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



E-NEWS

March 20, 2026

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

This Week in Worship - Sunday, Mar. 22
Join us at 10:30 AM - 675
Main Street



Worship with us this Week!

**Sunday, March 22, at 10:30 AM,
In Person & Online**

Happy Spring, Center Church!

On Sunday, the fifth Sunday in Lent, we'll begin continue our journey and our Lenten series, "Again & Again." This week, some Greeks come to see Jesus. And when they do Jesus starts to talk of life and death and the events to come.

Join us this week as Pastor Liza leads us in worship and shares her sermon, exploring the theme for this week: "Again & Again: We are Reformed."

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](#).

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

March 22nd, 2026
Immediately Following Worship

What a year we've had!

The Annual Meeting will take place immediately following worship on Sunday, March 23rd, after a reading of the year's History. The meeting will take place in person and online via Zoom.

You can preview the Annual Report at the link below. The virtual link is below, should you be unable to join us in person.

We can't wait to see you then!

Blessings,

Center Church

The 2025 Annual Report

Join us virtually:

Center Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: The 393rd Annual Meeting

Time: Mar 22, 2026 11:45 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85084163796?
pwd=KBC4a18vIYdFNDPOzp6v2MnLPgNDwa.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85084163796?pwd=KBC4a18vIYdFNDPOzp6v2MnLPgNDwa.1)

Meeting ID: 850 8416 3796

Passcode: 883678

**The Call to the 393rd Annual Meeting of
The First Church of Christ in Hartford, (Center Church)**

The 393rd 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

***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

It's Time to Order Your Easter Flowers!

EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM

To dedicate a plant in memory of or
in honor of a loved one,
please fill out the form below.
The suggested donation is \$25 per plant.

The deadline for
dedications is
Sunday, Mar, 29.



[Order Your Easter Flowers Here!](#)

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

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

Keeping You Posted

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 Music and the Arts: Thank You!



Hello Center Church!

**We had a great concert
Sunday afternoon.**

**About 60 enthusiastic listeners
enjoyed the Mad Agnes
Concert.**

**We had a free will offering of
\$319 and an overall successful
afternoon.**

Special thanks to Larry for his technical support, Steven for his help with publicity, and Don, Kate and Lauren for their help ushering.

**Thanks everyone !
Bob Gilbert
Music Director, Center Church**

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 *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*

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.

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)

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!

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 2nd Floor Parlor of the
Church House (60 Gold Street) and Friday, April 3 at 3 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 17 ~ Julia Thompson

March 17 ~ Olivia Otte

March 19 ~ Andre Keitt

March 29 ~ Thomas St. Amant

March 20 ~ Jane Foxall

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

"Let There Be Light" Memorials



If you would like to light the steeple in memory or honor of a loved one, [please e-mail the Church Office](#) to make arrangements.

The Meeting House steeple will be lighted this week as follows:

March 16 ~ In loving memory of Maurice Breault by his family

March 17 ~ In joyous remembrance of David Stetser Mankey.

*Except ye become as a little child, ye shall in no way enter the Kingdom
of Heaven.*

March 18 ~ In memory of Grace Lemmon Schafer by several of her
friends

March 19 ~ In loving memory of Wardell and Mary H. Burr by their family

March 20 ~ In memory of Doris P. Newell by her husband, Frederick
Newell

and Jane Newell Macomber

[March 21 ~ In memory of Malcolm Barton by his family](#)

March 22 ~ In memory of Rita Hester, a Black Trans Woman and Hartford
native

whose murder is still unsolved. Rita's murder on November 28, 1998,
led to the creation of Transgender Day of Remembrance.

March 22 ~ In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Evan F. Kullgren

March 22 ~ In loving memory of our mother Zabelle Haroian
by her sons and their families

March 23 ~ In loving memory of the Reverend Ruth Sanger Conant
by the Board of Christian Education, for her dedication to communicating
the Christian faith

March 24 ~ In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Anson S. Hopkins and Marion E. Hopkins by their family

March 24 ~ In loving tribute to Miss Amy Ogden Welcher on the occasion of her 100th birthday in 1987.

March 25 ~ In memory of Mrs. Flora N. Burdick by her friends

March 26 ~ In memory of Anna Lantz by Center Church Guild

March 27 ~ In memory of Mr. and Mrs. William C. Russell by their daughter the late Mrs. Arthur G. Woolley

March 28 ~ In memory of Mr. and Mrs. William C. Russell by their daughter the late Mrs. Arthur G. Woolley

March 29 ~ In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Albert G. Tatro by their family

March 29 ~ In memory of Charles Clark Hernandez on his birthday, by his loving family

March 30 ~ In memory of Jane Berry Schofield by her husband, the late Col. Herbert M. Schofield

March 30 ~ In memory of their father John D. Browne, by the late Alice Browne Cooley and the late Virginia F. Browne

March 31 ~ In honor of Wayne Arey, with love and respect from The Center Church men's lunch group "Romeo" – Reg Arvidson, Bruce Bidwell, Joe Bradley, Harold Buckingham, Allen Fonder, George Francis, David Maclean, Jim Macomber, and Richard Markham



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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