



**center church**  
the first church of christ UCC

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

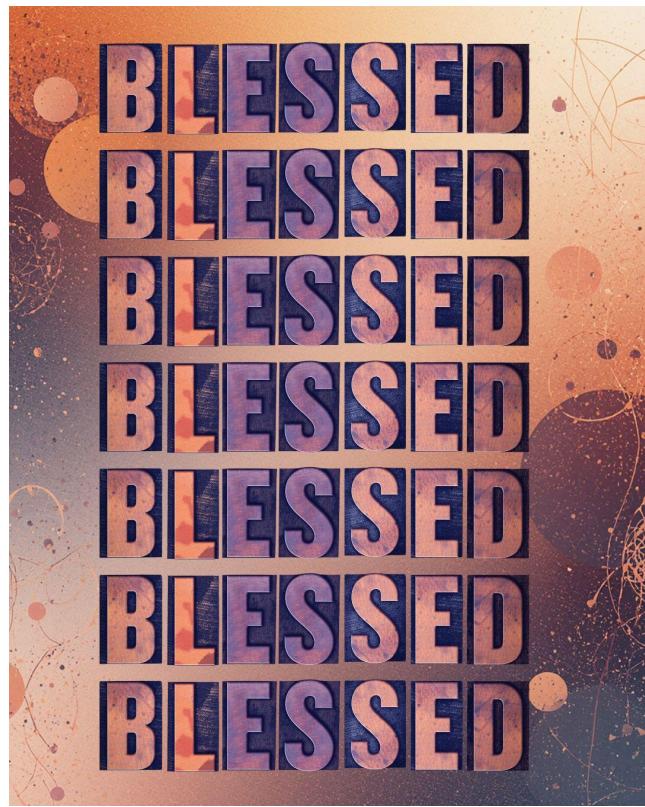


## **E-NEWS**

**Jan. 30, 2026**

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

***This Week in Worship - Sunday, Feb. 1***  
***Join us at 10:30 AM - 675***  
***Main Street***



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## **Worship with us this Week!**

**Sunday, Feb. 1, at 10:30 AM,**  
**In Person & Online**

**Blessings, Center Church!**

This week in worship we find Jesus at the beginning of the "Sermon on the Mount," talking about all the people who are blessed - including you! Pastor Liza is leading worship, celebrating Holy Communion and \*hopefully\* we won't be snowed in again.

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

~The Worship Team

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**A Special Message  
from Outreach Director Carrie Howe**



We continue to operate extended hours as we are in Cold Weather Protocol until the freezing cold temperatures break. This means we will continue to have shelter staff and guests at 60 Gold Street beyond the overnight hours. If you know of or encounter someone who needs a safe place to stay during this timeframe, please share this information with them.

As members of the congregation you can support us to keep our guests fed. If you (or more than one of you) are able and willing to prepare food or help us to provide food that would be greatly appreciated.

Some foods that are easily prepared and shared include chilis, pasta dishes and sandwiches. For more information, about how you can help please reach out to Carrie Howe directly, either by email or by phone.

**Carrie Howe**  
**Outreach Director**

office: 860.249.5631 ext. 205  
cell: 860.778.1210  
email: [chowe@cchartford.org](mailto:chowe@cchartford.org)

## 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](mailto:pastor@cchartford.org), or the Care Team, [careteam@cchartford.org](mailto:caretteam@cchartford.org).

*The friends, family and community of Alex Pretti and Renee Nicole Good, 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,...*

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## **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](mailto:campastowamahCT@gmail.com). They will register Center Church kids before February 1st.

Thank you!

Remember the  
Other Fellow

Celebrating Our 117<sup>th</sup> Season!

Center Church Camp Asto Wamah



Columbia, Connecticut  
[www.campastowamah.org](http://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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026!



For further information:  
Call (203) 631-0167 or  
email [campastowamahCT@gmail.com](mailto:campastowamahCT@gmail.com)



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

# From the Property Subcommittee *Winter Updates*

Warm Greetings Center Church,

For the last few months a small group has been meeting together to discuss a plan for addressing the more pressing structural issues related to our two historic properties.

A short but incomplete list we're looking at includes:

- Repairs and Maintenance to the Slate Roof
- Structural and Cosmetic Repairs to the Meetinghouse Roofline
- Drainage and Masonry Repair and Preservation at both properties
- Structural and Cosmetic Repairs to the main entrance of 60 Gold Street
- Water Damage to the south facade, basement ceiling and underground walls of 60 Gold Street

We have completed a survey of the damage with the help of architect Tim Brewer to identify potential Project Managers. We have also begun drafting a Request for Proposal and Qualifications (RFP/Q) to send out to these would-be contractors.

We expect to meet with engineers soon, who can advise and inform us as we move forward. As we move along on the process we will continue to keep the congregation updated. We are currently using Capital Improvement Funds to finance the preliminary stages of our project but as more information becomes available about the full scope and cost of the project, we anticipate fundraising efforts that include grant writing, outside donations and a thorough exploration of other revenue streams.

If you have any interest in joining the Property Subcommittee Working Group, please contact David Maclean or Larry Roeming.

In Faith,

The Property Subcommittee  
*David Maclean, Larry Roeming,  
Andrea Olson & Steven Lewis*

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## **From Outreach: New Office Hours *by Appointment Only***

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# 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  
2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays from Dec through March

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

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



860.249.5631



[centerchurchhartford.org](http://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.*

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## 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!**

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*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.*

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***Save the dates 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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the first church of christ UCC

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## JOIN CENTER CHURCH FOR THIS BOOK STUDY

WINTER 2026

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ALL BOOK STUDIES TAKE PLACE ONLINE VIA ZOOM

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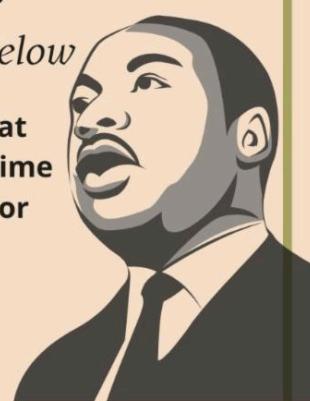
**Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community?**

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

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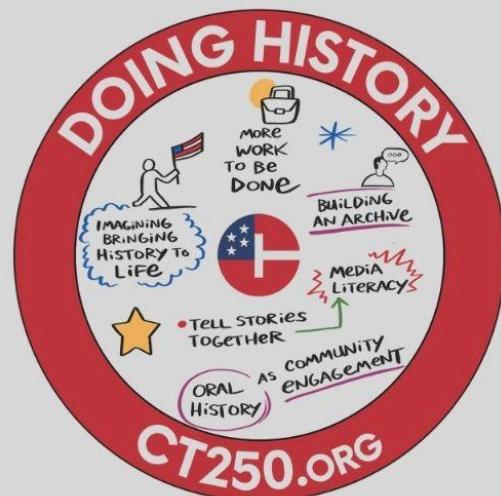
## From the Center Church History Team



**center church**  
the first church of christ UCC  
**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 connecting 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!*

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### 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](http://www.centerchurchhartford.org)

@centerchurchhartford

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

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



## This Week's Celebrations!

*Happy Birthday!*

February 6 ~ Mark Fisher

February 7 ~ Claire Woodbridge MacKenzie

February 9 ~ Graeme MacKenzie

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

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## **"Let There Be Light" Memorials**

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**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:***

February 1 ~ In memory of her father and mother, by the late Miss Mary Starr Rawlins

February 1 ~ In loving memory of Ruth Peterson Hansen, by her husband, the late Howard F. Hansen

February 2 ~ In loving memory of Jeannette Nakos, by her brother, the late Leroy W. Kopp

February 2 ~ In memory of Alfred Burger, Jr., our dear friend, by Jeanne and the late Harold Holcombe, Uncle Al, our Godfather, from Jean, Michele, Tom, Joshua, Jeremy, Heidi, Matthew, Nick, Alexis and Ryan

February 3 ~ In memory of Albert F. Gilde and in honor of Dorothy F. Gilde, by the Late Helen M. Gilde

February 3 ~ In memory of our dear friend, Jeanne Frances Schoen, by the late Joyce and Harold Buckingham

February 4 ~ In memory of Mrs. Norma Allen Haine, by the late William Haine

February 4 ~ In loving tribute to a dear uncle, John Arthur Taylor, by his niece, Patricia W. Anderson

February 5 ~ A friend in need, is a friend indeed ~ In memory of Ling Sieng Guong, nurse, West Malaysia - died December 5, 1984, by the late Janet Chen

February 6 ~ In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Hohlfeld, by their son, the late J. Maurice Hohlfeld

February 7 ~In memory of Margaret A. Doyle, who became a member of Center Church women on this date in 1897, by Center Church Womens' Workshop

February 8 ~ In memory of Maude Meacham, by her fellow employees of Lord and Taylor

February 8 ~ In loving memory of my beloved Ruth, by her husband, the late Ellis Hamilton

February 8 ~ In loving memory of Donald V. Bohman, by his wife Marie and family

February 8 ~ In memory of my mother, Betty Gene Harden.

With love from your daughter, Valerie Thaxter-Grant

February 9 ~ In loving memory of my oldest sister, Amy Wei-Jia Chen Chung and brother-in-law, Choon-Hoon Chung, Kuiten, Fujian, China, by the late Janet Wei-Kuang Chen

February 10 ~ In loving memory of Lorinda Brown Esten,

by her children and grandchildren and late husband, R. Stewart Esten

February 11 ~ In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Edward E. Taft, by Robert M. Taft

February 11 ~ In honor of The Reverend Paul Bobbitt,

whose light shines far beyond that of the steeple

February 12 ~ In loving memory of Winifred Church Swift, by her daughter



## 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](mailto:slewis@cchartford.org)

**The Resource Team:**

**The Care Team:**  
Contact *Larry Roeming*,  
[LDRinCT@gmail.com](mailto:LDRinCT@gmail.com)

**The Faith Formation Team:**  
Contact *Rev. Dr. Eric Hearst*,  
[ehearst@cchartford.org](mailto:ehearst@cchartford.org)

**The Outreach Team:**  
Contact *Anita Hawkins*,  
[anitasfarm1010@gmail.com](mailto:anitasfarm1010@gmail.com)

**The History Team:**  
Contact *Andre Keitt*,  
[corykit1@yahoo.com](mailto:corykit1@yahoo.com)

Contact *David Maclean*,  
[macleand596@gmail.com](mailto:macleand596@gmail.com)

**The Community Relations Team:**  
Contact *Church Office*,  
[cctech@cchartford.org](mailto:cctech@cchartford.org)

**The Visionary Team:**  
Contact: *Lesley Morgan-Thompson*  
[l.morganthompson@gmail.com](mailto:l.morganthompson@gmail.com)

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



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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