

FAITH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

2030 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06120

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

Rev. Cleo Graham, Pastor

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

 <https://www.facebook.com/FaithUCCHtd/>



September 8, 2024 ~ Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

PRELUDE

Min. of Music, Wayne Dixon

WELCOME

Rev. Cleo Graham, Pastor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dea. Pamela Walters

*CALL TO WORSHIP

(congregants read **BOLD** aloud)

Dea. Pamela

Guided by the wisdom of the ages, **we follow God's path.** Turning neither left or right, **we keep God's ways.** Understanding the needs of our hearts and minds, **we dwell in God's word.**

*OPENING HYMN

"A Charge To Keep I Have"

#468 AAHH

INVOCATION & SHARING THE PEACE

(spoken together)

Dea. Pamela

"Lord, we gather in your house, and see those who are doing justice, who are kind beyond measure, and who set the example for humility. Train us as well in righteousness, grant us patience and persistence, and equip us for every good work. Inspire our faith, and give us voices to proclaim your message. Guide our feet, as we remember that You call us 'To do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.' Amen." And now let us share a moment of peace with each other!

SCRIPTURE

1 Timothy 3: 8-11

Pastor Graham

*[red Bible (NKJV): p. 1164; blue Bible (NRSV): NT p. 163]
"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	“CALL HER DEACON”	Pastor Graham
CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP	“ <i>The Goodness Of God</i> ”	Dea. Pamela, Soloist Rev. Arthur Gaither
	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		Dea. Wendy Booker-Nixon
RESPONSE TO PRAYER	“ <i>Completely Yes</i> ”	#551 AAHH
OFFERTORY APPEAL		Bro. Melvin Graham
<u>GIVE WITH A GRATEFUL HEART</u>		
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: 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	“ <i>Great Is Thy Faithfulness</i> ”	Sis. Patricia Gray, Soloist
*DOXOLOGY (sung)	“ <i>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.</i> ”	
<u>ORDER OF ORDINATION - SISTER CHELSEA BOSWELL-NEAL</u>		
HYMN OF ORDINATION	“ <i>Here I Am Lord</i> ”	#567 AAHH
GREETING & AFFIRMATION OF MINISTRY		Pastor Graham
PRESENTATION OF SIS. CHELSEA		Dea. Pamela Walters
COVENANT & LAYING OF HANDS		Pastor Graham & Deacons
CONGREGATION’S WORDS OF SUPPORT (when prompted)		All
	“ <i>We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you, that together we may be a faithful Church of Jesus Christ.</i> ”	
PRAYER & DECLARATION		Pastor Graham
*CLOSING HYMN	“ <i>Come Thou Fount OF Every Blessing</i> ”	#175 AAHH
BENEDICTION & BLESSING THE FOOD		Pastor Graham
POSTLUDE		Min. of Music, Wayne Dixon
	(* 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 \(8:30a\) at https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89131531513?pwd=WFQ2M3dNYjZSU3NocHEzOXRQb3lWUT09](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>



Chelsea Boswell-Neal

I have been a lifelong member at Faith from 1970 to present day. I have served on various ministries, such as the Hospitality Committee, and Usher Board Ministry, where I served as chairperson for many years; and will be taking on that responsibility again in September 2024. I also served as a Trustee, but stepped down so I can focus on my training to serve as a Deacon. Also serve in the Mission Ministry, which I'm passionate about.

My hobbies are traveling, reading, writing, photography, dancing, meditation and of course shopping for shoes! I practice mindfulness and work hard on my wellness techniques everyday so I can function properly in this chaotic world.

I consider mentoring young people one of my biggest strengths, as I have mentored young people who have accomplished much and are now living successful lives. I love assisting and guiding people through life's tribulations and helping them navigate this journey called life.

I am happiest when I'm of service to others. I have volunteered for the United Way of Hartford, the Village for Families and Children and for Foodshare. I love to volunteer my time on Fridays, visiting the sick and shut-in, either in the nursing home, their home, or at the hospital. I get great joy bringing them their favorite food and snacks; and I love to listen to their words of wisdom, hearing them reflect on their past. I also love sharing the Gospel and talking about the goodness of God.

I love spending time with family and friends; and I consider Honolulu, HI to be my paradise on earth and Cape Cod, MA to be my happy place. I am the proud mother to the love of my life, my beautiful daughter Chelsea Bianca., and I am a devoted wife to my loving husband, Thomas Neal.



Faith Congregational Church, U.C.C.
2030 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06120
Rev. Cleo Graham, Pastor

Presents

“Praising the Beauty of His Holiness” Concert

Sunday, October 20, 2024 4:00 p.m.

Patricia A. Gray, Soprano Soloist
Thomas Faniel, Baritone/Bass Soloist

Guest Musicians

Stacy Cahoon, Pianist
G. Ingrid Faniel, Pianist
Javon Jackson, Saxophonist

Guest Choir

The North End Senior Harmonizers
Director: Wayne Dixon



Free Will Offering



MISSION STATEMENT

“Our mission is to nurture the spiritual growth and development of children and youth through engaging, Christ-centered teachings, fellowship, stewardship and activities. We strive to create a safe and welcoming environment where every child and youth feels valued, encouraged, and inspired to explore their faith.”

By fostering meaningful relationships, instilling biblical principles, and encouraging active participation in the church community, we aim to empower the next generation to live out their faith boldly and share God’s love with others.”

NOVEMBER 5, 2024 GENERAL ELECTION

A General Election is where all eligible voters elect candidates to office. In Connecticut, there is a general election every year.

14 DAYS

EARLY VOTING

OCTOBER 21 - 31
NOVEMBER 1 - 3
10 am – 6 pm
8 am – 8 pm on October 29 and 31

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT VOTER REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Friday, October 18, 2024

- Deadline for voter registration **by mail** to be post-marked
- Deadline for voter registration **at the DMV** by close of business
- Deadline for voter registration **online** by 11:59 pm
- Deadline for voter registration **in person** by 8:00 pm

Same Day Voter Registration

If you are not registered, but want to vote during the Early Voting period, you may register in person every day of Early Voting at the Early Voting location

If you are not registered, but want to vote on Election Day, you may register in person on Election Day at your Election Day Registration site

To receive important election updates text **VOTE** to **860.321.4221**

To find your Early Voting location, and for all you need to know about elections in Connecticut, visit MyVote.CT.gov or call **860-509-6200**



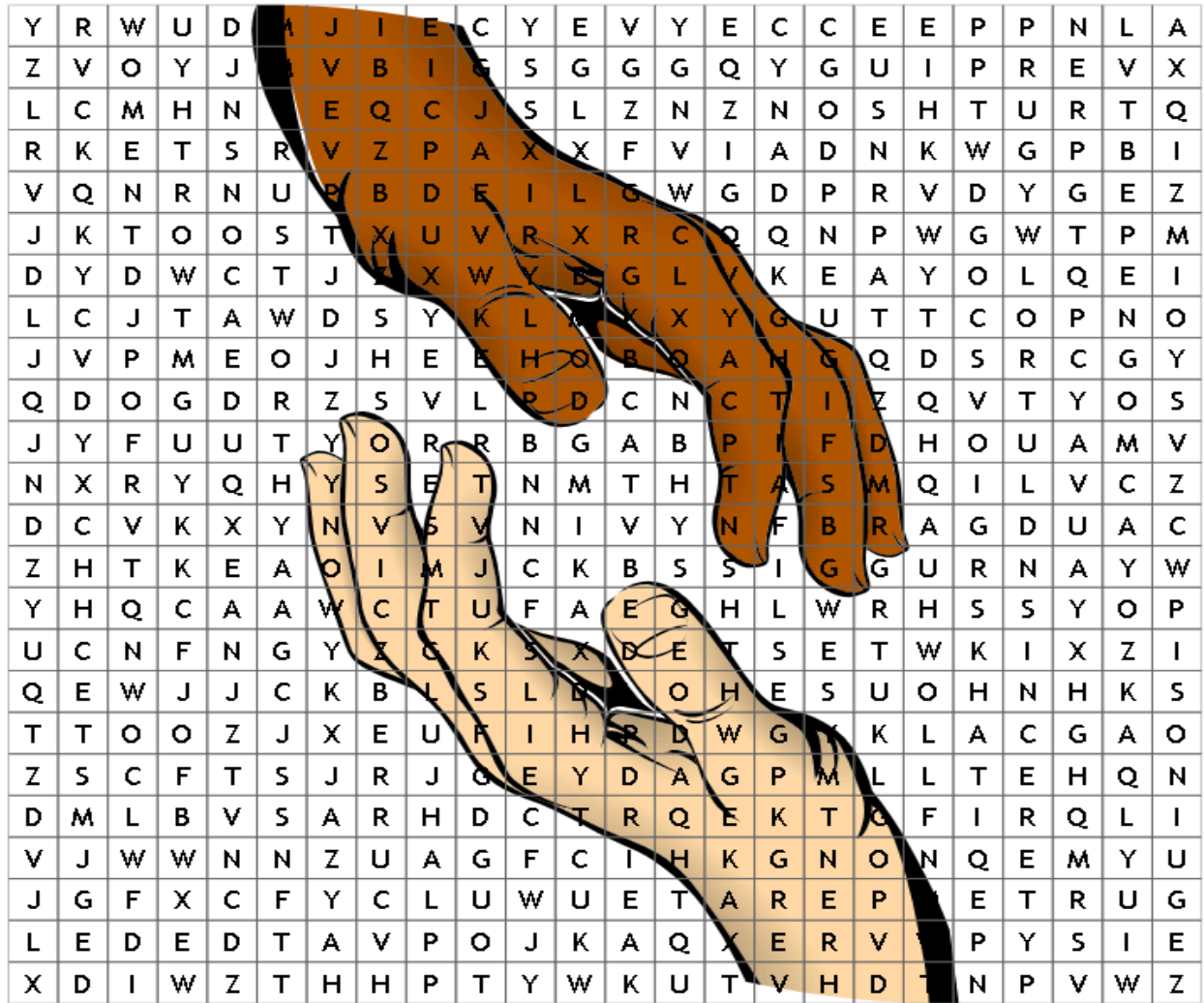
Stephanie Thomas, Connecticut Secretary of the State

Follow us @CTSOTS:



Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Timothy 3: 8-11



WORTHY	HOUSEHOLD	ASSURANCE
STANDING	MANAGE	WOMEN
TRUSTWORTHY	TEMPERATE	TESTED
SERVE	FAITH	TRUTHS
SINCERE	DEACONS	



Faith Church Announcements



Youth Sunday School Session 🧒

Begins next week, with lessons and activities for ages 5-12. Leader Shirley Zachary, along with Sister Michelle Anthony are asking for others to assist them in educating our young people, so expect a communique in the coming weeks.

Faith, Center Church & Immanuel Church at Hartford PRIDE 🌈🏠

The city of Hartford will be celebrating Pride on Saturday, September 14th, starting at 12 p.m on Church Street. This family-friendly event provides New England's LGBTQI+ community with a series of events to celebrate the achievements and create awareness on issues. Faith Church will be sharing a tent with Hartford's Center Church and Immanuel Church, so come on 'out' and support!

BTLO After School Program 🏠📅🧒🧒

Faith Church, with assistance from Beyond The Limits Outreach (BTLO) will house an after school program in the coming weeks. **The after school program will serve approximately 15-30 registered students in grades K through 12, under the direction of BTLO. The program will run Monday through Friday, from 3 to 6 p.m.**

Neighbors in Need (NIN)

Is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. In 2024, the Neighbors in Need theme is "Mental Health Justice For All!" where the human rights and well-being of people with mental health challenges are respected. You may give via this link: <https://tinyurl.com/2024UCCNeighborsInNeed>

2024 Justice Summit 🗳️🏠

The 3rd Annual SNEC Justice Summit: 'Politics As An Act of Faith' will take place in-person and online on Saturday, September 14th at Wesleyan University's Fayerweather Building in Middletown, CT. This program will equip local church leaders, both lay and clergy, to engage with politics as people of faith. See the following links to register: **In-Person:** <https://sneucc-reg.brtapp.com/2024JusticeSummit>. **Online:** <https://sneucc-reg.brtapp.com/2024JusticeSummitOnline>

Faith's 205th Anniversary 🏠❤️🎂

The 205th anniversary of Faith Congregational Church will be held Sunday, September 22nd at 10 a.m., and our guest speaker is Maryland's own Rev. Dr Rubin Tendai, who has pastored many churches including Faith. Volunteers are welcome, and the next meeting is on Tuesday, September 10.

Faith Capital Campaign - National Fund For Sacred Places (NFSP) 🏠💰

Having been awarded a \$200K grant from the NFSP, Faith is now tasked with starting a capital campaign in order to raise funds, as this is a grant requirement. A congregational vote took place on August 18th, with 30 (Yea), 0 (Nay) and 0 (Abstention) regarding having the capital campaign. **Keep an eye out for further info.**

🙏 OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU 🙏

Mother Mary Ingram (Pastor's Mother)

Jeffrey & Gwen Anderson

Dea. A. Lee Martin & Sis. Orelia Myers

Ms. Frances Burton & Ms. Judith A. LaBelle

The Families of our Faith Members who have lost Loved Ones

Sis. Asha Rooks & Sis. Doreen Webb

Sis. Donna Burgess & Sis. Melanie Vasquez

Min. Patricia Hollis & Roy Stafford

Sis. Irene Pittman & Rev. Mirna Packer-Blake

Mr. Jeffrey M. Bass

Helen & 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

Pastor: Rev. Cleo D. Graham	faithmatters.pastor1@gmail.com
Office Manager: Patricia A. Gray	faithmatters.church@gmail.com
Administrative Assistant: Regina Waters	faithmatters.admn@gmail.com
Pastoral Support: Rev. Arthur Gaither	artgaither@gmail.com
Minister of Music: Wayne Dixon	faithmatters.music15@gmail.com
Treasurer: Gail V. Martin	faithmatters.treasurer@gmail.com
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	