As Center Church, we respond to God by nurturing faith, and building authentic connections and relationships.
October 13, 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
Priere a Notre-Dame                            L. Boellmann

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT
My Lord, What a Morning                       Spiritual
GATHERING WORDS

Leader: Some parents brought their children to Jesus so that he might bless them,

People: But some of Jesus’ followers told those parents not to bother him.

Leader: Jesus said, “Don’t be silly! You can learn from children how to love God, and God loves children so much!”

People: So, Jesus took children into his arms and told them just that! Today, we do the same thing. Let’s all come, Children of God, and worship.

PLEASE STAND.

OPENING HYMN

Come to Tend God’s Garden

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Elle Fortune Reynolds
Parents: David Reynolds and Ruth Fortune
Godparents: Jackson Lautier and Sandra Marin Lautier

PLEASE BE SEATED.

INVITATION: Matthew 28:16-20

PARENTS’ PROMISES

CONGREGATIONAL PROMISE

Leader: We believe that each child born is one more redeemer. By this rite, we commit ourselves to the nurture of this child. Are you ready to dedicate yourselves to Elle?

Community: We are prepared. We dedicate our minds and hearts to this child and to her parents.

Leader: Will you strive to love and cherish them in times of struggle as well as gladness?

Community: We will love and cherish them always.

Leader: We acknowledge the divine spark within each child.
Community: May we be worthy guardians of this young life. May we build a community in which she will grow old surrounded by beauty, embraced by love, and cradled in the arms of peace.

BLESSING THE WATER

THE ACT OF BAPTISM

WELCOME TO THE COMMUNITY
(While Elle is walked around the sanctuary, her father, David, will play Stevie Wonder’s ‘Isn’t She Lovely.’)

POEM
Wherever You Are My Love Will Find You Nancy Tillman, Author
Chris and Dectora Jeffers, Readers

I wanted you more than you ever will know
so I sent love to follow wherever you go.
It’s high as you wish it. It’s quick as an elf. You’ll never outgrow it…it stretches itself!

So climb any mountain…climb up to the sky!
My love will find you. My love can fly!
Make a big splash! Go out on a limb!
My love will find you. My love can swim!

It never gets lost, never fades, never ends…
if you’re working…
or playing…
or sitting with friends.

You can dance ’til you’re dizzy, paint ’til you’re blue…
There’s no place, not one, that my love can’t find you.

And if someday you’re lonely, or someday you’re sad, or you strike out at baseball, or think you’ve been bad… just lift up your face, feel the wind in your hair.
That’s me, my sweet baby, my love is right there.
In the green of the grass…in the smell of the sea…
in the clouds floating by…at the top of a tree…
in the sound crickets make at the end of the day…
“You are loved. You are loved. You are loved,” they all say.

My love is so high, and so wide and so deep,
it’s always right there, even when you’re asleep.
So hold your head high and don’t be afraid
to march to the front of your own parade.

If you’re still my small babe or you’re all the way grown,
my promise to you is you’re never alone.
You are my angel, my darling, my star…
and my love will find you, wherever you are.

PRAYER FOR ELLE AND HER FAMILY

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

PLEASE BE SEATED.

ANTHEM

Jesus Loves Me

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

PROCLAIMING GOD’S LIVING WORD

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED.

INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

NEW TESTAMENT READING

II Timothy 1:1-7

GOSPEL READING

Luke 13:18-21

MEDITATION Elle and the Cloud of Witnesses The Rev. Rochelle A. Stackhouse
RESPONDING IN FAITH

PLEASE STAND.

HYMN
   I Thank You, Jesus

THANK YOU, JESUS

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.)

PLEASE BE SEATED.

THE OFFERING OF GIFTS AND PROMISES
   (We encourage you to use offering envelopes when giving.)

OFFERTORY MUSIC
      O For the Wings of a Dove F. Mendelssohn

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 DEDICATION

For Elle and all our children, for the children of Hartford and the children of the world, with thanks for your amazing love, O God, we give you these gifts, filled with hope. In Jesus’ name; Amen.

GOING FORTH

PLEASE REMAIN STANDING.

HYMN

At the Font We Start Our Journey

WESTMINSTER ABBEY

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION

God Be with You

T. Dorsey

Please remain seated for the postlude. Go in peace!

POSTLUDE

Toccata: Lobe den Herren

Hans Michewlsen
OUR THANKS TO THOSE WHO PARTICIPATED IN TODAY’S SERVICE AND MINISTRIES

The Rev. Shelly Stackhouse, Worship Leader
Pam Perry, Guest Musician
David Reynolds, Guest Pianist
Steven Lewis, Worship Coordinator
Larry Roeming, Usher
Harold Buckingham, and Chris & Deetora Jeffers, Readers
Led & Nancy Baxter, Coffee Ministry
Ann Theriault, Refreshments Coordinators

There is no flower memorial today.

Today’s CARD RECIPIENTS are Willie Mae Geter (75th birthday, 10/18) and Jane Macomber (75th birthday, 10/16.)
Please remain to sign cards in the Remembrance Area after this morning’s service.

“Let There Be Light” Memorial
The Meeting House steeple is lighted this week as follows:

October 14 ~ In loving memory of Madeline B. Bidwell & Eliot N. Bidwell by Bruce E. Bidwell

October 16 ~ In loving memory of Edward D. Turner, Jr., who lit up this church when he became a member in 2005, by Joyce & Harold Buckingham

October 19 ~ In memory of Gertrude Tatro, a faithful member of this church, whose light went out on this date in 2016 at the age of 107, by Joyce and Harold Buckingham

Coats, hats, gloves, mittens, scarves ... can you help keep someone in need warm this Winter? Please bring clean items to either building – speak with Logan if you have any questions. Thank you for your generosity.
This Week at Center Church

Today  -  10:30  Worship Service and Church School; followed by New Member Info Session and refreshments; Children’s Choir Rehearsal;
-  3:00  Sunday Community Meals

Monday -  Indigenous Peoples’ Day/office closed;
-  11:00  Visit to Northwest Park, Windsor

Tuesday -  11:00  Staff Meeting;
-  4:00  Investment Committee Meeting (off-site)

Wednesday -  7:30  Choir Rehearsal

October 13 ~ Shepherd Holcombe, Jr.
October 13 ~ Ruth Fortune & David Reynolds
October 15 ~ William Gourlie
October 16 ~ Jane Macomber
October 17 ~ Ann Theriault
October 18 ~ Willie Mae Geter
October 18 ~ Claudette Worth

Have you signed up for our new texting service? It’s easy!

Center Church closing due to weather, important reminders, or cancellation/rescheduling of a church-wide event.

To enroll, text CENTER to (860) 300-3697.

You will receive an opt-in from “Center Text In Church” and an invitation to fill out a brief form to complete your enrollment. (Message and data rates may apply according to your data plan.) We hope that this will help us all stay in closer contact with one another at Center Church!
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.

Save the Date ~
Stewardship Sunday is October 27!

Prayer List
Center Church Goes to Northwest Park in Windsor!

Located in historic Windsor, Connecticut, USA, Northwest Park is a 473-acre multi-recreational facility operated by the Town of Windsor, Connecticut, offering an interpretive nature center, 12 miles of trails, and maple sugaring.

Monday, October 14th, 2019 at 11:00 am

Northwest Park is located at 145 Lang Road in Windsor, CT

Northwestpark.org
“In the Shadow of the great Hartford Witch Hunt”
2nd presentation
With local author Dick Ross; “Before Salem”

Saturday, Oct. 26th 2019
Center Church and the
Ancient Burying Ground
Main St., Hartford

It happened right here in Hartford years before Salem.

10:30 am: A presentation by Dick Ross
at the Center Church Meeting House
on Main St. in Hartford
Mr. Ross will be doing a talk and slide show inside.

Noon A Memorial Service out in the burying ground
to all those from the colonial era who were wronged
by an earlier belief system.
This will be conducted by relatives, historians and
Rev. Shelly Stackhouse of Center Church.

12:30 pm: an informal walk in the burying ground
with Dick Ross to point out relevant grave markers
and talk about those they memorialize.

Please join us for this time of remembering
and learning about the finer details of our local history.

Hosted by The Ancient Burying Ground Association and Center Church
For more information contact Ruth Brown shanbrown@cox.net
ABG Contact Number: leave a message 860-337-1640
Sunday Adult Education
Faith Formation Classes

On October 20, we will begin meeting after Worship.

On September 15, we began discussing some of the issues being talked about in connection with The 1619 Project, and in addition, the life of Reverend James W.C. Pennington, who was one of the early ministers of the Talcott Street Church. The 1619 Project is a project of The New York Times which takes its name from the fact that in August 1619 enslaved Africans were first bought to Virginia, and you can read about it online. We are also using as a resource American to the Backbone: The Life of James W.C. Pennington, the Fugitive Slave Who Became One of the First Black Abolitionists, written by Christopher L. Webber.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please see Alvin Thompson or Reverend Shelley.

centerchurch
the first church at christ UCC

www.centerchurchhartford.org
I’ll be there!

GREATER HARTFORD
INTERFAITH ACTION ALLIANCE

10/28/19

Founding of the

GREATER HARTFORD
INTERFAITH ACTION ALLIANCE

WELTE AUDITORIUM
Central Connecticut State University
6:15pm arrival; 6:45pm prompt start

Directions:
- From I-84, take Exit 39A to Rte. 9 South
- From Rte. 9 South, take Exit 29 and turn right at the end of the exit ramp onto Ella T. Grasso Boulevard.
- Take your fourth left onto Welte Drive. The Welte parking garage entrance will be on your right.

The Welte Garage is #40 on the campus map, and Welte Hall is #6 on the campus map.

For more info about the event, call: 860-527-9860 or email cmackey@christianactivities.org.
Faith Congregational Church, U.C.C.

Presents

“200 Years and Still We Sing”

Featuring

Patricia A. Gray & Earl W. Gardner

Accompanists:

Dr. Ruth Bass Green
Mrs. Stacy Cahoon

Sunday, October 27, 2019
4:00 p.m.

In Harmony with God For
200 Years

Rev. Stephen W. Camp, Senior Pastor
2030 Main Street, Hartford, CT
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.

TEXT ALERTS  To receive text alerts regarding church activities and cancellations, please text the word CENTER to (860) 300-3697. (Message and data rates may apply according to your data plan.)

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
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 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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