



Visit Our Church

Make A Gift

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

Center Church E-News

May 22, 2026



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

*This Week in Worship is Camp Sunday
and Pentecost! - May 22*

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



Join us This Week at Camp Asto Wamah on
Beautiful Columbia Lake!

In Person - and Online!

Starting at 10:30 AM

We will worship at the edge of beautiful Columbia Lake in Columbia, CT this week for our annual Camp Sunday. After a Spirit-filled Pentecost Worship (**Don't forget to wear red!**) we will have our annual all-church cookout.

Burgers, Dogs and Vegetarian Options will be available. If you are able, we encourage you to bring a side, salad or dessert to share.

There will be swimming in the lake, weather permitting, and plenty of time for fellowship and fun! We hope to see you there!

Camp Asto Wamah
42 CT-87,
Columbia, CT 06237

*Our Worship Service will start at 10:30,
lunch and swimming to follow.*

~The Worship Team

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!

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

Announcing our America 250 Center Church Swag Fundraiser!



As we prepare for Hartford's Long Weekend & America's 250th Birthday we are also planning for a much-needed building restoration project which will address structural damage to our roof, exterior molding and masonry. Every little bit helps and you can buy a t-shirt or a tote bag today to support our efforts.

We are excited to announce the launch of our America 250 Center Church Swag! Soon we will be launching a fundraiser to support our ongoing and upcoming building restoration projects, but we're getting a head-start with t-shirts and tote bags now!

Tote bags are \$25 each and T-Shirts are \$35 each. Bags are one-size, shirts are available for adult S-XXXL. This current fundraiser will close on June 6th and shirts will be delivered by June 23rd. if you wish to buy bags and shirts, you will need to make two separate purchases.

We will be making a separate purchase of youth sized shirts, hopefully available by the end of May.

[You can order Tote Bags Here.](#)

[You can order T-Shirts Here.](#)



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.



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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 and sign up for our
e-news at centerchurchhartford.org



a just
world
for all
ucc.org



AMERICA 250 AFFILIATE
CONNECTICUT

The 39th Annual LGBTQ Film Festival

JUNE 12-20



Visit www.outfilmct.org for the full lineup, descriptions and dates.

Don't miss the 39th Annual Connecticut LGBTQ Film Festival June 12-20, 2026 taking place at Cinestudio on the Trinity College campus with a special closing night screening at the Connecticut Science Center.



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*

Save the Date:

May 31st, 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 31st,
immediately following worship.***

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

**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](#)

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

U.S. Senator & Pastor to be the Rev. Dr. Raphael G. Warnock keynote speaker at SNEC's Annual Meeting

The 7th Annual Meeting of the Southern New England Conference of the UCC is scheduled for September 25- 27 in Worcester, MA. The keynote speaker and preacher will be United States Senator for Georgia, the Rev. Dr. Raphael G. Warnock, who, in addition to his service as U.S. Senator, also serves as Senior Pastor at the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, GA (the spiritual home of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.).

Each congregation is allowed three voting delegates. If you have never been to an Annual Meeting, are a member of Center Church and you are interested in engaging in the Congregational Process at the wider church level, **[email Pastor Liza today!](#)**

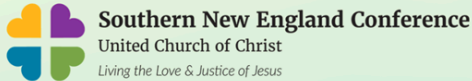
A threefold cord is not quickly broken. ~ Ecclesiastes 4:12

The Ties That Bind

7th Annual Meeting

Sept. 25 - 27, 2026
Worcester, MA

Keynote & Preaching by
US Senator Rev. Raphael G. Warnock



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.

From the Center Church History Team

Thank you to all our friends and community partners who helped make a successful event this Wednesday, May 13th.

Nearly fifty academics, institutional representatives, historic partners and descendants of historical figures attended our symposium, MC'd by History Team Chair, Andre Keitt.

At the event Center Church Historian Alvin Thompson gave a historical overview; Brother Eric presented new research findings; Greenberg fellow Henry Graf presented his paper on the American Colonization Society; Mr. Jeff Bravin, of the American School for the Deaf, and Ms. Reanna Kudzal, of the Greenberg Center at Trinity College, shared greetings from their respective organizations; HRH Karen Brengettsy-Chatman, President of the Official Royal House of Sori and CEO of the Root Nine Foundation and Institute, read from her recently published book. Afterward, a number of attendees toured the Teacher's Library and stayed for lunch.

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.

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!





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 18 ~ Steven Lewis

May 21 ~ Don Sanders

May 24 ~ Dorothy Wurts

May 24 ~ Matthew Thaxter-Grant

May 25 ~ Graeme MacKenzie

Happy Anniversary!

May 20 ~ Alvin & Lesley Morgan Thompson

May 26 ~ Christopher & Catherine Maclean

May 27 ~ Jonathan & Jennifer Otte

*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.

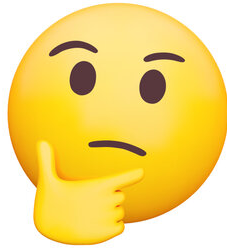
The Meeting House steeple will be lighted this week as follows:

- May 15 ~ In loving memory of their parents, by the late Merle and A. Philip Keeler
- May 16 ~ In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Harold H. Mandly, Sr., by Mr. and Mrs. Norman I. Smyth
- May 16 ~ In loving memory of their parents, by Tindara, Josephine, Mary and children
- May 17 ~ As a tribute to a dear sister, by the late Mrs. Alice Welcher Erickson
- May 17 ~ In loving memory of Alice Welcher Erickson, by Josephine, Vanda and Essie
- May 18 ~ In loving memory of Alfonso Pizzola, by his wife and sons
- May 19 ~ In memory of Catherine Stanford, by her nine children
- May 20 ~ In memory of Louise Rockwell, a dear friend and brave lady, by the late Wilhelmina Cox
- May 21 ~ In memory of Charles E. Fischer, by his sister, the late Miss Bertha Fischer
- May 22 ~ In memory of Sydney Herbert Knapp, by his sister, the late Miss Mary Clissold Knapp
- May 22 ~ In loving memory of Gladys F. Kopp, by her husband the late Leroy W. Kopp
- May 23 ~ In memory of Miss Mary F. Steel by the late Miss Elizabeth Dimmick
- May 24 ~ In proud and grateful memory of Harold Goad Newsham M.A., 19th minister of Center Church, by his wife, the late Gladys I. Newsham
- May 25 ~ In loving memory of Harold Goad Newsham, by Center Church Guild;
- In loving memory of Margaret Lloyd-Sieger's grandmother, Ruth Sorensen Lloyd
- May 26 ~ In loving memory of Harold Goad Newsham, by Center Church Women and Center Church Auxiliary
- May 27 ~ In loving memory of Mrs. Clara H. Walter, by her daughter, the late Miss Dorothy C. Walter
- May 27 ~ In loving memory of Janet Wei-Kuang Chen on her birthday, by the late Amy Welcher and the late Alice Welcher Erickson
- May 27 ~ In loving memory of Janet Wei-Kuang Chen on her birthday, by a dear friend, the late Ruth H. Gauch
- May 28 ~ In loving memory of Jonathan William Howe (5-28-81 to 3-20-92), by the Howe and Holcombe families, members of this church for many years
- May 28 ~ In memory of Elizabeth Dimick, by Center Church Women
- May 28 ~ In honor of the late Janet Wei-Kuang Chen, by her Center Church friends

May 29 ~ In loving memory of their parents, by the late Howard and Ruth Hansen

May 30 to June 5 ~ A tribute to children, by the late Elizabeth and Vernon Dow

May 31 ~ In loving memory of Wayne Arey, by his friends Reg and Carolyn Arvidson.



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 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*

The Outreach Team:
Contact *Anita Hawkins*,
anitasfarm1010@gmail.com

The History Team:
Contact *Andre Keitt*,
corykit1@yahoo.com

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
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,
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

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