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

Center Church E-News

August 7, 2026



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

This Week in Worship
At our Summer Time and Place
***Join us at 10 AM - 60 Gold
Street***



Join us this week for worship!
In Person - and Online!
~ At our Summer Time and Place ~
Starting at 10 AM at 60 Gold Street

This Summer, Pastor Liza & Brother Eric will navigate us through a sermon series called *Rooted: Healthy People, Healthy Church*. We will explore the fifteen dimensions of Church health, divided into three buckets: nurturing, sending and leading.

Each week, as we explore a different dimension, there will be opportunities to directly engage with the dimension and with one another as we unpack the rich results of the survey we took at Annual Meeting.

This week, *week 11 of our series*, Pastor Liza will focus on Kingdom Perspective, in her sermon she's calling, "The View from Nebo."

The Barna Research Group, which has informed our sermon series this summer, identifies a "global and eternal mindset" as one of the key factors to a thriving church.. but what does that mean exactly? Come to worship and find out!

Also, after worship this week the Property Working Subgroup will briefly share updates on the repair and restoration project for our Historic Meetinghouse; stick around to get all the latest information. The meeting will take place in person and online; linked below.

We'll see you starting at 10 AM, in person and online.

~The Worship Team

This Week : Informational Meeting

Next Week : Special Congregational Meeting

**A Call to a Special Meeting of the
First Church of Christ in Hartford, CT
(Center Church)**

Pastor Liza and Center Church Moderator Larry Roeming have, in accordance with the By-Laws of the First Church of Christ in Hartford/Center Church, issued the following call to a special meeting.

CALL TO A SPECIAL MEETING
August 16, 2026

immediately following the worship service

A special meeting of The First Church of Christ in Hartford/Center Church will be held on August 16, 2026 immediately following the worship service. The meeting will take place in the second-floor parlor of the Church House (60 Gold Street) and via Zoom.

The purpose of the meeting is to vote on the expenditure of up to \$48,124.00 for preconstruction costs to begin necessary restoration and preservation to the historic Meeting House.

Respectfully submitted,

**The Rev. Liza Arulampalam, Senior Pastor
Larry Roeming, Moderator**

*Prior to the above meeting, there will be a separate informational meeting wherein the building project working subgroup of the Resource Team will provide an overview of the progress and scope of the current building project; as well as provide updates of their work so far. **This informational meeting will take place on August 9, 2026, immediately following the service of worship, in person and online.***

Please make all possible effort to attend both meetings, but especially the meeting on August 16th as a quorum is required to transact any business.

The Building Project Working Subgroup is Larry Roeming, Chris Graesser, Andrea Olson, Sarah McCoy, Steven Lewis, David Maclean & Pastor Liza Arulampalam.

The informational meeting will take place on August 9, 2026, immediately following the service of worship, in person and online (link below):

Center Church is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Building Project Informational Meeting - 080926
Time: Aug 9, 2026 11:30 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86032691586?
pwd=adrye1muMcRja9rMaR3AMLHb1J7vrB.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86032691586?pwd=adrye1muMcRja9rMaR3AMLHb1J7vrB.1)

Meeting ID: 860 3269 1586

Passcode: 940426

Attention Sunday School Parents & Guardians!

A Message from Brother Eric

Registration for this year's Church School is underway and accessible here:

<https://centerchurchhartford.breezechms.com/form/af4171>

Please complete your child's registration before Rally Sunday, **September 13, 2026**.

****The first ten families to register will receive a Barnes & Noble Gift Card as a part of our fall reading initiative.****

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

All students participating in the Church School must have an active registration file in the Church Office.

Best regards,

Brother Eric

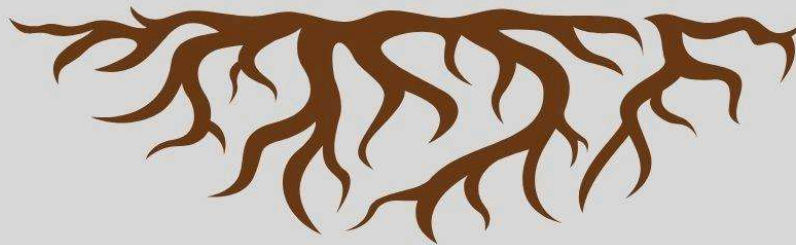
ehearst@cchartford.org

860.249.5631 ext. 209



Rooted: Healthy People, Healthy Church

A Summer Sermon Series



**How Are We Nurturing, Sending & Leading
for the Future at Center Church?**

Grow with us, Starting May 31st

Sunday Worship 10 AM

60 Gold Street, Hartford

**From the
Property Subcommittee
*Summer Updates***

Warm Greetings Center Church,

We have been meeting regularly to address the much-needed repairs and restoration of our historic properties.

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

This week we held the first of two interviews with firms who submitted proposals for Pre-Construction services. We will have another meeting next week. We have also reviewed a bid for Design Development, Preconstruction documents and preconstruction assistance from our architectural partner, TLB Architecture.

Up until now, we have used Capital Improvement Funds to finance the preliminary stages of our project but before we move forward we will need to ask you permission to fund further steps.

As such, we are asking you to attend an informational meeting and to save the date - August 16, 2026 - for a congregational meeting to move forward.

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 Pastor Liza or Larry Roeming.

In Faith,

The Property Subcommittee

*Larry Roeming, Andrea Olson, Sarah McCoy
Steven Lewis, Chris Graesser, Pastor Liza, David Maclean*

[TLB Architecture Prepared Schematic Drawings](#)

***SAVE THE DATE: August
9
Faith Congregational
Church***

Friends & Family Cookout

Our siblings at Faith Congregational Church have invited Center Church members to join them at their annual Friends and Family Cookout.

All in invited for a time of food, friends and fellowship! Email is included in the poster below - you won't want to miss it!

\$20
Age 13+

\$10
Age 4-12

Under 4: FREE

**FRIENDS & FAMILY
COOKOUT**

FOOD | MUSIC | GAMES | & YOU!

**SUNDAY,
AUGUST 9TH**

12PM-8PM
NORTHWEST PARK
448 Tolland Tpke. Manchester, CT

Tickets - Sis. Patricia:
faithmatters.church@gmail.com

Details - faithmatters.admn@gmail.com

860.547.0820
WWW.FAITHMATTERSTODAY.ORG

Made with PosterMyWall.com

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, community and victims of and those affected by violence; migrant workers and immigrants; Jane and Jim Macomber and their family; John Conley, Jr.; Gilberto Mercado and family; Sally Wagan and family; 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

New Outreach Schedule Programs & Hours - Summer 2026



THE CENTER ANGEL @ LEWIS & GOLD

Summer Open Hours

Tues & Thurs 5-8 PM

Appointments Available Tues & Thurs 1-4 PM

*Community Closet, Medical & Dental Referrals,
Financial Aid Requests, Document Services*

Mid-Week Meditation: Wednesdays at 12 PM

Visit Church website for more information

Community Partners:

***Out of the Hat Acting Classes, Ability Bridge LLC,
CRT Street Outreach & More***

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.*

***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.).

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



 Southern New England Conference
United Church of Christ
Living the Love & Justice of Jesus

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 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.*

***Pastor Liza is away August 16-21, 2026.
Carrie Howe is away August 18-20, 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**

center church

Celebrating 30 Years of Open and Affirming

www.centerchurchhartford.org

@centerchurchhartford

facebook.com/centerchurchhartford

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



This Week's Celebrations!

Happy Birthday!

August 1~ Lillian Marks

August 2 ~ Tina Bobbitt

August 12 ~ Richard Markham

August 13 ~ Xaniyah Sanders

August 13 ~ Susan Hayes

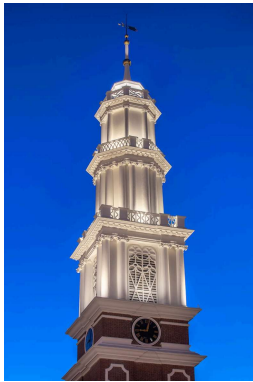
August 15 ~ Danielle Singerman

Happy Anniversary!

August 6 ~ Efrain & Olga Agosto

***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:

August 1 ~ In memory of Katherine E. Clark by her sister the late
Miss Margaret A. Doyle

August 1 ~ In loving memory of his mother, Marcia Burrill Penney,
by her son, Hugh Burrill Penney

August 4 ~ In loving memory of Effie Leath Hopkins, by her family
and friends;

August 4 ~ In loving memory of Patricia Anderson by the
Warburton Trustees

August 6 ~ In memory of Mrs. Normand F. Allen, by the late
William Haine

August 8~ In memory of Mary Leopold Whitford, by her sister
Anna Leopold, late son Robert,
and grandchildren

August 13 ~ In loving memory of our friend and colleague, Bob
Riddell, on his birthday by the staff of Center Church

August 15 ~ In memory of our friend, Alfonso Pizzola, by the
Couples Club

August 15 ~ In memory of my wife, Charlotte M. Meli by her
husband Joseph



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*,

The Resource Team:
Contact *David Maclean*,
macleand596@gmail.com

The Community Relations Team:
Contact *Church Office*,
cctech@cchartford.org

The Visionary Team:

ehearst@cchartford.org

The Outreach Team:

Contact *Anita Hawkins*,
anitasfarm1010@gmail.com

The History Team:

Contact *Andre Keitt*,
corykit1@yahoo.com

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
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!

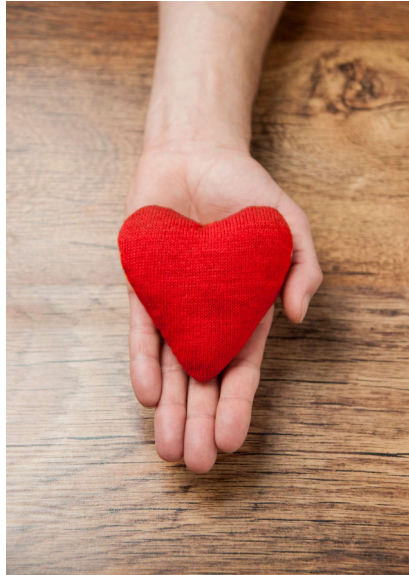
Click [HERE](#) to download information,
or send your inquiries to info@CCHartford.org,
or call Steven at the Church House,



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

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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