



FROM THE PASTOR

I went all the way up to the top of the scaffolding around our steeple one last time last week: my third trip to the top since September. Two highlights of this came as I saw the bell being struck once again (after years) and the new clock faces keeping time (even saw the minute hand move!). This is what they look like:



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.



JOIN OUR CHURCH FAMILY!

New Members will join on June 10! If you or someone you know would like information on joining Center Church, please contact Rev. Shelly!

So many old church buildings have clocks with bells that ring to remind people of the time. Why? Was it just a public service in the days before wristwatches and cell phones? Or something more?

Often in the Bible, big events are heralded by time markers. The prophet Isaiah's call story begins "In the year that King Uzziah died." Jesus' birth story begins by telling us the census that sent his parents to Bethlehem happened when Augustus was emperor and Quirinius governor of Syria. This is not incidental to the story. These time markers tell us that this is not a timeless myth, but a story of a God who interacts with people in specific ways in specific times, as part of our histories. God enters into our stories *in the here and now* just as God did in the *there and then*. The clock and bell in our tower are to remind those who see and hear them that God still dwells among us in our time, inviting them to look up, to listen, to open themselves to see and hear what God is doing. Next time you hear the bell, take a moment to ask God, "What's up now, for me, for us, for the world?"

~ Rev. Shelly Stackhouse,
 Transitional Minister

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SUNDAY COMMUNITY MEALS THIS SUMMER

Would you be able to lend a hand this summer to help prepare a meal to feed those in need? Volunteers needed for June 3 and beyond! Your time commitment would be Sunday from 3:00pm till 6:30pm. Fun, fellowship, and the rewarding feeling of knowing that you've made a difference. Contact Logan Singerman to sign up!

PASTORAL CARE NEEDED? Do you or a family member need pastoral care in dealing with the impact of illness or other life concerns? Please remember to contact Rev. Shelly or the church office to arrange for a visit.



CPR/AED TRAINING RESCHEDULED

The CPR/AED Training Class has been rescheduled to **Saturday, September 22, 9:00am-1:00pm** at the Church House. The class is limited to 15 persons ~ any church member is welcome to participate. Cost: \$45. You will be American Heart Association certified for a two-year period. Contact Marie to register/more info.



Join in! Anyone who likes to sing is invited to join our Summer "drop in" choir. No previous experience necessary!

We will sing and rehearse on the following Sundays:
July 1, August 5, & September 2
(Rehearsal at 9:15am and sing at the 10:00am service.)

Any questions, please contact Bob Gilbert at rgilbert@cchartford.org or cell: (860) 966-3920.



THANKS TO OUR MAY COFFEE MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS!

*Led & Nancy Baxter, Lynn Manning and
Youth Group, Anne Ostberg, and
Bill Warner-Prouty*

MIDSUMMER NEWSLETTER

We will publish a midsummer newsletter in late July/early August. Our weekly E-Newsletters will continue throughout the summer months.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Baptisms, Weddings, Joined,
Confirmations, Births: None

Deaths:

Angela P. Smith (5/13)

Removed from membership at own request:

*Bradley Boisvert, Mary Ann Dudley,
Erich Faust, Dan Gagnon-Jace,
Brendan Harris, Michelle Jones,
Eric Mainardi, Carolyn Mainardi,
Rolando Martinez, Harry Mitchell,
Mary Mattke-Jones, Vanessa Nieves,
Peter Piatti-Rios, Josephine Raymond,
Lynn Schwartz, Geoffrey Smith,
and Jennifer Taplin (5/8)*



PUBLICATIONS DEADLINES

*Mid-Summer Newsletter: Wednesday, July 25
Weekly E-News: Each Tuesday
Sunday Bulletin: Each Tuesday*

NEW CHURCH MEMBER DIRECTORIES

...will be published next month! If you need to provide updated contact information or a new photo, please contact Marie Ferrantino at mferrantino@cchartford.org by **Friday, June 15.**

SAVE THE DATE!

Moving from Charity to Justice:

Society's Criminal Justice Challenge

Sun., June 10, 2:00-4:00pm @ Immanuel UCC, Hftd.
Come for a panel discussion focused on innovative reforms to our state's criminal justice system and programs in the community to help those who have been previously incarcerated. Hear from policy experts, advocates, and returning citizens and learn how communities of faith can make a difference in this critical work. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED** to help with food and food service! For further information, contact Anne Stanback at annestanback@gmail.com.



Summer is a great time to recharge, have fun, visit with family and friends, and just relax – and also to worship and praise God for all of the blessings the season brings! Here is our Worship Services schedule for the summer months:

June: 10:30am at the Meeting House
&

July through September 2 (Sunday before Labor Day):
10:00am at the Church House (60 Gold Street) in the
air-conditioned second-floor parlor

As always, free parking is available in the Travelers Plaza Garage on Prospect Street next to The Hartford Club.

We hope to see you soon!

JUNE BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

6/1 Hope Hassock
6/2 Sophia French
6/8 Suzanne Thomas
6/8 David Reynolds
6/9 Jennifer Otte
6/10 Jonathan Geter
6/12 Jeffrey Thomas
6/12 Catherine Maclean
6/13 Rashawn Jones
6/13 Maleeah Rios
6/16 Dennis Morin
6/19 Timothy Otte
6/19 Bailey Sudell
6/20 Heidi Thomas
6/20 Richard Gooden
6/21 Joel Gonzalez
6/26 Terrence French
6/27 Mary Hawkes
6/27 Emily Markham
6/30 David Owens
6/30 Catherine Maclean



6/24 Anne Ostberg & Peter Bender
6/27 William & Dorothy Wurts

JULY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

7/2 Amy Salls
7/2 Douglas Lombardi
7/4 Obed Fonder
7/8 Theodore Vietzke
7/15 Lita Rathnam
7/18 Luciano Valles
7/19 Elena Sanderson
7/24 Beverlee Sipes
7/26 John Chen
7/28 Samuel Chen
7/28 Joseph Lopez
7/29 Brendan St. Amant
7/31 Victoria Seurattan



7/10 Nilsalynn & Reagan Wagan
7/15 Nilsa & Mark Cierpikowski



WHY SHOULD YOU COME TO THE JUNE 9 RETREAT?

"The shift from church leadership as a business enterprise to a spiritual enterprise is bathed in prayer, and deep, deep listening as a group of friends seek to discover what is possible with God."

~ Estock and Nixon

THIS is what we will be about on Saturday, June 9, and we need ALL OF YOU, members and friends, to join our retreat from 9:00am-1:30pm at Hands on Hartford. RSVP ASAP to the Church Office by email or phone. Bring children and let us know if you will so that we may plan accordingly.



FROM THE WARBURTON DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH MINISTRIES

Building on our heritage. That phrase is on a banner that hangs in the Meeting House. When it comes to this church, there are many ways in which our heritage is hard at work. It looks like a group from Covenant Village (pictured to the left), who hosted a current events discussion on homelessness. After that event, they presented "welcome home kits" containing household items to be given to people moving into new apartments. Those gifts were presented to me, the Warburton Director of Outreach Ministries, whose position is mostly funded by the trust of the person the position is named after, Mary A. Warburton, who built the Warburton Chapel in honor of her husband and then left a legacy in 1869. Many of the welcome home kits will be given to people who receive security deposits from the church. A significant amount of those security deposits are funded by money donated by Faith Collins, who gave money in 1954 "for needy gentlewomen of Hartford", and Mr. J.C. Hills, who became a member in 1869 and served as the librarian of the Warburton chapel his entire adult life. We are truly part of a "Cloud of Witnesses". How awe inspiring it is to plant seeds for future generations, while we water seeds already planted, and enjoy the shade of trees already grown.

~ Logan Singerman



WORSHIP EVENTS FOR JUNE

- June 3! → *Don't take off for the Summer yet!* On June 3 (Communion Service ~ back at our usual 10:30am), we will have a **special Jazz Service** featuring the Hot Cat Jazz Band. You won't want to miss this Sunday!
- June 9 Church Envisioning Retreat at Hands on Hartford, 9:00am-1:30pm (RSVP the office for lunch count)
- June 10 New Members join at Worship!

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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