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

Center Church E-News

September 4, 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 the last of our summer sermon series, "Rooted." Brother Eric will share a sermon on how thriving churches work to align mission and ministry and share it out with the congregation and the wider community. Additionally, Brother Eric will lead us in celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion around tables, serving one-another, as has been our practice this summer.

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

~The Worship Team

Save the date!

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!



Central CT UCC Youth Group

Center Church is proud to support this Greater Hartford area-wide youth group hosted by Immanuel Congregational Church (UCC), just up the road at 10 Woodland St. in Hartford. Open to youth in grades 6–12, the group offers twice-monthly gatherings that include a community dinner, mentor support, games, and discussion on relevant topics, along with prayer practices, guest speakers, retreats, and service trips.

See the attached flyer for the full fall schedule and details, and visit [iccucc.org/youth](https://www.iccucc.org/youth) to learn more: <https://www.iccucc.org/youth>.

For questions, families can also reach Immanuel directly at (860) 527-8121 or immanuel06105@gmail.com.

The image shows a calendar titled "Central Connecticut Youth Group Calendar 2026". It is decorated with a border of colorful sun-like icons in yellow, orange, green, and pink. The calendar lists events for September & October, and November & December.

<u>September & October</u>		
Kick off Party	September 20th	5:30-7:30 pm
Info session over Zoom	September 23rd	7:00-7:30 pm
Youth Group Session	October 4th	5:30-7:30 pm
Youth Group Session.	October 18th (\$ for lock-in due)	5:30-7:30 pm
<u>November & December</u>		
Youth Lock-in	Nov. 6th @ 7pm-Nov. 7th @ 3pm	
Youth Group Session	November 22nd	5:30-7:30 pm
Volunteering @ Immanuel House	December 6	1:00-3:00 pm
Holiday Party	December 13th	5:30-7:30 pm

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



RADICAL ROOTS

A Homecoming
Sermon Series

STARTS SEPT. 13

*Our history is full of radical thinkers and
believers who changed the world through
Radical Love for God and for others.
Join us as we celebrate them, and our legacy
of Radical Roots this fall.*



an open and affirming congregation since 1994
center church
the first church of christ UCC



a just
world
for all
ucc.org

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

Music & Arts Concerts 2026-2027 Season Announced!

The First Concert will be on October 18th, 2026, featuring the faculty and students of the Hartt School Guitar and Harp program.



Jazz Great Nat Reeves & Friends
Sunday, March 14, 2027, 4:30 PM

Join Center Church as we welcome back Jazz Legend Nat Reeves and other world renowned artists for a memorable afternoon in our historic meetinghouse.

Daniel Maltz
Fortepianist from Europe
Sunday, May 16, 2027 4 PM

Based in Vienna, Maltz has been called the "foremost performer in the world of the fortepiano." Specializing in Viennese Classicism, he brings "lavish but tasteful" performance to the works of Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert, and more.



A Jazz Christmas
Featuring the Sarah Hanahan Jazz Quartet
Sunday, December 13, 2026
10:30 AM

The Sarah Hanahan Quartet is back at Center Church, bringing their signature flair to a festive service of lessons and carols.



21st Annual Handel Messiah
Community Sing
Sunday, Jan. 3, 2027, 4 PM
(Snow Date: Sunday, Jan. 10, 2027, 4 PM)

This Hartford tradition is a holiday favorite! All area Messiah Singers are encouraged to participate and sing alongside outstanding soloists for the Christmas portion of Handel's work. Scores Provided. Singers, please arrive by 3:30 pm



Classical Guitar & Chamber Music
From the Hartt School of Music
Sunday, October 18, 2026, 4 PM

This feature program, called "America to Australia," showcases students and faculty of The Hartt School Guitar and Harp Program – the oldest and most-developed performance-based program in the country.



The Lisa Clayton Singers:
A Celebration of Gospel Music
Sunday, November 1, 2026, 4 PM

The ensemble made up of professional singers and UConn Alumni will highlight Gospel music history, its founders, and landmark spirituals.

~ Save the Date ~

First Boyajin Lecture of the Year!

Tuesday, October 6th, 2026
Featuring Dr. Marcus Rediker, "The Fearless Benjamin Lay."
All lectures are free, registration is required.

We hope you'll join Center Church on Tuesday, October 6th at 7 PM online. Registration is required. All who register will receive a link to the presentation at a later date.

This will be an online-only event.
It will be recorded and we will be offering closed captioning services.

Register Here Now!



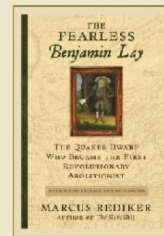
THE FRED & ELIZABETH BOYAJIAN LECTURE SERIES — FALL 2026

"Lest We Forget"

The Fearless Benjamin Lay

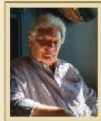
A VIRTUAL LECTURE

On the life, witness, and radical conscience of the Quaker abolitionist Benjamin Lay — drawn from the acclaimed book
The Fearless Benjamin Lay: The Quaker Dwarf Who Became the First Revolutionary Abolitionist.



Dr. Marcus Rediker

Distinguished Professor of Atlantic History, University of Pittsburgh



Rediker has written or edited eighteen books, including *The Many-Headed Hydra* (2000, with Peter Linebaugh), *The Slave Ship* (2007), *The Amistad Rebellion* (2012), *The Fearless Benjamin Lay* (2017), and *Freedom Ship* (2025). His writings have won numerous awards and been published in twenty-one languages worldwide.

He wrote the play *The Return of Benjamin Lay* with Naomi Wallace, created four graphic novels with David Lester, and co-authored a children's book with Michelle Markel and Sarah Bachman. With filmmaker Tony Buba, he has produced two documentaries: *Ghosts of Amistad* (2014) and *Becoming Benjamin Lay*. More at www.marcusrediker.com.

DATE	Tuesday, October 6, 2026 7:00 PM EST
FORMAT	Virtual lecture — joined online Registration link to be shared upon sign-up
HOSTED BY	First Church of Christ in Hartford Center Church, Hartford, Connecticut
SERIES	The Fred & Elizabeth Boyajian Lecture Series, "Lest We Forget" On faith, civics, and human rights

REGISTER TO ATTEND

Free and open to the public · details at centerchurchhartford.org



First Church of Christ in Hartford · Center Church

60 Gold Street, Hartford, Connecticut

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.**

The Church Office will be closed Monday, September 7th, in observation of Labor Day.

Brenda Russell will be away September 10-15, 2026.

Brother Eric will be away September 24-28, 2026.

Steven Lewis will be away September 21-27, 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!

September 2 ~ Deborah Tuthill

September 12 ~ Violet St. Amant

September 13 ~ Larry Roeming (it's a big one!)

September 14 ~ Ebony McMillan

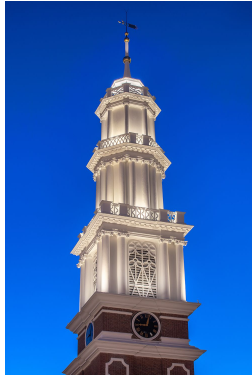
September 15 ~ Arunan Arulampalam

Happy Anniversary!

September 3 ~ Dan & Ann Theriault

**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:

- September 1 ~ In memory of Beulah W. Pinks,
by the Business and Professional Women of Center Church*
- September 4 ~ In loving memory of Catherine P. More,
by Irene L. Canfield*
- September 5 ~ In loving memory of Elvie Cleaves Schuler,
by her husband, the late Arthur C. Schuler*
- September 6 ~ In memory of Ernest L. Mitton, on their wedding
anniversary, by his late wife*
- September 7 ~ In memory of Frank G. Smith, by Mrs. Mildred W. Brooks*
- September 7 ~ In loving memory of Frances Parent, by her brothers*
- September 8 ~ In memory of Miss Bertha M. Fischer, by her nieces and
nephews*
- September 9 ~ In memory of Mr. and Mrs. James Rowe by their daughter
and son-in-law,
Mr. and Mrs. Eric Hutchinson*
- September 9 ~ In honor of Merle and Phil Keeler on their 60th wedding
anniversary, 1986*
- September 9 ~ In remembrance of Gladys L. Newsham, a wonderful
friend, by Margaret Rankin and Doris Reed*
- September 9 ~ In memory of Greg Sanders, with love and respect
from the Center Church men's lunch group, "The Romeos"*
- September 10 ~ In memory of Martha Lizwell Studley, by her sister, the
late Emma Morse*
- September 11 ~ In memory of Miss Minnie Frederica Fischer, by her
nieces and nephews*
- September 12 ~ In memory of Morgan M. Kilby, Kuai, Hawaii, by his
parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles C. Kilby*

September 13 ~ In memory of Gladys Chase Kopp, by the late Jeannette Chase Hatton

September 14 ~ As a tribute to a sister and her husband Sherwood F. & Edwina Pabst Jeter, Jr. by Bertha E. Pabst

September 15 ~ In memory of Edward M. Hutton, II (Teddy), by his grandfather,
the late Malcolm Barton



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:

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,
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

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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