



Visit Our Church

Make A Gift

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



E-NEWS

Nov. 14, 2025

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

This Week in Worship - Sunday, Nov. 16
Join us at 10:30 AM -
675 Main Street



Guernica, 1937, by Pablo Picasso

Worship with us this Week!

**Sunday, November 16 at 10:30 AM,
In Person - and Online!**

Greetings, Center Church!

Well, Center Church, this week we're going to dive into everyone's favorite topic: eschatology, or, the study of the end.

This week in worship we face the End of the World (as we know it) and ask ourselves (and God) what comes next. Pastor Liza will lead us in worship where we will celebrate the sacrament of baptism and welcome four new members. We hope to see you there AND we hope you'll stay after for our annual budget meeting, too!

This week after worship, Nov. 16th, we will have our Annual Budget Meeting. Please make all possible effort to attend this meeting as we need a quorum to transact any business that comes before the body.

Blessings, and Peace,

~The Worship Team

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

About this week's worship art:

In 1937, Pablo Picasso was commissioned by the Spanish Republican Government (who were then fighting against Franco's Fascist regime), but lacked inspiration. Then, Nazi forces bombed the Basque city of Guernica in northern Spain, killing mainly civilians, more specifically many women and children. After reading news reports and eyewitness accounts, Picasso quickly began sketching for what would become the 1937 painting, *Guernica*. After its debut, the canvas then toured around the world to raise relief funds for the Spanish Civil War.

[Read more about Guernica, 1937, by Pablo Picasso, here.](#)

A Call to the Annual Budget Meeting for Program Year 2026

The 2025 Budget Meeting of The First Church of Christ in Hartford/Center Church will be held on Sunday, November 16 immediately following the worship service. The meeting will take place in person in the Meetinghouse and via Zoom.

The purpose of the meeting is:

- To vote on a proposed Church Budget for calendar year 2026
- To transact any other business to come before the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly Wells, Clerk

Attached is the proposed budget for 2026. For those who missed the meeting last week, wherein Center Church members voted to approve an expenditure for emergency boiler repairs, that information is also available below.

[Proposed Budget for Calendar Year 2026](#)

[Meetinghouse Boiler Inspection Report](#)

[Meetinghouse Boiler Repair Quote](#)

Center Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: FCC Hartford 2025 Annual Budget Meeting

Time: Nov 16, 2025 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5042691117?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5042691117?pwd=cDIzK3VLbm5HVk5meWcyTFh3NS9hdzo9&omn=82377331340)

[pwd=cDIzK3VLbm5HVk5meWcyTFh3NS9hdzo9&omn=82377331340](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5042691117?pwd=cDIzK3VLbm5HVk5meWcyTFh3NS9hdzo9&omn=82377331340)

Meeting ID: 504 269 1117

Passcode: 647945

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,...

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

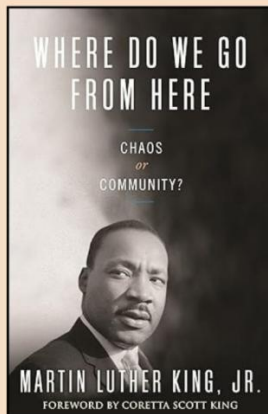
- Holly Wells
- Carrie Howe
- Chris Graesser
- Steven Lewis
- Brother Eric J. Hearst
- Pastor Liza

**Stay Tuned for More on
Our Upcoming Winter Book Studies!**



JOIN CENTER CHURCH FOR THESE BOOK STUDIES

ALL BOOK STUDIES TAKE PLACE ONLINE VIA ZOOM



WINTER 2026 Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?

by The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
from Beacon Press

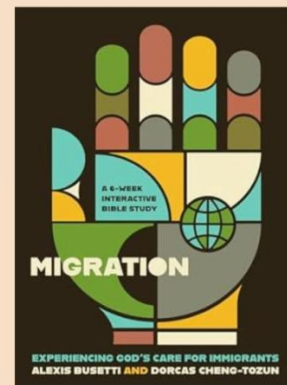
In 1967, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., isolated himself from the demands of the civil rights movement, rented a house in Jamaica with no telephone, and labored over his final manuscript. In this significantly prophetic work, which has been unavailable for more than ten years, we find King's acute analysis of American race relations and the state of the movement after a decade of civil rights efforts.

Migration: Experiencing God's Care for Immigrants

SPRING 2026

by Alexis Buseti and Dorcas Cheng-Tozun
from Intervarsity Press

Discover the heart of God in one of the most profound human experiences—migration. Using a diverse mix of Scripture, essays, spoken word, visual art, and personal testimonies, this thought-provoking study is not just about understanding the migration narrative in Scripture but also about reshaping your perspective on migration today.



Save This Date!

Transgender Day of Remembrance



Transgender Day of Remembrance

NOVEMBER 20, 2025

Rita Hester was a Black transgender woman, sister, auntie, performer, and poet from Hartford, CT who loved to dance. She was murdered in Allston, MA on November 28, 1998. Her death sparked Transgender Day of Remembrance, a national observance day to recognize transgender people who have been taken by violence.

Gather with community outside of Hartford City Hall at 12:00pm for the reading of a Proclamation.

It's encouraged to take action by promoting anti-violence. Making food more accessible. Developing shelters and housing that are safe. Practicing safer ways of educating. Centering specific types of self help and affirming care such as estate planning and legacy arrangements that accurately aligns, reflects, and respects who we are as human beings.

From artist and activist Ephraim Adamz:

"Rita Hester, a Black transgender woman from Hartford, CT was murdered in Allston, MA on November 28, 1998. Her death sparked Transgender Day of Remembrance, a national observance day to recognize transgender people who have been impacted by violence."

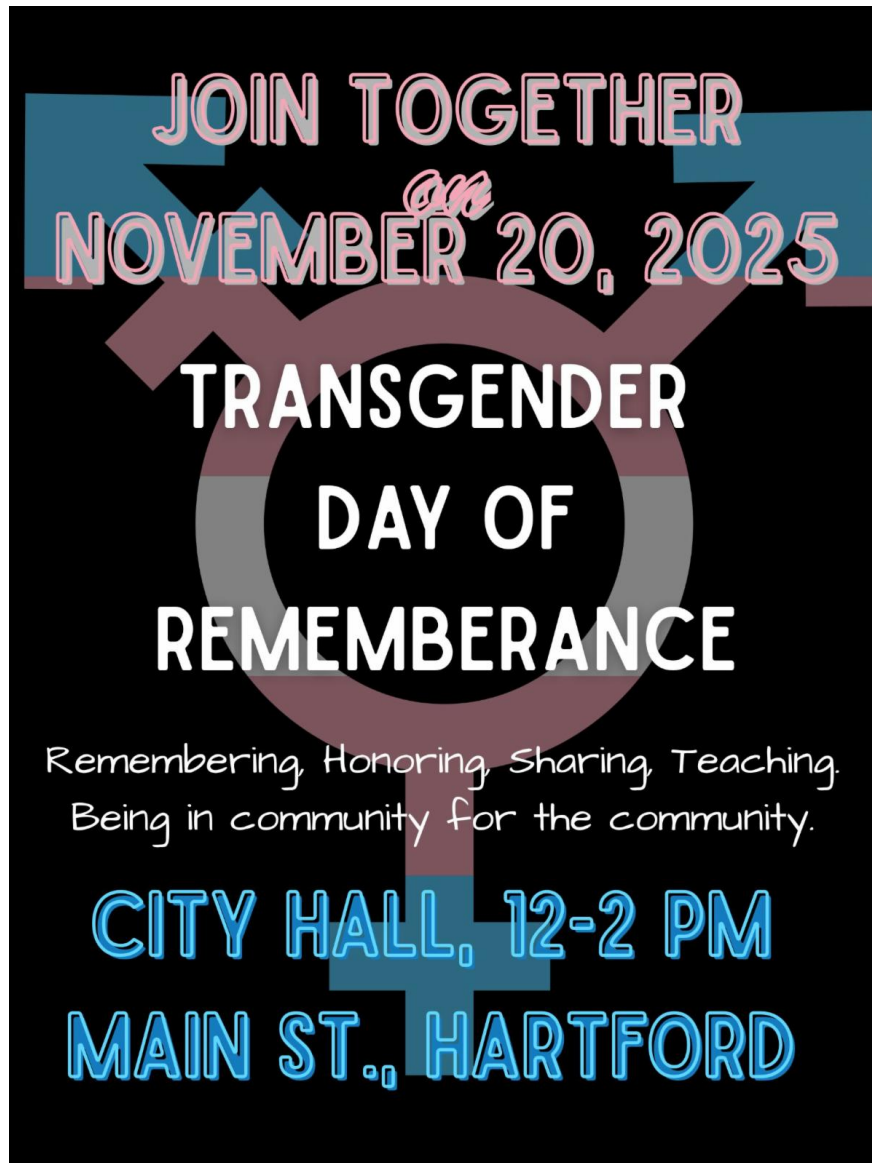
The Transgender Legacy Flag created by Ephraim Adamz was raised in the Pratt Street Historic District of Hartford, CT from November 20, 2023 to November 28, 2023 in honor of Rita Hester.

On November 28, 2023 communities gathered in Hartford, CT for a Transgender Legacy Ceremony in loving memory of Rita Hester, Monique Thomas, Tyra Hunter, Chanelle Pickett, Gabrielle Pickett, Debra Forte, and Jahaira "Balenciaga" DeAlto."

Last November, Center Church was happy to raise the Transgender Legacy Flag on the corner of Main and Gold to mark Transgender Day of Remembrance 2024.

On November 20, 2025 Center Church will once again raise the Transgender Legacy Flag. Prior to that, however, please join Center Church, Ephraim Adamz, the surviving family of Rita Hester and members of the Black and Brown LGBTQ+ communities as we remember and honor the legacy of those our transgender siblings who have been affected by identity based violence.

*Join us from 12 to 2 PM on November 20, 2025 at City Hall in Hartford, CT.
Let us be in community, for the community.*



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!

Join us this Advent *No matter what you fear,
know that The Good News is Louder.*

Good News is Louder than Fear

Join us this Advent at Center Church



On the Imagery of the Advent Series – the focal image of the lantern:

From the creative team at A Sanctified Art:

As we discussed our Advent theme and how hope and fear are interwoven in our lives, a vision emerged: hands gently cupped around candles at a vigil. When we gather at a vigil, fear is often present, weighing on us like a heavy fog. The candle in our hands can feel fragile, insignificant, the flame easily extinguished. But when we turn to our neighbors to spread the light, it multiplies, wrapping the whole community in warmth. The darkness is not eradicated; if anything, it further illuminates the flicker of the candles. In these vigil spaces, grief and fear dance with gratitude and hope. In these spaces, we find courage and unity. We are reminded that God is near. This vision captures our prayer for this Advent series: that it will illuminate both our hopes and our fears and remind us that God is near.

Fear can divide and paralyze us and even be used as a tool for oppression. But what if we formed a different relationship with fear? Can we acknowledge fear without letting it rule us? Might we catalyze our fears into love and action? What if naming our fears helps us see more clearly how God is breaking in and where God is at work?

Join us this Advent. We will gather to remember and hear the familiar stories as we continue to navigate unfamiliar and fear-filled times, insisting on radical, extraordinary and resilient Hope.

Blessings,

The Worship Team

**It's never too early to order your
Christmas Flowers!**



If you would like to donate a poinsettia to decorate our Meetinghouse for Christmastide, please fill out the form ASAP. Paper forms will be available in the coming weeks but the Electronic Dedication Form is Available now. The suggested donation is 20.00 per plant.

[Click this link to order your flowers today!](#)



Greater Hartford
— Interfaith —
Action Alliance

GHIAA Updates

This fall, GHIAA organized a series of issue-specific house meetings. These were 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.

Also, GHIAA held a series of actions calling on Gov. Lamont to extend Husky benefits to immigrants, regardless of their status.

See some photos from that action below.

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

It is with great pleasure that we announce Center Church's formalized partnership with The Official Royal House of Sori.

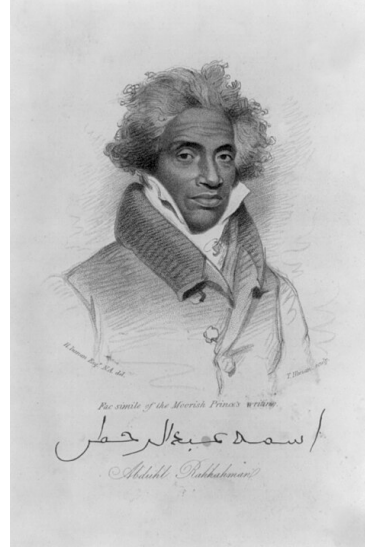
We are honored to celebrate the life, legacy, story and journey of Prince Abdulrahman Ibrahima ibn Sori and the enduring legacy carried on by the Official Royal House of Sori and the Root Nine Foundation and

Institute.

Thank you to our friends and partners who have made it all possible.

For more information about The Official Royal House of Sori, visit their website below.

<https://www.theofficialroyalhouseofsori.com/>



Prince Abdulrahman
Ibrahima ibn Sori



Pictured above: HRH Princess Karen, sovereign and head of the Official Royal House of Sori; Dr. Artemus Gaye, and many other descendants of Prince Sori; Mayors of Natchez, Mississippi and Hartford, CT; John Quincy Adams IV; Rev. Dr. Eric Hearst.

Read the full, official press release, linked below. We are looking forward to many more years of friendship and partnership with TORHOS and HRH Princess Karen.

[Official Press Release - Nov. 9, 2025](#)

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!](#)

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Walking in Love.
Acting like Jesus Christ.



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

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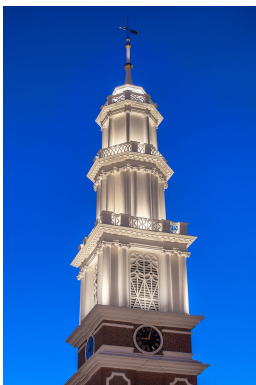
This Week's Celebrations!

Happy Birthday!

*November 14 ~ Jaylin Rios
November 15 ~ Jane Foxall*

*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:

*November 14 ~ In honor of Ruth Spaulding on the occasion of her
100th birthday, November 14, 1993,
by her many friends at Center Church*

*November 15 ~ In loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph W. Cutts and
Mr. and Mrs. George G. Mankey,
by their children*

November 16 ~ In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar N. Spaulding

*November 16 ~In loving memory of Lt. Col. Eunice Shanaberger, Ret.,
from her niece, Diane, and Dick Sherlock*

*November 16 ~In loving memory of David Robinson on his birthday, by
Kerry, Kate, Rob, Alex and Theo*

*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.*

*November 16 ~In memory of our parents, Gretchen Schafer Skelley and
Joseph Francis Skelley,
by Susan, Katherine, and Joan Skelley*

*November 17 ~ In memory of Mary Woolley Morgan by her husband
the late Edward H. Morgan and children Marilyn Morgan Jorgensen and
John H. Morgan.*

*November 19 ~ As a tribute to Albert D. And the late Marion Adams
from a friend*

*November 19 ~ In memory of my mother, Carmen M. Perez on her
birthday by Gladys Hernandez and family*

*November 19 ~ In memory of Sallie Knox by Harold and Joyce
Buckingham*

*November 19 ~ In memory of Sallie Knox by Regner and Carolyn
Arvidson*

*November 20 ~ To Carol Badger, a most cherished friend, by the late
Mary Starr Rawlins*

*November 20 ~ In honor of Mabel Sadoian on the occasion of her
100th birthday by Gregory and Susan Norsigian*



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!

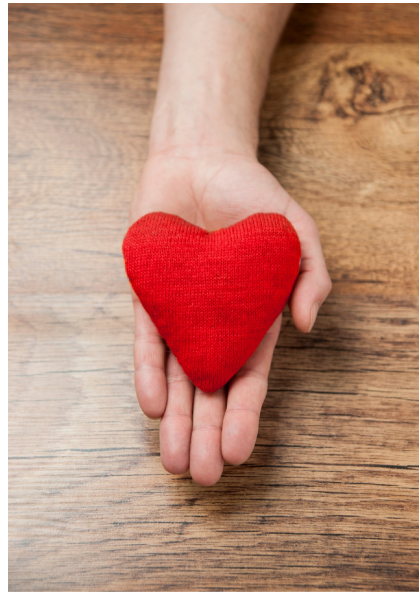
Click [HERE](#) to download information,
or send your inquiries to info@CCHartford.org,
or call Steven at the Church House,
860-249-5631 ext 200



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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