



PRIDE FEST HARTFORD

On Saturday, September 14, Hartford celebrates our LGBTQ+ community! We would like to let everyone know that we are an Open and Affirming church, where all are truly welcome. If you would like to join Shelly to sit at a table over on Pratt Street for a while that Saturday, please let her know.

ONE-ON-ONE CHECK IN

At the beginning of the summer, the Vision Team urged us all to meet with five people in the congregation for a conversation around what gives our lives meaning and how we nurture that meaning. Have you met with 1, 2, or 5? Summer is technically not over until September 21, so you still have time! Part of our new mission is forming strong relationships both inside and outside our faith community. This is one way to do that!

NYT MAGAZINE, 8/18

If you have a print copy of this magazine you are willing to share, please bring to Shelly by September 15. We will be using this on September 22.



+ From the Pastor +

"The more I know, the more I know, I know nothing." That quote has been attributed to Aristotle, and many others. Now in my 60's, with a ridiculous amount of formal education, I find myself feeling like this more and more. Especially about matters of race.

One of the books I read this summer was the historian (and terrific writer) Jill Lepore's *These Truths*. This is a political history of the United States, beginning in the 1600s. I have been blown away repeatedly as I, who consider myself well-read and thoughtful, discover what I was never taught and did not know about our past in the U.S. And especially how matters of race and slavery were woven into everything about our beginnings, foundational documents, and economic and political life for 400 years. Pairing what I have read in Lepore with the amazing pieces in *The New York Times* beginning August 18 along with antiracism trainings I have taken from the Connecticut Conference of the UCC both here at Center Church, and the required training for all clergy in the Conference, I realize how little I know, and how much I need to continue to learn and grow to understand as well as I can.

As our kids go back to school soon, I urge all of us, especially those of us who are not African American, to make a commitment to education for ourselves. Read or listen to books; watch documentaries; listen to podcasts (we will work on developing a list). Most of all talk to one another, and if you are white, do much more listening than talking. We must not give into hopelessness about the current state of race relations in this country; we must be persistent in believing the Beloved Community can be a reality, and do our parts, however small, to work toward that hope.

~ Rev. Shelly

FAITH UCC WRAPS UP 200 YEAR CELEBRATION

On Sunday, September 29 at 2:00pm, we are all invited to join Faith Church for the big closing celebration of their 200th Anniversary. There will be music, worship, food, and all manner of celebration. Watch for more details in September.



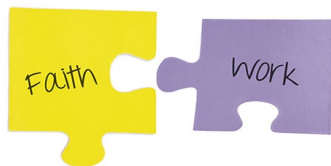
OUTREACH MINISTRIES UPDATE

Imagine you were working for a public school system and it was your understanding that you were going to be receiving another assignment over the summer. That job was given to someone else unexpectedly. Now, it is late August and you are two months behind on rent. Your landlord is starting to get impatient and is talking of eviction. School will start back up in a week, but will that be too late for you and your five-year-old son?

Or -- imagine that you are an elderly woman who is legally blind. You fell last October and then went into rehab. During your time in rehab, you were unable to make payments on the matching program you were on with the gas company. Now, your gas is shut off for you, your daughter, and your grandson. You want to move because the apartment has mice, and the drains smell of mold. Your landlord has not been responsive. You could report these conditions, but you would rather not cause too much trouble, because you're afraid of losing your place and don't have the funds to pay a security deposit elsewhere.

These scenarios didn't have to be imagined for the two individuals who came through the doors of the WROCC Center this past week actually experiencing it. These are just two of the more than twenty stories I could have shared from this past week. There are countless ways to fall through the cracks, especially when you are living so close to them. The breakdown of a car, a slip and fall, getting sick at work where there is no paid sick time -- all of these can be the nudge that pushes someone into a housing crisis. And sometimes, it just takes a little nudge to get back out. That's why we're here and will continue to carry on the ministry of serving our neighbors, which has been taking place in this building for over 100 years.

~ Logan Singerman,
Warburton Director of Outreach Ministries



FAITH AND WORK STUDY

Shelly is recruiting eight people to be part of a small group talking together for seven weeks this Fall about issues around our faith and our working lives. She is looking for people currently working full or part time. We will meet at the mutual convenience of the group once it is formed, each meeting lasting about ninety minutes. Interested? Let her know!



OUR AUGUST COFFEE MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS!

*John Border, Dectora Jeffers, Margaret Lloyd,
Michael Sieger, Jeff Thomas & family,
and Andrew & Alvin Thompson.*

A FIRST GLANCE AT THE 2019-2020 MUSIC & ARTS SERIES

Sunday, October 20, 4:00pm

Concert Organist Peter Conte, with Dual Organist/Flugelhorn Andrew Ennis
(Co-sponsored by the Jolidon Fund of the AGO. Suggested tickets: \$15)

Sunday, November 10, 10:30am Service

Center Church Choir presents an All Saints Musical Service with Excerpts from the Requiems of Brahms, Durufle, Faure, Mozart, and Rutter during the morning service

Sunday, December 15, 10:30am Service

The St. Luke's Steel Band of New Haven combines with the Center Church Choir for a West Indies/Caribbean Christmas during the morning service

Sunday, January 5, 2020, 4:00pm

Annual Greater Hartford Handel's Messiah Community Sing. Free-will offering

Sunday, February 23, 2020, 4:30pm

An Afternoon of Jazz with Renowned Jazz Trombonist Steve Davis and Friends

Sunday, March 29, 2020, 10:30am Service

The Center Church Choir presents highlights of Brahms Requiem during the morning service

Sunday, April 26, 2020, 4:00pm

Center Church Contralto Soloist Charity Clark Presents a Vocal Recital. Free-will offering

ADULTS WELCOME TO JOIN THE CHOIR

The Center Church Choir begins rehearsals on Wednesday, September 4 at 7:30pm. Please email (rgilbert@cchartford.org) or call ([860] 966-3920) Director of Music Bob Gilbert if you are interested. We'd love to have you!

CHILDREN'S CHOIR STARTING UP!

We love to hear the voices of our children. Children's Choir involves all of our elementary-age children. We rehearse for 10-15 minutes each Sunday immediately following Church School Time.

Celebrations

- 7/9/1 Nivmaly Rios
- 9/2 Deborah Tuthill
- 9/5 Bryan Denman
- 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
- 9/23 Logan Singerman
- 9/25 Cecelia Jackson
- 9/27 Valerie Thaxter-Grant



- 9/2 Deborah Tuthill & Sarah Schneiderman
- 9/3 Daniel & Ann Theriault
- 9/8 James & Lisa Thomas
- 9/11 Harold & Joyce Buckingham
- 9/17 James & Jane Macomber
- 9/27 Anthony & Karen Sanders

ABG HOOKER LECTURE

On September 12, The Ancient Burying Ground Association is co-sponsoring a presentation called ***Uncovering Their History: African, African American and Native American Burials in Hartford's Ancient Burying Ground 1640-1815***. The event will be at the Harford Public Library (Main Street) Hartford History Center at 6:00pm; refreshments to follow. There will be an exhibition as well. This has been an exciting project and will be of interest to all! Check out the latest issue of *Connecticut Explored Magazine* (we have a copy in the Parlor at the Church House) for a preview of the project.

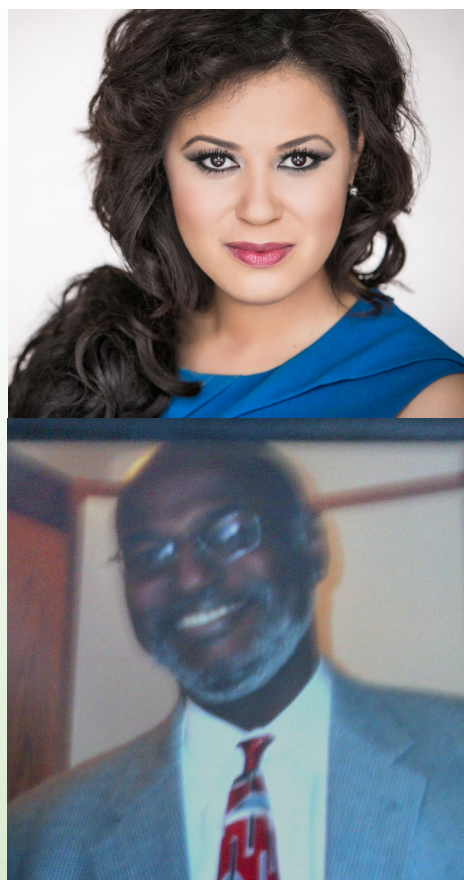
SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY

ON SEPTEMBER 15 & 22!

For our Pride Sunday, and the Sunday we remember the beginning of enslaved Africans on our soil, Shelly is looking for anyone who would like to give a short testimony on their experience of God in relation to issues around LGBTQ+ or Race in America. Let Shelly know. Do you have a story to tell?

We had **NO MEMBERSHIP UPDATES** during the month of August.

MEET OUR NEW CHOIR SOLOIST/ SECTION LEADERS!

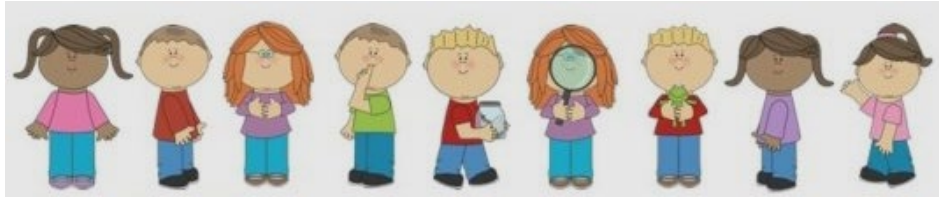


A warm welcome to **Zhanna Alkhazova**, soprano soloist and **Stewart Battle**, bass soloist. Originally from Moscow, Russia, Ms. Alkhazova grew up in the New England area, where she completed her studies, graduating with a Master of Music Degree from Boston University. Zhanna has sung numerous opera roles in both the United States and Europe, and will featured as LIZA in highlights from Tchaikovsky's *The Queen of Spades* with the Metropolitan Opera Guild at Lincoln Center this coming year. Stewart is no stranger to Center Church, having sung in the choir since fall of 2017. Stewart is a well-known area soloist, and has also performed in numerous operas and oratorios nationally and in Europe. He is on the Board of the Hartford Chorale and Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival.



PUBLICATIONS DEADLINES

October Newsletter: **September 20**
 Weekly E-News: Noon Tuesday
 Sunday Bulletin: Noon Tuesday



FAITH FORMATION START-UP IS HERE!

Welcome back from all your summer adventures! Let's get together and get started on a new season of learning in community at Center Church! On **Sunday, September 8th**, an intergenerational worship service starting at 10:00am is planned at the CHURCH HOUSE, with opportunities to jump in and get involved for all ages. Then on **Sunday, September 15th** (the following Sunday), we'll return to the Meeting House for worship, and shift into the Church House for Kid Rally Sunday activities. Come on out and celebrate with us! Fun and food are planned. Questions? Check with Pastor Nada at nsellers@centerchurch.org, or call her office at x210. Please be on the lookout for Church School beginnings that will take place starting **Sunday, September 22nd**. We'll be gathering as multi-age level group and a Youth-aged group (12+) utilizing the curriculum *Seasons of the Spirit*, which we began using last year! More information about schedule and special events coming very soon. Let's get together!

~ Pastor Nada

WHADDYA THINK....?

If you've ever thought about helping to guide children in our church school on Sunday mornings, or wondered what it would be like to help out and learn your way around the materials we use, let Nada or Nancy Maclean know. We'll find a way to help you get ready, get started, and make a difference young lives.

September Worship Schedule!

- September 1: God is Still Speaking Through Work. Holy Communion.
September 8: *Fall Back Together Sunday!* A special worship event with the Visioning Team. You will want to be with us for this important Sunday. **STILL AT THE CHURCH HOUSE, BUT AT 10:30am!**
September 15: Pride Weekend. Back to Meeting House, 10:30am start time continues. Church School resumes.
September 22: We remember the 400th Anniversary of Slavery in this land.

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 (July through Labor Day): Monday thru Friday, 9:00am to 3:00pm

Library Hours: Wednesdays, 10:00am-Noon, or by appointment.

P 860.249.5631 ★ F 860.246.3915

www.centerchurchhartford.org ★ info@cchartford.org

***TO RECEIVE TEXT ALERTS regarding church activities, cancellations, etc.,
Please text the word CENTER to (860) 300-3697.***

(Message and data rates may apply according to your data plan.)