have reason to rejoice because Christ has made peace with God on our behalf. We have reason to praise as we receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

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 I Samuel 16: 14-23

Good News Translation

David in Saul's Court

The Lord's spirit left Saul, and an evil spirit sent by the Lord tormented him. His servants said to him, "We know that an evil spirit sent by God is tormenting you. So give us the order, sir, and we will look for someone who knows how to play the harp. Then when the evil spirit comes on you, they can play the harp, and you will be all right again." Saul ordered them, "Find me someone who plays well and bring them to me." One of his attendants said, "Jesse of the town of Bethlehem has a son who is a good musician. He is also a brave and handsome man, a good soldier, and an able speaker. The Lord is with him."

So Saul sent messengers to Jesse to say, "Send me your son David, the one who takes care of the sheep." Jesse sent David to Saul with a young goat, a donkey loaded with bread, and a leather bag full of wine. David came to Saul and entered his service. Saul liked him very much and chose him as the man to carry his weapons. Then Saul sent a message to Jesse: "I like David. Let him stay here in my service." From then on, whenever the evil spirit sent by

God came on Saul, David would get his harp and play it. The evil spirit would leave, and Saul would feel better and be all right again.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

City of God

Dan Shutte

Revelation 5:6-14 Good News Translation

Then I saw a Lamb standing in the center of the throne, surrounded by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb appeared to have been killed. It had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God that have been sent through the whole earth. The Lamb went and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who sits on the throne. As he did so, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each had a harp and gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of God's people. They sang a new song:

“You are worthy to take the scroll

and to break open its seals.

For you were killed, and by your sacrificial death you bought for God people from every tribe, language, nation, and race.

You have made them a kingdom of priests to serve our God, and they shall rule on earth.”

Again I looked, and I heard angels, thousands and millions of them! They stood around the throne, the four living creatures, and the elders, and sang in a loud voice:

“The Lamb who was killed is worthy to receive power, wealth, wisdom, and strength, honor, glory, and praise!”

And I heard every creature in heaven, on earth, in the world below, and in the sea—all living beings in the universe—and they were singing:

“To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb, be praise and honor, glory and might, forever and ever!”

The four living creatures answered, “Amen!” And the elders fell down and worshiped.

SERMON

SING A NEW SONG

HYMN

When in Our Music God is Glorified

black #561

OFFERING

Invitation
Offertory

A Closing Prayer

Don Besig

***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**

God's Eye is on the Sparrow

black #475

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Threefold Amen*

POSTLUDE

Engelberg

C. Phillips

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. Barbara Kershner
Scripture Reader:	Annalise Hamel-Acosta
Organist/Pianist:	Larry Schipull
2nd Prelude Organist:	Cynthia J. Morrell
Choir Director:	Ben Coakley
Soloists:	Ben Coakley and Mia Lederer
Deacon:	Rachel Alldis



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

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

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 recently
Family and friends of Marilyn Pryor,
who passed away last week
Hitesh Shroff, with cancer
Bernice Strong, with pneumonia

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

This Week at Center Church

Tuesday	Odyssey event 6pm
Wednesday	Breakfast and Conversation 8am
Thursday	AA 1:30pm Dance Lessons
Sunday	Worship 10am Deacons following worship



Summer Worship Schedule

June Worship at Center Church 10am
July Joint Worship at Church of Christ Granby 10:30am
August Joint Worship at Center Church 10am

Beginning JUNE 16th

"official" drop off time for treasures for the Fall Fair will be:

AFTER CHURCH EACH SUNDAY &


TUESDAY MORNINGS 9AM - NOON


If these times do not work for you, please call the Church Office to arrange a time when a member of the Activities team can meet you.

There will be more times set up for the summer months.

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.

 **Breakfast Conversation: Please note it is changing to June 17th, the THIRD WEDNESDAY** of the month, due to Lori's vacation. The topic will be on Religious Freedom. Be aware of what is going on around us as we prepare for the 250th! Copies of the article are out on the table by the Church St entrance. All are welcome.

 **Bible Study at Loomis is taking a hiatus June-July.** In the meantime, explore the scriptures on your own and share which ones comforted, surprised, or inspired you!



September 12th and 13th

When can I drop off donation? A frequently asked question. **Starting on Tuesday, June 16**, and continuing each Tuesday, we will be accepting donations, 9am to noon. **PLEASE hold off until the 16th!** Fellowship Hall is being rented on Saturday June 13. Already we have received items from folks that moving, Mount Holyoke College graduates who are unable to pack stuff up and from Church of Christ tag sale. Right now, behind the curtains are full. If you do drop off when we not “open,” after June 16, we appreciate that you put your donation in the marked area. Believe it or not there is an organized system. Of course, donations are always accepted on Sundays after Church – again after the 16th!

You are welcome to join us on Tuesday mornings starting June 16. Many hands and volunteer hours are needed to make this fundraising event successful. An hour or two makes a huge difference. There is always something to do. Check out the [C@C](#) July/ August for other drop off days. The Fall Tag Sale, September 12 and 13, is an all-church event. Our success is dependent on the items being sold and your willingness to help in the many tasks it takes to put it together.

Be sure to review the “What Does Not Sell” page in the newsletter, as you pack up your treasures that need a new home. Thank you!



November 21st and 22nd

The Holiday Bazaar is planned for November 21-22, still 6 months away in the future, but on the drawing board! We will host talented crafters as we did last November, so we are starting the planning. We want to **open the invitation to crafters to plan to join us for the weekend of November 21-22**, and I will forward an application as soon as crafter inquiries arrive. Let us know if you have any contacts I should reach out to. *Corinne*



Join us for **Under the Stars Family Movie Night, Friday, June 26, 7pm**. Movie starts at dusk.

Where: United Methodist church parking lot, 30 Carew St., South Hadley, **RAIN or SHINE**

What else: Drinks, Games, snacks!! Bring a chair, blanket, even a friend. What movie? Come and find out. Family fun for the whole community.



St. Patrick's church, South Hadley, MA is seeking and organist to play at weekend Masses, Holy Days, Holidays, Funerals and Weddings. If interested in this part time position, and for a detailed Job description, please contact: Deacon David Bergeron, Manager, St. Patrick's church South Hadley, (413)-213-6625 d.bergeron@diospringfield.org Thank you!

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

I Sing the Mighty Power of God

Ps. 136:5-9; James 1:17

Isaac Watts, 1715; alt.

Descant

3 On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glo - ry known.

1 I sing the might-y power of God that made the moun-tains rise,
 2 I sing the good-ness of our God that filled the earth with food;
 3 On earth there's not a plant or flower but makes your glo - ry known.

The clouds a - rise and spread their showers by or - der from your throne.

That spread the flow-ing seas a - broad, and built the loft - y skies.
 God formed the crea-tures with a word, and then pro - nounced them good.
 The clouds a - rise and spread their showers by or - der from your throne.

All life is but a gift from you and ev - er in your care;

I sing the wis-dom that or - dained the sun to rule the day;
 Oh, how your won-ders are dis-played, wher-e'er I turn my eye:
 All life is but a gift from you and ev - er in your care;

The moon shines full at God's com-mand, and all the stars o - bey.
 If I sur - vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky!
 Wher - ev - er peo-ple gath - er, you, O God, are pres-ent there.

When in Our Music God Is Glorified

2 Chron. 5:11-14

Fred Pratt Green, 1972

1 When in our mu - sic God is glo - ri - fied, and ad - o -
 2 How of - ten, mak - ing mu - sic, we have found a new di -
 3 So has the church, in lit - ur - gy and song, in faith and
 4 Let ev - ery in - stru - ment be tuned for praise! Let all re -

ra - tion leaves no room for pride, It is as though the whole cre -
 men - sion in the world of sound, As wor - ship moved us to a
 love, through cen - tu - ries of wrong, Borne wit - ness to the truth in
 joice who have a voice to raise! And may God give us faith to

a - tion cried: Al - le - lu - ia!
 more pro - found Al - le - lu - ia!
 ev - ery tongue: Al - le - lu - ia!
 sing al - ways: Al - le - lu - ia!

The musical score consists of three systems. Each system includes a vocal line with lyrics, a piano accompaniment with a grand staff (treble and bass clefs), and repeat signs with first and second endings. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4.

Fred Pratt Green wrote this text at the request of British editor and composer John Wilson, who asked for a "festival" hymn to be set with Engelberg. Charles Villiers Stanford originally composed the tune for the text "For All the Saints" in Hymns Ancient and Modern of 1904.

Tune: ENGELBERG 10.10.10.4.
 Charles V. Stanford, 1904

God's Eye Is on the Sparrow

*Matt. 10:26-30; Luke 12:4-7**Civilla D. Martin, c. 1905; alt.**Stanzas, in unison*

1 Why should I feel dis-cour-aged, why should the shad-ows come,
 2 "Let not your heart be trou-bled," Christ's ten-der word I hear,
 3 When-ev-er I am tempt-ed, when-ev-er clouds a-rise,

Why should my heart be lone-ly and long for heaven and
 And rest-ing on God's good-ness, I lose my doubts and
 When song gives place to sigh-ing, when hope with-in me

home, When God is ev-er my por-tion? My
 fears; Though by the path . . . God leads me but
 dies, I then draw close to my Sav-ior, from

con-stant friend will be: God's eye is on the spar-row, and I
 one step I may see: God's eye is on the spar-row, and I
 care I am set free: God's eye is on the spar-row, and I

Civilla Martin, a native of Nova Scotia, assisted her husband in his evangelistic campaigns. Charles Gabriel was editor for Rodeheaver Publishing Company, Chicago, and one of the most popular gospel songwriters of the early 1900s.

Tune: SPARROW Irr.
 Charles H. Gabriel, 1905

COMFORT AND ASSURANCE

know God watch-es me; God's eye is on the spar-row, and I
know God watch-es me; God's eye is on the spar-row, and I
know God watch-es me; God's eye is on the spar-row, and I

Refrain, in harmony

know God watch-es me.
know God watch-es me. I sing be-cause I'm
know God watch-es me.

hap-py, I'm hap-py, I sing be-cause I'm free, God's
I'm hap-py, I'm free,

eye is on the spar-row, and I know God watch-es me.

