



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.



FROM THE PASTOR

Or, the title should be *From the Moksadeem!* That's the word for *pastor* in Korean, and I was called this a lot while I was there. My trip was incredible. No other word. Never have I been treated with such hospitality. From the DMZ (demilitarized zone) in the northern part of South Korea down to Busan, 5+ hours south, we learned so much about this nation of beauty alongside rapid development and technological sophistication (Every place I went had heated toilet seats. Enough said!). The people of Doonjeon Church (in the city of Seongnam, not SuWon as I had originally been told) were eager to know about our life as a faith community, and I was eager to share theirs for a few days. We are similar in some ways (both the oldest churches in our cities, both with two buildings divided by land, both love events that include food!) and quite different (well, the food, the language, and you have not lived till you have heard the old standard "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder" played by ten women on autoharps!). They would like to enter a partnership with us, and we need to talk together about what that might mean and if we, as a congregation (not just me as your pastor), are interested in this. We can talk more about this on May 20 and after.

In the meantime, feel free to ask me specific questions about the trip and I'll do my best to answer. I am slowly recovering from the thirteen hour time change and the thirteen hour flight home! I thank God more and more each day that I was offered, and took, this opportunity to connect with our Korean Christian kin!

~ Rev. Shelly Stackhouse



**JOIN OUR CHURCH
 FAMILY!**

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



SUNDAY, MAY 27

CHURCH PICNIC

AT BEAUTIFUL

CAMP ASTO WAMAH

42W Route 87, Columbia, CT 06237
www.campastowamah.org

BRING A
LAWN CHAIR!



WORSHIP @ 12:00 IN THE CAMP LODGE
With a blessing of the camp and all campers!

(Note: A worship service will also be offered at Center Church in the Meeting House in Hartford at 10am)

...FOLLOWED BY LUNCH

Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Beans, Coleslaw & Chips
(please let us know if you prefer a veggie burger)

...AND A VARIETY OF CAMP GAMES & ACTIVITIES

Board Games (bring your favorite!)
Knock Hockey
Face Painting
Swimming
Field Games
And more!

If you need transportation
or can volunteer to provide
a ride, please email Jana no
later than May 7th
jana@centerchurch.org

Sign up in the
"green book" or
call the church office,
so the chef knows
how much food
to grill!

Bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share!

ARE YOU CELEBRATING A GRADUATION?

Are you or a loved one graduating from high school, college or grad school this year? If so, please let us know so that we can honor you in next month's newsletter!



Strengthen the Church

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH, MAY 20

Has your life been changed by a church camp, Sunday school program, church youth group, or adult education program? Have you seen the impact of these programs on your children or friends? The *Strengthen the Church* special offering supports three ministries of the CT-UCC Conference: **Silver Lake Conference Center, Youth and Young Adult Ministries, and Faith Formation.** The offering will support these three ministries to change lives by identifying and affirming leaders, nurturing skills, and building capacity for ministry, as well as strengthening networks among our local churches in an interdependent spirit. Our youth group is very involved in these ministries! 90% of this offering will be used to support these three areas of ministry; 10% will be shared with the national UCC's *Strengthen the Church* initiatives. We will receive this special offering on Pentecost Sunday, May 20. Online donations may be made at www.ctucc.org/strengthenthechurch. Thank you, as always, for your generosity!



THANKS TO OUR APRIL COFFEE MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS!

Catherine Thompson MacLean, Jonathan & Jennifer Otte, Jamaly Rios & family, Jeff Thomas & family, Alvin Thompson, and Andrew Thompson

BY-LAWS CONGREGATIONAL MEETING, Sunday, May 6

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!

PRESENTATION ON SHELLY'S TRIP TO KOREA

Join us after worship on May 20 for a presentation with pictures of Shelly's visit to S. Korea and a conversation about what "partnership" with the Doonjeon church would mean. A special lunch will be provided.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP NEWS

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



UPCOMING DEADLINES

June Newsletter: Friday, May 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.**

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Now that the weather has improved, our painters and woodworkers are moving quickly to complete the Steeple construction. Barring further weather or other delays, we are hopeful that the scaffolding will begin to come down (a project that will take a couple of weeks) beginning May 21. We are nearing the \$900,000 mark in our Capital Campaign, thanks to the generosity of so many of you, past members, and your relatives and friends, along with our grants from the State and Partners for Sacred Places. We are moving forward in the process toward applying for grants from other foundations and companies. Many thanks to our Property Committee and our Capital Campaign Committee!

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. Info: annestanback@gmail.com.

MAY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

- 5/3 J. Alan McLean
 - 5/3 Alexander Vietzke
 - 5/6 James Robacker
 - 5/8 Sally St. Amant
 - 5/11 Timothy Sanderson
 - 5/12 Nancy Boone
 - 5/14 Claudia Hernandez
 - 5/14 Victoria Ververis
 - 5/15 Maxwell Otte
 - 5/19 Garrett Rapsilber
 - 5/21 Donald Sanders
 - 5/24 Dorothy Wurts
 - 5/24 Matthew Thaxter-Grant
 - 5/25 Joan McLean
 - 5/25 Michelle Hughes
 - 5/25 Daniel Otte
 - 5/28 Sally Hayes
 - 5/31 Lucille Parker
- ♥♥♥♥
- 5/7 Gail Canzano & Timothy Otte
 - 5/8 Paul & Tina Bobbitt
 - 5/19 Brendan St. Amant & Shirley Hwang
 - 5/20 Alvin & Lesley Morgan Thompson
 - 5/26 Donald & Shirley Sanders
 - 5/26 Christopher & Catherine Maclean
 - 5/27 Jonathan & Jennifer Otte
 - 5/30 Rochelle Stackhouse & Gavin Ferriby



HISTORICAL PHOTOS:

HORSE CART TO CAMP, 1910

Camp Asto Wamah opens for its 109th season at the end of June. Most campers and staff don't give a thought as to how they'll get to camp, but in 1910, it was more complicated. You had to take a train from Hartford to Andover and then travel by horse and wagon, if you were lucky. If not, you would have to walk!

~ Roberta L. Roy,
Church Historian



SOPRANO SOLOIST/ SECTION LEADER OPENING

We are seeking a professional soprano soloist/section leader for the 2018-2019 season to begin in September. This individual should be experienced and comfortable with a variety of styles. They will help lead our dynamic choir of professionals, college music majors, and volunteers in singing a challenging sacred music repertoire.

Wednesday evening rehearsals and Sunday morning services, with special services and concerts throughout the year. Auditions taking place in May.

Please EMAIL a statement of your interest, along with a resume, to Music Director/Organist Robert Gilbert at rgilbert@cchartford.org. Recording clips welcome.



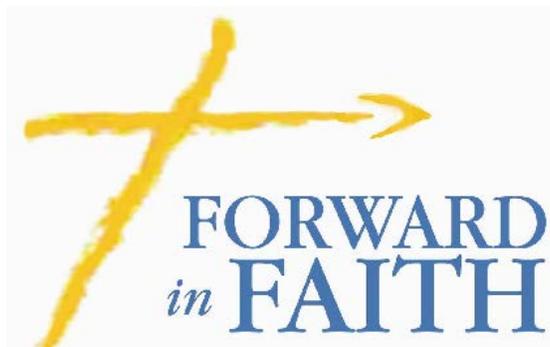
Ryan Dean, a senior in high school from Newington UCC, assists with a furniture move

FROM THE WARBURTON DIRECTOR OF OUTREACH MINISTRIES

At Center Church, we continue to do an enormous amount of good. In the month of April, we assisted a total of 78 individuals. We helped pay the dental bills of 24 people and paid for an initial cleaning for an additional 26. From paying for the birth certificate of a man in a homeless shelter to providing a security deposit for a homeless family living in a mini van, we are here to help no matter how big or small. We also are here to help no matter how complicated. On Saturday 4/21, some volunteers from Wethersfield First Church of Christ and Newington UCC assisted moving the furniture of a man who had gotten an apartment after being homeless for two years. This gentleman had originally become homeless when his landlord refused to fix the furnace that was leaking carbon monoxide, and he was moved due to housing code violations. His furniture was in storage and the church had to negotiate with the moving company in order to free his belongings for a lower price. All our efforts were worth it. On that Saturday, he got to feel his bed for the first time in two years.

And: Calling all Triage volunteers! If you volunteered for any meal during Triage this winter, you are invited to the **Triage Volunteer Celebration Dinner**. It will be held on Friday, May 4 at 5:30pm on the second-floor parlor of the Church House. It will be celebrating and reflecting on how the year went. Hope you can make it!

~ Logan Singerman



WORSHIP EVENTS FOR MAY

- May 6: **Holy Communion**, followed by a Special Congregational Meeting
- May 13: **Guest preacher and worship leader, Lynn Manning**, Interim Youth Minister. Shelly will be attending the graduation of her daughter, Leah Ferriby, from Sacred Heart University.
- May 20: **Pentecost!** The day we remember the gift of the Holy Spirit and the beginning of the Christian Church. **WEAR RED!** Last Choir Sunday, our children will also sing, and we'll honor our teachers and students as Sunday School winds down.
- May 27: **CHANGE IN WORSHIP TIME FOR ONE SUNDAY ONLY!** We will worship here in Hartford at 10:00am, then move out to Camp Asto Wamah (directions will be available) for our Camp Sunday picnic!
- June 3! → **Don't take off for the Summer yet!** On June 3 (back at our usual 10:30am), we will have a **special Jazz Service** with the Hot Cat Jazz Band. You won't want to miss this Sunday!

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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