



Visit Our Church

Make A Gift

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

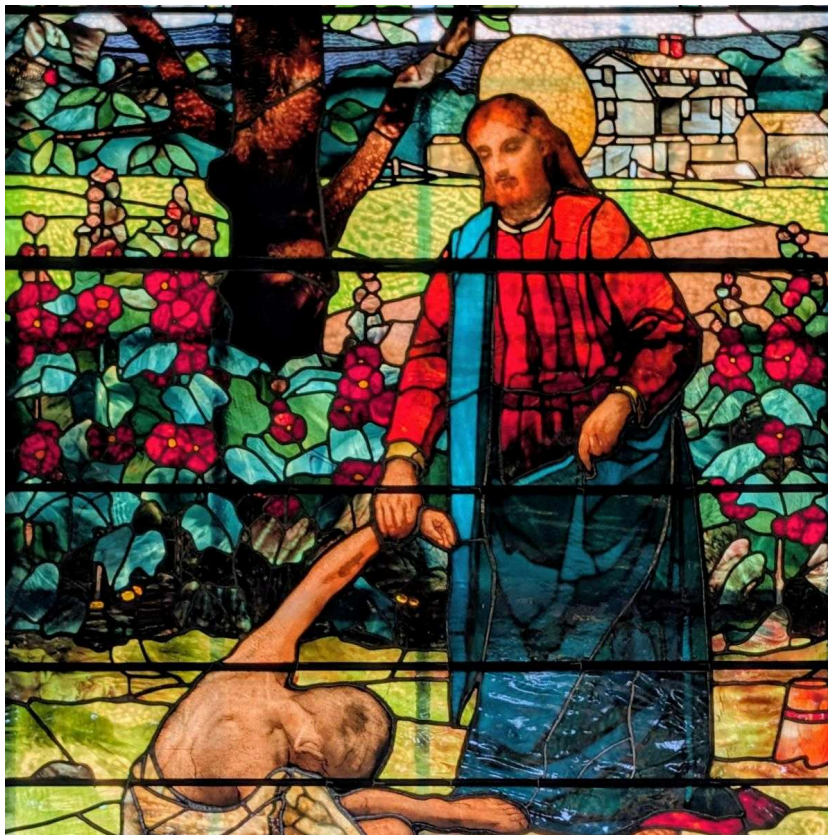
## *Center Church E-News*

May 1, 2026



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

*This Week in Worship - Sunday, May 3*  
**Join us at 10:30 AM - 675**  
**Main Street**



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Join us This Week for the Next Installment  
of Gospel in Glass:  
"Week 3: The Cogswell Memorial Window"

**In Person - and Online!**

*Starting at 10:30 AM*

Alice Cogswell, the daughter of Dr. Mason F. Cogswell, was afflicted with some childhood fever that left her completely deaf and led to her losing her faculty for speech. The Rev. Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet was asked to be the head of a newly established institute for other children just like Alice, who were deaf and mute. The Asylum was established and became what is today the American School for the Deaf, located on North Main Street in West Hartford.

The Cogswell Memorial Window pays tribute to Rev. Dr. Gallaudet, and the colonial building in the window is thought to be Dr. Cogswell's house.

Worship with us this Sunday and learn more about the Cogswell Memorial window and the scripture it references, Mark 9: 14-29.

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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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## **Save the Long Weekend!**

***Center Church's History Team is inviting you to join us and the City of Hartford as we celebrate America's 250th Anniversary!***

***From July 1 through July 5, 2026, Hartford will host a BIG arts and culture festival from Upper Albany to Wethersfield Ave, from the Connecticut River to West Hartford Center and we want you - YES YOU! - to join us.***

Stay tuned for more information on all the events, including the events that Center Church is sponsoring and hosting by signing up for the Long Weekend Newsletter at [longweekendhartford.com](http://longweekendhartford.com).



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# Long WEEKEND HARTFORD



*July 1 thru 5*

**Join Center Church &  
the City of Hartford as we celebrate  
America's 250th Birthday!**

Stay tuned for more on special historical  
programs, worship services, concerts  
& more!

Sign up for the newsletter at [longweekendhartford.com](http://longweekendhartford.com) and sign up for our  
e-news at [centerchurchhartford.org](http://centerchurchhartford.org)



a just  
world  
for all  
[ucc.org](http://ucc.org)



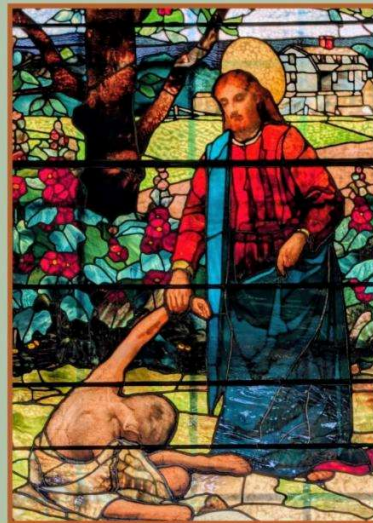
**AMERICA 250 AFFILIATE**  
CONNECTICUT

# 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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# *Save the Date:*

**May 31<sup>st</sup>, After Worship**

**Congregational Conversation**

**with the 501c3  
Research Team**

**We want to give YOU the chance to:**

- **ask more questions,**
- **hear more about our research &**
- **kick off the next phase of our research**

***So, Join Us! Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>,  
immediately following worship.***

***\*\*Light snacks & childcare will be  
provided.\*\****

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**From the  
Property Subcommittee  
*Spring Updates***

Warm Greetings Center Church,

We recently met with Tim Brewer and his architectural firm to review schematic drawings and a short list of would-be Construction Managers. We invite you to review the schematics, attached below, and which will be made available in the Meetinghouse for review after worship for the next several weeks.

A short but incomplete list of the scope of the project includes:

- Repairs and Maintenance to the Slate Roof
- Structural and Cosmetic Repairs to the Meetinghouse Roofline
- Masonry and Drainage Deterioration along the Northside of the Meetinghouse

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*

[TLB Architecture Prepared Schematic Drawings](#)

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

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***Join us with our sister church, Immanuel Congregational  
in Hartford as we celebrate and look forward to the  
installation of Pastor Edwin!***

**When: May 17th at 3 PM**

**Where: Immanuel Congregation Church,  
10 Woodland Street, Hartford**

*You are invited to dress in your best **red** clothing, the color  
of the Holy Spirt, for this occasion!  
All clergy are invited to robe and wear red stoles.*

"I will give you shepherds after my own heart..."  
Jer. 3:15

# INSTALLATION

of the

Rev. Edwin Pérez Jr.

as Senior Pastor



17 MAY 2026  
3:00 PM

10 WOODLAND ST. HARTFORD, CT



IMMANUEL

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

[www.iccucc.org](http://www.iccucc.org)

## 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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# Join us for



# Sunday

## May 24

### at Camp Asto Wamah

**Worship begins at 10:30 AM**

**All-Church Picnic to follow immediately after.**

*The lake will be open for swimming, weather permitting.*



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**If you can,**

**Bring a Side,**

**Salad, or Dessert!**

**Most importantly,**

**bring yourselves!**

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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**

Celebrating 30 Years of Open and Affirming

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

@centerchurchhartford

facebook.com/centerchurchhartford

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



# 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.*

***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!***

*May 3 ~ Alexander Vietzke*  
*May 6 ~ Rev. Liza Arulampalam (it's a big one this year!)*  
*May 11 ~ Timothy Sanderson*  
*May 14 ~ Claudia Hernandez*  
*May 14 ~ Victoria Ververis*

### ***Happy Anniversary!***

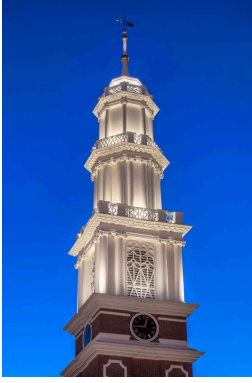
*May 7 ~ Tim Otte & Gail Canzano*  
*May 8 ~ Tina & the late Rev. Paul Bobbitt*

***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:***

- May 4 ~ In loving memory of our father and grandfather, Allen Ackerman, by Judith Manley and Jerome Ackerman*  
*May 6 ~ In memory of Mabel Nichols Freeman by their daughter Sarah and the late James W. Freeman*  
*May 6 ~ In loving memory of Marjorie Fischer Paust, by her niece and nephew, Lisa Wurts and David Wurts*  
*May 7 ~ In memory of Willis M. Fleming*  
*May 8 ~ In memory of Mrs. Edith C. Hawkins by her late husband, Claude B. Hawkins and daughter, the late Eleanor C. Hawkins*  
*May 8 ~ In loving memory on the birthday of the late Harriette L. Rucker, by her daughter, Debra R. Love*  
*May 9 ~ In memory of Daniel R. Howe by the late Mr. and Mrs. Maynard T. Hazen*  
*May 10 ~ In loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Libratore by their children*  
*May 10 ~ In honor of Carol V. Badger, by Violet Goshdigian*  
*May 11 ~ In memory of Grace Lemmon Schafer by Dr. J.R. Young and family*  
*May 12 ~ In loving memory of Rev. and Mrs. Cung Sieng Chen, Diongloh, Foochow, China, by their daughter, the late Miss Janet Wei-Kuang Chen*  
*May 13 ~ In memory of Miss Lucy V. Welcher*  
*May 13 ~ In loving memory of our mother and grandmother Rosetta Bonitto. Missing you always. Marcia Bonitto & Zoraida Lopez*  
*May 13 ~ In loving memory of Angela Puglisi Smith by Ron & Ann-Marie Zappone*  
*May 14 ~ In memory of John Lewis Brock, by his sister*  
*May 15 ~ In loving memory of their parents, by the late Merle and A. Philip Keeler*



**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**  
**chow@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!

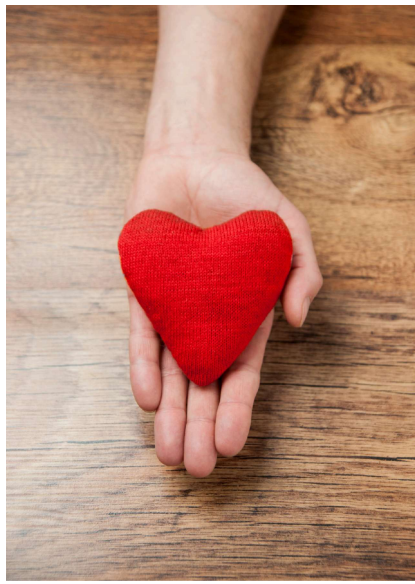
Click [HERE](#) to download information,  
or send your inquiries to [info@CCHartford.org](mailto:info@CCHartford.org),  
or call Steven at the Church House,  
860-249-5631 ext 200



## **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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