



CENTER CHURCH

The First Church of Christ in Hartford

NEWS

*Embracing God's Presence,
Serving the City,
Building upon Our Heritage*

Volume XXXII, No. 5

September, 2016



Rally Day



Sunday, September 11, 2016

Pride Sunday



Worship at 10:30am in the Meeting House!

Church School Begins!

Ice Cream Social following worship with live music!

BOOK STUDY



**FALL ADULT CLASSES
BEGIN Sunday,
September 11!**

We will study *Beyond Resistance: The Institutional Church Meets the Postmodern World* by UCC General Minister and President, the Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer. Classes begin each Sunday at 8:45am in the Church House parlor. To register and obtain a book, please contact Alvin Thompson or Joe Bradley.

BE THE CHURCH...

Wear this moving message with Center Church logo on front to inspire others to...be the church. Lovely UCC logo on right sleeve! Purchase to support the Center Church youth group!



\$10 Adult Sizes: Small to 3XL

\$8 Youth Sizes: Extra Small to Extra Large

Purchase from the Church Office by calling 860-249-5631 or Email

jpriestley@cchartford.org

Dear Family and Friends,

What an amazing summer! The construction of Gold Street is well underway. Bushnell Park was vibrating with amazing jazz music, and here at the Church House, we were hard at work planning for the fall.

By the time you get this note, September will be here. Rally Sunday is September 11th. The Warburton Trust will be celebrates its 150th year. We will dedicate Founders' Day for this celebration. Confirmation Classes will begin in October. Plans for the Capital Campaign are moving forward, and trainings will soon begin.



Life is buzzing at Center Church. Isn't that amazing?! I hope we welcome this church year with open hearts and open minds. In a world that is wounded and in pain, let us be kind to each other and the community around us. This season, *"Let us make one point, that we meet each other with a smile, when it is difficult to smile. Smile at each other, make time for each other."* ~ Mother Teresa

May God continue to inspire us to love, sustain, and work for God's kingdom.

Peace and blessings,

(Rev.) Dr. Damaris D. Whittaker,
Minister



SEPTEMBER DATES

- 9/2 Joyce Peroza
- 9/2 Deborah Tuthill
- 9/5 Bryan Denman
- 9/6 Peter Austin
- 9/7 William Jackson
- 9/8 Joyce Buckingham
- 9/9 Thomas Lombardi
- 9/12 Violet St. Amant
- 9/13 Lawrence Roeming
- 9/16 Kaitlyn Thomas
- 9/20 Gail Canzano
- 9/20 Grace Otte
- 9/21 Joseph Bradley
- 9/22 Isys Belton
- 9/25 Cecelia Jackson
- 9/27 Valerie Thaxter-Grant
- *****
- 9/2 Deborah Tuthill & Sarah Schneiderman
- 9/8 James & Lisa Thomas
- 9/11 Harold & Joyce Buckingham
- 9/16 Dennis Morin & David Owens
- 9/17 James & Jane Macomber
- 9/27 Anthony & Karen Sanders

CHURCH FAMILY NEWS

Deaths: Curtis S. Anderson (August 10)

Births, baptisms, weddings, new members, transferred: None

A Note from Kathy & Bill Gourlie

Dear Friends,

We write from our apartment in Frederick, MD; we moved this past week and are settling in. It has been a different kind of a summer, planning for this move and preparing to leave our life in Connecticut. One of the hardest parts was realizing that we'll not be an active part of the Center Church Community going forward.

Center Church has been an integral, and much loved, part of our lives for many years. It's probably the most difficult aspect of leaving. We have worshiped, sung, eaten, learned, served, and yes, attended meetings together. These experiences and memories are precious. We are excited to have a new adventure and a new home, not to mention being closer to family members. We will find another church to attend and participate in, but Center Church's place - and your place - in our hearts is secure.

I recently came across a quote from Winnie the Pooh that captures things very well: "How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." With this in mind, we say *thank you, and may God bless each of you.*

Love,
Kathy & Bill Gourlie

Blessing of the Backpacks



All students are invited to receive school supplies and a blessing for the new school year!

AND

The whole congregation is invited to bring new school supplies to donate to Hartford students in need!

SEPTEMBER 18TH, 2016



Hartford's LGBTQI Pride Fest takes place **Saturday, September 10!** Volunteers are needed at our booth ~ please contact the church office if you can lend a hand.

ENVISIONFEST HARTFORD

Saturday, September 17

Details at www.envisionfesthartford.com

Open Door at the Meeting House
from 10:00am-1:00pm.

AUGUST COMMUNITY MEALS

We thank the following volunteers for giving their time and talent in helping at last month's Community Meals:

*Claudette Constant
Catherine Maclean
Dennis Morin
Enid Negron
David Owens
Bill Warner-Prouty*

COFFEE MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS

We thank the following volunteers for serving our Coffee Ministry during the months of June and July:

*Efrain & Olga Agosto, Led & Nancy Baxter,
Joe Bradley, Frances Burton, Bryan Denman,
Drew, Dectora Jeffers, Anne Ostberg,
Larry Roeming, Don & Shirley Sanders,
Alvin Thompson, Bill Warner-Prouty, and
Marilyn Watson*



LOOKING BACK Center Church not only has an amazing present and future, but a rich history! Starting this month, we will include historical tidbits of the "Did You Know?" variety. For example – did you know that the church newsletter began in 1940, after careful consideration from church leadership? The Prudential Committee meeting minutes from February 1, 1940 reads as follows: "...a suggestion was (made) that the calendar (bulletin) be reduced to a simple Order of Worship and a single sheet, and that all announcements of coming events and other notices to the congregation be put out in the form of a weekly news sheet which would be mailed to the entire congregation in time to reach it on Saturday."



LOOKING AHEAD

Coming in October:


- World Communion Sunday, October 2
- Founders Day, October 16
- Hartford's Hooker Day Parade, October 22
- Justice/Outreach Sunday, October 23
- Festival Sunday, October 30, followed by Popsicles with the Pastor

IN OUR PRAYERS

Arline Baum, Paul Bobbitt, Gladys Hernandez, The Family of Martha Keitt, Marjorie F. Paust, Michael Plankey, Lita Rathnam, Sally St. Amant, Earl Sanderson, Norman Stanley, Abel Tangarone, Dianna Woodard, the City of Hartford, the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, the First Church of Christ in Hartford, the State of Connecticut, and all victims of violence and natural disasters.

September at Center Church

2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 4 COMMUNION Worship, 10:00am (Church House)				1	2	3
5 LABOR DAY Church Office closed	6 Staff Meeting, 1:00pm; Community Meals, 5:00pm; Deacons Meeting, 6:30pm	7 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm		8	9	10 HARTFORD PRIDE FEST
11 RALLY/PRIDE SUNDAY Adult Education Class, 8:45am; Worship, 10:30am (Meeting House); Ice Cream Social follows; Sunday Community Meals, 3:00pm	12 Staff Meeting, 1:00pm; G&V Meeting, 6:00pm; Outreach Meeting, 7:00pm; Stewards Meeting, 7:15pm	14 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm		15	16	17 HARTFORD ENVISIONFEST Open Door at the Meeting House, 10:00am-1:00pm
18 BACKPACKS BLESSING Adult Education Class, 8:45am; Worship, 10:30am; Sunday Community Meals, 3:00pm	19 Staff Meeting, 1:00pm; "D.E.A.R. Ones" Lunch, Noon (location TBD)	21 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm		22	23 OCTOBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	24 Governor's Footguard Rochambeau Service, 1:00pm (Meeting House)
25 Adult Education Class, 8:45am; Worship, 10:30am; Chorister Choir follows service; Sunday Community Meals, 3:00pm	26 Staff Meeting, 1:00pm; Pastoral Relations Committee Meeting, 6:00pm; Prudential Committee Meeting, 7:15pm (tentative)	28 Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm		29	30	
		Choir Rehearsal, 7:30pm				Deacon of the Month: Andre Keitt

Refreshments served after each
Sunday Worship Service

For further information, visit us online at www.centerchurchhartford.org

WARBURTON RESOURCE, OUTREACH, AND COLLABORATION CENTER ("THE WROCC")

60 Gold Street (Church House), Hartford; p (860) 310-5656

Please enter through Lewis Street side door.

DROP IN HOURS: Wednesdays & Thursdays, 1:00pm-6:00pm