



Visit Our Church

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



## ***E-NEWS***

March 6, 2026

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

***This Week in Worship - Sunday, Mar. 8***  
***Join us at 10:30 AM - 675***  
***Main Street***



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

**Sunday, March 8, at 10:30 AM,  
In Person & Online**

### **Blessings, Center Church!**

On Sunday, the third Sunday in Lent, we'll begin continue our journey and our Lenten series, "Again & Again." This week, Pastor Liza will lead us in worship and share a sermon, exploring the theme for this week: "Again & Again: We are Shown the Way."

Join us as we journey nearer to the cross this week.

### **~The Worship Team**

*We are offering some ways to deepen your relationship with God this Lenten Season - daily devotional cards and weekly devotional booklets are available in the narthex. We will keep these available throughout Lent. You can also [follow us on Facebook](#) for a daily devotional posting at noon each day.*

*Tuesday evenings from Feb. 24 to March 24, we will host a Lenten Supper series at our church house (60 Gold Street)- all are welcome. If you are interested in preparing food, or helping to host, [email Steven Lewis](#).*

*Join Center Church as we  
Journey to the Cross...*

AGAIN & AGAIN WE'RE INVITED IN

**AGAIN & AGAIN**

**A LENTEN JOURNEY**

**LENTEN SUPPER SERIES**  
Tuesdays in Lent at 5:30  
Starting Feb. 24

**MAUNDY THURSDAY SUPPER & WORSHIP**  
April 2 - 6PM

**ECUMENICAL GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE**  
April 3 - 12 PM

**RESURRECTION SUNDAY - EASTER WORSHIP**  
April 5 - 10:30 AM

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**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

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## 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: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 Taplin and family; Dimekwan French and the French family; Diane Dwelley, Anita Hawkins,...*

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## *Save these Dates*

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**Sun. March 15, 2026 @ 4:30 PM**  
**for the Next Music & Arts Concert**



Music and the Arts at

**center church**

the first church of christ UCC



presents **MAD AGNES**

'A UNIQUE AMERICAN FOLK TRIO'

Called "genre-bending" and mad  
"in the most endearing way"  
this is one concert you won't want to miss!



**MARCH 15, 2025 4:30 PM**  
**675 MAIN ST., HARTFORD, CT**

There is free parking on the street and in the  
Traveler's Garage on Prospect St.  
All Music and Arts programs are free concerts,  
made possible by donations

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT [CENTERCHURCHHARTFORD.ORG](http://CENTERCHURCHHARTFORD.ORG)

Hartford-based international trio, Mad Agnes (Margo Hennebach, Adrienne Jones and Mark Saunders) has been called "genre-bending," refusing to stay within one style but choosing instead to draw upon their varied backgrounds to create a sound of their own. Common to all their work, however, are their signature harmonies (tight as jeans from the dryer!) and carefully crafted arrangements that utilize guitars, mandolin, ukulele, percussion and an adorable pint-sized keyboard. Mad Agnes uses primarily one microphone around which they form and re-form, early-radio style. Their ease with one another onstage invites the audience into their world of human connection and spontaneous fun. Playing together since 2001, they collectively have 12 original CD releases, and have performed at festivals and listening rooms across the US and UK.

To sample their music, go to

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCH2Tel0xVMc5B5RrOO9XGaA>

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***Call to the 393rd Annual Meeting***  
***of the***  
***First Church of Christ in Hartford***

**March 22nd, 2026**

# Immediately Following Worship

## The Call to the 393<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of The First Church of Christ in Hartford, (Center Church)

The 393<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of The First Church of Christ in Hartford/Center Church will be held on Sunday, March 22, 2026 following the worship service and the reading of the year's history. The meeting will take place at the Meeting House and via Zoom.

The purpose of the meeting is:

1. To receive and act on reports,
  2. Vote on three (3) proposed by-laws amendments,
  3. To elect CET members and officers, and,
  4. To transact any other business to come before the meeting.
  
1. To receive and act on reports including, but not limited to,
  - From the 501(c) 3 (Tax Exempt Status) Research Team
  - The Property Subcommittee of CET, on the topic of the building condition,
  - The Visionary Team, including a ChurchPulse Assessment
  
2. The three proposed by-laws amendments will be presented by members of the Coordinating Executive Team (CET).
  
3. The following positions will be filled at the 2026 Annual Meeting:
  - Assistant Moderator
  - Treasurer
  - Assistant Treasurer
  - Member At Large

The following individuals have been nominated for the open offices:  
Assistant Moderator - Christine Graesser  
Treasurer - Andrea Olson  
Assistant Treasurer - Kurt Moyer  
Member At Large - Anita Hawkins

(Pending Passage of Historian Bylaw Revision)  
Historian – Alvin Thompson
  
4. To transact any other business to come before the meeting.

Respectfully,

Holly Wells, Clerk

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**From the**  
**Property Subcommittee**  
*Winter Updates*

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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)

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*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* *Annual Meeting Updates*

*Dear Center Church Family:*

*At our Annual Meeting on March 22, we will have an exciting opportunity for you to participate in! We're going to take an assessment as a church that we believe will be an encouragement to you and will help you understand where you can grow in the*

*flourishing life that God has for you. The assessment is called the ChurchPulse, and in addition to thinking about how you may grow, there are questions that will help us as a church understand where we can grow as a faith community.*

*This is a chance for us to hear from you and listen to how well you think we're doing in several areas that determine the overall health of our church. So, we've carved out some intentional time in our Annual Meeting for you to complete the assessment. Members of the Visionary Team will be available to help, if needed.*

*We are so grateful for your participation. Your insights and responses will help us determine the future of our church as we seek to grow as a faith community.*

*Thank you for taking time on March 22 to complete this assessment, and thank you for all the beauty you bring to this community of faith.*

*The Visionary Team*

*~ The Visionary Team*

*Lesley Morgan Thompson, Alvin Thompson, Chris Graesser,  
Catherine Thompson Maclean, Brother Eric J. Hearst, Steven Lewis*

## *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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### **For Your Consideration:**

*Center Church Member Tim Otte found the following article timely and poignant and wanted to share it with all of you.*

**There's Nothing Christian About "Christian" Nationalism  
MAGA's madness is not an alternative interpretation of  
Christianity. It is anti-Christ.**

by William J. Barber, II and Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove

[Read the article here.](#)



# GHIAA

Greater Hartford  
— Interfaith —  
Action Alliance

## GHIAA Updates - Testify!

Thank You to everyone who submitted written testimony! It was tremendously important and you all stepped up!

Pastor Liza and Outreach Director Carrie Howe delivered live testimony during the hearing, too!

You can see their testimonies in the video linked below!

***We ARE Doing the Work of Justice in the World, Praise God for that!***

Blessings,

the GHIAA Core Team

[https://www.youtube.com/live/FAG75ZifjNs?  
si=tBfoK\\_mfBoG1-GfsHere%27s](https://www.youtube.com/live/FAG75ZifjNs?si=tBfoK_mfBoG1-GfsHere%27s)

**The Next Opportunity to Testify is on a trio of bills protecting immigrant rights and community protection in our state.**

**Read more about it below:**

Dear GHIAA:

We're so grateful for all the ways you have been faithfully showing up in this hectic short legislative session. And – we're here with a key opportunity to show up again!

**Your voices are urgently needed in support of immigrant rights and community protections in our state. A major public hearing will take place on Monday, and it is so important to have strong support from faith leaders for these bills.**

- On Monday, March 9, the Judiciary Committee will hold a public hearing that will include three critical bills among GHIAA's legislative priorities. **SB 91** would designate “protected areas,” such as houses of worship, hospitals/clinics, schools, social service locations, and other important sites,

making them off-limits for civil immigration enforcement. This is a key protection for our immigrant neighbors and for all of us.

- **SB 397** would protect from federal overreach and create accountability by allowing CT residents to sue federal agents for civil rights violations, banning masks and requiring ID for officers, protecting sensitive locations, and protecting CT from deployments of out-of-state National Guard.
- **HB 5449** would set limits on the collection, use, retention, and sharing of surveillance data from Automated License Plate Reader traffic cameras. This will close a critical loophole in the Trust Act and data protection legislation we've worked hard to pass in recent years.

We have created a **testimony guide** that will help you write and submit one letter of testimony in support of all three bills. Please use this guide yourselves, and share it with your core teams, justice ministries, and congregations, as well as others in your network who share our values. Written testimony is most impactful when submitted by the hearing date, but may be submitted up to 7 days afterward as well. You can find all the details in the **testimony guide**.

In addition to submitting testimony, we are asking folks to show up in person for some or all of the public hearing. Many directly-impacted folks will be present, and they have asked us to come alongside and show our support by being physically in the room. The hearing is likely to go all day and into the night. We have created a **sign-up sheet** so you can let us know which time frame(s) you plan to be there, but please feel free to come and go as fits your schedule.

Our friends and allies at Connecticut Students for a Dream will be holding an online testimony workshop tonight, Thursday, March 5, from 6:00-7:00 pm, focused on SB 91 (the protected areas bill). You are invited to join that conversation if you'd like to learn more about that bill and receive testimony support in a group setting. Please **register here** to receive the zoom link.

Please reach out to me or any of our GHIAA team if you have questions or would like 1:1 support with your testimony.

Let's be loud and proud in our support for our immigrant community members and for civil rights for us all. Thank you for your leadership.

Peace,

Jocelyn and the GHIAA Team

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## From the Center Church History Team



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!**

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## Updates From The Church Office:

### **Greetings, Center Church!**

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

**The Church Office will be closed on April 2 & 3 in observance of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.**

**Please join us for our two special worship services,  
Thursday, April 2 at 6 PM in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Parlor of the  
Church House (60 Gold Street) and Friday, April 3 at 12 PM at  
Immanuel Congregational Church (10 Woodland Street,  
Hartford).**

**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 Tuesday from 5-9 PM and Fridays from 10 AM to 2 PM.**

*Outside of these hours, you can 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!**

*March 2 ~ Alvin Thompson*

*March 2 ~ Ruth Fortune*

*March 7 ~ Connor James Thomas*

*March 8 ~ Charles Feldman*

*March 9 ~ Cheryl Sanderson*

*March 9 ~ Roberta Roy*

*March 12 ~ A'drea Parkes*

***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:***

*March 1 ~ As a tribute to Bertha E. Pabst by her family*

*March 2 ~ In memory of Dr. Roger Shaw*

*March 3 ~ In memory of their mother, Mrs. Nancy Brown Morgan,  
by Adelaide Morgan Hirsche and the late Edward B. Morgan*

*March 4 ~ In memory of Clara G. Macomber by C. Sanford Macomber  
and the late Charles Macomber;*

*March 4 ~ In loving memory of Gladys Hernandez, born this day (March 4) in  
1923,*

*whose "light" lit up this whole community, by Joyce & Harold Buckingham*

*March 5 ~ In loving memory of their parents Mr. and Mrs. Henry Griggs Isham  
by the late Misses Julia L. And Charlotte T. Isham*

*March 6 ~ In memory of George and Dora Woerner Long by their daughters*

*March 7 ~ In memory of Miss Zoe E. Heath by the late Florence Steane*

*March 8 ~ In memory of William Haine by his wife*

*March 9 ~ In loving memory of her parents, Ali and Lena L. Perret  
by Edith and the late Bob O'Donnell*

*March 11 ~ In loving memory of Rolando Martinez, Jr. by the Martinez family*

*March 11 ~ In memory of John Hunt, by the Trustees of the Warburton Chapel*

March 12 ~ In memory of Mrs. Georgianna E. Peckham Geer (Mrs. Everett)  
by her daughter and late son  
March 13 ~ In loving memory of Clara F. DeWolfe  
March 14 ~ In loving memory of Margaret E. Hooker, by her husband, the late  
Joseph K. Hooker  
March 15 ~ In loving memory of her parents Edward E. and Bertha Burche  
Pabst,  
by the late Bertha Pabst  
March 15 ~ In loving memory of James Kersbergen, by his friends Paula  
Avena, Dori Soares and Chris Rau



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

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

**The Community Relations Team:**  
Contact *Church Office*,

**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)

[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**

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:



60 Gold Street, Hartford, CT 06103 · (860) 249-5631  
[www.centerchurchhartford.org](http://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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