



"SCOTTSBORO BOYS" DISCUSSION

On Tuesday, August 20 at 6:30pm, Alvin Thompson will lead a discussion about the show recently produced at Playhouse on Park. The show prompts many questions and conversations about race in America. If you have seen the show, either here or in NYC, please come. If you haven't seen the show but want to know more, come as well.

A STORY TO SHARE?

On September 15, the theme of our service will coordinate with Pride weekend in Hartford. Would you have a story (we call it *testimony*) to share about your experience of God as an LGBTQ+ person or ally?

On September 22, we will remember the 400th anniversary of the arrival of the first enslaved African on the shores of what would become the United States. Do you have a story you would like to share about race in this nation?

Let Shelly know if you would like to be part of these services!



+ From the Pastor +

CENTER CHURCH MISSION PRIORITIES

Center Church's core mission is to become a Center for spiritual, social, moral, and ethical connection and collaboration with people, programs, agencies, faith communities and neighbors of all kinds in greater Hartford, while developing a vibrant, creative, nurturing, diverse worship life.

CENTER CHURCH PURPOSE SUMMARY

AS CENTER CHURCH, WE RESPOND TO GOD BY NURTURING FAITH, AND BUILDING AUTHENTIC CONNECTIONS AND RELATIONSHIPS

The Vision Team has summarized our choices about our mission priorities into these two statements. Read them carefully a couple of times. Where do you fit into this picture as a member? What specifically is your part in this? What part do you think paid staff have in this? What building space do we need for this and what don't we need? In Worship on September 8, we will do some thinking together about moving forward into this mission. PLEASE PLAN TO BE IN WORSHIP THAT DAY!

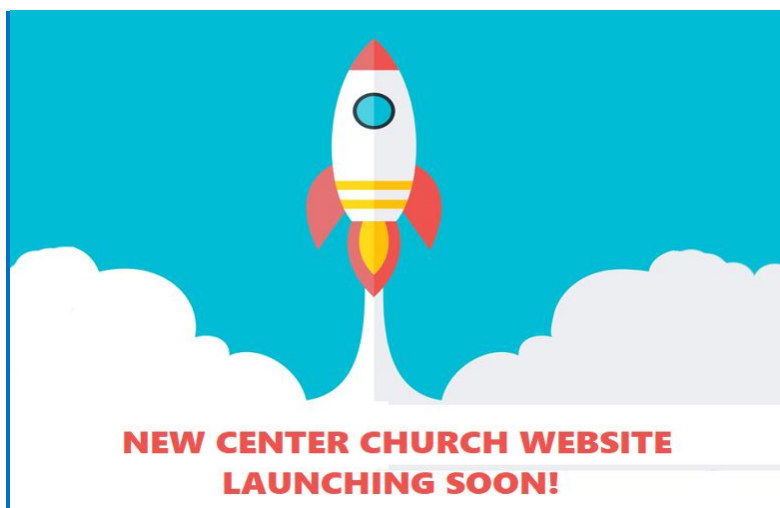
I can't emphasize too much how important it is for us to have our active members and friends together that day. Our Faith Formation program will be celebrating the beginning of a new program year as well, so all the kids will want to be back, and parents who are not teaching, we hope you will be in the room with us (at the Church House for both Sunday School and Worship). Your voices are critical to this conversation. It will shape the search for new pastoral leadership and staff that will get underway this Fall, as well as work on what we are doing with our buildings, and our endowment and our budget. Big changes are coming without question, and I believe these will be as exciting as the big changes happening all around us in Hartford! Revival of life in the city means we need to be responsive and flexible to newness as well. I can't wait to see what happens over the next year!

~ Rev. Shelly

Staff Updates

Our long-time bookkeeper, **Charlotte Cardone**, will be retiring early this Fall. We appreciate the work she has done for us, and will celebrate her at some point in September. At present, we are finalizing a new hire with a temp service for the time being, and reevaluating this position as we consider our staffing configuration.

We are delighted that **Nada Sellers**, our Transitional Minister of Faith Formation, will be with us from August 15, 2019 through May 17, 2020. As part of our conversations about staffing, we will be evaluating how we might staff our faith formation programs in the coming years. Nada is excited to work with our children and families as we consider the future.



Center Church Celebrates
“**FAITH & FAMILY DAY**”
at Dunkin’ Donuts Park



Yard Goats Baseball Game,
Saturday, August 24
Game begins at 6:05pm

We still have a few tickets left! Please call Marie at the Church office if you are interested.



THANKS TO JUNE/JULY COFFEE MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS!

*Led & Nancy Baxter, John Conley,
Richard Jacques, Catherine MacLean &
Anne Ostberg, Jamaly Rios & family, Luke
Salls & Mike Adorno, Jeff Thomas & family.*



SUMMER ONE-ON-ONES

Have you had five one-on-ones yet? Remember -- the Vision Team has challenged us to have 5 one-on-one conversations with other members of Center Church over the summer. You are invited to talk about what gives your life meaning, and how you discover and nurture that meaning. Come to worship and set up a chance to talk with someone you know, someone you don't know, and remember -- where two or three are present, God is there, also!



MEMBERSHIP UPDATES

Baptisms, Confirmations, Membership
Transfers, Weddings: *None*

Joined: *John Conley, Shelby Powell,
Nada Sellers, & Claudette Worth (6/9)*

Birth: *Elle Fortune Reynolds (6/17)*

Death: *Gretchen Skelley (6/4)*



PUBLICATIONS DEADLINES

*September Newsletter: **August 23***

Weekly E-News: Noon Tuesday

Sunday Bulletin: Noon Tuesday

Celebrations

- 7/2 Amy Salls
- 7/2 Douglas Lombardo
- 7/4 Obed Fonder
- 7/8 Theodore Vietzke
- 7/15 Lita Rathnam
- 7/18 Luciano Valles, Jr.
- 7/19 Elena Sanderson
- 7/24 Beverlee Sipes
- 7/26 John Chen
- 7/28 Samuel Chen
- 7/28 Joseph Lopez
- 7/29 Brendan St. Amant
- 7/31 Victoria Seurattan
- 8/1 Earl Sanderson
- 8/1 Haley Reis
- 8/1 Katelyn Reis
- 8/2 Tina Bobbitt
- 8/2 Jalena Diaz
- 8/5 Johnny Rosario
- 8/8 Niome Chaney
- 8/12 Melani Norsigian
- 8/12 Richard Markham
- 8/13 Xaniyah Sanders
- 8/15 Led Baxter
- 8/15 Danielle Singerman
- 8/16 William Warner-Prouty
- 8/19 Rochelle Stackhouse
- 8/20 Steven Lombardi
- 8/24 Lisa Thomas
- 8/28 Lesley Thompson
- 8/29 Jim Oliver
- 8/30 William Wurts
- 8/31 Anthony Sanders



- 7/10 Nilsalynn & Reagan Wagan
- 7/15 Nilsa & Mark Cierplikowski
- 8/6 Efrain & Olga Agosto
- 8/13 Susan Hayes & Douglas Sudell
- 8/15 James & Mary Ellen Jacobs
- 8/16 J. Alan & Joan McLean
- 8/18 William & Kathleen Gourlie
- 8/20 Julie & Patrick Hurley
- 8/27 Thomas & Sally St. Amant

Come unto me,
 all ye that labour
 and are heavy laden,
 and
*I will give
 you rest.*

WARBURTON SCHOLAR UPDATES

Welcome to our new Soprano Choral Scholar,
Hannah Maynard from UCONN...



...and to our new Tenor Choral Scholar,
Thomas Linevitch from UCONN.



CENTER CHURCH MUSICIANS ENRICH SUMMER SERVICES

Center Church would like to recognize and thank the following church member musicians for enriching our summer services with their special music.

Thanks goes to percussionist Dan Theriault, singer/guitarist Logan Singerrman, flautist Catherine Thompson Maclean, trumpeter Terrence French, singers Kathryn Lewis, Steven Lewis, Ben Ferriby, Andre Keitt, Bryan Denman, percussionist Titus Emmanuel, percussionist/musician Nada Sellers, and pianists Gavin Ferriby, and Dectora and Chris Jeffers ...and of course, a thank-you to our summer choir!



SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

A Reminder: We worship Sundays at 10:00am in the air-conditioned second-floor parlor of the Church House this year through Sunday, September 8!

- July 28: Guest preacher and worship leader, **Reverend Mia Douglas!**
- August 4: **Hymn Sing** ~ come and request a hymn!
Find the joy of raising your voices together.
- August 11: God is Still Speaking through **Rest**. A reflection on Sabbath.
Guest musicians Gavin and Benjamin Ferriby.
- August 18: God is Still Speaking through **Politics** and the messy world.
Members of our Core Team working with the new Hartford Community Organizing group, Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance, will share some reflections.
- August 25: The return of **BRUNCH CHURCH!** This time, a potluck!
Check the weekly E-News for more info.
- September 1: God is Still Speaking through our **labor**.
We will do a blessing of our work.
- September 8: **Celebration and Reflection Sunday**. Last Sunday at the Church House.
Stay tuned for more info on this!



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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.

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