



Visit Our Church

Make A Gift

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



E-NEWS

March 7, 2025

We are the
Body of Christ
Together!

In Person & Online!

This Week in Worship ~ March 9, 2025
First Sunday in Lent - Ash Sunday



"Neighbors," by Steve Prince

**Worship with us in person or online
this Sunday, March 9, at 10:30 AM - In the Meetinghouse
Worship with us in person or online!**

This week is the first Sunday of Lent: Ash Sunday!

In this first week of Lent, Jesus asks us who is our neighbor? Martin Luther King, Jr., in the last speech before his assassination, asked a different question, "If I don't stop this man – beaten, robbed and left for dead – and help, what happens to the man?"

This week we will begin our Lenten series, Everything in Between, as we contemplate the nuances of the world and where we can find God in a world too often defined by binaries and either-ors. Join us, as we

journey to Jericho, Jerusalem and beyond.

God of the weary, comfort to all Your people – As we begin this Lenten Journey, let us remember that all of us are fellow travelers on the same winding road. Help us be a comfort to one another along the way, filled with Your compassion and mercy. May it be so. Amen.

Join us for worship on Sunday – starting at 10:30, in person and online.

We will stream the service on Facebook for those who cannot join in person; you can download the order of service below.

We hope to see you all there!

Blessings, and Peace,

~The Worship Team

[Click Here to Download the Worship Bulletin](#)

ANNUAL MEETING UPDATES



Center Church will have its Annual Meeting on March 23rd.

Annual Reports from the committees, teams and officers are due to the office by March 2nd.

[Call to the 392nd Annual Meeting](#)

The 392nd Annual Meeting of The First Church of Christ in Hartford/Center Church will be held on Sunday, March 23, 2025 following the worship service and the reading of the year's history.

The meeting will take place at the Meeting House and via Zoom.

The purpose of the meeting is:

1. To receive and act on reports;
2. To elect CET Members and Officers; and

3. To transact any other Business to come before the meeting.

The following positions will be filled at the 2024 Annual Meeting:
Moderator, Clerk, Historian, and three (3) At Large Positions

The following individuals have been nominated for the open offices:

- Moderator – Larry Roeming
- Clerk – Holly Wells
- Historian – Robin Roy
- Member At Large – Andrea Hernandez
- Member At Large – Andre Keitt
- Member At Large – Sarah McCoy

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly Wells, Clerk



center church
the first church of christ UCC

SPRING INTO A GOOD BOOK!
READING INITIATIVE

**SIGN UP TODAY TO GET YOUR
FREE GIFT CARD!**

***\$40 FOR THE FIRST TEN
FAMILIES THAT SIGN UP!***
EMAIL BROTHER ERIC TODAY!



Faith Formation at Center Church is gearing up for its spring reading initiative. The first ten (10) families to sign up for the initiative will receive a \$40.00 gift card to use at Barnes & Noble Sellers. Participation is limited to Center Church families whose children are registered for the Church School this program year.

Please email Rev. Dr. Eric J. Hearst, Minister for Justice and Faith Formation, at ehearst@cchartford.org to register. All gift cards must be claimed by March 16, 2025 and will be available for pick up after morning worship. Gift cards can also be mailed to home addresses upon request. Note - Families must have an active registration on file to receive a gift card.

The Reading Initiative is made possible by a grant from the Ruth Sanger Conant Trust.

Attention, Theater Lovers!



Come support local theater and arts and see one of Center Church's own rising stars!

Hunter Hernandez-Maturo is starring in Windsor Youth Theater's production of Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical! If you want to go see a great show and support one of the future stars of Center Church, see the flier below for more information.

There are three performances from March 28 to March 30; tickets are available starting at \$15 for seniors and students.



ROALD DAHL'S

Matilda

THE MUSICAL

Join us for Matilda The Musical, the Tony Award-winning show inspired by Roald Dahl's brilliant tale of a clever girl with extraordinary powers! This captivating production features high-energy dance, catchy songs, and an inspiring story as Matilda faces off against her cruel parents and the fearsome Miss Trunchbull.

Show Dates:

Friday, March 28th & Saturday, March 29th at 7:00 PM
Sunday, March 30th at 2:00 PM

Ticket at Door Prices
(cash only):

Online Ticket Prices:

Adults	\$22.00	\$20.00
Students & Seniors	\$17.00	\$15.00



Windsor Recreation Services
A division of Recreation & Leisure Services
(860) 285-1990
LP Wilson: 599 Mattanuck Avenue, Windsor, CT 06095
townofwindsorct.com/recreation/

Updates From The Church Office:

Greetings, Center Church!

*In the spirit of radical hospitality and inclusion, we are hoping to make new name tags and would invite everyone (members, friends, regular attendees, and more) to fill out a form here that will allow us to do so. Please consider completing this form **ASAP**. We hope to roll out the new name tags ahead of Annual Meeting 2025 (March 23, 2025). And, adults – feel free to sign up you kiddos so that they can have shiny new nametags, too!*

NAME TAG SIGN UP

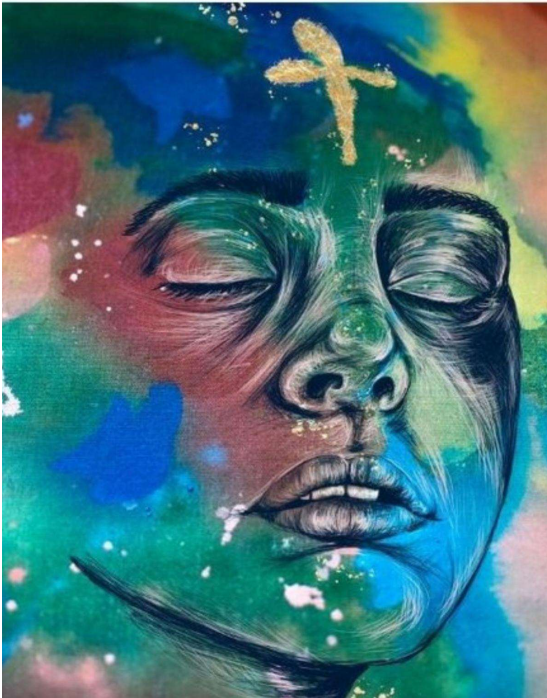
The Office is closed on Mondays throughout December and January. It is open Tuesday through Thursday from 9 AM to 4 PM and Fridays from 9 AM to 3 PM.

These hours are subject to change, and we will do our best to inform you of any departures.

We recently changed our phone service to a cloud-based platform. If you do not know the extensions at the Church Office, they are as follows:

Church Administrator Steven Lewis x 200
Pastor Liza Arulampalam x 202
Brother Eric Hearst x 209
Outreach Director Carrie Howe x 205
Music Director Bob Gilbert x 204
Bookkeeper Brenda Russell x 201

Warmest Blessings,
Your Church Office Team



If you weren't able to join us on Wednesday, don't miss Sunday, March 9:

We'll mark the beginning of Lent with "Ash Sunday."

Blessings!

Choosing This Community.
Walking in Love.
Acting like Jesus Christ.



The Church at Prayer

We are keeping the following members, friends and their families in our prayers this week. If you have prayer concerns to share, please email Pastor Liza, pastor@cchartford.org, or the Care Team, careteam@cchartford.org.

Denise Wards & her husband; Tina Bobbitt; Lita Rathnam; Frances Burton; Cyndi Taplin and family; the Macomber family, Dianne Dwelley; Dimekwan French and the French family; the Rev. Cleo Graham & Family; ...



Introducing Our Lenten Series, "Everything in Between"

"Everything in Between," from the creative souls at Sanctified Art, invites us to navigate the polarities of our lives with more faith, intention, and openness to be transformed. As we explore the supposed binaries of scripture, we will find that, in the nuanced complexity of our lives, God is present there.

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2025 Lenten Worship Series

everything [in] between

March 5 - Ash Wednesday: Intention and Action

March 9 - Stranger and Neighbor

March 16 - Faith and Works

March 23 - Rest and Growth

March 30 - Lost and Found

April 6 - Righteousness and Mercy

April 13 - Palm Sunday: Shouting and Silence

April 17 - Maundy Thursday: Power and Humility

April 18 - Good Friday: Acceptance and Resistance

April 20 - Easter Sunday: Grief and Hope

Last year Center Church was gifted a commemorative quilt by a class of 8th graders at Hartford's Watkinson School.

We will dedicate and install the quilt during worship on Feb. 23rd, and we

*have invited the class
to join us.*



For more information about their project and the enslaved family it commemorates, please visit their project website, linked below.

[Watkinson School Hidden Histories Memorial Quilt: Andrew, Tamar, Lydia, Daniel and Isabella](#)

~ The Center Church History Team

Announcing A New Thing:

Spiritual Support Group for Parents

Please Join us for our Next Session on March 9th!

Beyond Consequences, Logic, and Control

SPIRITUAL NURTURE FOR PARENTS

A Time for Sharing, Learning & Support

A Love Based

Facilitated by
the Rev. Deb Moyer

Childcare will be available
for those who require it.

WHAT IS IT?

A time of discussion, learning and prayer; This is not a therapeutic group, but rather a time for parents to receive spiritual nurture and support. We will also be discussing some of the concepts found in the book "Beyond Consequences, Logic, and Control: A Love Based Approach to Helping Children With Severe Behaviors," by Heather T. Forbes, LCSW & B. Bryan Post.

WHO IS THIS FOR?

Parents who are coping with children who have difficult behaviors. These behaviors can be the result of abuse, medical issues, neglect, foster care, adoption, special needs, neuro-diversity etc.

WHEN IS IT HAPPENING?

Time: 11:45AM -12:45 PM
Sessions: Jan. 26 (Orientation)
Feb. 9, March 9, April 13, May 4
Center Church UCC parlor,
at 60 Gold Street, Downtown Hartford

HOW DO I ATTEND?

For more information,
contact Rev. Deb Moyer
email: dmoyer239@gmail.com
phone: 860-808-7871.

ABOUT REV. DEB

Rev. Deb Moyer is a parent of two boys, ages 16 and 20, who have experienced trauma. She is an ordained United Church of Christ pastor and has also been trained in Gestalt Pastoral Care and spiritual direction. She works part-time as an artist and piano teacher where she works with children and adults of various ages and abilities.

Announcing our Winter Book Study:

Seeking to Be Christian in Race Relations

by Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays



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Winter Book Study

Join us in Reading

Seeking to Be Christian in Race Relations

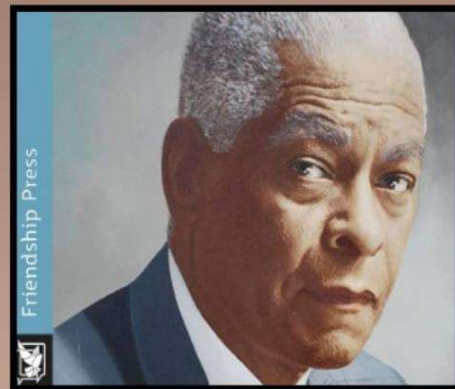
by Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays

A Virtual Discussion

Thursdays, 7 PM

Feb. 13 - Mar. 6

*Please email Rev. Eric J. Hearst,
Minister for Justice & Faith Formation
ehearst@cchartford.org
for more information.*



The Study is free & open to all.
Participants should expect to
purchase their own books.

Registration is required to
receive the link to the
discussion..

***Please join us for our Winter Book Study - We will be
reading Seeking to be Christian in Race Relations
by Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays.***

*This book study will take place online on Thursday evenings from
February 13th through March 13th, at 7 PM. It is free and open to all
community members. Participants are invited to purchase copies of Dr.
Mays's Book, through Friendship Press (linked below), the publisher, or
other online retailers.*

*Folks are invited to email the Rev. Dr. Eric J. Hearst, Minister for Justice
& Faith Formation with questions or to register. You may also register
using the form linked below. Participants will receive the link to the
discussion in a confirmation email from Dr. Hearst.*

[Book Study Registration Form](#)

[Email Rev. Dr. Eric J. Hearst](#)

From the Publisher:

"It is probably easier to be Christian in any other area of life than it is in the area of race. Here the practice of the Christian religion seems to break down most completely." These words of prophetic judgment ground Mays's attempt to set down a Christian basis for the elimination of prejudice and discrimination. Reflecting on both the Old and New Testaments, Mays reads in the plain sense of scripture a call for us to live together in harmony and justice. He also draws from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to emphasize the broader context of the work.

Benjamin E. Mays, born the son of a sharecropper in 1894, was educated at Bates College and the University of Chicago. He was a dean at Howard University, president of Morehouse College for twenty-seven years, and the first president of the Atlanta School Board. His other books include *The Negro's Church and Disturbed about Man*. He died in 1984.

From the SNEC of the UCC



GROW *ing* in Vision
TOGETHER

2025 REGIONAL
GATHERINGS



We're a part of the South Central region – consider coming to this gathering!

South Central: Mar. 29, 2:00 to 5:00 PM, New Britain, CT

Hosted by Executive Conference Minister the Rev. Darrell Goodwin and Rev. Liz Garrigan-Byerly, Executive Minister for Area Conference Ministry, this will be a time for local church leaders, clergy & Conference staff to deepen connection, strengthen covenant, and invigorate partnership.

Super Saturday: I Love to Tell the Story

Keynote Speaker: The Bishop William Joseph Barber II

March 8, 9 AM to 4 PM

Online OR Onsite at First Congregational Church in Shrewsbury, MA

The stories of our faith remind us of who we are and whose we are; they are powerful and compelling. Join us for a day of reflecting on the power of sacred stories and how we might use story to tell of the Christian way

of living and the power of the work we do as the Church and as people of faith

*2025 Annual Meeting: Into the Deep:
Living and Leading at the Intersections*

June 7, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM • Online

Into the Deep: Living and Leading at the Intersections. Keynote address by Jamar Doyle, President and CEO of the Council for Health and Human Service Ministries

**Hey, Families and
Campers!**

Center Church

Camp Asto Wamah

Registration is now Open!

Remember the
Other Fellow



Celebrating Our 116th Season!

Center Church Camp Asto Wamah

Columbia, Connecticut
www.campastowamah.org

Founded in 1910

Camp ASTO WAMAH is a non-sectarian residential camp open to children ages 8 through 14. Camp ASTO WAMAH does not discriminate for reasons of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.

Chris Maclean will continue to serve as the camp director. He is employed as a school counselor in Connecticut public schools and has been the camp director for many years.

Remember the
Other Fellow



There will be 3 two-week sessions.
The coed session is the only one-week session.

June 22 to June 28	coed, ages 8 to 12
June 29 to July 12	all boys, ages 8 to 14
July 13 to July 26	all girls, ages 8 to 14
July 27 to August 9	all girls, ages 8 to 14

The 2025 registration fee of \$50 is due at the time of registration and is not refundable or deductible from the camp fee of \$725 per week.



Online registration opens on Saturday, February 1st, 2025 at 8:00 am!



For further information:
Call (203) 631-0167 or
email campastowamahct@gmail.com



Center Church Camp Asto Wamah is licensed by the State of Connecticut and accredited by the American Camp Association.



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A Note from Our Creation Justice Team

As Rev. Liza said in her sermon, if everyone opened their heart to Jesus, the world would change; so too, if people realized the horrible effects of plastic, we believe that the harmful use of plastic would drop.

[Read More about the Harmful effects of Plastic Here.](#)

~ The Center Church Creation Justice Team



This Week's Celebrations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY !!

March 7 ~ Connor James Thomas

March 8 ~ Charles Feldman

March 9 ~ Cheryl Sanderson

March 9 ~ Roberta (Robin) Roy

March 12 ~ A'drea Parkes

*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:*

*March 7 ~ In memory of
Miss Zoe E. Heath by the
late Florence Steane*

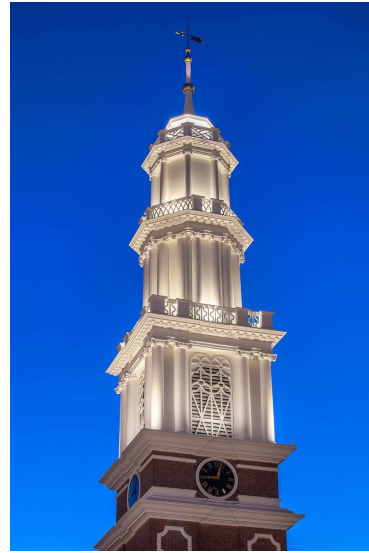
*March 8 ~ In memory of
William Haine by his wife*

*March 9 ~ In loving
memory of her parents, Ali
and Lena L. Perret
by Edith and the late Bob
O'Donnell*

*March 11 ~ In loving
memory of Rolando
Martinez, Jr. by the
Martinez family*

*March 11 ~ In memory of
John Hunt, by the Trustees
of the Warburton Chapel*

*March 12 ~ In memory of
Mrs. Georgianna E.
Peckham Geer (Mrs.
Everett)
by her daughter and late
son*



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.

*March 13 ~ In loving
memory of Clara F.
DeWolfe*



Who do I talk to about...?

With so many folks engaged in the many ministries at Center Church, it's sometimes hard to know where to direct our questions.

Fortunately, the CET and the Care Team have put together a helpful sheet which answers some of those questions.

Follow the link below to
download the chart:

Care Team Contact Chart

Looking to be More Involved? Connect with a Center Church Team!

Let us know if you're interested in being a part of our teams! [Fill out this form to show your interest!](#)

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

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

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

The Community Relations Team:
Contact *Church Office*,
cctech@cchartford.org

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

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

The History Team:
Contact *Andre Keitt*,
corykit1@yahoo.com

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

The Music the Arts Committee:
Contact: *Kate Robinson*,
kate@gallorobinson.com



The Outreach Corner at Lewis and Gold

Carrie's office hours are Wednesdays (10 AM - 2 PM) & Fridays (10AM - 3 PM); on the ground floor of the Church House building, at 60 Gold Street.

We are always taking donations for:

- Milk or coffee cream
- Bottled Water
- Hot chocolate
- Large Aluminum Food Trays
- Aluminum Foil
- Hygiene Items
- Gift Cards

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
chowe@cchartford.org**

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!



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!

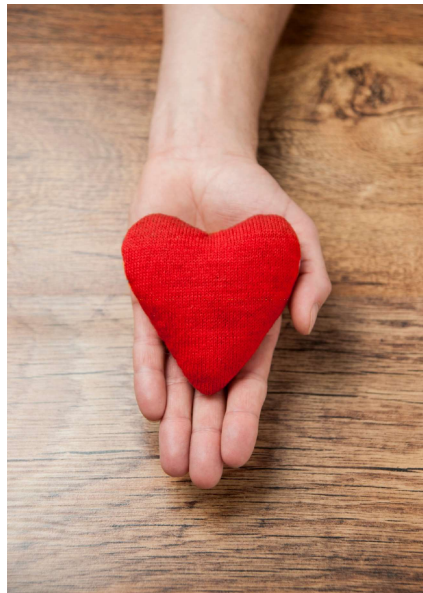
Click [HERE](#) to download information,
or send your inquiries to info@CCHartford.org,
or call Steven at the Church House,
860-249-5631 ext 200



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 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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