



## + From the Pastor +

Someone famously once said the only things you can count on in life are death and taxes. I would add one more thing to that list: *change*. You know this in your own life! Sometimes changes happen as a surprise, sometimes welcomed, and sometimes not. Sometimes changes are planned. No matter what, there is a certain amount of stress that accompanies change of any kind.

I say that because we are entering into a year of change here at Center, again! We are implementing our new by-laws, so our leadership is undergoing some change. We have lost Jana and Anne Russo-Priestley, so our staff is undergoing some change. We are continuing the discussions we started on the June retreat, and who knows what changes may come from that?

I believe the keys to working successfully through change in any congregation are twofold. First, let us not move through this time as “functional atheists.” We need to continually remember and invoke the presence of God in the activity of the Holy Spirit around and through us. Pray and listen.

Second, we need to trust each other enough to tolerate some chaos, trusting we will move through to a good place together. Everything will not always be done exactly as it has in the past. Let us go with the flow as much as possible, knowing that some things will not work, but others might.

Let us hold one another in prayer and be gracious toward each other in the coming months. I believe great things are in store for Center Church.

~ Rev. Shelly Stackhouse,  
Transitional Minister

P.S. I have signed a lease on an apartment downtown and look forward to inviting you to come for some discussion and food in the near future!

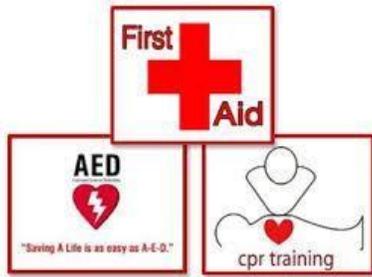
### **TEAM GATHERING!**

As you know, our new structure is about to take effect on October 1. That means our old committees will cease and our new teams will take on caring for the life of the congregation. Many of you have signed up for teams; more will be needed as those teams spin off some new teams. Everyone who is interested in being on a team is asked to gather after worship on September 23 for a meeting and time to gather in teams to get organized. Lunch will be supplied and child care if needed (Please contact Shelly ASAP if you need child care).



## **CELEBRATION OF OUR NEW STEEPLE!**

We hope everyone in the church will join us on Sunday, September 9 as we return from the summer and celebrate the completion of our construction project and the congregational phase of the Capital Campaign to pay for it! We hope to take a picture of the whole congregation gathered on the front steps. There will be food, a slideshow of the construction, and many thank-you moments. We will return to our regular worship time of 10:30am at the Meeting House, then move onto the front portico for our celebration. You won't want to miss this!



## **HELP SAVE A LIFE!**

### **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 (let us know if you need financial assistance.) You will be American Heart Association certified for a two-year period. Contact Marie to register by Friday, September 7.



### **CALL TO CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

There will be a Congregational Meeting after Worship on Sunday, September 16, 2018 for the purpose of electing Church Officers and C.E.T. (Coordinating Executive Team) Members-at Large. Please plan to attend.

~ Larry Roeming,  
Clerk



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

*Efrain & Olga Agosto, Led & Nancy Baxter, Bryan Denman, Richard Jacques & friends, Gary Grimley, Catherine MacLean, Dennis Morin & David Owens, David Reynolds, Debra Rucker-Grumley, Jamaly Rios and family, Luke Salls & friends, Jeff Thomas and family, and Bill Warner-Prouty*

### **SUPER SATURDAY OCTOBER 20!**

Each year in October, the Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut Conferences gather for a day of workshops to help resource churches around a variety of topics. This year: October 20 in Framingham, MA. Workshops on Intergenerational Faith Formation, Health Care, Growing the Church, Prayer, Retreats, Justice issues, Sexuality issues, Worship, etc. Shelly would like to take a team from Center to attend. We need to register by October 6, so let her know ASAP if you are interested!



### **UPDATES**

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



### **PUBLICATIONS DEADLINES**

*October Newsletter: Friday, September 21*  
*Weekly E-News: Each Tuesday*  
*Sunday Bulletin: Each Tuesday*



- 9/1 Nivmaly Rios
  - 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
  - 9/30 Logan Singerman
- ♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥
- 9/2 Deborah Tuthill & Sarah Schneiderman
  - 9/3 Daniel & Ann Theriault
  - 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



### **WELCOME, NEW SINGERS!**

This year, we welcome three new singers to share their musical gifts with us.

*Kayla Fore, Soprano Soloist/Section Leader*  
*Nicolas Turner, Warburton Choral Scholar (tenor)*  
*Madison Finke, Warburton Choral Scholar*  
*(mezzo-soprano)*

Look for more about Kayla, Nicolas, and Madison in our weekly *E-News*.



### **OUTREACH MINISTRIES UPDATE**

Summer is a time of relaxing, when people can slow down and visit somewhere they find rejuvenating. Unfortunately, life's hardships don't take a vacation and we were as busy as ever these past couple months. During the months of July and August, we served 23 people in need of security deposit or rental assistance and 6 in need of help with utilities. We had 73 volunteers log 216 volunteer hours and serve 451 meals. During this time, we received two notes of appreciation. One was from a couple in their 20s who had been sleeping in Keney Park for a week. We helped purchase bus tickets for them to reconnect with family in New York. The other came from a mother and her two sons, who were homeless. They needed two additional nights in a hotel while another organization found them longer-term resources. We were happy to help, and if you look at the picture next to this article, you will see they were quite happy too.

### **FAITH FORMATION UPDATE**

As you know, our summer has included the resignation of Jana and Anne Russo-Priestley as our Children and Youth Faith Formation staff. We are sorry to lose them and excited for their next adventure as foster parents to infant twins! We will celebrate their ministries among us on September 16 after worship. Stay tuned for more on that celebration.

Moving forward, we are advertising for someone to work with children and youth for this program year as we reassess our needs for our faith formation programs. Stay tuned for more on that as well. Please pray for us to find the right person. Also, if you have ever thought of teaching Sunday School, now is the time! Jana kindly prepared all the curriculum for the year, so you need to come in and follow the directions! The commitment is for two Sundays a month, so you don't need to miss worship every Sunday. Please let Nancy Maclean or Ileia Belton know if you are interested in teaching. **OUR CHILDREN NEED YOU!**



## ***MUSIC NEWS FOR THE NEW PROGRAM YEAR!***

### **YOU are invited to join the CENTER CHURCH ADULT CHOIR!**

The Center Church (Adult) Choir will begin rehearsals on Wed., September 5 at 7:30pm in the Church House, and we would LOVE to have you join us!! Please call (860) 966-3920 or email Director of Music Bob Gilbert at [rgilbert@cchartford.org](mailto:rgilbert@cchartford.org) to let him know of your interest or if you have questions. We hope to see YOU !

### **CHILDREN'S CHOIR REHEARSALS START ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**

Our Children's Choir will begin rehearsals on Sunday, September 23, immediately following the 10:30am service. All children are welcome to be part of this exciting group. All church school children will be escorted from their Sunday School classes to the 2<sup>nd</sup>-floor choir room after the service to rehearse with Music Director Bob Gilbert for about 15 minutes. If you have questions, please call (860) 966-3920 or email Director of Music Bob Gilbert at [rgilbert@cchartford.org](mailto:rgilbert@cchartford.org).

### **A FIRST LOOK AT THE 2018-19 MUSIC AND ARTS SERIES**

#### **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.)

**Center Church Choir, Soloists, and Chamber Ensemble present:  
*Christmas Oratorio* by Camille Saint-Saens, Sunday, December 16, 10:30 AM**

*...and a full season brochure will be available soon!*

### **PLEASE SUPPORT OUR 2018-19 SERIES WITH A CONTRIBUTION!**

The 2018-19 season of Music and the Arts at Center Church is made possible through monies received as admission for each event (ticket sales, suggested donations, freewill offerings) and by the generosity of our donors. As in the past, we are looking for church members and friends to partner with us as we present these important outreach opportunities. Please make your checks payable to *Center Church* and put "Music and Arts Series" in the memo section. All contributors will be listed in all programs. Contributors may also make contributions in memory of or in honor of family, friends or loved ones. Our levels of support are as follows: Motivator (\$250 and above), Encourager (\$175-249), Supporter (\$100-174), and Sustainer (up to \$99)

*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*