



*+ From the Pastor +*

I am part of a group of clergy and lay people who meet regularly and have developed materials for churches on a couple of topics. We are now working on the subject of "discernment." We think of it broadly: for individuals throughout their lives as well as for organizations, institutions, and workplaces. Our organizer asked us to put together a one-sentence definition of discernment, and I came up with this (decidedly run-on) sentence: *"Discernment is listening with ears, eyes, spirit, and heart to God, other people, the earth, your gut, and then coming to clarity on moving in one direction or another."*

A number of you who attended our June retreat have asked when we might have another one. We will have two "mini-retreats" for people who missed the first one or want to work again on the kind of discernment we did that day. We are also planning to do a retreat sometime after Christmas, pushing this idea of discernment even further. We will do some exercises that we can use to think about both Center Church or open questions in our own lives.

How do you go about discerning what to do when faced with major issues in life? Are you interested in exploring further what that might mean? Let me know if you are, or if there is another topic you would like to spend a morning or longer on with members of Center Church. We will also do some of this kind of conversation at the "First Tuesdays at Shelly's Apartment" evenings. No matter when, let's talk!

~ Rev. Shelly Stackhouse,  
Transitional Minister



**SPECIAL WORSHIP  
EVENTS IN OCTOBER**

October 7:  
*World Communion Sunday*

October 14:  
*Founders Day, when we remember our history*

October 28:  
*Sharing Sunday*

## FIRST TUESDAYS AT SHELLY'S APARTMENT

Interested in some conversation about "Things That Matter?" Want to engage with other Christians about God, the world, the Bible, belief, doubt, evil, climate change in an informal setting? Like dessert? Then plan to join other Center members and friends on the first Tuesday of each month (October 2 will be the first) from 7-8:30pm at 5 Whitman Ct. #2. Like the church, there is no off-street parking, but lots of street parking on Capitol, Buckingham, and sometimes Whitman Court (which is between Capitol and Buckingham, between Main and Hudson). The apartment is on the second floor and there is no elevator, unfortunately. If you know you can come, let Shelly know (so she can have enough chairs on hand), but feel free to just show up.



## EMERGENCY MEDICAL HELP AVAILABLE!

On September 22, we held a certification for CPR training, as well as training in the use of the AED (defibrilators) devices we now have both in the Meeting House and the Church House. The following people participated in the training and are able to provide both CPR and AED assistance if needed. If you are also trained, we would like to know so that we may let people know to whom they may turn in an emergency:

*Marie Ferrantino, Ruth Fortune, Tina Franklin, Bob Gilbert, Thomas St. Amant, Logan Singerman, Shelly Stackhouse, Cheryl Thomas, and Monique Young*



Dear Friends,  
Thank you for keeping my brother Michael Plankey in your prayers for these past four years. He was touched and grateful when I told him that our church was praying for him, as am I.

His struggle is over, and he's now at peace.

With love and gratitude,  
Kathy Gourlie



## THANKS TO OUR SEPTEMBER COFFEE MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS!

*Led & Nancy Baxter, Richard Jacques, Jamaly Rios and family, Jeff Thomas and family, and Bill Warner-Prouty*

## WALK WITH AL FOR IMMIGRANTS, OCTOBER 21

For many months now, Al Dornan, a 78-year-old Wethersfield resident, has been walking 2 miles daily with a sign supporting DACA and immigrants. He feels passionately about an ideal of the United States welcoming all people. On Sunday, October 21, from 2-4pm, Al will begin his walk at 450 Main St. Hartford, stopping in front of Center Church on the way. We are invited to join Al and other supporters of DACA on his walk that day. Make a sign or just show up to witness to your support of immigrants and Dreamers.



## MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

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

Deaths: Marjorie Paust (9/17)



## PUBLICATIONS DEADLINES

*November Newsletter: Fri., October 26*

*Weekly E-News: Each Tuesday*

*Sunday Bulletin: Each Tuesday*



- 10/1 Angela Taveras
  - 10/4 Janice Lombardi
  - 10/7 Logan Reis
  - 10/7 Olive St. Amant
  - 10/9 Sara Markham
  - 10/9 Dianna Woodard
  - 10/9 Jennifer Valdes
  - 10/11 Taline Norsigian
  - 10/11 Aeniecia Parkes
  - 10/12 Dana Geter-Walker
  - 10/13 Shepherd Holcombe, Jr.
  - 10/15 William Gourlie
  - 10/16 Jane Macomber
  - 10/17 Ann Theriault
  - 10/18 Willie Mae Geter
  - 10/21 Kathleen Davidson
  - 10/23 Terrence French Jr.
- ♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥
- 10/1 Timothy & Maryanne Sanderson
  - 10/4 Sarah & Michael Gale
  - 10/9 Katherine Markham & David Feldman
  - 10/13 Ruth Fortune & David Reynolds

**HURRICANE RELIEF**

We recently saw horrific floods from Hurricane Florence in the Carolinas, as well as a super typhoon in the Philippines, Hong Kong, and mainland China. Your dollars, contributed through *One Great Hour of Sharing* each March, are already at work on the scene of both. If you would like to contribute more and find out more about the UCC response, go to [www.ucc.org](http://www.ucc.org) or click on the relief link on the home page. You can also write a check payable to *Center Church* with "hurricane" in the subject line and we will make sure your contribution gets to the UCC.

**HARTFORD MARATHON (well, 5K)**

Shelly will be running the 5K that happens at the same time as the Hartford Marathon, and her run will benefit Journey Home, one of the official charities of the event. Any runners out there already registered or some who might? Let Shelly know so you can meet up on October 13.

**NEW LEADERSHIP FOR CENTER CHURCH!**

On Sunday, a Congregational Meeting elected the following members to our Coordinating Executive Team (the successor to the Prudential Committee in our new by-laws). They begin their work October 1! Please hold in prayer: *Cheryl Thomas*, Moderator; *Kathryn Lewis*, Associate Moderator; *Larry Roeming*, Clerk; *David Reynolds*, Treasurer; *Richard Markham*, Assistant Treasurer; and at-large members *Andre Keitt*, *Jamaly Rios*, *Ivan Edafiohgo*, and *Don Sanders*.

**FAITH CHURCH 200<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

Our friends at Faith UCC are celebrating their 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a congregation! In 1819, African American members of Center Church formed a new congregation, now the nation's second oldest predominantly African American Congregational UCC Church! They have invited us to celebrate with them on October 6 with a Jazz Concert at 2 followed by a Chili Cookoff at 4. Tickets to just on are \$10 and to both are \$15. For more info, visit [www.faithmatterstoday.org](http://www.faithmatterstoday.org).



Spiritual Direction

**A NEW MINISTRY @CENTER CHURCH**

Have you considered spiritual direction to enhance your life's journey? A spiritual director is someone with whom you can talk confidentially about your prayer and spiritual life. Conversations with a director include all the "stuff" of ordinary life—work, family, relationships, joys and sorrows, excitement and despair—and seek to notice God's presence, laboring, and invitation in the midst of it all. A director helps you explore the darkness of self-doubt, confusion, and fear so that you are able to be free of what blocks you from God's loving presence. The conversation takes place in a prayerful atmosphere where both you and the director acknowledge the movement of the Spirit in every aspect of your life.

Center Church now offers Spiritual Direction Ministry to members and non-members alike. To learn more, please contact Marie Ferrantino at (860) 249-5631 (ext. 209) or [mferrantino@cchartford.org](mailto:mferrantino@cchartford.org).



## **MUSIC & ARTS NEWS for OCTOBER**

### **Double Feature Choral Extravaganza, Sunday, October 28, 4:00 PM**

Renowned Women's Ensemble "Something Extra" joins the Men's "Spizzwinks" in a combined acapella concert. Reception follow. This is a ticketed event – tickets available at the door  
Tkts: \$15. (Seniors/Students \$10.)

### **NEW BY-LAWS TAKE EFFECT!**

On October 1, our new by-laws are in effect! A quick reminder of what that means:

- Our former governing board, known as Prudential, is now the Coordinating Executive Team (CET). CET will meet monthly for most of the year and is the ONLY elected group in the church.
- Our Boards and Committees are now "teams," and have been redefined.
- Current teams are: Worship, Care, Resource, Outreach, Community Relations, Faith Formation, Visionary.
- New sub-teams will be forming as well.
- If you have an idea for a team and will be part of it, suggest it to the CET.
- Some teams will be time or event specific, and not ongoing.
- We will need to tolerate a little "creative chaos" as the teams get organized. Things may not always be done the way they were before! We will be tweaking the structure throughout this year.
- WE NEED YOU to be on a team! This structure works best if everyone is involved in some way. TEAMS ARE NOT ELECTED! YOU JUST VOLUNTEER! No set term, but we ask that if you volunteer for a team, you agree to stay for one year at least or until after the event for a short-term team. Watch the newsletter, e-news, and announcements in worship for opportunities to work with a team.



#### **HANDS ON HARTFORD HARVEST SUPPER**

We are invited to support Hands on Hartford (Hartford's largest feeding/housing assistance program) on October 4 from 6-8:30pm for supper and music. Tickets are \$100. More info at [www.handsonhartford.org](http://www.handsonhartford.org).

#### **MORE OCTOBER EVENTS**

Check your bulletin and weekly E-News for information regarding our **Fall Mini-Retreats** and the **Ebony and Ivory Ball!**

## *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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*Meeting House Photo on cover page: Tim Lee*