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

“If the only prayer you ever say in your entire life is thank you, It will be enough.”

- Meister Eckhart

Sunday, November 24, 2019

a just world for all
ucc.org
Welcome ~ Bienvenidos

November 24, 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

We Thank Thee

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

For the Fruit of All Creation

(Choir sings verse 1, Congregation joins verses 2 and 3)
Leader: Rejoice in the Lord, always! And, again I say,
People: Rejoice!
Leader: And, again I say,
People: Rejoice!
Leader: God is good,
People: All the time.
Leader: All the time,
People: God is good!

PLEASE STAND.

HYMN

Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Come, ye thankful people, come,  All the blessings of the field,
Raise the song of harvest home;  All the stores the gardens yield,
All is safely gathered in  All the fruits in full supply,
Ere the winter storms begin;  Ripened ‘neath the summer sky,
God, our Maker, doth provide  All that spring with bounteous hand
For our wants to be supplied;  Scatters o’er the smiling land,
Come to God’s own temple, come,  All that liberal autumn pours
Raise the song of harvest home.  From her rich o’er-flowing stores,

These to thee, our God, we owe,
Source whence all our blessings flow;
And for these our souls shall raise
Grateful vows and solemn praise.
Come, then thankful people, come,
Raise the song of harvest home;
Come to God’s own temple, come,
Raise the song of harvest home. Amen.

PLEASE BE SEATED.

CENTERING PRAYER

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE
PLEASE BE SEATED.

ANTHEM
Speak to One Another
Jean Berger (1909-2002)

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

HEBREW SCRIPTURE
Deuteronomy 26:1-11  
NRSV: Old Testament, pg. 180

NEW TESTAMENT READING
Philippians 4:4-9  
The Rev. Dr. Rochelle A. Stackhouse  
NRSV: New Testament, pg. 1073

SERMON Thank You
The Rev. Dr. Rochelle A. Stackhouse

RESPONDING IN FAITH

PLEASE STAND.

HYMN
Give Thanks  
D. Moen

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart
Give thanks to the Holy One
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us."
And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us."

Give thanks with a grateful heart (with a grateful heart)
Give thanks to the Holy One (to the Holy One)
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.

Give thanks with a grateful heart (with a grateful heart)
Give thanks to the Holy One (to the Holy One)
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, His Son.

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich
Because of what the Lord has done for us."

And now let the weak say, "I am strong"
Let the poor say, "I am rich (I am rich)
Because of what the Lord has done for us."
Give thanks.

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

OFFERTORY MUSIC
He’s Always Been Faithful

*Logan Singerman and Dan Theriault*

Sara Groves

Morning by morning, I wake up to find
The power and comfort of God's hand in mine.
Season by season I watch Him, amazed
In awe of the mystery of His perfect ways
All I have need of, His hand will provide
He's always been faithful to me.

I can't remember a trial or a pain
She did not recycle to bring me gain.
I can't remember one single regret
In serving God only, and trusting Her hand
All I have need of, Her hand will provide
She's always been faithful to me.

This is my anthem, this is my song
The theme of the stories I've heard for so long.
God has been faithful, He will be again
His loving compassion, it knows no end.
All I have need of, His hand will provide
He's always been faithful, He's always been faithful
He's always been faithful to me.

PLEASE STAND AS THE OFFERING IS BROUGHT FORWARD.

Give Thanks

*(Same words as printed for our middle hymn.)*

D. Moen

UNISON PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Bountiful God, how can your people say joy? How can your people say thanks? So much given, so much to share. Bless the receiving and the sharing we do today. In Jesus’ name; Amen.
GOING FORTH

PLEASE REMAIN STANDING.

HYMN
We Gather Together

BENEDICTION

Please be seated for the postlude. Go in peace!

POSTLUDE
Now Thank We All Our God

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

The Rev. Shelly Stackhouse, Worship Leader
Robert Gilbert, Director of Music
Logan Singerman and Dan Theriault, Guest Musicians
Cheryl Thomas, Worship Coordinator
Kay Davidson, Usher
Harold Buckingham, Reader
The French Family, Coffee Ministry
Timothy Otte, Refreshments Coordinator

There is no flower memorial today.

After Worship, please come to the Remembrance Area to sign a card for Frances Burton (death of sister-in-law.)

Travelers Garage CLOSED Sunday, December 1st
Due to construction, we will NOT have access to the Travelers Plaza Garage next Sunday. We apologize for any inconvenience.
"Let There Be Light" Memorial

The Meeting House steeple is lighted this week as follows:

November 25  As a commemoration of their wedding anniversary by Earl and the late Elaine Sanderson;
In memory of Edward Hunter Morgan by his late wife Shirley M. Morgan, his children Marilyn Morgan Jorgensen and John H. Morgan, and his grandchildren David W. Jorgensen and Karin J. Stoemer.

November 28  In thanksgiving for the life of our and Center Church’s dear friend, the late R. Regner Arvidson, by Joyce and Harold Buckingham.

November 29  In loving memory of William Dwight Tuthill and Jennie Newman Tuthill.

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

West Indies/ Caribbean Christmas
Sunday, December 15
10:30 AM Service

The St. Luke’s Steel Band of New Haven combines with the Center Church Choir during the morning service.
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

Tuesday - 11:00 Staff Meeting

Wednesday - No Choir Rehearsal this evening

Thursday & Friday - Happy Thanksgiving!
  Church Office closed

Celebrations

November 24 ~ Barbara Sanders

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
Sunday Adult Education  
Faith Formation Classes

We meet in the first-floor parlor of the Church House:  
November 24 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 Capitalism.

New Focus Starting December 1 at 9:00am

On December 1, we will start an Advent Series about the meaning of Christmas -- to us and to others.

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

center church  
the first church of Christ UCC
SAVE THE DATES!

ADVENT FESTIVAL
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 (following Worship)

FAMILY CHRISTMAS
WORSHIP SERVICE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 10:30pm

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24,
5:00pm (Musical prelude begins at 4:40pm)

14TH ANNUAL GREATER HARTFORD HANDEL’S
MESSIAH COMMUNITY SING/CONCERT
(Christmas Portion)
SUNDAY, JANUARY 5, 4:00PM
Christmas Poinsettias

In Memory
Or
In Honor

If you would like to help decorate the Meeting House for our Christmas celebration by purchasing a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one, please fill out this form and, along with your check, direct it to the Church Office. You may place your order in the offering plate, or mail it to the church by Friday, December 13th. Please see below for your choice of sizes, and also indicate whether you would like to take one home after our Christmas Eve Worship service, or have your order delivered to a homebound person.

POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

Your Name: ________________________________

Your Phone #: ________________________________

Check one:  ☐ In memory of  or  ☐ in honor of:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

How many & what size?  _________ Small ~ $12.00 each

________________________________________________________________________

___________ Large ~ $20.00 each

Total amount enclosed:  $ __________

I will (check one):  ☐ take my plant(s) home  or  ☐ donate to a homebound person.

Please return this order form, along with your check, to the church office. Make your check payable to The First Church of Christ in Hartford and write “poinsettias” on the check memo. Please contact the Church Office with any questions at (860) 249-5631.
Hands On Hartford
Invites you to a delicious and festive
Thanksgiving Day Meal

Join us on
Thursday, November 28, 2019
Doors open at 10:30am
Lunch served at 11:30 am

Located at Hands On Hartford’s MANNA Community Meals
Christ Church Cathedral
45 Church Street, Hartford, CT 06103

For more information, call 860-728-3201 or visit handsonhartford.org
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)
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.