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



E-NEWS

Feb. 13, 2026

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

This Week in Worship - Sunday, Feb. 15
Join us at 10:30 AM - 675
Main Street



Worship with us this Week!

Sunday, Feb. 15, at 10:30 AM, In Person & Online

Blessings, Center Church!

We all know the story - Jesus and his disciples go to the mountaintop, a thin space, somewhere between heaven and earth.

A brilliant light, an awe-some, amaze-ing sight.

Mundane clothes become dazzling white. On either side of Jesus, their Rabbi, they see Moses and Elijah; the Law and the Prophets. They now fully, completely understand Him, Jesus - Yeshua, God Saves - to be the Anointed One, the Messiah.

Then, a voice from above says, "This is my Son, whom I Love... Listen to Him!"

Bookended by God's Blessing - at baptism and at transfiguration - we see God's Great Epiphany; Salvation has come to Earth.

And don't forget to come Sunday afternoon for our Gospel House Dance Party!

Join us, Sunday at 10:30, in person and online.

~The Worship Team

Come and Dance!
Gospel House Music Event
Feb. 15 at 3 PM ~ This Sunday!

GOSPEL HOUSE MUSIC

ALL ARE WELCOME — MUSIC + DANCE + COMMUNITY

soul selektah project
ft. dj soul selektah



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2026
3:00PM - 6:00PM
CENTER CHURCH
60 GOLD STREET

Presented by the Soul Selektah Project
and NxtThrsdy Productions. Inquiries and
Bookings: soulselektahproject@gmail.com

Writer and social commentator, Dan Savage, in talking about the AIDS crisis in the 1980s and 90s writes that, "we buried our friends in the morning, we protested in the afternoon, and we danced all night, and it was the dance that kept us in the fight because it was the dance we were fighting for." In times like these, we need dancing more than ever.

Join Center Church, on Feb. 15th as we dance, praise and celebrate that all people are God's Beloved and that is Good News.

DJ Soul Selektah will be spinning the beats at this
Nxt Thrsdy production; you don't want to miss it!

This is a offering for the community, for our community. But, if you feel compelled to give in your appreciation please bring anything from the list below, to support our Winter Shelter Mission:

- * Laundry Detergent
- * Non-Perishable Food Items
- * Gently-used or new winter hats, gloves or warm socks

A Special Message from Outreach Director Carrie Howe

Thank you to everyone who has provided food, donated blankets and prayed for our staff and shelter guests during this winter season so far. The most recent cold weather protocol has (finally) ended and we're looking at the protentional for some warmer weather in the coming week. Please know that your support of this critical mission DOES make a difference.

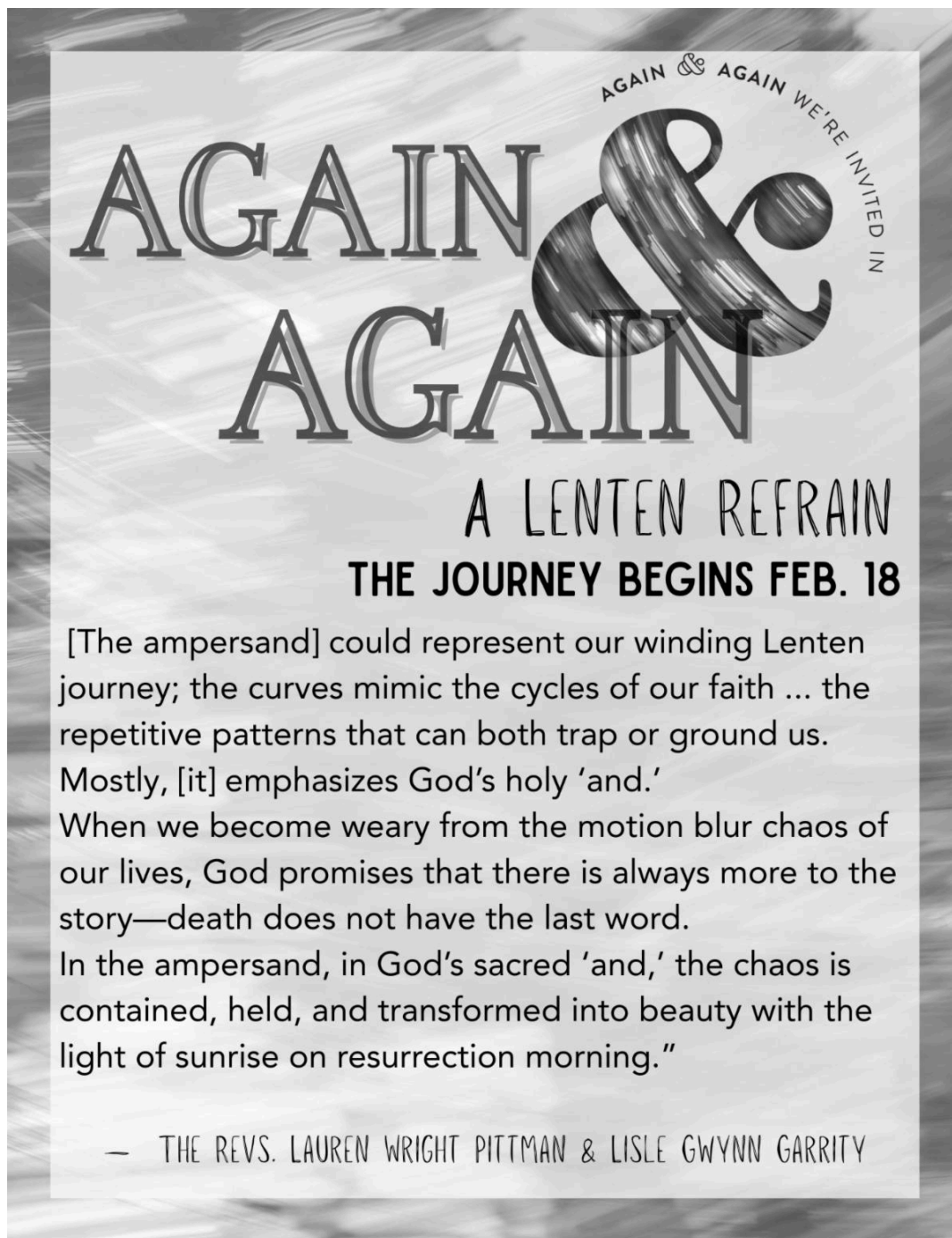
Thank you, thank you, thank you. God Bless!

~Carrie Howe, Center Church Outreach Director

**Ash Wednesday and the start of
the season of Lent, is Feb 18.
Ash Sunday will be Feb. 22.**

Center Church, Faith Congregational Church and Immanuel Congregational Church are marking Ash Wednesday together as one community in Christ.

Join us at Immanuel Congregational Church on Wednesday, Feb. 18th, at 6 PM, in the Chapel for this service of reflection,



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, 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

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 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*

From Our Friends at PFLAG Granby



Our friends at **#pflaggranby** have recently established themselves (Congrats!) and to celebrate they've launched "Becomings: The

Portrait Project."

Original oil paintings of transgender and non-binary individuals, paired with their stories in their own words, will be exhibited throughout New England in order to promote positive community awareness before being returned to the portrait participants.

If you are interested, or know someone who may be interested in participating, connect with PFLAG Granby via email or facebook.

fb: [PFLAGGranby](#)

email: PFLAGGranby@gmail.com

website: granby.pflag.org

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.



Film will be followed by a ZOOM Discussion with the filmmaker Tara Moore

This film is an important reminder that oppression can happen if we turn a blind eye to its presence. From the onset of settler colonialism to the institutionalization of the Apartheid system, to the struggle for liberation in 1994, and finally to the current state of politics and class in the post-Apartheid world, Legacy offers an eye-opening and unapologetic look at the historical dynamics of this culture. Filmmaker Tara Moore offers complex depictions that shift our understanding of the scope and scale of Apartheid as an ideology and tool of social control.

Title of Film:

Legacy: The Decolonized History of South Africa

Date of Showing:

Saturday February 21, 2026 Time: 6:00pm

Place of Showing:

The Universalist Church of West Hartford
433 Fern Street West Hartford, CT 06107

Hands on Hartford

Please bring a jar of jam or jelly
for Hands on Hartford

Serving Hartford's most vulnerable residents. Food access programs, homeless outreach and prevention services, permanent supportive housing, and health support initiatives improve the well-being of individuals and families in need, helping to foster a stronger, healthier community.

Sponsors: *The event and movie are free but donations at the event for the filmmaker Tara Moore will help keep her meaningful outreach and educational efforts alive.*



GHIAA

Greater Hartford
— Interfaith —
Action Alliance

GHIAA Winter Updates

Dear GHIAA,

In these cold days, I am grateful for the warmth of the relationships we share and the fire of our commitment to justice.

Public Actions This Week

- **Interfaith Immigrant Solidarity Prayer Vigil:** About 100 people, including many GHIAA leaders, gathered for prayer and song outside the Federal Building in Hartford today, bearing witness to grief, outrage, hope, and commitment. Thank you to Rev. Josh Pawelek and Rabbi Donna Berman for convening this vigil. Please stay tuned for future opportunities for public witness.
- **CT For All Campaign Launch:** Several GHIAA leaders joined our allies from CT For All for their campaign launch this week, and Rev. Josh Pawelek shared powerful words about immigrant rights and protections. Check out a clip from [**WFSB here**](#).

Upcoming Next Week

- **GHIAA Organizing Leadership Training:** Tuesday evenings, Feb. 10 through March 10, in person in Newington. Details and registration [online here](#).
- **Faithful Action Here and Now: GHIAA Campaign Launch 2026:** Series of two zoom delegate assemblies, at which we will share next steps in our fights for Housing Affordability, MIRA Environmental Justice, Fiscal Policy Reform, and Immigrant Rights & Protections. Wednesday and Thursday evenings, Feb. 11-12, 7:00-8:30 pm. Registration [online here](#).

We look forward to seeing you online or in person soon as we move into action this legislative session!

Peace,
Jocelyn and the GHIAA Team

From the Center Church History Team



BLACK HISTORY MATTERS

ABOLITION

PRESENTED BY
NATIONAL ABOLITION HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

PO BOX 55 5255 PLEASANT VALLEY ROAD PETERBORO NY 13134
NAHOFM1835@GMAIL.COM
315-380-1890

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS AVAILABLE AT:

[WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/@ABOLITIONHALLOFFAME](https://www.youtube.com/@abolitionhalloffame)

WWW.NATIONALABOLITIONHALLOFFAMEANDMUSEUM.ORG

BLACK HISTORY MATTERS 2026 IS A FREE-TO-WATCH VIDEO SERIES ON OUR **YOUTUBE CHANNEL**. THE BLACK HISTORY MATTERS SERIES WAS FOUNDED IN 2021 IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE UPSTATE INSTITUTE AT COLGATE UNIVERSITY.

The Gerrit Smith Estate and The National Abolition Hall of Fame & Museum presents "Black History Matters: Abolition."

Black History Matters 2026 is a free-to-watch video series on the NAHFM YouTube Channel, linked below. The BHM series was founded in 2021 and we're proud to share this important history with you, too!

The Scheduled Episodes are Listed Below.

Feb. 1 Introduction to Black History Matters 2026

Feb. 2 The Birth of Abolition: An Overview of the Abolition Movement in the U.S.

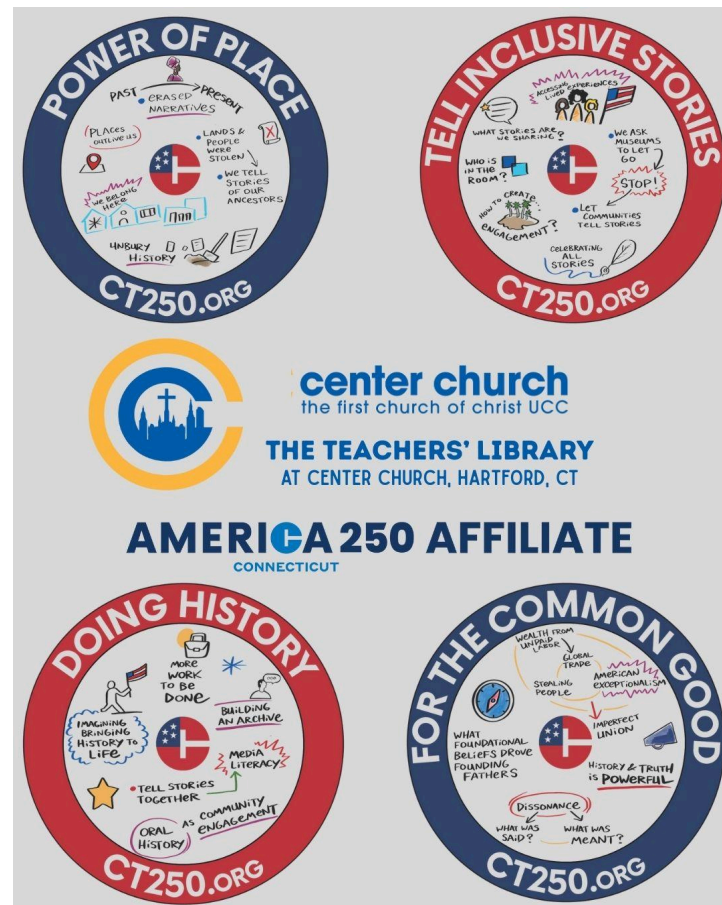
Feb. 6 Curse of Ham: Abolition and the Role of Religion

Feb. 9 Abolitionists and the End of Slavery in New York State
 Feb. 13 Roads to Freedom: The People Who Made the Underground Railroad
 Feb. 16 Abolition Beyond America: Global Movements in the 18th and 19th Century
 Feb. 20 Women and the Battle to End Slavery
 Feb. 23 The Afterlives of Slavery: Prisons, Policing, and Punitive Systems Beyond Abolition
 Feb. 27 "Come to Peterboro: Lodestar for Freedom!"
 Feb. 28 Conclusion

For more information visit

www.nationalabolitionhalloffameandmuseum.org

NAHFAM YouTube: www.youtube.com/user/AbolitionHollofFame



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!

February 19 ~ Buell French

February 20 ~ Jonas Otte

February 24 ~ Alicia Akers

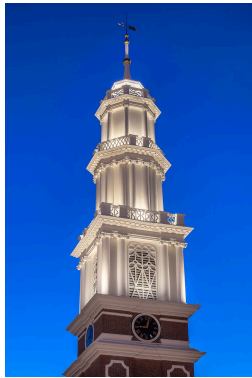
February 27 ~ David Maclean

Happy Anniversary!

February 18 ~ Nancy & David Maclean

***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:

February 16 ~ In loving memory of Charles V. Newman (1888-1953), by his daughter and son

February 16 ~ In loving memory of Mary Meserian, by her family

February 17 ~ In loving memory of Vincenza Libratore, by Mr. and Mrs. Orene Nadeau

February 18 ~ In memory of Margaret A. Doyle, by her friend, the late Mrs. Katherine W. Johnson

February 18 ~ In celebration of the 59th anniversary of the wedding of Nancy & David Maclean

on February 18, 1967 by Center Church friends

February 19 ~ In memory of Alden Wells, by his family

February 20 ~ In memory of Mrs. Addie Huling, by the Huling family

February 20 ~ In memory of C. Rosalie Arvidson by John M. Donahue, a family friend

February 20 ~ In loving memory of Robert Peroza by his family

February 21 ~ In loving memory of Leonard W. Hatton, by the late Jeannette Chase Hatton

February 21 ~ In loving memory of Rose Micali King, by her sons Bill and John King

February 21 ~ In loving memory of our friend, Amy O. Welcher, by John, Mary & Samuel Chen

February 22 ~ By the Society of Cincinnati in the State of Connecticut, in memory of George Washington and the Officers from Connecticut in the American Revolution

February 22 ~ In 1986, in honor of the 50th wedding anniversary of the late Graydon & Grace Lockwood, by several friends

February 22 ~ In loving memory of Robert Proodian, by the late Alyce Ananian

February 23 ~ In loving memory of a dear friend, Mary Starr Rawlins, by the late Carol V. Badger

February 24 ~ In memory of Dr. Valeria Hopkins Parker, by her family

February 25 ~ In memory of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel R. Howe, by the late Mrs. Clement Scott

February 26 ~ In memory of Dr. and Mrs. Edward B. Hooker, by the late Mr. and Mrs. Joseph K. Hooker

February 27 ~ In loving memory of Wallace George Bailey, by his late wife, Ella and son, Wayne

February 27 ~ In loving memory of Curtis S. Anderson by his late wife, Patricia, and family

February 28 ~ In memory of a friend, Mark Anthony Frazier, by Karen Sanders



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

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)



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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