



Visit Our Church

Make A Gift

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

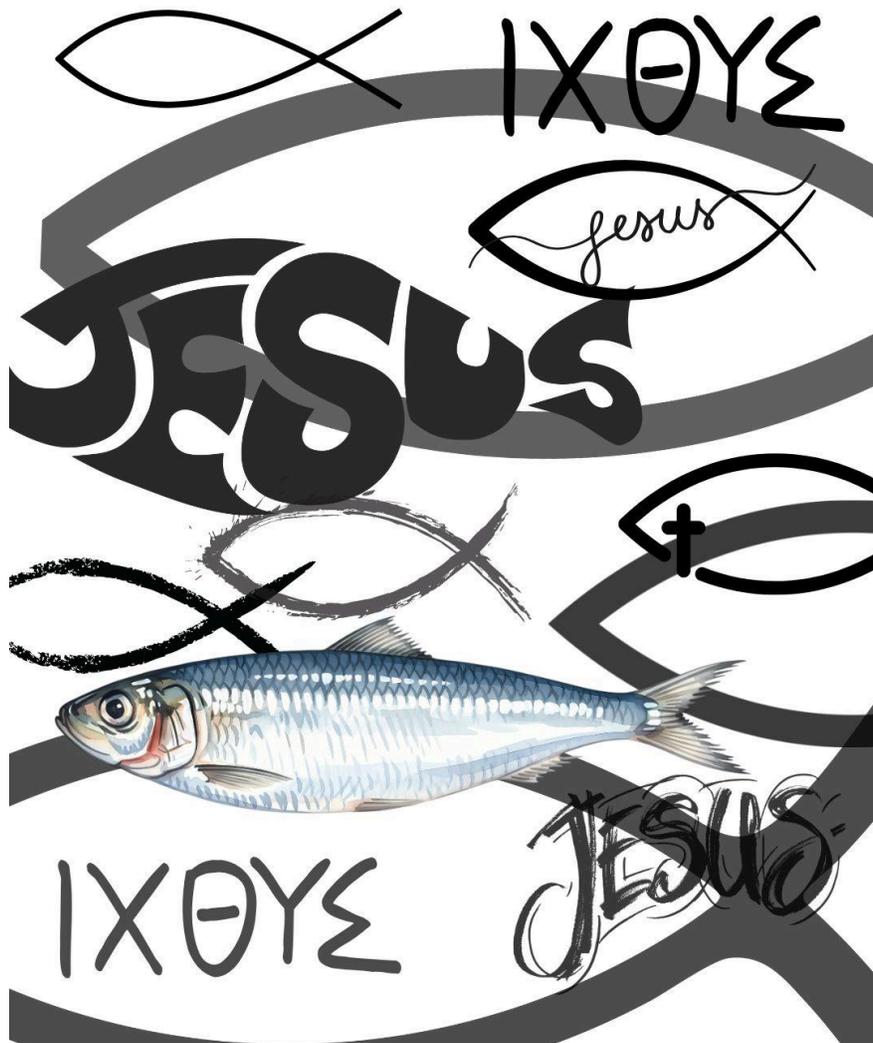


E-NEWS

Jan. 23, 2026

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

This Week in Worship - Sunday, Jan. 25
Join us at 10:30 AM - 675
Main Street



Worship with us this Week!

**Sunday, Jan 25 at 10:30 AM,
In Person & Online**

Blessings, Center Church!

Happy Wednesday Center Church!

This week in worship Jesus calls us out to be light, salt and fishers of people. Will you heed the call? And what exactly does it mean to "fish for people." Come find out! Brother Eric is leading worship, the Center Church Choir is singing and *hopefully* it won't snow.

But, if it does, we'll praise God anyway, just maybe safely at home.

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.

The friends and family of Renee Nicole Good, the community of Minneapolis, victims of and those affected by violence; migrant workers and immigrants; Jane and Jim Macomber and their family; Lani Ralston; Edward and Margaret Ralston; John Conley, Jr.; Gilberto Mercado and family; Sally Wagan and family; Ephraim Adams and Nancy J. Adams; the family and friends of Marilyn Watson; Richard Markham and family; Tina Bobbitt; Lita Rathnam; Cyndi Taplin and family; Dimekwan French and the French family; Diane Dwelley, Anita Hawkins,...

From Center Church Camp Asto Wamah: Registration Begins Sunday, Feb. 1!

Hi, Center Church Families,

This is a reminder that registration for Center Church Camp Asto Wamah begins on Sunday, February 1st at 8:00 am!

Please ensure that you sign up your children on or around that date to get a spot for the summer! Children who are registered for Church School attend camp for free!

If you would like to pre-register, you can email Chris and Catherine at campastowamahCT@gmail.com. They will register Center Church kids before February 1st.

Thank you!

Remember the
Other Fellow



Celebrating Our 117th Season!

Center Church Camp Asto Wamah

Columbia, Connecticut
www.campastowamah.org

Founded in 1910

Camp Asto Wamah is a non-sectarian residential summer 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 28 to July 4	coed, ages 8 to 12
July 5 to July 18	all boys, ages 8 to 14
July 19 to August 1	all girls, ages 8 to 14
August 2 to August 15	all girls, ages 8 to 14

The 2026 registration fee of \$50 is due at the time of registration and is not refundable or deductible from the camp fee of \$750 per week.



Online registration opens at 8:00 am on Sunday, February 1st, 2026!



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.

From Outreach: New Office Hours *by Appointment Only*



THE CENTER ANGEL @ LEWIS & GOLD

Winter Open Hours *by appointment only.*

Reach out for assistance with
Help with photo ID, birth certificates & other documents.
Assistance with paperwork or applications for services.

Ben & Friends Community Breakfast: 7-8 AM
2nd & 4th Saturdays from Dec through March

Free & Confidential HIV and Hepatitis TESTING
with CTHRA, 4th Tuesdays, 11AM-1PM

To learn more about The Center Angel at Center
Church, please email Outreach Director
Carrie Howe: chowe@cchartford.org



860.249.5631



centerchurchhartford.org

*The Center Angel @ Lewis & Gold is a mission initiative of
The First Church of Christ in Hartford, "Center Church," a 501 c3 non-profit organization.*

From the Visionary Team *Winter 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 group met

and made budgetary recommendations for how to best fund our growing Faith Formation Ministries.

- 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. The group continues to meet regularly and hopes to make a presentation to the congregation on their findings and recommendations at the Annual Meeting in March.

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
- 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

***Keeping You Posted... From you,*
*for you!***

Center Church Community - If you have something you want to feature in the Center Church e-news email a small paragraph and any relevant photos to the church office by Wednesday afternoon for publication on Fridays.

Save the dates for for our first book study of the new year: January 15 & 29, February 12 & 26. The sessions will take place online, on Zoom, from 7 PM to 8:30 PM.

Participants are responsible for purchasing their own copies of the book. You can use the QR Code on the poster below to sign up or you can sign up using the link below.

[Book Study Sign-Up Link](#)



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JOIN CENTER CHURCH FOR THIS BOOK STUDY

WINTER 2026

ALL BOOK STUDIES TAKE PLACE ONLINE VIA ZOOM

Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?
by The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. *from Beacon Press*

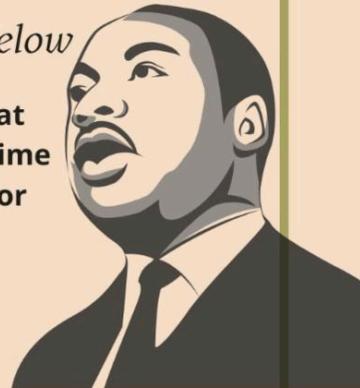
In 1967, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., isolated himself from the demands of the civil rights movement, rented a house in Jamaica with no telephone, and labored over his final manuscript. In this significantly prophetic work, which has been unavailable for more than ten years, we find King's acute analysis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

JAN 15, 29 & FEB 12, 26

Sign up using the QR Code Below



Discussions will take place at two week intervals to allow time for reading and to prepare for (what we hope will be) robust conversation & engagement with Dr. King's writing.



GHIAA

Greater Hartford
— Interfaith —
Action Alliance

GHIAA Winter Organizing Leadership Training

Our [Winter 2026 Organizing Leadership Training](#) is coming up soon and open to all! Join us to explore the fundamentals of faith-based organizing, practice the tools of relational culture (individual meetings and house meetings), consider how we build and wield power, share our process of identifying issues and developing campaigns, and build our skills for action. Please complete the [form linked here](#) to register.

Our winter training series will be held in person on **Tuesday evenings, 6:30-8:30 pm, Feb. 10, Feb. 16, Feb. 24, Mar. 3, and Mar. 10, at Temple Sinai (41 W Hartford Rd, Newington)**. Please note: this is a four-week training, but we are scheduling five weeks so we have a snow date if needed. While we understand that unforeseen issues may arise, we ask all participants to register with the intention of being present for all sessions of the training.

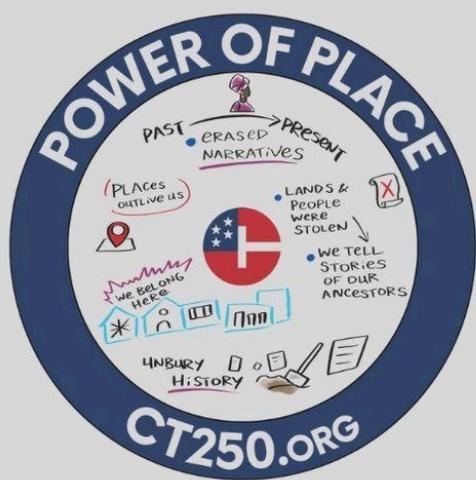
If you are newer to GHIAA and haven't yet been through training, this is for you. If you were trained a while back but could use a refresher, this is for you. If you are a clergy member or a lay leader, this is for you. If you know other members of your congregation/institution who could benefit from the skills and practices of organizing, this is for them, too.

For those who are newer to GHIAA, we ask that you participate in an orientation session before joining the training. You can register for that via our [online form](#) as well.

Please feel free to reply to me or reach out to your organizer with any questions.

Peace,
Jocelyn and the GHIAA Team

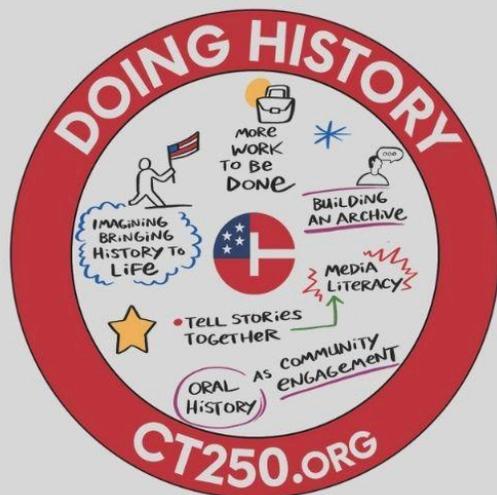
From the Center Church History Team



center church
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THE TEACHERS' LIBRARY
AT CENTER CHURCH, HARTFORD, CT

AMERICA 250 AFFILIATE
CONNECTICUT



Center Church's History Team is seeking members and community partners who are excited by the long history of Center Church and who are interested in connected to our community near and far through that history.

To name a few of the local partners with whom we're currently working - Trinity College, Hartford International University for Religion and Peace, the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center for Literary Activism, The Mark Twain House and Museum, Opera CT, Liberty Christian Center International, The Slater Museum in Norwich and of course, the Official Royal House of Sori.

We're also currently exploring partnerships with the Congregational Library and Archives in Boston, MA, Warburton Community Congregational Church in Hartford, CT, and Temple University.

In the coming months, the History Team will be finalizing its programming for Hartford's celebration of America's 250th Birthday. Center Church and the Teacher's Library are America 250 CT, working closely with the City's ad hoc commission as well as with the Statewide commission and are very excited to be a part of this inventive and expansive definition of what America is and can be for the

next 250 years. Watch this space for more information about America 250 CT - Hartford.

If making connections within Hartford and abroad and learning about our deep history speak to you, please do not hesitate to reach out the either [Andre Keitt](#), chair of the History Team, or [Brother Eric Hearst](#).



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.



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



This Week's Celebrations!

Happy Birthday!

January 17 ~ Debra Rucker-Grumley

January 17 ~ Sandra French

January 20 ~ Isaiah Singerman

January 23 ~ Xyon Iyomi Sanders
January 29 ~ Dimekwan French
January 30 ~ Nataliya Cicero

**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:

January 15 ~ *In loving memory of my dear friends, Emma Welcher and Alice Erickson,
by the late Janet Chen*

January 16 ~ *In loving memory of Bruce E. Bidwell on his birthday by his wife,
Robin Roy*

January 16 ~ *In loving memory of my brother, Chen Hung Chow, who died
December 24, 1979, and his wife Ling Hu-Ding, who died July 5, 1991, Diongloh,
Fukien, China, by the late Janet Wei-Kuang Chen*

January 17 ~ *In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar A. Phelps,
who were a beacon to those they served at Warburton Chapel and Center Church*

January 18 ~ *In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac James Steane,
by their daughter, the late Miss Florence A. Steane*

January 18 ~ *In memory of Janet Robinson on her birthday by Kerry, Kate, Rob,
Alex, and Theo*

January 19 ~ *In memory of William James Fitzgerald,
by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Fitzgerald*

January 20 ~ *In memory of Arthur L. Englehardt, by the late Isabella A. Englehardt*

January 21 ~ *In memory of Louis S. Peterson, Paul C. Peterson
and in honor of Louis S. Peterson, Jr., by wife and mother*

January 22 ~ *In memory of Howard John Pratt and Mary Upson Pratt,
by their son, the late Lyndon Upson Pratt*

January 22 ~ *In memory of my father Corrado Meli, by his son, Joseph Meli*

January 22 ~ *In memory of Leroy "Swede" Arvidson by John M. Donahue, a family
friend*

January 23 ~ *In loving memory of Fannie Richmond Karlson, by her daughter the
late Helen J. Karlson*

January 24 ~ *In memory of those we have loved and lost by the Center Church
Guild*

January 25 ~ *In memory of Agnes, Charlotte, Olga R., Esther A. & Evan F. Kullgren*

January 26 ~ In memory of Walter and Emma Burdett, by their daughter, the late
Esther Burdett

January 26 ~ In memory of Esther Burdett, on her birthday, by Dennis Bothamley

January 27 ~ In loving memory of Andrew Warner, a founder of Center Church, by
his descendent,
the late Priscilla E. Rose

January 28 ~ In memory of Mrs. Marcia J. Lowell, by several of her friends

January 29 ~ In memory of Joseph J. Arcieri, by his wife, Rosemary

January 29 ~ In loving memory of Mrs. Araxy Najarian, by her daughter

January 30 ~ In loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Frank H. Laborie and their
daughter, Bessie Laborie Strauss,
by the late Edward Strauss

January 31 ~ In loving memory of a sister, Anna M. Pabst



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 Resource Team:
Contact *David Maclean*,

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

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

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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