

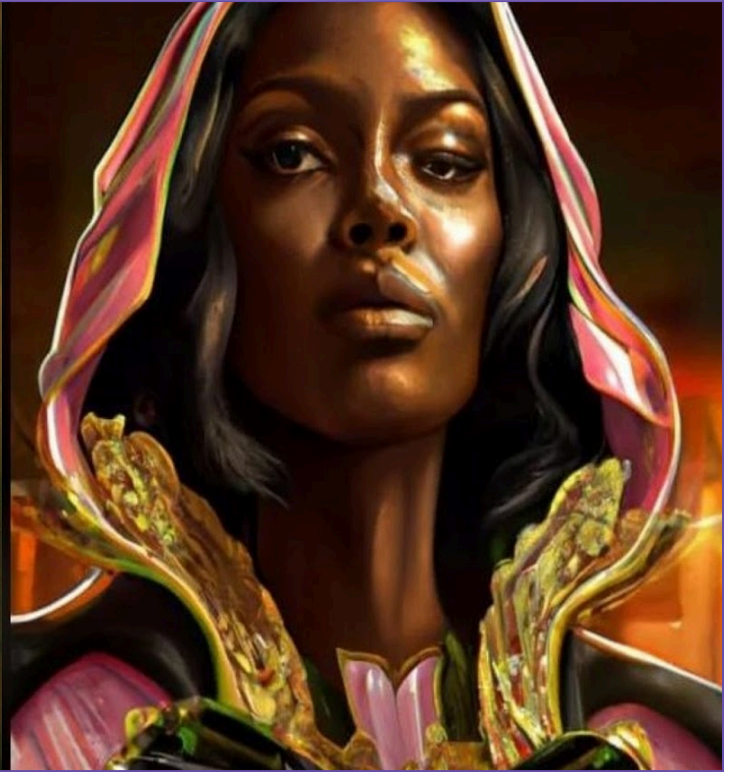
FAITH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

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>



*Mary of Bethany (l) Queen Jezebel (r)*

March 17, 2024 ~ Fifth Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE

Wayne Dixon, Minister of Music

WELCOME

Rev. Cleo Graham

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deacon Pamela Walters

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

(Congregation reads **BOLD** aloud)

Deacon Eric W. Gray

People of the covenant: God does not remember us according to our sins and transgressions. **God remembers us according to God's own steadfast love!** The God of our salvation teaches us right paths and leads us in truth. **All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness; we put our trust in God.**

\*OPENING HYMN

*"How Great Thou Art"*

#148 AAHH

INVOCATION & SHARING THE PEACE

(spoken together)

Deacon Gray & Congregants

*"All-knowing and all-caring God, we gather this day drained by another week, empty and in need of replenishment. Visit us with your Presence and your Spirit, that our lives might acknowledge and worship you to the praise and honor of Jesus Christ. Amen."* **And let us now share a moment of peace with each other!**

*(Young People may depart for Youth Session with Shirley Zachary, Christian Education Leader)*

INTRO OF GUEST SPEAKER

Pastor Graham

SCRIPTURE

1 Kings 21: 1-16; 2 Kings 9:30-36; John 12:1-8 Deacon Llonia Rojan Jackson  
(red Bible: p. 355, 370 & 1056; blue Bible: OT p. 256-7, 266 & NT p. 81)  
*"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

"THE MISEDUCATION OF MISUNDERSTOOD WOMEN"

Deacon Llonia

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

*Be Now My Vision" #451 NCH*

Deacon Gray

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

PASTORAL & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Deacon Al Strother

RESPONSE TO PRAYER

*"Blessed Assurance"*

#508 AAHH

TIME OF OFFERING

Deacon Mark Welch

GIVE WITH A GRATEFUL HEART

1. 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

*"Order My Steps"*

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

*"When Jesus Was In Bethany"*

(see p. 4)

\*BENEDICTION

Deacon Llonia

POSTLUDE

(seated quietly...  
we're still worshiping)

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**

*Thanks to Rev. Barbara Essex, author "Bad Girls of the Bible" which is one source for today's message.*

• 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>



## Announcements For The Week



### Youth Church Session 🧑🏻

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

### Wonderful Wednesdays at Faith 🙏🏠💻

Join us at Faith Congregational Church's Amistad Chapel or via YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/@FaithUCCHTfd>, for Wonderful Wednesdays, weekly at 12 p.m. beginning February 21st and ending March 27th. **On March 20th, come and hear the Word from our own Rev. Arthur Gaither!**

### Pledges Gleaners & Holy Week Envelopes 💰✉️

It is NOT too late to **submit your PLEDGE PROMISE!** Please fold and drop in the offering basket. **LENTEN FOLDERS (40 quarters)** are available from the Ushers and **due on EASTER SUNDAY.** **PALM SUNDAY and EASTER SUNDAY envelopes** are also available.

### Lilies for Sale 🌷

The Board of Deacons has bought **Easter lily plants**, which will be made **available for purchase.** Those who buy lilies may **pick them up following our Resurrection/Easter Sunday worship service.** **The cost per plant will be announced soon.** Please see Deacon Al Strother to place your order.

### Holy Week Services at Faith 🙏🏠

- **Palm Sunday - March 24th, 10 a.m.**
- **Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service - March 28th, 6 p.m.** Join us for **Handwashing, a Meal and Communion.** (no livestream)
- **Joint Good Friday Service - Immanuel Church will join us at Faith; March 29th, 12 p.m.**
- **Resurrection/Easter Sunday - March 31st, 10 a.m.**

### Women's Ministry Meeting 🤝👩

The Women of Faith shall **meet in the Fellowship Hall TODAY after worship.** There's a lot to plan, so **we'll see you after service!**

### Enchanted Garden Adult Prom 🧑🏻👧🎉

**ConnectiKids Enchanted Garden Adult Prom Fundraiser will take place Saturday, May 18th at 6 PM.** Sis. Kaleitha Brown, who serves as Development Director, would love for us to take part and host a table. **All proceeds go toward youth development programs** for children in Hartford. **Tickets can be purchased at** <https://givebutter.com/EnchantedGardenProm>. Please see Kaleitha if you have questions.

### Black Family Wellness Expo 🧑🏻🧑🏻🧑🏻

In 2023, The Links, Incorporated made a profound commitment to the well-being of Black families across the nation by launching the Black Family Wellness Expo. **The Farmington Valley (CT) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, along with its partners, asks you to register and join them on April 6, 2024, at the Doc Hurley Fieldhouse at Weaver High School (Hartford, CT) and learn how to enhance your overall wellness.** Link follows: <https://tinyurl.com/BlkFamilyWellnessExpoHartford>

### Pastor's Service of Installation ❤️🙏🏠👩🏻👦

You are cordially invited to **attend a Service of Installation for Rev. Cleo Graham!** Rev. Graham has been called as Senior Pastor and Teacher at Faith Congregational Church, UCC, Hartford, so let us celebrate this covenant! **Pastor will be installed on Sunday, April 28, 2024 at 3 p.m. at Faith Church....Praise Be To God!**

***OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU***

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

**When Jesus Was in Bethany**

**(Sung to the tune of "O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing")**

1 When Jesus was in Bethany  
he was a welcome guest  
within the home of Lazarus,  
and there he stayed to rest.  
Good Martha hurried off to cook  
some food for him to eat;  
but Mary, searching, found a stool  
and sat down at his feet.

3 "Now, Martha, Martha," Jesus said,  
"when I come here to dine,  
don't waste your time on special food.  
A simple meal is fine.  
Come, sit with Mary at my side  
and feed upon my words,  
that you may fill your mind and heart  
with all that you have heard."

2 While Mary listened to the words  
that Jesus had to say,  
her sister, busy at her work,  
sent angry looks her way.  
Said Martha, "Jesus, don't you care  
that I must work alone?  
Why do you let her sit and talk,  
her idleness condone?"

4 Sometimes, like Martha, we may be  
too zealous in a chore,  
like Mary, leave a task undone  
for needs we can't ignore.  
We long to find a balance, God,  
in living out each day.  
Help us be faithful in our work,  
yet take the time to pray.



## Community • Health • Fitness • Fun



### Black Family Wellness Expo



All are welcome

### SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, April 6th 2024

Doc Hurley Fieldhouse at Weaver H.S.



### Are you a **BORN LEADER?**

Is **BEING 'WOKE'** more than a hash tag for you?

Do you want to stand up **FOR JUSTICE?**



**"Discover how to lead the change you want to see."**

#### Lunch Provided

Old State House  
800 Main Street, Hartford CT

**Saturday, April 13** – Bus trip to tour the Amistad ship (9-5pm)

**Saturday, April 20** – All day interactive workshop (9-5pm)

**Saturday, April 27** – All day workshop including filming for video (9-5pm)

**Thursday, May 16**  
Youth Symposium and Art Showcase Event (4-6pm)

### Then, join us for **Discovering Amistad's 2024 Amistad Connecticut Youth Voices Program (ACT-YV)**

ACT-YV is a Statewide program specially designed for high school students with an interest in social justice, arts and/or community involvement. ACT-YV initiative will include a youth-led community forum that will incorporate gained knowledge, service-learning projects, art expression presentations and recorded promotional videos showcasing their knowledge of the tremendous impact of Connecticut's involvement in the Amistad Story.

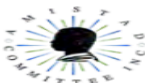
#### The ACT-YV Program includes 30 hours of leadership training:

- Interactive and informative tours aboard the Amistad Freedom Schooner.
- Leadership workshops and activities.
- Art creation activities with local artists to identify mediums for personal and cultural expressions.
- Peer-led team building challenges/activities.
- Presentations with local BIPOC leaders.
- Research and field trips to Amistad relevant museums and landmarks.

#### Amistad Leaders will:

- Design and moderate a youth-led community panel discussion incorporating gained knowledge, service-learning projects, art expression presentation.
- Contribute to the creation of a promotional video showcasing their knowledge of the tremendous impact of Connecticut's involvement in the Amistad Story.

For more information, contact [info@DiscoveringAmistad.org](mailto:info@DiscoveringAmistad.org)



More Than Words

Connecticut

Department of Economic and Community Development  
Office of the Arts



Executive Conference Minister the Rev. Darrell Goodwin will moderate talk back sessions following two Hartford Stage Company performances on March 19 (7:30p) and March 20th (2p) of "The Hot Wing King" as part of the SNEUCC partnership with the theater company.

Conference members and friends can receive a 20% discount to attend any of the show's upcoming performances by using the code "SNEUCC" when buying tickets. Ticket prices range from \$20 to \$100, before discount. Purchase tickets via this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/TheHotWingKingHartfordStage>

#### SHORT FORM OF THE 2024 PLEDGE PROMISE

FAITH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, SNEUCC

*THE GIFTING GOD. "GIVE OF YOUR BEST TO THE MASTER"*

TITHES/OFFERING \_\_\_\_\_ (weekly, monthly, other)

ANNUAL PROPORTIONAL GIVING \$25.00 per member (weekly or monthly installments)

MISSIONS: \_\_\_\_\_ (weekly, monthly, other)

SAINTS/DEACONS: \_\_\_\_\_ (weekly, monthly, other)

OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ENVELOPE # \_\_\_\_\_

With God's help, I will fulfill or exceed my commitment in the year 2024.



**Llonia L. Rojan Jackson, LMSW, serves as Director of Cultural Diversity and Belonging at the University of Hartford in West Hartford, CT.** In her role, she spearheads deliberate Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, and Belonging (DEIJB) initiatives aimed at fostering an inclusive environment conducive to student learning and success.

**Among her notable achievements is the expansion of the Black Student Union (BSU) Book Fund into a scholarship program, offering vital support to students experiencing financial difficulties.** Under her stewardship, the fund garnered over \$16,000 in its initial six months.

Llonia's commitment to student engagement and inclusivity transcends her current role, having held pivotal positions such as Director of Student Engagement and Inclusion, Director of Multicultural Programs, and Associate Director of Alumni Engagement within the university.

**Additionally, Llonia plays a pivotal role as an instructor in the Success Team for Readiness, Improvement, Diversity, and Excellence (STRIDE) program.** Through mentorship and strategic guidance, she supports the academic and personal success of Black/African American and Hispanic/Latinx students, ensuring they thrive both academically and personally throughout their college journey.

**Llonia's commitment to education and community extends to her involvement as an adjunct professor in the University Interdisciplinary Studies program at the University of Hartford,** as well as her previous teaching roles at the University of Connecticut and Adelphi University's School of Social Work.

Before joining the University of Hartford, Llonia held the position of Assistant Director of Field Education at Adelphi University, where she oversaw the Master of Social Work Field Education program at the Hudson Valley Center. With a rich professional background spanning academia, nonprofits, government, and community relations, Llonia brings a wealth of experience to her current role.

**As a proud alumna of the University of Hartford, Llonia holds a master's degree in social work from the University of Connecticut and a bachelor's degree in philosophy and political science from her alma mater.** She is a Licensed Master Social Worker and actively participates as a speaker and panelist on DEIJB, women's initiatives, student engagement, and higher education topics.

In recognition of her exceptional contributions, Llonia was awarded the Martin Luther King Jr. Beloved Community Award by the University of Hartford in February 2022. **Additionally, she is deeply engaged with the Theta Alpha Sigma Alumnae Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., where she serves as the scholarship chair.**

Outside her professional pursuits, **Llonia is deeply rooted in her faith community, having joined Faith Congregational Church in 2007 and later ordained as a Deacon in 2015.** She takes pride in her role as Deacon Lead, having previously taught in the church school and supported the Nursery.

**Llonia is a devoted mother to her children, Yannick and EmmiSoleil, and resides in WestHartford,** where she continues to be a catalyst for positive change within her community and beyond.





***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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**Administrative Assistant:** Regina Waters

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**Pastoral Support:** Rev. Arthur Gaither

[artgaither@gmail.com](mailto:artgaither@gmail.com)

**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