



**FOOD DONATIONS**

Thanks to all who have faithfully been bringing in a box or can of food each week as we collect for Hands on Hartford! Please try not to bring in items in glass jars as they can break in transport; plastic or boxes, please! And thanks so much to Bill Warner-Prouty who takes our donations each week.



**NEW MEMBERS?**

Shelly is hoping to organize a New Members class for early April. If you or someone you know would like information on joining Center Church, please be in touch with her soon.



**FROM THE PASTOR  
 THANK YOU!**

To all who made Holy Week and Easter so meaningful at Center Church this year:

- Bob, the choir, and instrumentalists who gave us the gift of music all through the week.
- Jana, Lynn, and the Faith Formation volunteers of all ages who made sandwiches, helped us color eggs, made breakfast, managed the Easter Egg Hunt, and more!
- The readers for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter, who brought the story alive for us.
- The Deacons who decorated, set up, and served Communion and so much more.
- Larry on sound and pictures.
- Marie, who put out so many different bulletins and signs.
- Tom and Ileia, who made our spaces clean and beautiful.
- Ushers and greeters, who helped guests feel at home.
- Those who donated flowers, and William Wurts who made our cross.

*And to all who participated in any way, bless you!*

~ Rev. Shelly Stackhouse

# EASTER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 1, 2018

## EASTER BREAKFAST

8:45am to 9:45am

Church House Second Floor Parlor

Featuring yummy egg casseroles, breads, fruits, juices, tea, coffee & more!

## WORSHIP

10:30am

Worship Service in the Meeting House

Children's Choir to Sing!

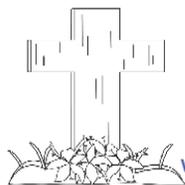
## EASTER EGG HUNT

Following Worship

Ancient Burial Grounds (Rain Location: Church House Second Floor Parlor)

Bring your own Easter basket & search for candy filled Easter Eggs!

The First Church of Christ in  
Hartford (Center Church)



Worship Sundays 10:30am  
Childcare Available  
[www.centerchurchhartford.org](http://www.centerchurchhartford.org)



## **THANKS TO OUR MARCH COFFEE MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS!**

*Led & Nancy Baxter, Catherine MacLean,  
Jamaly Rios & family, and  
Jeff Thomas & family*



## **BY-LAWS INFO MEETING, APRIL 22**

You have received a copy of the new by-laws, which make some substantial changes to the way we order our lives here at Center. We will have an informational meeting to share revisions based on your feedback on April 22 following worship. At this meeting, we will not be making further changes, only sharing information.

**At a May 6 Congregational Meeting, you will be asked to vote on the new by-laws!** They will then be phased in for full implementation, probably in June. We hope you will come to both meetings and begin to imagine how YOU will fit in to the new Team Structure if the by-laws pass!



## **SHELLY TO SOUTH KOREA**

Shelly will be representing the Connecticut Conference on a visit to our partner churches in the Presbyterian Church of the Republic of Korea from April 16-24. On April 22, she will preach at the Doonjeon Church in the city of SuWon, a city of over a million people just south of Seoul. She will also visit the Annual Presbytery meeting for the churches surrounding Seoul and celebrate Holy Communion during that meeting. There will also be visits to the DMZ and to the city of Buson (formerly spelled Pusan). The Connecticut Conference has had an over 20-year partnership with the PROK, and several UCC churches in CT have long partnership relationships with individual Korean churches. Shelly will explore with the SuWon church the possibility of partnership with us at Center. She will bring gifts from Center to the Doonjeon church. We will also stand in solidarity with our Korean partners during tense times on the Korean peninsula. This will be Shelly's second trip to Korea; her first was with her oldest son in 2012, as he returned to visit his birth country.

While Shelly is gone, Logan will be preaching and leading worship. If you have pastoral care needs, please contact the office and Marie will put you in touch with someone who can help you. When possible, Shelly will post updates from Korea on the church's Facebook page. Please hold her and the entire delegation in your prayers.

## **CHURCH MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

Baptisms, Weddings, Joined,  
Deaths, Confirmations, Transfers of  
Membership: None

Reactivated membership:  
*Holly Wells (3/26)*

Births: *Charles Irvin Feldman (3/8)*



## **UPCOMING DEADLINES**

*May Newsletter: Thursday, April 26*

*Weekly E-News: Each Tuesday*

## **SUCCESSFUL SEASON OF MUSIC & THE ARTS – THANK YOU!**

The Music and Arts Committee and Bob Gilbert would like to thank the Center Church Congregation for their strong support of our Music Series this year. We had three outstanding concerts (Yale Whiffenpoofs, Handel's Messiah Community Sing, and the Nat Reeves Jazz Trio) this year, each with approximately 200 in attendance. Our season wrapped up on Sunday morning, March 25, with our choir singing *The Seven Last Words* with soloists, timpani, harp, and organ at the Palm Sunday Service.

We are already in the planning stages for next years Music and Arts Series. We look forward to your continued support!

### **ADULT FAITH FORMATION IN APRIL**

We will gather from 12:00pm-1:00pm on April 8 for a wrap-up discussion of our *Love Your Neighbor Challenge* series, and we hope all who participated in any of the classes will come for a lively discussion. On April 15 and 29 (April 22 is info meeting on new by-laws), we will discuss the book *Weird Church* by Paul Nixon and Beth Ann Estock. This short book will be featured as part of our ongoing discussion about the future of Center. We will purchase multiple copies and invite you to borrow one (we'll have them in the back of the sanctuary as soon as possible) to prepare for the class. [Please note: if you borrow a copy, you must return it!] We'll meet after worship on those days, 12:00pm-1:00pm.

### **APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

- 4/1 Priscilla French
- 4/2 Susan Hayes
- 4/2 Daniel Theriault
- 4/2 Katherine Markham
- 4/4 Luke Salls
- 4/5 Elizabeth Ververis
- 4/10 Amiyah Jones
- 4/13 Tucker Salls
- 4/13 Ariella Wagan
- 4/14 Jorgette Peroza
- 4/15 Rosemary Arcieri
- 4/15 Dectora Jeffers
- 4/16 Nancy Maclean
- 4/16 Leila Sipes
- 4/19 Alice Norsigian
- 4/21 Geoffrey Smith
- 4/22 Jory Johnson
- 4/23 Jade Peroza
- 4/24 Robinson Buck
- 4/25 Nancy Baxter
- 4/26 Efrain Agosto
- 4/28 James Thomas



### **EASTER SUNDAY AT CENTER CHURCH, 1908**

This picture always makes me think of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon!

What's changed? What's stayed the same in our sanctuary in the 110 years since this picture was taken?

Submit your responses to me.

~ Roberta L. Roy,  
Church Historian



**at Camp Asto Wamah  
Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>  
from 9:00am to Lunch.**

*Bring work gloves, a rake, and  
a happy heart!*

Join the fun and the community of workers as we ready Asto Wamah for the 2018 season!

RSVP (Nancy [860] 649-8614) so sufficient lunch supplies can be purchased.

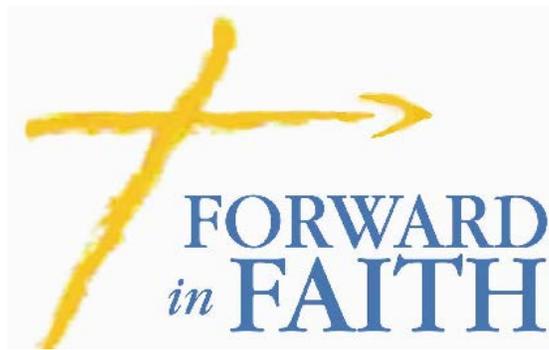


*Volunteers Nancy and Led Baxter*

## **FROM THE WARBURTON DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH MINISTRIES**

April 1<sup>st</sup> marks a lot of things. It is the end of Lent and the end of triage at Center Church. I would like to thank every volunteer who has helped to make Triage a success this year! Since January 15<sup>th</sup>, we served over 800 meals and logged nearly 300 volunteer hours. The end of triage means the end of No Freeze, the period of time from December 1<sup>st</sup>-March 31<sup>st</sup> where there are additional resources to make sure less people have to sleep outside. This means that come April 1<sup>st</sup>, more people will be sleeping outdoors. As you know, our weather can be unpredictable, which means that donated items such as hats, gloves, and jackets will be much appreciated as people try to survive outside until it truly gets warmer. In addition, if you still want opportunities to serve, never fear: Center Church is still covering the Sunday dinner the first Sunday of the month for the rest of the year. If you are interested in serving just let me know!

~ Logan Singerman



### **UPDATE FROM ANNUAL MEETING RESOLUTION RESPONSE TEAM**

At our Annual Meeting in February, Prudential was charged with putting together a plan to develop a Philosophical Framework for us to evaluate every part of our life and ministry here at Center Church as we explore how we spend money, use our buildings, configure our staff, and prioritize our ministries and activities. Our hope is that we might maximize our strengths (of which we have many) as we evolve into a true 21<sup>st</sup>-century congregation.

Prudential appointed the team of Shelly, Cheryl Thomas, David Reynolds, Lesley Morgan-Thompson, Alvin Thompson, and Richard Markham to put together some plans. Beginning on April 8, you will be invited to participate in some initial data gathering as we will ask you to respond to three questions in writing: What brought you to Center Church? Why have you stayed? What one thing do you think Center Church needs to do/be in order to be faithful to God's mission in this time and place? **We invite you to save the date of June 9 from 9:00am-2:00pm for a retreat as we evaluate what you have said and consider our next steps.** Details on the retreat will come in May.

**The participation of as many active members as possible in this exercise is critical!** We will invite participation on April 8, 15, and 22, so we hope that you will plan to be in worship at least one of those Sundays! **Center Church is GOD'S CHURCH AND YOUR CHURCH, and we can only be our best if we have full participation!**

## **THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN HARTFORD**

*A member of the United Church of Christ (UCC)*

CENTER CHURCH, 60 Gold Street, Hartford, CT 06103

Church Office Hours: Monday thru Friday, 8:30am to 4:00pm

Summer Office Hours: Monday thru Friday, 9:00am to 3:00pm

Library Hours: Wednesdays, 9:30am to 11:30am, Sunday 9:45am to 10:45am, or by appointment.

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