



Visit Our Church

Make A Gift

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



E-NEWS

Oct. 24, 2025

We are the
Body of Christ
Together!
In Person & Online!

This Week in Worship - Sunday, Oct. 26
Join us at 10:30 AM -
675 Main Street



Sunday, October 26 at 10:30 AM,
In Person - and Online!

Greetings, Center Church!

This week in worship we will continue our four-week series for our 2025 Stewardship Campaign. Called "Our Money Story," it will invite us to remember, release, reimagine and restore our money stories.

This week, we reimagine our relationship to our resources with stories from Leviticus and Matthew's Gospel. Brother Eric will lead us in worship and share a sermon titled, "Remembering the Other: The Sacred Practice of Leaving and Giving."

Join us this Stewardship season as we reimagine and re-tell Our Money Story. Join us for worship at 10:30 AM.

Blessings, and Peace,

~The Worship Team

[Read Pastor Liza's stewardship letter to the congregation here.](#)

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.

John Conley, Jr.; Sally Wagan and her family; Ephraim Adams and Nancy J. Adams; Gilberto Mercado and family; The family and friends of Christine "Chrissy" Camacho; the family and friends of Marilyn Watson; Richard Markham and family; Tina Bobbitt; Lita Rathnam; Cyndi Taplin and family; the Macomber family, Dimekwan French and the French family; Diane Dwelley, Rev. Isaac Lawson, Anita Hawkins,...

All Saints' Worship - November 2, 2025

Greetings, Beloveds,

On November 2nd we will be celebrating All Saints' Day at Center Church.

During communion, we would like to read the names of anyone who has died in this past year who is special to you. If you have a name to submit, please email the name to me at pastor@cchartford.org.

Also, we invite you to bring in photographs of your loved ones who have passed (doesn't have to be from this past year – it can be any time) to worship on November 2nd. We will add them to our

communion table alongside the photos of Frances, Sara and Marilyn, our beloved church members who passed this year.

Blessings,

Pastor Liza



A Request for Donations: First Aid Kits

Chris Graesser is working with a group that supports immigrant families. Currently this group is collecting household items for families whose loved ones, often the sole bread winners of the families, have been detained for deportation. Most of these family members live in Hartford and are afraid to leave their homes.

At this time we are collecting first aid kits for these families. These are available at, among other places, Target, Walmart or CVS. If you would like to contribute, please bring one or more kits to Sunday services. Thank you!

From the Visionary Team

Fall Updates

The Visionary Team has identified three areas for our community to focus on in the coming program year, based on notes from our May church retreat:

- Increase the engagement of children in worship in multiple ways.
- Create a short-term Faith Formation Strategy Team to create a vision for our ministries with children and youth. The team would work starting in September, would make budget recommendations for the congregational budget meeting in November, and would report to the congregation at our Annual Meeting next spring. *We commissioned this working group in worship on Sunday. They will have their first meeting this week and will meet regularly through November.*
- Start a small group to move forward with exploring the creation of a 501(c)(3) that will help support our ministries with folks in transition. *This group held their first meeting last month; the next meeting is scheduled for October 22. More updates to come!*

Many thanks to everyone who participated in the retreat and provided input and prayers in support of our two priority ministries! There is still time to join one of these working groups; simply email Lesley Morgan Thompson with your interest!

~ The Visionary Team
Lesley Morgan Thompson, Alvin Thompson, Chris Graesser,
Catherine Thompson Maclean, Brother Eric J. Hearst, Steven Lewis

If you are interested in being a part of Visionary Team, Center Church's discernment process, planning retreats or facilitating discussions about discernment please contact [Lesley Morgan Thompson](#) for more information.

Faith Formation Working Group

- Kurt Moyer
- Deb Moyer
- Tolu Atanda
- Martha Rae Sunshine Nelson
- Carrie Howe
- Lesley Morgan Thompson

- Brother Eric J. Hearst

501(c)3 Working Group

- Holly Wells
 - Carrie Howe
 - Chris Graesser
 - Steven Lewis
 - Brother Eric J. Hearst
 - Pastor Liza
-



About "Our Money Story"

As we enter our Stewardship Season, we invite you to Remember, Release, Reimagine and Restore.

We all have a money story, whether we recognize it or not. Perhaps we are living from a story of fear or shame or guilt. Or a story that our actions won't have an impact. Or a story that we don't have enough. Where might God be speaking a new narrative into the limited ones we have told ourselves?

Often, to speak of money is to invite tension into the room. We so quickly want to avoid it. But we can reframe this. Money and possessions are one of the most common topics in scripture, and Jesus talked about money more than faith and prayer. Our money story, therefore, is a spiritual story.

The best stories captivate and transform us—they change how we live. This stewardship season, we invite you to remember, release, reimagine, and restore your money stories so that we can write the one God is begging us to live into.

We are inviting all who believe in and wish to support the mission and work of Center Church to pledge their financial support, as well as their gifts of time and talent. If you have prayerfully considered the contribution you can make than we invite you to complete the attached digital form or to download and mail the

paper form to the Church Office.

Bless you and may you know that by giving you are made a blessing.

~Center Church Stewardship Team

After prayerful discernment of how you're feeling called to contribute to Center Church's operations, please complete and return a pledge form by November 2, 2025.

[Digital Pledge Form](#)

[Paper Pledge Form \(to download and return to Church Office\)](#)

Announcing our Fall Book Study!

Join us as we partner with Third Congregational Church of Middletown in a book study of "Reckoning with History," by the Rev. Dr. William Yoo, our Freedom Trail Sunday guest preacher. Our first three sessions will begin on October 23rd and will be virtual. Our fourth and final session will be in person at Third Congregational Church on Sunday, November 16th.

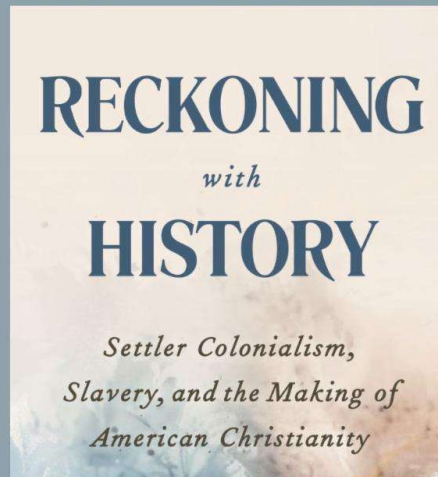
ANNOUNCING OUR FALL BOOK STUDY!

JOIN US AS WE JOIN WITH
THE 3RD CONG'L CHURCH OF MIDDLETOWN!

Starting Oct. 23
at 6:30 - Online!

REGISTER TODAY!

**3 VIRTUAL MEETINGS
1 POT LUCK**



BOOKS AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE

Email Brother Eric for more information!



center church
the first church of christ UCC

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CONNECTICUT

If you are interested, please sign-up at the link below. We are inviting folks to bring a shareable item to the final session of the study where we can discuss the book and have a time of fellowship with our sister church and book study co-participants.

[Sign up for the book study here!](#)

SAVE THE DATE!!!

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL SECOND-HOUR PROGRAM

West Africa & the Origins of the Slave Trade

Explore the culture, history and diversity of West Africa, and learn about the impact and role that these countries played in the transatlantic slave trade.

NOV. 2, AFTER WORSHIP

Presented by Alvin
& Lesley Morgan Thompson

LUNCH PROVIDED FROM
TOGO SPICE KITCHEN

childcare will be available
& a children's activity is planned

Photos from Lesley Morgan Thompson



Calling all Center Church Youth (and their Adults)!

*Join youth from Faith Congregational, Immanuel
Congregational, First Church Middletown and Riverfront
Community Church in the Central CT Youth Group.*

Central Connecticut Youth Group Calendar 2025

September & October

Lollipop-looza Kick off Party	September 14th	5:30-7:30 pm
Youth Group Info Session & Zoom	September 21st	5:30-7:30 pm
Youth Group Session	October 5th	5:30-7:30 pm
Youth Group Session (\$ for lock-in due)	October 19th	5:30-7:30 pm

November & December

Lock-in Retreat (cost \$25 per youth)	Nov 7 @ 7 pm-Nov 8 @ 3 pm	
Friendsgiving YG Session	November 23rd	5:30-7:30 pm
Volunteering @ Immanuel House	December 7th	1:00-3:00 pm
Christmas Party	December 21st	5:30-7:30 pm

This group is open to those in 6th – 12th grade, born in 2007–2013. Youth receive an extravagant welcome and hospitality in a safe, affirming place. Community meals, supportive mentorship, fun games, hot topic discussions and exploration of a variety of prayer and contemplative practices are features of these twice-monthly gatherings!

Reach out to Brother Eric to learn more and to sign up!



GHIAA

Greater Hartford
— Interfaith —
Action Alliance

GHIAA House Meetings

A Call to House Meetings

This fall, GHIAA will be organizing a series of issue-specific house meetings. These will be opportunities for people across our network to come together and share stories of personal impact and what we are seeing in our communities right now around the issues we are working on together.

Each meeting date will focus on a specific topic: immigrant rights and protections, housing affordability, or the human impact of our state's inequitable fiscal policies. If you would like to share a story or join the conversation on more than one issue, you are welcome to register for multiple dates.

Please register through [this online form](#), and please invite a neighbor, friend, or fellow congregant to register and join you. Please extend these invitations through direct relationship rather than community bulletin boards or social media (sharing via congregational emails, newsletters, etc. is encouraged!). Here is a [one-pager](#) you can use to spread the word in your congregations. Everyone is welcome, especially those who have personal stories about the importance of these issues.

Thank you to the congregations, clergy, and core team leaders who have agreed to host these conversations! Here is the list of sessions by topic:

- Immigrant Rights & Protections
 - Sunday, October 19, 1:00-3:00 pm, UUSE, Manchester
 - Monday, October 27, 7:00-8:30 pm, Church of Christ (Congregational), Newington
- Housing Affordability
 - Sunday, October 26, 3:00-4:30 pm, First Church of Christ, Simsbury
 - Tuesday, November 4, 7:00-8:30 pm, Westminster Presbyterian Church, West Hartford
- Fiscal Policy Reform
 - Sunday, October 26, 2:00-3:30 pm, Emanuel Lutheran, Hartford
 - Thursday, October 30, 7:00-8:30 pm, Congregation Beth Israel, West Hartford

Thank you, as always, for showing up faithfully for the ongoing work of justice.

Peace,
Jocelyn and the GHIAA Team

From the Center Church History Team

The Center Church History Team has engaged Dr. Andrew Gardner to research the life and legacy of our tenth pastor, the Rev. Joel Hawes. Hawes served Center Church from 1818 to 1864. Dr. Gardner has recently completed his article and is in the process of submitting it for publication.



Dr. Gardner's first lecture was on October 15th, online, at 7 PM. It was tremendously informational and the presentation was recorded. Stay tuned for more information about upcoming lectures and other History Team events.



Rev. Joel Hawes, served as the 10th Pastor of Center Church from 1818 to 1864.

Read all about it, as well as more about Rev. Joel Hawes and Dr. Gardner's ongoing research on Dr. Gardner's Blog, linked below:

[Research Notes: Politics in the Pulpit](#)

And if you're interested in History or Research and want to be involved in the exciting things the History Team is doing, email [co-chair Andre Keitt](#) or [Brother Eric](#)!



Center Church Teams: Help Wanted Community Board

The Outreach Team is looking for Volunteers to help with our Sunday Morning Coffee Ministry and for folks who are passionate about the missions of Center Church. For more information, contact Anita Hawkins or Cynthia Taplin.

The Worship Team is seeking volunteers to help with liturgy, ushering, and greeting. [Email Steven](#) or [Pastor Liza](#) to find out how you can help.

The Faith Formation Team is looking for help planning future events for our kiddos and church community. [Email Brother Eric](#) to find out more!

If your team needs help or volunteers for upcoming events, email the office to advertise here!

Updates From The Church Office:

Greetings, Center Church!

The Office is closed on Fridays. It is open Monday through Thursday from 9 AM to 4 PM.

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

Pastor Liza is in the office on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Brother Eric's sabbath days are Friday and Saturday. Carrie has drop-in hours Wednesday and Fridays from 10 to 2.

Outside of these hours, you can leave a call and leave a voicemail for our office staff.

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

center church

Celebrating 30 Years of Open and Affirming

www.centerchurchhartford.org

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



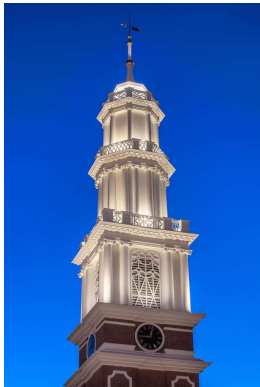
This Week's Celebrations!

Happy Birthday!

*October 23 ~ John Conley Jr.
October 27 ~ Terrence French Jr.*

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

"Let There Be Light" Memorials



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.

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

*October 25 ~ In memory of Emma Reeve Bossen by her
daughter Bertha Bonham and family*

*October 26 ~ In memory of Frank Ward Gates by his
family*

*October 27 ~ In loving memory of Mrs. Jean Gilchrist
Potter and Richard Montgomery Gilchrist Potter by the
late Mary Gilchrist*

*October 28 ~ In loving memory of her brother Dubois
Freer, by the late Gladys F. Kopp and brother-in-law the
late Leroy Kopp*

*October 28 ~ In loving memory of Janet Wei-Kuang Chen
who died November 27, 1991, by her sister Pauline Wei-
Hsiang Chen and her nephew's family, John, Mary and
Samuel*

October 29 ~ In memory of Rev. and Mrs. Edward C. Perkins by the late Miss Louise Roberts

October 30 ~ In loving memory of Clayton and Elsie Strever by the late Leroy and Gladys Kopp

October 30 ~ In loving memory of Anthony ("Tony") Timpanelli, and in tribute to his son, Patrick, and Patrick's husband, Rev. Paul F. Goodman, by the Center Church family.



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 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 Resource Team:

Contact *David Maclean*,
macleand596@gmail.com

The Community Relations Team:

Contact *Church Office*,
cctech@cchartford.org

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!

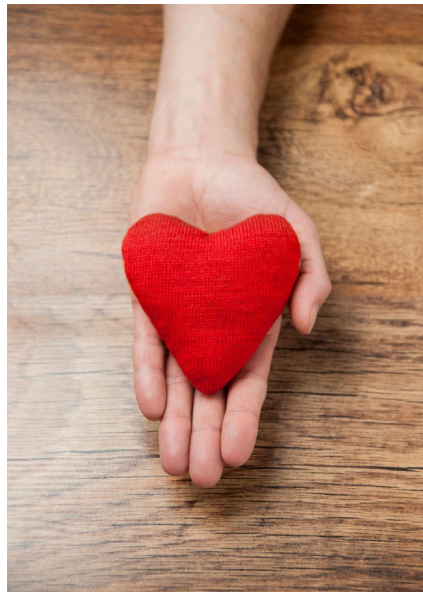
Click [HERE](#) to download information,
or send your inquiries to info@CCHartford.org,
or call Steven at the Church House,
860-249-5631 ext 200



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

Monday– Thursday, 9:30am–3:30 pm
(Closed Fridays)

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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