



**Sunday, November 10, 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 TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

*Welcome ~ Bienvenidos*

November 10, 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

Fugue in G Minor

J.S. Bach

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT

Let Me Enter God's Own Dwelling

## GATHERING WORDS

Leader: Jesus said that he came to us and taught us hard things about extravagant love, so that his joy might be in us and our joy might be complete! Come, beloved, and enter into the joy of our Savior!

*PLEASE STAND.*

### OPENING HYMN

Joy to the World!

No. 132

ANTIOCH, C.M.

*PLEASE BE SEATED.*

### CENTERING PRAYER

### THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

*PLEASE BE SEATED.*

### CHOIR ANTHEM

Cry Out and Shout

K. Nystedt

## PROCLAIMING GOD'S LIVING WORD

*PLEASE REMAIN SEATED.*

### CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

### INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE

### PSALTER READING

Psalm 98

NRSV: Old Testament, pg. 540

SERMON Joy?

The Rev. Dr. Rochelle A. Stackhouse

## RESPONDING IN FAITH

*PLEASE STAND.*

### HYMN

All My Hope on God Is Founded

No. 408

MICHAEL

## 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.)*

### THE OFFERING OF GIFTS AND TITHES

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

#### OFFERTORY SOLO

If With All Your Heart (*Elijah*)

Mendelssohn

*Cameron Cintron, Soloist*

*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

**May these gifts spread joy within this congregation and all throughout our communities and our world. God, be with us! Amen.**

### GOING FORTH

*PLEASE REMAIN STANDING .*

HYMN

Rejoice, You Pure in Heart

No. 55

MARION

BENEDICTION

CHORAL BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Savior, Again to Your Dear Name

*Please be seated for the postlude. Go in peace!*

POSTLUDE

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

arr. R. Haan

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

The Rev. Shelly Stackhouse, *Worship Leader*  
Pam Perry, *Guest Musician*  
Andre Keitt, *Worship Coordinator*  
Nilsa Cierpikowski, *Usher*  
Paul Bobbitt, *Reader*  
Jamaly Rios and Family, *Coffee Ministry*  
Nilsa Cierpikowski, *Refreshments Coordinator*

The flowers on display in the Meeting House today are given  
in loving memory of Frank & Rosemary Laughlin Prouty  
by Bill, Sue, and Abraham Warner-Prouty.

We have no card recipients this morning.



### "Let There Be Light" Memorial

The Meeting House steeple is lighted this week as follows:

November 16 ~ In memory of our good friend, **Gretchen Schafer Skelley**, daughter of the late Grace and Walter Schafer, who like her parents, was a lifelong member of this church, by Joyce and Harold Buckingham.

If you would like to light up the steeple in honor or memory of a loved one, please contact the Church Office for details.

### Update on Church Publications

In an effort to save on expenses (and trees!), we will no longer publish a monthly newsletter. As the church focuses on a more "digital" presence, we encourage you to check our weekly *E-News* and refreshed website to keep up-to-date on all church events and activities.

## ***This Week at Center Church***

Today	-	9:00	Adult Education Class (Church House);
	-	10:30	Worship Service and Church School; followed by refreshments;
	-	3:00	Sunday Community Meals
Monday	-		<i>Veterans' Day ~ Church Office closed</i>
Tuesday	-	11:00	Staff Meeting
Wednesday	-	7:30	Choir Rehearsal



*November 11 ~ Terrence & Priscilla French*  
*November 11 ~ Debra & Gary Rucker-Grumley*  
*November 12 ~ Ileia Belton*  
*November 13 ~ Jesse Sipes*  
*November 14 ~ Jaylin Rios*

### **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!

### **Closings & Cancellations on WFSB-TV/Channel 3**

We also list all church event/activities cancellations, closings, and  
postponements on our local CBS affiliate, WFSB-TV (Channel 3.) We are  
listed as "Center Church, Hartford."

# 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.

## Prayer List

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

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## Sunday Adult Education Faith Formation Classes

We meet in the first-floor parlor  
of the Church House:  
November 10 & 17 at 9:00am

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 that takes its name from the fact that in August 1619 enslaved Africans were first bought to Virginia, and you can read about it online.

In connection with *The 1619 Project*, we are now discussing the essay entitled *The Idea of America*. The guiding questions for that essay are as follows:

1. How have laws, policies, and systems developed to enforce the enslavement of black Americans before the Civil War influenced laws, policies, and systems in years since?
2. How has activism by black Americans throughout U.S. history led to policies that benefit all people living in the U.S.?

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



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# *Our Season of Sharing*

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## **SUPPORTING CENTER CHURCH BY MAKING A FINANCIAL PLEDGE FOR 2020**

1. Consider how much you can give to Center Church to support the ministries about which you care.
2. Consider if you will give weekly, monthly, or in one sum.
3. Consider if you will give by check or if you prefer to set up an Electronic Funds Transfer (“EFT” ~ your bank to ours). If you check this, our bookkeeper will be in touch to set it up with you. If you still want to put something in the offering plate, there are cards on the rear table in the sanctuary that say you have already given.
4. Unless you choose EFT, a box of envelopes will be prepared for you to use. These will be available at the rear of the sanctuary near the end of the year. Please use the envelopes that have been purchased for your use and include your pledge number.
5. Have you ever thought about including Center Church in your will? If you’d like to speak with someone about doing that, contact the Church Office at any time.
6. Does your employer have a matching gifts program that includes religious institutions? If so, please check with the staff person where you work and also circle “Yes” on the card. If your employer does not contribute to religious organizations, consider an extra gift to the 1636 Heritage Partnership for the maintenance and preservation of our historic buildings.
7. Remember that this is not a legal contract; if your financial situation changes, you can reduce or increase your pledge as the need arises.

**Thank you for your generosity!**

[www.centerchurchhartford.org](http://www.centerchurchhartford.org)



## **IMPORTANT CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2019!**

In our new structure, the congregation meets to vote on a budget for the coming year each November. We will do so after Worship on November 17 for the budget for 2020. We are proposing some big and exciting changes as we work toward balancing our budget.

This is a critical meeting for you to attend as our budget has a large part in shaping our staffing, programs, and activities each year. The **ONLY** business we will take on at this meeting is the budget, so we hope to move through it clearly, but efficiently. Mark your calendar now!!

In advance of the annual budget meeting on November 17, there will be an informational meeting immediately after church on Sunday, November 10. Please plan to attend to get the info you need to better participate the following week.

~ Larry Roeming,  
Clerk

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**Office  
Volunteer  
Needed**

### *Would You Lend a Hand?*

We are in need of a volunteer(s) to cover the Church Office on Sunday mornings from about 8:30am through late morning. Duties include opening the building for the Christ Our Refuge Congregation for their Worship service, as well as Adult Education Class and Church School attendees. Please talk with Rev. Shelly if you can help!

**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 12<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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)

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

Sunday School Administrator: Ileia Belton (ext. 210)

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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**LARGE-PRINT BULLETINS ARE AVAILABLE ~ PLEASE REQUEST FROM AN USHER.**