



a just
world
for all
ucc.org

Sunday, September 29, 2019

**As Center Church, we respond to God by
nurturing faith, and building authentic
connections and relationships.**

THE FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST IN HARTFORD
*An Open and Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ*

THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Welcome ~ Bienvenidos

September 29, 2019

10:30 AM

WELCOME TO WORSHIP AT CENTER CHURCH. Thank you for being here today! 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.*

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

COMING BEFORE GOD

PLEASE BE SEATED.

PRELUDE

Andante Cantabile

C.M. Widor (184-1937)

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CENTERING PRAYER

INTROIT

Spirit of the Living God

Warburton Choral Scholars

GATHERING PRAYER

ALL: **Come, Holy Spirit, come. Come as wind and cleanse us;
come as fire and burn; come as dew and refresh.
Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

PLEASE STAND.

OPENING HYMN

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

No. 1
ST. DENIO

CONFESSION AND RESPONSE

PLEASE BE SEATED.

CLEANSING PRAYER

ALL: **God of love and mercy, help us let go of all that keeps us weighted
down, fearful, or sad. Help us recognize what wrongs we have
done and seek forgiveness. Help us to name the wrongs we have
received from others and let them go. Remind us that your love
for us is deep and wide and high. Help us to make room right now
for the love to flow in and through us. In Jesus' name, we pray.
Amen.**

SILENT PRAYER

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

PLEASE BE SEATED.

SOLO

Deep River

African-American Spiritual

Charity Clark, mezzo-soprano

PROCLAIMING GOD'S LIVING WORD

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(Afterward, the children will exit to attend church school.)

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 32:1-3; 6-15

NRSV: Old Testament, pg. 722

GOSPEL READING

Luke 16:19-31

NRSV: New Testament, pg. 956

SERMON Message Delivery Systems

The Rev. Rochelle A. Stackhouse

RESPONDING IN FAITH

PLEASE STAND.

HYMN

We Would Be Building

No. 607

FINLANDIA

PLEASE BE SEATED.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER ("debts")

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, for ever. Amen.

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

TESTIMONY

Richard Markham

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS AND PROMISES

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Let Us With A Gladsome Mind

Alan Ridout (1934-1996)

The Center Church Choir

UNISON PRAYER OF DEDICATION

ALL: Generous God, may love flow from these gifts of money and food, from our passionate prayers, from the work we do for you. Thank you for always being behind, around and ahead of us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

GOING FORTH

PLEASE STAND.

HYMN

Sent Forth By God's Blessing

No. 76

THE ASH GROVE

BENEDICTION

CHORAL RESPONSE

Amen

Richard Smallwood (b. 1948)

Please remain seated for the postlude. Go in peace!

POSTLUDE

Finale

C.M. Widor (1844-1937)

**OUR THANKS TO THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN
TODAY'S SERVICE AND MINISTRIES**

The Rev. Shelly Stackhouse, *Worship Leader*

Robert Gilbert, *Musician*

Andre Keitt, *Worship Coordinator*

Our Ushers

Larry Roeming, *Liturgist*

John Conley, Jr. and Richard Jacques, *Coffee Ministry*

Timothy Otte, *Refreshments*

There is no flower memorial today.

Today's CARD RECIPIENTS will be The Ayala Family (sympathy, Edwin's passing) and Monique Young (get well soon.) Please stay to sign cards in the Remembrance Area after this morning's service.

+ LET THERE BE LIGHT +

There is no steeple light memorial this week.

Please contact the Church Office to arrange a steeple lighting.



WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE

Help our community by donating hats, scarves, gloves/mittens, warm socks, and winter coats! Please drop off clean items on Sunday mornings or to the Church House during regular office hours.

This Week at Center Church

Today	-	9:00	Adult Education Class;
	-	10:30	Worship Service and Church School; followed by refreshments; Children's Choir Rehearsal;
	-	3:00	Sunday Community Meals
Tuesday	-	11:00	Staff Meeting
Wednesday	-		Note: <u>NO</u> Choir Rehearsal this evening



October 1 ~ Angela Taveras

October 1 ~ Tim & Maryanne Sanderson

October 4 ~ Janice Lombardi

October 4 ~ Sarah & Michael Gale



A Gift for Charlotte Cardone

As you know, our long-time bookkeeper, Charlotte Cardone, is in the process of retiring. She has ended formal training with new bookkeeper Brenda Russell, and will return occasionally for specific training needs.

To thank Charlotte for her many years of service, we would like to present her with a spa gift card. If you would like to contribute to this gift, please write a check payable to "*The First Church of Christ in Hartford*," write "*Charlotte*" on the check memo, and send to the Church Office on or before THIS FRIDAY, October 4.

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!*

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.



*The Ayala Family, Joyce Baker, Bruce Bidwell, Cindy Blutin & family,
Jennifer Boutin, Joyce Buckingham, Nilsa Cierpikowski, Polly Libby,
Jane Macomber, Carmen Mahone, Sara Markham, Joan McLean,
Danny Mullen, Lucille Parker, Van Parker, Margo Raymond & daughter, Kelly,
Robin Roy, Earl Sanderson, Jason Sipes, Norman Stanley, Liz Stoever,
Steven Thompson, Monique Young, 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*

INSERT – Faith UCC Flyer

INSERT – UCC Neighbors in Need Bulletin Insert #1

INSERT: NW Park flyer

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

Summer Office Hours: Monday thru Friday, 9:00am to 3:00pm (July & August)

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

P 860.249.5631 ★ F 860.246.3915

www.centerchurchhartford.org

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

Minister Emeritus: The Reverend J. Alan McLean

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

Transitional 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: Brenda Russell (ext. 201)

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

Sextons: Thomas St. Amant and Ileia Belton

Nursery Care: Tina Franklin

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