



Visit Our Church

Make A Gift

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

## *Center Church E-News*

April 24, 2026

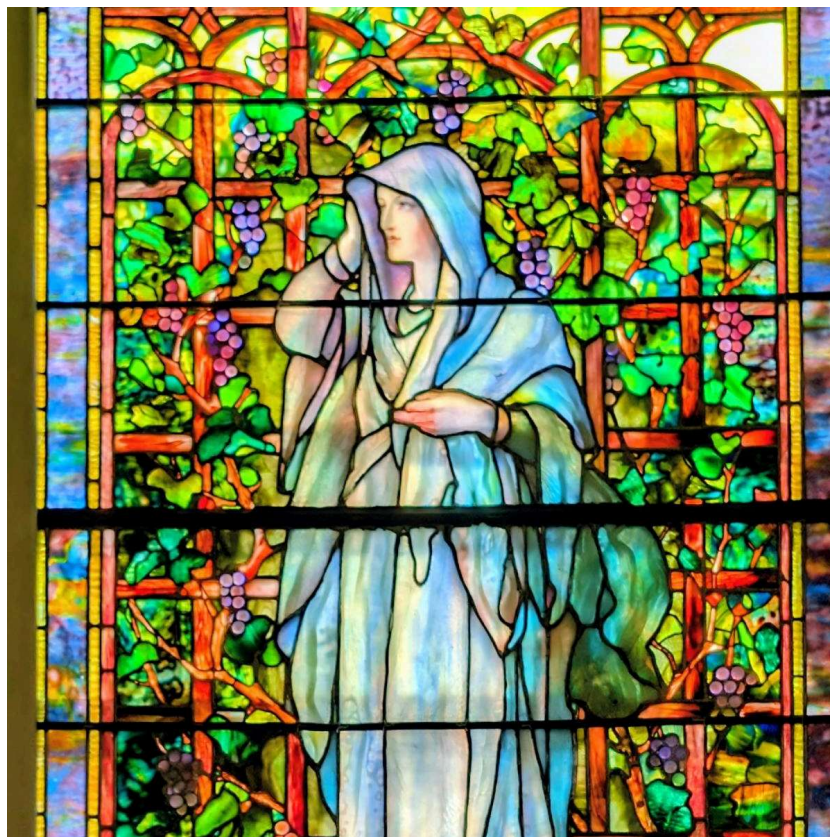


**We are the Body of Christ together:  
In Person & Online!!**

*This Week in Worship - Sunday, April 26*

***Join us at 10:30 AM - 675***

***Main Street***



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**Join us in Worship this Week for the Next  
Installment of  
our Sermon Series "Gospel in Glass."**

**In Person - and Online!**

*Starting at 10:30 AM*

One of the most famous passages in Paul's epistles, 1 Corinthians 13, is sandwiched between two other passages that give it great context. Turns out the passage, although often read at weddings, has nothing to do with romantic love at all.

What prompted Paul to remind the church at Corinth that "Faith, Hope and Love abide; the greatest of these is Love." Find out on Sunday, in our next installment of "Gospel in Glass," featuring "Hope," a window made by Tiffany studios and dedicated to the memory of Deacon Bryan Edward Hooker.

~ The Worship Team

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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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# *Keeping You Posted*

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## **Thank You to All for Attending Sunday's Music and Arts Event**



*Nearly 200 jazz lovers filled the pews of Center Church on Sunday April 19, to hear saxophonist Jimmy Greene and his quartet. A free will offering of \$547 was received from a very enthusiastic audience. The Music and Arts committee wish to thank all the supporters for their generosity over the past years.*

*It's been a great season- thanks everyone! We're working on our 2026-'27, so stay tuned for more information!*

*~Bob Gilbert, Center Church Music Director*

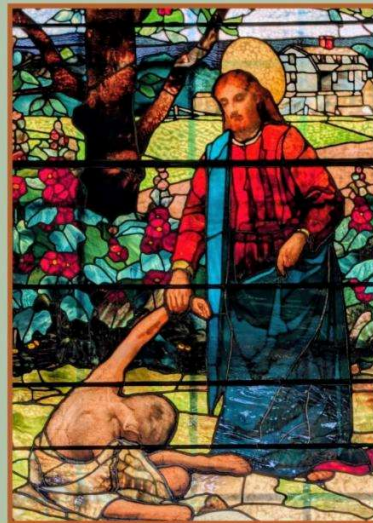


# GOSPEL IN GLASS: A SERMON SERIES

Featuring the Stories, Scripture & Histories  
of Center Church's Memorial Windows



STARTING APRIL 12,  
THROUGH MAY 17



## *From the Visionary Team Post-Annual Meeting Updates*

***Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the Church Pulse Assessment at our Annual Meeting on March 22! The survey is now closed.***

***The Visionary Team met this past week to review the results. We will be sharing the results with you, the membership and leadership of Center Church, as well as the staff of Center Church in the upcoming months. We plan to schedule a number of Congregational Conversations in***

June/July to review and discuss these results. Stay tuned to the E-News and Weekly Bulletin for more information.

*Additionally we felt that some of our presentation at Annual Meeting got lost among all the business of Annual Meeting. For that, we've scheduled a [special 2nd Hour Program on May 31st](#) to share a little more about the process and why we're doing it, to present the findings of the Research Team and allow you to ask any questions you may still have. [Save the date - May 31st, after worship.](#)*

*With thanks,*

*The Visionary Team*

*PS: If you missed the PowerPoint Presentation for the 501c3 Research Team, you can download it here:*

[501c3 PowerPoint](#)

*~ The Visionary Team*

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

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## 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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## ***Our Church's Wider Mission: News from the Denomination & Beyond!***

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### **AGM for Love of Church:**

There will be a [Special Meeting of General Synod 35](#) on May 9, 2026 from 6-9pm ET. Since General Synod Delegate terms extend until the start of the next Synod, delegates from GS 35 (which took place last summer) are also delegates for this special meeting.

The purpose of this meeting is to elect the Associate General Minister (AGM), Love of Church. At GS35 last summer, the Synod elected the [AGM, Love of Neighbor](#), but the initial search for an AGM for Love of Church [resulted in having no candidate identified](#). A [new search process](#) was launched in August.

You can watch this video here to meet the candidate for Associate General Minister for Love of Church, a job which focuses inward on caring for and supporting the local churches of the United Church of Christ.

Meet the Candidate here:

[Meet Rev. Jennifer Sowell, nominee for AGM for Love of Church](#)

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### **From the Friends of Silver Lake**

This is a message on the behalf of the Friends of Silver Lake Board of Directors. As you know, Silver Lake Conference Center is being shut down following this summer's camping sessions. [Friends of Silver Lake](#) is an independent group of supporters, alums, and stakeholders who are working to assure that Silver Lake and its outdoor

ministry is sustained in some form or fashion recognizing the importance of ministry to youth and young people.

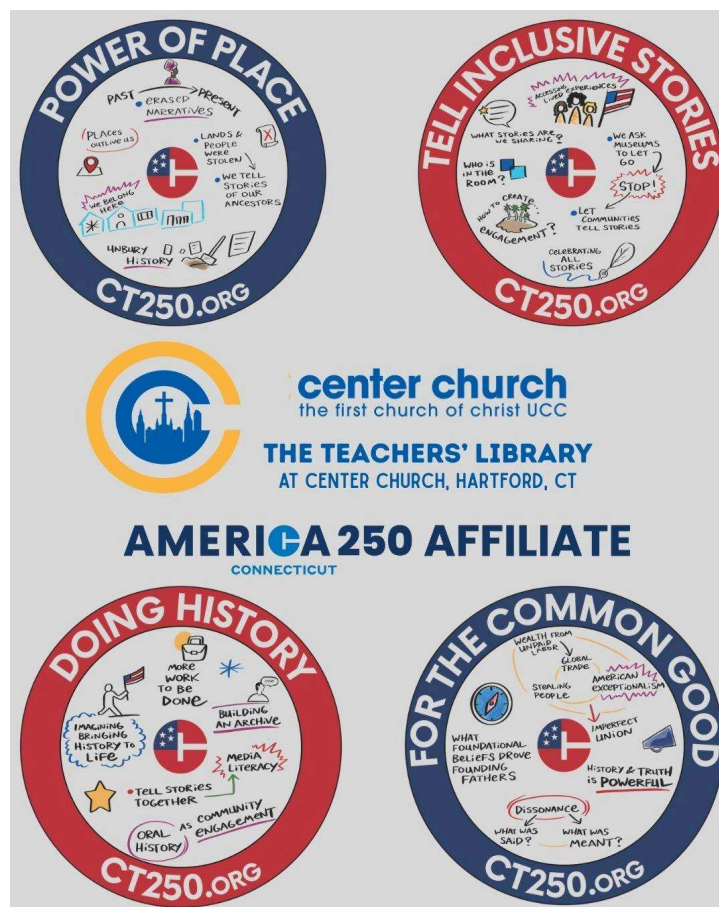
If you would like to know more and to stay connected to what's happening with FOSL, please fill out the [online form here](#) to show your support and hear periodic updates. If you can also help share this with old camp friends, I would really appreciate it. Just sending a few messages right now will make a big difference. We need to get the word out to the thousands of people who love Silver Lake before it's too late!

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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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## 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.

**On May 13th, the History Team will once again host The Official Royal House of Sori for its annual "Walking in the Footsteps of a Prince" tour. This year we are delighted to have a special presentation by Henry Graf, our Trinity College Greenberg Research Fellow. This year's event is by invitation only and we expect to have many academics and historians present.**

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.





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# 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.**

**Pastor Liza is away from April 13-19.  
Steven will be away April 24-26.  
Carrie will be away May 3-12, 2026.**

***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!*

*April 16 ~ Nancy Maclean*

*April 23 ~ Jade Peroza*

*April 23 ~ Carrie Howe*

*April 26 ~ Efrain Agosto*

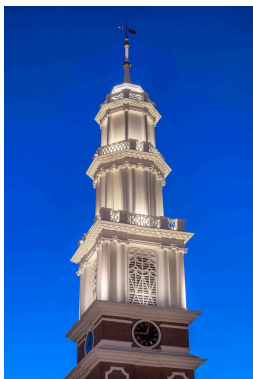
*April 28 ~ James Thomas*

*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:***

- April 16 ~ In loving memory of George C. Badger and son Bobbie,  
by his daughter Carol and wife, the late Veda P. Badger
- April 17 ~ In memory of a loving mother and grandmother, Amanda R. Harwood  
by her daughter and son-in-law, Maurine and Stuart Plettner and family
- April 17 ~ In loving memory of my parents, Sebastiano and Serafina Corpaci Russo,  
by their daughter, Sara Tangarone and family
- April 17 ~ In memory of my dearest friend, Gilda Van Sand, on her birthday  
by Gladys Hernandez and family.
- April 17 ~ In loving memory of a gentle and caring friend, Eleanor Moriarty,  
by Peggy & Sandy Macomber and Carol Badger.
- April 18 ~ In loving memory of my dearest Christian friend since 1950,  
Ruth H. Gauch who died on this date in 1987,  
by her friend, the late Janet Chen
- April 20 ~ A tribute to John and Mary Ford on their wedding anniversary by a friend
- April 20 ~ In memory of her parents, William E. and Jessie N. Hawkes,  
and her sister, Catherine H. Snesrud, by Mary N. Hawkes
- April 21 ~ In memory of their parents Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hendrick Mix  
by the late Emelia M. Kilby and Marion M. Webster, Honolulu
- April 22 ~ In memory of Mr. and Mrs. Frederic Knapp  
by their daughter the late Miss Mary Clissold Knapp
- April 22 ~ To commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary  
of Margaret and Sanford Macomber, April 22, 1989, by several friends
- April 22 ~ In loving memory of Peggy and Sandy Macomber  
by their sons James, John and David
- April 24 ~ In memory of the two million Armenian martyrs  
who were the victims of the planned Turkish atrocities of 1915  
by Mr. and Mrs. Frederick K. Boyajian
- April 24 ~ In loving memory of Margaret (Sweeney) Grenier Taylor  
by her daughter, Margaret M. Grenier
- April 25 ~ In memory of my sister Dorothy and brother-in-law Francis Luban  
by Gertrude F. Tatro
- April 26 ~ In memory of Elizabeth Dimick by Center Church Women
- April 27 ~ In memory of Mr. Charles E. Gaines, Sr., by his wife and children
- April 27 ~ In honor of C. Sanford Macomber on his ninetieth birthday  
by George & Gladys Hernandez and family
- April 27 ~ In loving memory of C. Sanford Macomber by his sons David, John and James
- April 28 ~ In memory of Mrs. Francis R. Cooley by the late Miss Virginia F. Browne
- April 29 ~ In loving memory of Elsie Howe,  
by her husband, the late Walter King Howe and their children, Walter III and Gail
- April 29-May 5 In memory of Mrs. Horace B. Clark  
by her cousin, the late Miss Louise Roberts



### 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 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)

**The Resource Team:**

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)



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## 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!

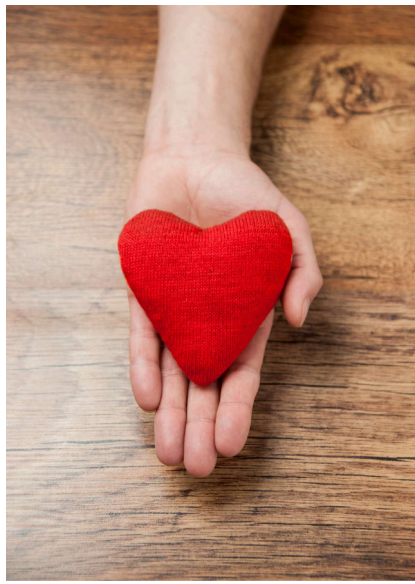
Click [HERE](#) to download information,  
or send your inquiries to [info@CCHartford.org](mailto:info@CCHartford.org),  
or call Steven at the Church House,  
860-249-5631 ext 200



## 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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