

FAITH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

2030 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06120

Phone: 860-547-0820 ~ Worship: 10 a.m.

Rev. Cleo Graham, Pastor

Join Worship Via YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/@FaithUCCHtd> or <https://faithmatterstoday.org>



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January 21, 2024 ~ Third Sunday After Epiphany

PRELUDE

Wayne Dixon, Minister of Music

WELCOME

Rev. Cleo Graham, Pastor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deacon Pamela Walters

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(Congregation reads **BOLD** aloud)

Deacon Mark Welch

The Lord is calling us to worship, to come before his presence with thanksgiving and praise. **We come, ready to offer our hearts, minds, and souls to our God.** In the stillness of this moment, let us open our hearts and spirits and prepare ourselves for worship. **May our worship be pleasing unto you, O Lord, as we offer our adoration and love.** Let us lift our voices in song, giving our tithes, offering our praise and thanks for the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ. **Singing praises to our Lord and Savior, we find joy and peace in God's everlasting love.** Together, let us celebrate the transforming power of God's Word in our lives. **We come, desiring to grow in faith and knowledge of the One who has called us by name.**

*OPENING HYMN

"Lead Me, Guide Me"

#474 AAHH

INVOCATION & SHARING THE PEACE

(spoken together)

Deacon Mark & Congregants

"Gracious and loving God, we gather in your presence today, grateful for the opportunity to come together as a community and worship you. As we embark on this sacred time, we ask for your guidance and presence to be with us. Open our hearts and minds to receive your word and let it transform us from within. We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen" **And let us now share a moment of peace with each other!**

(Young people may depart for Youth Session)

SCRIPTURE

Mark 1:14-20

Deacon Al Strother

*(red Bible: p. 980; blue Bible: NT p. 27)**"The Word of God for the People of God. Praise Be to God!"****GLORIA PATRI (sung)***"Glory be to the Father (Creator) and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen."***SERMON HYMN***"When He Calls Me, I Will Answer"*

#560 AAHH

SERMON*"WALKING WITH JESUS"*

Deacon Al

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP*"Softly and Tenderly, Jesus Is Calling"* #347 AAHH

Deacon Mark

At this time, we invite you to join our church. You may come forward and be received by the Pastor or speak to the Pastor or a Deacon after service today.

PASTORAL & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Deacon Wendy Booker-Nixon

RESPONSE TO PRAYER*"Where He Leads Me, I will Follow"*

#550 AAHH

TIME OF OFFERING

Bro. Errol Smith

GIVE WITH A GRATEFUL HEART1. Text: Send a text to **73256** Type: **'faithchurch'** and follow the prompts.2. Online: At <https://www.faithmatterstoday.org> . Look for the  button.3. Check: Mail checks payable to **'Faith Congregational Church'** 2030 Main St., Hartford, CT 06120.

4. In-Person: Ushers will now come to the pews to collect your offering.

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM***"Here I Am, Lord"*

Faith Choir

DOXOLOGY (sung)"Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ, all creatures here below;
Praise God for all that love has done. Creator, Christ, and Spirit, One. Amen."****CLOSING HYMN***"Lead On, O King Eternal"*

#477 AAHH

***BENEDICTION**

Deacon Al

POSTLUDE

Wayne Dixon, Minister of Music

(Please stand, if able)**Hymnals - AAHH: African American Heritage Hymnal; NCH: New Century Hymnal; OLOFOB: One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism**Join Rev. Arthur Gaither for Sunday Bible Study at**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89131531513?pwd=WFQ2M3dNYjZSU3NocHEzOXRQb3lWUT09>**Tuesday Bible Study: 6:45p w/ Brother Bill Hollis. Call 605-313-5619, then 298245#**Remember our Sick and Shut in your prayers, and at <https://parkandprayat111.com>*



Youth Church Session 🧑🏫

Is back, with lessons and activities for ages 5-12. Youth will gather in front of the altar and be escorted to Session. They shall return to their parents before worship concludes.

Donations to the Warming Center 🍷💰

Individuals, ministries and committees are asked to fund (roughly \$125) and shop for a complete meal to feed between 50-100 people. The Warming Center will operate from December 1st-March 31st, so **please contact Betty Ann Rooks at 860-913-8230** with questions.

Pledge Cards and Year-End Statements 📁📄

Member contribution statements for FY 2023 will be emailed this week. Those without email will receive their statements via USPS or from the Stewardship Chairperson, Alice Lumpkin. **Pledge cards for FY 2024 will be emailed and will also be available from the ushers and/or the church office. Please return pledge cards as soon as possible, but no later than January 28, 2024.**

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, January 28th, after worship at Faith Church. Attendance from all Faith members is urgently needed, as a vote is required to approve the 2024 budget for Faith Church. The Annual Report will be emailed to members before the meeting date, with hard copies available to those that need it. **Year-End Reports are past due, so please submit your reports immediately!**

✠ OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU ✠

*Mother Mary Ingram (Pastor's Mother)
Mother Roberta Harris (Rev. Darrell's Grandmother)
The Family of Dea. Llonia Rojan Jackson
The Family of Sis. Joanne Robinson
Sis. Doreen Webb, Ms. Mora Martin & Sis. Melanie Vasquez
Dea. Agnes Woods & Rev. Mirna Packer-Blake
The Family of Bro. Earl Gardner
Ms. Cori Mackey, Sis. Alfreda Gaither & Min. Patricia Hollis
Dea. Johnny Barnum & Sis. Valerie Alexander
Sis. Amy Sisson & Sis. Asha Rooks
Sis. Irene Pittman & Bro. Sherwood Lewis
Mr. Jeffrey M. Bass & Mr. James Mosby
Dyan Ackerson Smith & Roy Stafford
Dr. Julie Cieplik, DVM
Dea. A. Lee Martin & Dea. Charron Stoddart*



Faith Church is the oldest Black Church in the city of Hartford. In our 205th year, the church is still a vibrant community of believers. We hold a high level of trust and witness to God's grace in the midst of human life. As a congregation of the United Church of Christ, (Southern New England Conference) we are devoted to making disciples for Christ. We are a justice minded church; a community committed to addressing issues in a denomination that often leads the way in our nation as we celebrate many firsts as part of our history. For example, the UCC is the first denomination to ordain a Black man, a woman, and a LGBTQ person into ministry in this nation.

Faith Church is a historic local church, too, having participated in the nation's first civil rights case, (the Amistad trial) where the captives on the ship La Amistad were eventually set free. Faith Church raised significant dollars for the captive's defense. The first school for "Colored Children" in Hartford was started here as well. We are a caring community through the empowering and liberating Word of God revealed and lived through Jesus Christ.

Faith Church is a place where we discover, develop, and grow our faith. FAITH MATTERS TODAY and ALWAYS! Faith Church is a place where questions are welcomed, and answers are discovered and shared. Our faith is Bible-centered, but we trust in the sharing we seek to do with one another, to grow in faith as well. We would welcome you. Our Spiritual Gifts are discovered and shared for the glory of God. We celebrate our history and build upon the best of the old and new traditions of our faith and worship...we love to tell the story! Our community extends beyond the doors of our church, and we bear witness, testify, and share the Good News. We are not afraid to try new things and embrace those things that help us praise God with spirit and in truth.

NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, YOU ARE WELCOME AT FAITH

Pastor: Rev. Cleo D. Graham

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Pastoral Support: Rev. Arthur Gaither

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Minister of Music: Wayne Dixon

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Treasurer: Gail V. Martin

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Assistant Moderator: Norma Sproul

Trustee Board Chair & Vice Chair: Alfreda Gaither, Esq. & First Gentleman, Bro. Melvin Graham

Deacons: Llonia Jackson (Lead), Andrew 'Al' Strother (Lead), Mark Welch (Lead), Johnny Barnum, Wendy Booker-Nixon, Eric W. Gray, Cheryl 'CC' Johnson, A. Lee Martin, Arthur Rooks, Charron Stoddart, Pamela Walters, Linnette Williams

Tech Deacons: Aiden MacCullagh, Regina Waters, Otis Anthony, Rev. Mirna Packer-Blake, Callie Bostic-Gardner, Yvonne Brown, Gail V. Martin, Joelle Murchison, Veronica DeLandro, Marcelus Brown, Yannick Gordon, Kendall Hayes, Savannah Hayes

Ushers: Lenore Bailey, Mika Benford, Veronica DeLandro, Sharon Flowers, Dea. Llonia Jackson, Carol Knight-Mosby, Chelsea Neal, Errol Smith, Dea. Andrew 'Al' Strother, Dea. Mark Welch, Dea. Linnette Williams

Sexton: Thomas Best