



Visit Our Church

Make A Gift

Choosing this Community, Walking in Love
& Acting like Jesus Christ



E-NEWS

July 5, 2024

We are the
Body of Christ
Together!

In Person & Online!

This Week in Worship ~ July 7th



*Unraveled: A Summer Worship Series
at Center Church*

At Our Summer Time & Place!

**Worship with us in person or online
this Sunday, July 7th at 10 AM at 60 Gold Street**

Greetings, Beloved Center Church!

This week in worship, we're going Old Testament! Pastor Liza will lead us in worship, retell the story of Moses, the Israelites and their contentious relationship with the Pharaoh, who tries to unravel God's plans for justice.

We will stream the service on Facebook for those who are not able to join in person, and you can download the order of service below.

We hope to see you all there!

Blessings, and Peace,

~The Worship Team

We will continue to be on our Facebook page!

You can access that feed at:

<https://www.facebook.com/centerchurchhartford>

If you have any questions before the service begins, feel free to contact Larry Roeming at (860) 997-3573

[Click here to download the Order of Service](#)

Worship Team seeks Volunteers!

There are many opportunities to be involved in worship for those who are willing. We are seeking volunteers for liturgist, ushers and greeters. These volunteers would be doing their part from the worship space on Sunday mornings. Anyone interested please reach out to Steven Lewis in the church office, by email at slewis@cchartford.org or by calling 860-249-5631.

Take a Look at This!

Here's the whole line-up of characters for our new series, whose lives are in one way or another unraveled by the presence of God.

Make sure to grab a devotional at worship so you can engage with our texts and stories during the week!

**What happens when our world falls apart?
What does it look like to search for God
in the gray of our lives?
How do we press onward when our tightly knit plans
unravel into loose threads?**

Summer Sermon Series

UNRAVELED

SEEKING GOD WHEN OUR PLANS FALL APART

June 30 - Zacchaeus the Wealthy Tax Collector (Luke 19)

July 7 - Pharaoh Hardens his Heart (Exodus 5)

July 14 - The Israelites in Exile (Jeremiah 29)

July 21 - Peter Sinks in the Water (Matthew 14)

July 28 - The Samaritan Woman at the Well (John 4)

Aug 4 - The Conversion of Saul to Paul (Acts 9)

Aug 11 - Doubting Thomas (John 20)

Aug 18 - Moses' Mother Gives Moses Up (Exodus 1 & 2)

Aug 25 - Job's Lament and Loss (Job 28)

Sept 1 - Jesus Heals Legion, A Man Possessed (Mark 5)



Walk Across the Room: Redefining Evangelism

Continuing the Conversation



Two weeks ago in worship, we were invited to walk across the room and tell our story. Everyone enjoyed it so much, we had two conversations. And even then, it was going so well, no one wanted to come back to finish the worship service! We did though, but everyone walked away with a greater appreciation of the power of conversation and relationship.

We are a conversation that loves to talk, and more than that, one that loves to listen. If you enjoyed your conversations this past week, we invite you to reach out and have another one. If you weren't able to have a conversation, let us know because we want to hear from you!

We believe that, through radical hospitality and great storytelling we build firm foundations for lasting relationships.

[And, if you're not sure where to start the conversation, you can download a document with some information about 1:1 conversations which offers some helpful prompt questions here.](#)

Stay Connected, Beloved,

~The Worship Team





SUMMER WORSHIP

IN THE CHURCH HOUSE
@ 60 GOLD STREET

10:00 AM

JUNE 9 - SEPT 1

WORSHIP OUTDOORS ON
6/30, 7/28, & 8/25

Childcare is Available
for ages 4 & up



Greater Hartford
— Interfaith —
Action Alliance

Notes from the GHIAA Delegate Assembly

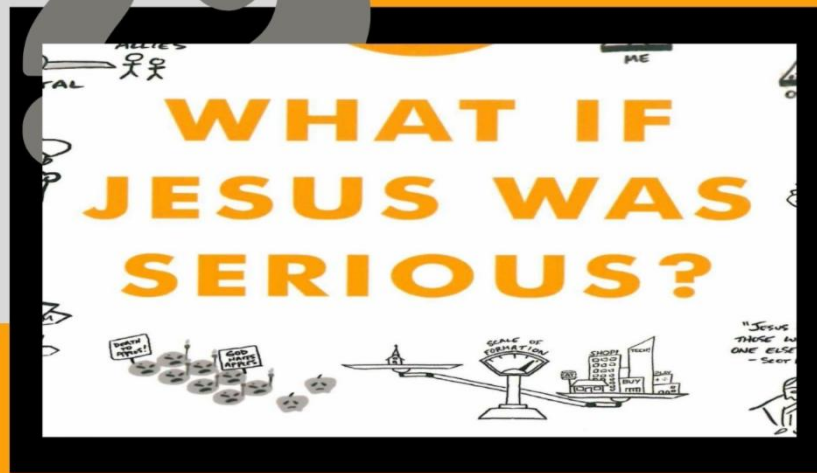
We had a great assembly on June 20th at the Franciscan Center for Urban Ministry in Hartford (285 Church St, Hartford, CT 06103).

[Follow the link here for an update from your Core Team members on the upcoming issues campaigns and ways that you can become involved!](#)

*~ Center Church GHIAA Core
Team*

[Read more about GHIAA, its current and past issues as well as its parent organization the Center for Leadership and Justice, here.](#)





**You've heard it said,
"Surely, Jesus wasn't
serious."**

BUT WHAT IF HE WAS?

Join us for three informal "church chats" this summer, exploring what could happen if we took the Sermon on the Mount seriously.

***July 21, August 4 & August 18
Snacks & Childcare Provided***



An Outreach Ministries Update!

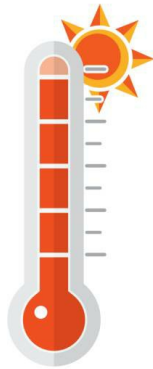
Our long-time Sunday Meals Coordinator, Carrie Howe, has transitioned into an expanded role at Center Church! Carrie is now Center Church's Outreach Director, with office hours on Wednesdays (9AM-5PM) & Fridays (9AM-3PM), on the ground floor of the Church House building, at 60 Gold Street.

In addition to continuing the ministry of Sunday Meals, Carrie will work closely with community members to assess and meet their basic needs such as identification, documents, job skills and training and financial and food assistance.

Join us in celebrating Carrie and supporting her and her fantastic work!

Stay tuned for opportunities to directly engage with our community and support Carrie's important work. Connect with Carrie here:

Carrie Howe, Outreach Director
860.249.5631 ext. 205
chowe@cchartford.org



Stay Cool, Church!

When we see a
need,
Center Church steps up!

We will continue to operate our impromptu cooling center during if another heat wave comes by, so stay tuned for updates!

Please call or email the Church Office or Carrie Howe to sign up and to coordinate food and water donations for future needs.

Email the Church Office or
Email Carrie Howe

Blessings, and Stay Cool!

~Center Church Outreach Team



Follow Up from our Sunday, June 9th
Congregational Conversation on Ministries with
Youth and Children

Thank you to all who attended our congregational conversation where we explored the following questions:

- Is the Spirit calling us to identify ministries with youth and children as a priority mission for Center Church?
- If so, how can we adequately staff and grow this mission?

It was unanimous among the group that attended that the spirit is indeed calling us to make ministries with youth and children a priority mission for Center Church. And to those who were unable to attend, please, reach out to any of the members of the team with your thoughts on these two questions – all feedback is welcomed! Visionary team will be meeting in the coming weeks to debrief from the conversation and plan the next steps toward making this a priority mission.

As ever, thank you for your participation in the discernment process and we are honored to serve as your visionary team.

In faith,

The Visionary Team

Catherine Thompson Maclean, Timothy Otte, Alvin Thompson, Liza Arulampalam, Eric Hearst, Steven Lewis, Lesley Morgan Thompson

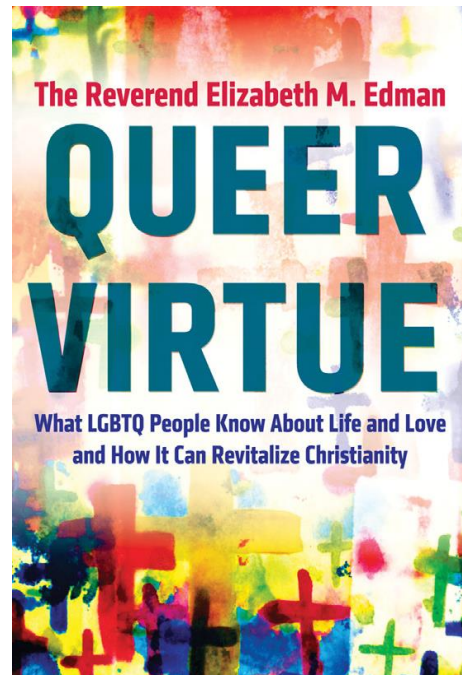
Fall Book Study

Queer Virtue:
What LGBTQ People Know
About Life and Love and
How it can Revitalize
Christianity

*By the Rev. Elizabeth M.
Edman*

[Read more about the book and the
Rev. Elizabeth M. Edman here.](#)

**We will be beginning our book
study in late August or Early
September, stay tuned for more
specifics as we get closer to
launch!**



*****This book was selected to
coincide with and in celebration
of the 30th anniversary of
Center Church's vote to become
an Open & Affirming
Congregation.**

Calling all creatives!

We are looking for a catchy slogan to celebrate Center Church's 30 years of being Open and Affirming (1994-2024) and we want YOU to help us write it!

Once submitted, everyone will have a chance to vote for a winner. The slogan will appear on our website, on banners on the church and in other publications leading up to our

30th Anniversary Service on October 13, 2024.

Submissions will be accepted through August 5th.

You can submit your suggestion via
<https://bit.ly/cchartfordslogan> or you can email Pastor Liza
at pastor@cchartford.org

www.centerchurchhartford.org 🌐

[@centerchurchhartford](https://www.instagram.com/centerchurchhartford) @

[facebook.com/centerchurchhartford](https://www.facebook.com/centerchurchhartford) f

Submit your slogan suggestion here:

<https://bit.ly/cchartfordslogan>

**or email Pastor Liza with your suggestions
at pastor@cchartford.org**



A First Look!

2024-5 Book Studies

We had a great year of book studies and look forward to the next. Here's a "sneak peek" at what we're reading and discussing in the upcoming program year:

Fall '24

Queer Virtue: What LGBTQ People Know About Life and Love and How It Can Revitalize Christianity
by The Rev. Elizabeth M. Edman.

Selected in commemoration of Center Church's 30th Anniversary of becoming Open and Affirming

Early Spring '25

Gonna Trouble the Water: Ecojustice, Water, and Environmental Racism.
Edited by Miguel A. De La Torre

Winter '25

Seeking to be Christian in Race Relations
by Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays

Late Spring '25

The Beatitudes, a bible study and social commentary by George Hunsinger

More information will be forthcoming. Please contact Dr. Eric J. Hearst, Coordinator for Justice and Faith Formation Ministries if you have any questions.

Dedicate Flowers for Worship!

Center Church has launched an online sign up form that you can use to let us know when you'd like to dedicate flowers for Sunday worship services. Use the following link to sign up for a Sunday today.



<https://centerchurchhartford.breezechms.com/form/flowers>

This Week's Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

July 7th ~ Theodore Vietzke

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!

July 10th ~ Nilsalynn & Reagan Wagan



Please remember to wish members of your church family a happy celebration!



"Let There Be Light" Memorials

The Meeting House steeple will be lighted this week as follows:

July 6 ~ In memory of L. Annie Meacham

July 6, 1944 – Ringling Bros. Barnum & Bailey Circus Fire
Remembering all the victims and survivors, especially Stephen and Freddie and their mother, Alice Boyajian by Fred and Elizabeth Boyajian

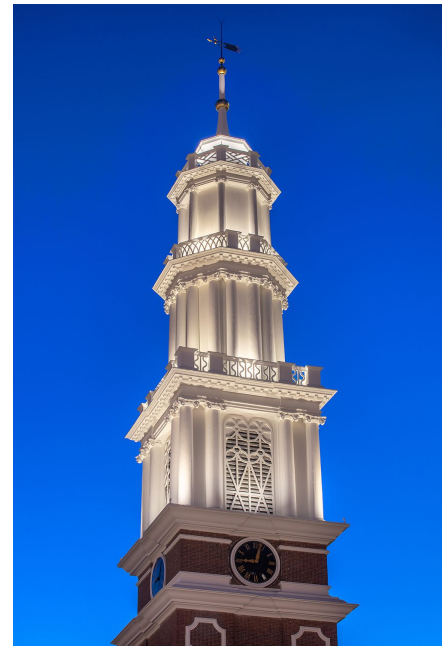
July 6 ~ In loving memory of Rolando Martinez, Jr. by the Martinez family

July 7 ~ In loving remembrance of Gladys and Harold Newsham by the Rankins

July 10 ~ In memory of Alden and Florence Wells by their daughter, Ruth Wells Rischback

July 10 ~ In loving memory of Frederick Kegham Boyajian by his wife, Elizabeth, sons Norman Fred, Eli John and daughter Sara Satenig Mushegian

July 11 ~ In grateful and joyous memory of my wife, Elaine, on her birthday, by Earl Sanderson



If you would like to light the steeple in memory or honor of a loved one, [please e-mail the Church Office](#) to make arrangements.



Support Center Church, GET INVOLVED!

Sunday Meals

Donations Needed:

Milk or coffee cream



Bottled Water

Hot chocolate

Large Aluminum Food Trays

Aluminum Foil

Individual Snacks

Hygiene Items

Join a Team!

The Worship Team: Contact *Steven Lewis*, slewis@cchartford.org

The Care Team: Contact *Rev. Craig Cowing*, craiglcowing@gmail.com

The Faith Formation Team: Contact *Eric Hearst*, ehearst@cchartford.org

The Outreach Team: Contact *Anita Hawkins*, anitasfarm1010@gmail.com

The Resource Team: Contact *David Maclean*, macleand596@gmail.com

The Community Relations Team:
Contact *Larry Roeming*,
LDRinCT@gmail.com

The Visionary Team: Contact: *Lesley Morgan-Thompson*
l.morganthompson@gmail.com

The Music the Arts Committee: Contact:
Dorothy Wurts,
wurtsw@worldnet.att.net

Carrie Howe is available to receive donations anytime! If you have a question regarding the meal program or if you'd like to volunteer, please contact Carrie!

Cell – 860-778-1210

Office – 860-249-5631 ext. 205

You can also call

Steven at the Church Office (ext. 200) to arrange your drop off.

Your generosity helps our Outreach Team continue to care for our Hartford neighbors!

Thank you so much!

Click [here](#) to find out more.

Center Church BED FUNDS at Hartford Hospital

Need help paying for medical or dental bills at Hartford Hospital?

Have a friend or family member in need?

Center Church BED FUNDS
may be available!

Click [HERE](#) to download information,
or send your inquiries to info@CCHartford.org,
or call Emily at the Church House,
860-249-5631 ext 200



Offerings

We truly appreciate those who continue to offer financial support! Remember, you can do so in three ways:

1. Send a check payable to "First



Lift Up in Prayer

The family and friends of Rev. Alan McLean, Barbara Sanders, Tina Bobbitt, Frances Burton, The family of Rob Buck, The Family of Richard Roeming, Jane Macomber, The St. Amant family, Those experiencing housing insecurity, Deckie Jeffers and family, The community of Uvalde TX, The family and loved ones of Harold Buckingham, Ukraine, The family of Robert Kornelak (Markham), Jorgette Peroza, Bill Warner-Prouty, Andrea Olson & family, Cindy Blutin & family, Jennifer Boutin, Dayne Chase, Nilsa Cierpikowski, Debbie Downes, Jane Foxall, Joe Howard, JoAnn K., Polly Libby, Carmen Mahone, Danny Mullen, Bob Nestar, Shelby Powell, the Raymond family, Friends and Family of Lita Rathnam, Earl Sanderson, Magdalena Santos, Liz Stoever, Steven Thompson, Marilyn Watson, The City of Hartford, 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, illness, & natural disasters

Church of Christ in Hartford" to 60 Gold Street, Hartford, CT 06103;

2. Set up EFT (Electronic Fund Transfer) by **contacting Brenda** at the Church Office: (860) 249-5631; or
3. [Click the donate link](#) on our website to use your credit card.



Church Office Hours

Tuesday – Friday, 10:00 am–4:00 pm
(Closed Mondays)

See and Share Us On Social Media:





60 Gold Street, Hartford, CT 06103 · (860) 249-5631
www.centerchurchhartford.org

The First Church of Christ in Hartford | 60 Gold Street (Church House) Corner of Main & Gold Streets (Meeting House) | Hartford, CT 06103 US

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