



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

January 13, 2019

THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN HARTFORD

*An Open and Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ*

THE BAPTISM OF CHRIST RENEWAL OF BAPTISM

Welcome ~ Bienvenidos

January 13, 2019

10:30 AM

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT CENTER CHURCH. We are glad you have joined us for this service of worship and the fellowship of this congregation. We hope that you will be both comforted and challenged by the Word of God for us today. If you are new to our community, we hope you will consider making this your church home. Any of our worship leaders or ushers will be able to help with your questions. If you are already a member, be sure to extend a friendly greeting to those around you, starting with someone you don't know...yet.

*Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices
before the service of Worship begins.*

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*"Holy One, are you a sink-or-swim God,
or the kind that eases us into the water?"*

~ Molly Phinney Baskette

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

COMING BEFORE GOD

PRELUDE

Greensleeves

Ralph Vaughan-Williams (1872-1958)

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

PLEASE STAND.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Gentle streams, pouring rain, raging hurricane ocean waves, a refreshing hot shower, soft snow, hard ice: water. Source of life and stuff of life. The Spirit of God moves through it all. Come to the waters, beloved, to remember that you are baptized.

PLEASE REMAIN STANDING.

OPENING HYMN

Brightest and Best

No. 157

MORNING STAR

RENEWAL OF BAPTISM

PLEASE BE SEATED.

RENEWAL OF BAPTISM

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE (sung)

ENGELBERG

**We share by water in Christ's saving death.
Reborn, we share with Christ an Easter life,
God's lively Spirit flows through all our days;
Alleluia!**

THE PASSING OF PEACE

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us bless each other with the peace of Christ.

(The children exit the Meeting House to attend church school.)

PROCLAIMING GOD'S LIVING WORD

PLEASE BE SEATED.

ANTHEM

I Wonder As I Wander

J.J. Niles

Center Church Choir

Kayla Fore, Soprano

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

PSALTER READING

Psalm 29

NRSV: Old Testament, p. 494

GOSPEL READING

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

NRSV: New Testament, p. 937

SERMON Baptism, By Fire

The Rev. Dr. Rochelle A. Stackhouse

RESPONDING IN FAITH

PLEASE STAND.

HYMN

Water, River, Spirit, Grace

TRES RIOS

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father*, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

(= traditional wording but you may use alternative wording, such as "God," "Creator," or "Mother," as seems fitting.)*

PLEASE BE SEATED.

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS AND PROMISES

(We encourage you to use offering envelopes when giving.)

Offertory Music

Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts

Camille Saint-Saens (1835-1921)

Center Church Choir

PLEASE STAND AS THE OFFERING IS BROUGHT FORWARD.

Hymn of Presentation

OLD HUNDREDTH

text: Thomas Ken, 1674; alt.

music: Louis Bourgeois, 1551

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heav'nly host:
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.*

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**All that we are and have we owe to what you have created, bountiful God!
We give you what we can, what we will, what we hope will bring more good
and love into being. In Christ; Amen.**

GOING FORTH

PLEASE REMAIN STANDING.

CLOSING HYMN

No. 160

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (Jesus, the Light of the World)

ELDERKIN

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Go Tell It on the Mountain

African-American Spiritual

Please be seated to enjoy the postlude. Go in peace!

POSTLUDE

Fantasy in G

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

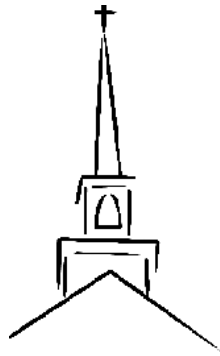
*Our thanks to the Worship Coordinator Larry Roeming,
Usher Richard Markham, and Liturgist Alicia Akers.*

Our thanks to Larry Roeming for providing today's refreshments.

Our thanks to Joe Readon and family for serving at today's Coffee Ministry.

There is no flower memorial today.

*After today's service, please stop by the Remembrance Area to sign a card for
Bruce Bidwell (90th birthday, January 16.)*



+ LET THERE BE LIGHT +

The steeple of the Meeting House will be lighted this week as a memorial & tribute:

- January 13 In memory of Jane Peterson Markham, by her many friends;
In memory of my dear friend J. Scott Hollenback and in celebration
of his birthday by Kristin Sherlock;
In memory of our son J. Scott Hollenback,
by Warren and Virginia Hollenback
- January 14 In loving memory of her mother, Mrs. Mary Ella Dorell Day and her
grandfather, Dr. Day, by Mrs. Jane Dorell Day Souerwine
- January 15 In loving memory of my dear friends, Emma Welcher and
Alice Erickson, by the late Janet Chen
- January 16 In loving memory of my brother, Chen Hung Chow, who died
December 24, 1979, and his wife Ling Hu-Ding, who died July 5,
1991, Dionglloh, Fukien, China, by the late Janet Wei-Kuang Chen
- January 17 In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar A. Phelps, who were a beacon to
those they served at Warburton Chapel and Center Church
- January 18 In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac James Steane, by their daughter,
the late Miss Florence A. Steane

This Week at Center Church

Today	-	10:30	Worship Service and Church School, followed by refreshments;
	-	3:00	Sunday Community Meals
Tuesday	-	11:00	Staff Meeting;
	-	4:00	Investment Committee Meeting (off-site)
Wednesday	-	7:30	Choir Rehearsal



January 16 ~ Bruce Bidwell

January 17 ~ Debra Rucker-Grumley

January 17 ~ Sandra French

AVAILABLE DATES FOR FLOWER MINISTRY!

Would you like to give the gift of Sunday flowers in honor or memory of a loved one? The following Sunday dates are available:

March 24

March 31

Please contact Marie in the Church Office to make arrangements.

+ IN OUR PRAYERS +

Joyce Baker, Bruce Bidwell, Cindy Blutin & family, Joyce Buckingham, Frances Burton, Amya Breedlove, Gail Canzano, Nilsa Cierpikowski, Chris Jeffers, Jane Macomber, Carmen Mahone, Lucille Parker, Van Parker, Joyce Peroza, Earl Sanderson, Jason Sipes, Norman Stanley, Liz Stoever, Steven Thompson, the City of Hartford, the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ, the First Church of Christ in Hartford, the State of Connecticut, the President of the United States, and all victims of violence & natural disasters

WELCOME TO CENTER CHURCH!

Would you like to learn more?

Have our pastor contact you?

Interested in volunteering?

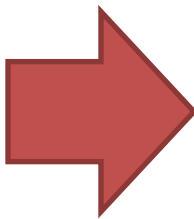
*Please fill out this form and
drop it in the offering plate.*

We look forward to speaking with you!



HAVE YOU PLEDGED FOR 2019 YET?

It's not too late! Please ask
for a pledge card, or visit
our website to set up your
donation. Thank you,
as always, for your
generosity.



IN CASE OF FIRE OR OTHER EMERGENCY

- **Exit swiftly** by the nearest safe door - two exits are located near the pulpit, and three exits are located at the rear of the sanctuary.
- **Help people** around you who may have children or mobility challenges.
- **Call 911**. Don't assume someone else has already done so!
- **Move to the Church House**, so we can be sure everyone is accounted for.

Center Church
The First Church of Christ in Hartford
Member of
The United Church of Christ

Welcome!
¡Bienvenidos!

I am searching for a church home, and would like more information about Center Church.

I would like to learn how I can help with the ministries of Center Church.

I would like the minister to contact me.

Name

Address

Telephone #

Email Address

Please fill out this card and
place it in the offering plate.

CHURCH SCHOOL OBSERVANCE OF MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY



**January 15, 2018,
10:00am through Lunch Time**

On Martin Luther King Jr. Day, church school families will participate in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Day being organized by our neighbor, the Wadsworth Atheneum.

The Wadsworth is presenting this community day in partnership with The Amistad Center for Art & Culture. Admission is free.

The theme for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Day is "Walk a Mile in My Shoes". There are a variety of activities offered involving music, movement, and dialogue. For example, at 11:00am there is an Empathy & Movement Workshop sponsored by CT Connecticut Center for Nonviolence, where participants will discover new ways to practice empathy in their own world. There will also be opportunities for making art and watching performances.

We will have lunch (pizza) at the Church House. For those who want to stay after lunch, there will be activities going on at the Wadsworth until 5:00pm.

AN OPEN AND AFFIRMING Congregation. "We include into full participation in the life of this church persons of any age, race, economic status, gender, sexual orientation, marital status and physical, emotional and mental capacity" (from the statement adopted October 23, 1994.) In recognition of the richness of backgrounds of our congregation, a **DIVERSITY OF LANGUAGES** will find expression in our worship services. Center Church offers an **OPEN COMMUNION**. Adults and children from all religious backgrounds are invited to partake.

FACEBOOK LIVE We livestream our worship services on Facebook each week, and your presence here constitutes your permission for your image to be shown. If you prefer not to be seen, speak with the minister or whoever is operating the phone up front to determine where a good seat might be to avoid the camera. Our viewership is growing and we are excited to welcome a congregation in cyberspace!

FREE PARKING is available during Sunday Worship Services at the Travelers Plaza Garage off Prospect Street (next to the Hartford Club.) The garage closes at 1:00pm (12:00pm during Summer services). On-street parking is also available on Gold Street and on the west side of Lewis Street, and is FREE on Sundays.

REST ROOMS are located in the basement of the Meeting House. Please use the stairs in the southeast corner of the building. For safety, please have an adult accompany your child to the restroom.

CHURCH SCHOOL is held at the Church House (60 Gold Street) for preschool to 12th Grade. Children are to remain with their families in the Meeting House during worship until they depart for Church School following the Children's Moment. Please pick your child up promptly at 12:00pm. For their safety, children will remain with their Church School instructor until an adult picks them up.

CHILDCARE and NURSERY care are provided by trained, capable, and nurturing staff and volunteers, and is available in the Meeting House basement for infants and toddlers (up to two years of age.) A nursery without staff is also located on the second floor of the Church House.

CURRENT SUNDAY ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CLASSES are held in the Church House (60 Gold Street) at Noon. Announcements regarding Adult Education classes are announced in our publications.

HANDICAPPED ACCESS to the sanctuary is via the lift outside at the south end of the portico. If possible, please call the church office in advance for assistance in using the lift.

Please feel free to confer with a minister regarding our **INQUIRER'S CLASSES** for **POTENTIAL MEMBERS, BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS** or **COMMITMENT CEREMONIES**. The latest issue of **CENTER CHURCH NEWS** is available in the literature rack at the back of the Meeting House and at the Church House (60 Gold Street).

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

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

P 860.249.5631 ★ F 860.246.3915

www.centerchurchhartford.org

Transitional Pastor: The Reverend Dr. Rochelle A. Stackhouse (ext. 202)

Minister Emeritus: The Reverend J. Alan McLean

Director of Music/Organist: Robert F. Gilbert (ext. 204)

Acting Director of Faith Formation: The Reverend Nada B. Sellers (ext. 210)

Warburton Director of Outreach Ministries: Logan Singerman (ext. 205)

Church Administrator: Marie Ferrantino (ext. 209)

Bookkeeper: Charlotte Cardone (ext. 201)

Receptionist/Office Assistant: Monique Young (ext. 200)

Sexton: Thomas St. Amant

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