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

Center Church E-News

August 21, 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, Brother Eric will lead us in worship, sharing his sermon, "Better Together: The Humility that Holds Leadership Up." He will also be leading our annual Blessing of the Backpacks, so make sure to bring you bags, pencilcases, bookbags and whatever else you're bringing to school with you for blessing and a gift!

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

~The Worship Team

Save these dates!



JOIN US ON AUGUST 23RD FOR THE



BLESSING
OF THE
BACKPACKS!

**BRING YOUR BACKPACKS, LUNCH BAGS,
PENCIL CASES AND MORE TO WORSHIP
ON AUGUST 23RD!**

Join us for

RALLY **Sunday**

**Worship at 10:30 AM
in the Historic Meetinghouse**

Sept. 13

**CAW alum are encouraged to wear their best CAW green!
After worship we'll have an all-church lunch to celebrate
the new program year and welcome back Sunday School.**



center church
the first church of christ UCC

Join us!



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Interested in Joining Center Church?
Join us for our

NEW MEMBERS LUNCHEON

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 20 RSVP TO PASTOR LIZA
AFTER WORSHIP BY SUNDAY, SEPT. 13**

Come, enjoy some fellowship and lunch, learn about Center Church, the UCC and what "membership" means!



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

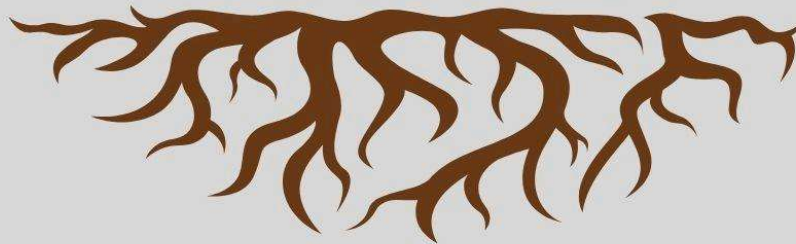
ehearst@cchartford.org

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

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.

Gilberto Mercado and family; The family of Rev. Shawn Fisher, First Church Bloomfield, Asylum Hill Congregational Church, victims of and those affected by violence; migrant workers and immigrants; Jane and Jim Macomber and their family; John Conley, Jr.; 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



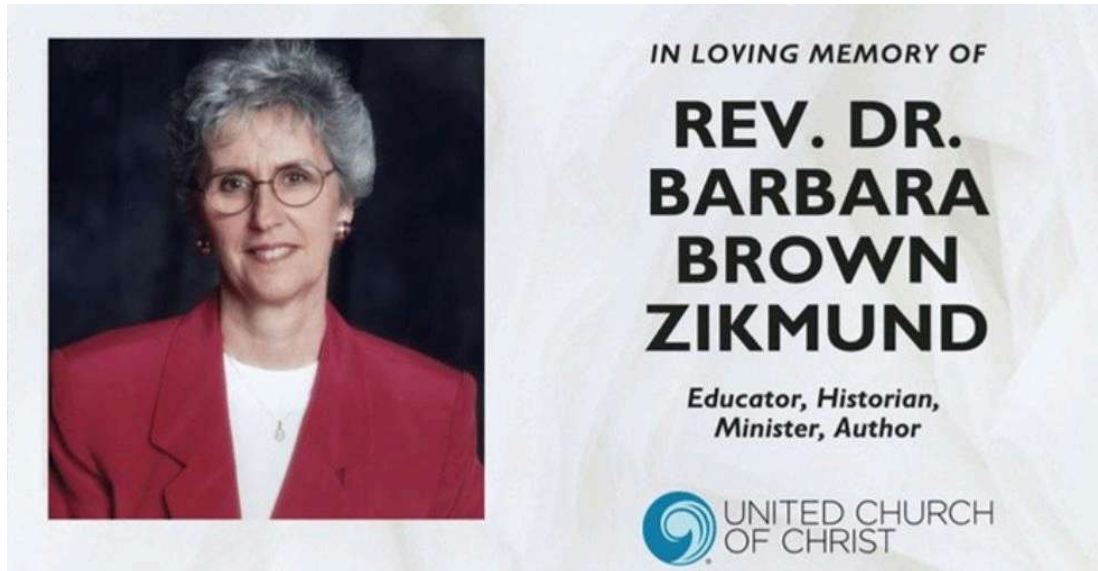
860.249.5631



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!



"The Rev. Barbara Brown Zikmund, an esteemed historian, author, educator, and ordained minister in the United Church of Christ died Monday, August 18 at the age of 87. To say her life and work in the church had an impact would be a gross understatement."

~ UCC General Minister and President/CEO, the Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson

BBZ, as she was known by the many people who knew her, attended Center Church while she was in Hartford, as the first female president of Hartford Theological Seminary, now Hartford International University for Religion and Peace.

Read Rev. Karen Georgia Thompson's full reflection on the life and legacy of Rev. Zikmund, and how her work and dedication to the life of the church will be felt for generations to come.

[*Read the full memorial here.*](#)

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 16 ~ Bill Warner-Prouty (It's a big one!)

August 24 ~ Lisa Thomas

August 25 ~ Lincoln Newberger-Marks

August 28 ~ Lesley Morgan Thompson

August 29 ~ Jim Oliver

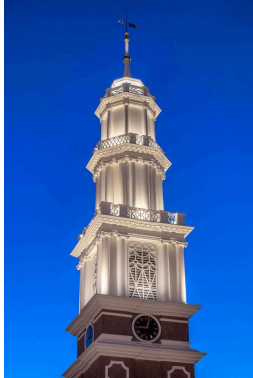
August 30 ~ William Wurts

Happy Anniversary!

*August 18 ~ William & Kathleen Gourlie
August 27 ~ Thomas & the Late Sally St. Amant*

***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 16 ~ As a tribute to Irene L. Canfield, a well-loved friend, by the late Catherine P. More

August 18 ~ Happy birthday wishes to Violet Goshdigian from children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren

August 19 ~ In loving memory of Clara F. DeWolfe, by several of her friends

August 19 ~ In loving memory of Rosario Morin by his wife Rita, son Dennis and daughter Terry

August 20 ~ In memory of Miss Virginia F. Browne

August 21 ~ In memory of Rev. Thomas and Mary Foxall, Charles and Thomas Foxall Jr., by their family

August 21 ~ In memory of Carolyn F. Engargiola by Jane Foxall and the late Richard Foxall

August 22 ~ In loving memory of Frank Carabillo by his late wife, Dorothy, and sons Rodney and Dennis

August 23 ~ In memory of Frances Amerman Hatton, by the late Leonard Hatton

August 25 ~ In memory of James Walker Losty, by the late Sarah Freeman



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*,

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:

anitasfarm1010@gmail.com

Contact: Kate Robinson,

kate@gallorobinson.com

The History Team:

Contact *Andre Keitt*,

corykit1@yahoo.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!

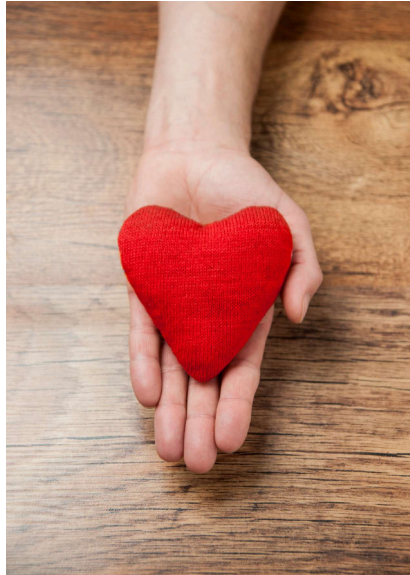
Click [HERE](#) to download information,
or send your inquiries to info@CCHartford.org,
or call Steven at the Church House,
860-249-5631 ext 200



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



Try email marketing for free today!