

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>



Anonymous. "Jesus - the Holy Mural," from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN

April 14, 2024 ~ Third Sunday of Easter

PRELUDE

"Amazing Grace"

Dr. Ruth Bass Green

(orig. arrangement)

WELCOME

Rev. Cleo Graham

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Deacon Pamela Walters

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(Congregation reads **BOLD** aloud)

Deacon Wendy Booker-Nixon

We are called to be God's children. **God's love has been poured on us through Jesus Christ!** Fear and doubt are gone! **Joy and Celebration ring in our hearts!** Come, let us raise our voices in song! **Let us offer our hearts and souls to God in prayer and praise.**

***OPENING HYMN**

"In That Great Gittin' Up Mornin'"

#585 AAHH

INVOCATION & SHARING THE PEACE (spoken together) Deacon Wendy & Congregants

“Lord of Light and Mercy, be with us this day as we again hear the stories of faith and sight. Help us to believe in your abiding presence with us, both in our darkness and in the light which you bring. Give us courage and strength to witness to your Resurrection. For we offer this in Jesus’ Name. Amen.” And let us now share a moment of peace with each other!

(Young People may depart for Youth Session)

SCRIPTURE Luke 24:36-48 Pastor Graham

(red Bible: p. 1039-40; blue Bible: NT p. 69)

“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 REAL JESUS Pastor Graham

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP “Sign Me Up” #192 AAHH Deacon Wendy

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 Llonia Rojan Jackson

RESPONSE TO PRAYER “Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine” #508 AAHH

TIME OF OFFERING Sis. Lorrie Adeyemi

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 “My Tribute” Deacon Pamela Walters

*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 “He Lives” #275 AAHH

*BENEDICTION Deacon Llonia

POSTLUDE “Let There Be Peace On Earth” Dr. Ruth Bass Green

(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>



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 and be escorted to Session.** They shall return to their parents before worship concludes.

Who Is Howard F. Grady 🧐?

He is **an artist who created the portrait of Rev. James W.C. Pennington which hangs in our narthex.** The portrait is nearly 60 years old, and you can **learn more from the article that our own Brother Melvin Graham wrote!** Link follows: <https://tinyurl.com/HowardFGrady>

Congregational Quarterly Meeting 🤝👥

All Faith members are to **meet in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, April 21st after worship.** Learn more about what's going on at Faith, so **please attend!**

Women's Day ❤️🤝👩

This year's Women's Day will take place on Pentecost Sunday, which is Sunday, May 19th at Faith Church. The service will be live streamed, and **the theme for this year is "Women On Fire For God."** Our colors are **red, white, or any combination of red and white, and our guest speaker is Connecticut Secretary of State, Ms. Stephanie Thomas.** We anticipate a good time in the Lord, and remember to start submitting your \$100 financial gift towards Women's Day!

5th Annual Meeting of SNEC 📅👛🏠

The **5th Annual Meeting** of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ **will be held June 21 and 22 at UMass, Amherst,** and will focus on growing the church. **Registration and Annual Meeting news may be found at:** <https://tinyurl.com/SNEUCC-5th-Annual-Mtg>

Celebration of Life for Bro. Sherwood "Woody" Lewis 🙏👤

The memorial service for our Brother Woody will take place at Faith on Saturday, April 20th at 1 P.M, and the service is to be livestreamed. Deacon Gwen and family appreciate your prayers, cards and condolences, yet please continue to refrain from calls and visits at this time.

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

Ms. Judith A. LaBelle

The Family of Brother Sherwood Lewis

The Families of our Faith Members who have lost Loved Ones

Sis. Amy Sisson, Sis. Asha Rooks & Sis. Doreen Webb

Ms. Mora Martin & Sis. Melanie Vasquez

Mrs. Dorothy Love & Dr. Julie Cieplik, DVM

Min. Patricia Hollis & Roy Stafford

Sis. Irene Pittman & Rev. Mirna Packer-Blake

Mr. Jeffrey M. Bass & Mr. James Mosby



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

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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