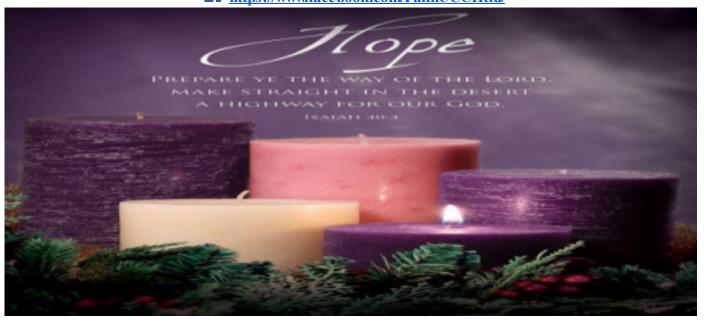
FAITH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

2030 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06120 Phone: 860-547-0820 ~ Worship: Sundays at 10 a.m.

Rev. Cleo Graham, Pastor

Join Worship Online at https://www.youtube.com/@FaithUCCHtfd or https://www.facebook.com/FaithUCCHtfd/



December 1, 2024 ~ First Sunday Of Advent ~ Hope

PRELUDE Wayne Dixon, Minister of Music

WELCOME Rev. Cleo Graham, Pastor

ANNOUNCEMENTS Deacon Pamela Walters

*CALL TO WORSHIP (Congregation reads BOLD aloud) Deacon Cerise Johnson

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill my promise to my people. There will be signs in the heavens and distress among the nations. When Christ returns in power and glory, people will faint with fear. But when you see these things, lift up your heads: our redemption is drawing near! Heaven and earth may pass away, but the Word of God will stand unshaken.

*OPENING HYMN

"Come Thou Long Expected Jesus"

#257 OLOFOB

INVOCATION & SHARING THE PEACE

(spoken together)

Deacon Cerise & Congregants

"Righteous one, to you alone we lift our souls; in you alone we place our trust; for you alone we wait all day long. For you are the God of our salvation, abounding in mercy and steadfast love. Help us remain alert and watchful for the coming of your promised one—the one who comes with power and glory, the one drawing near to bring our salvation. Amen." And let us now share a moment of peace with each other!

SYMBOLS OF ADVENT:
THE ADVENT WREATH & LIGHTING THE HOPE CANDLE

The Walters Family

ADVENT HYMN

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verse 1)

#188 AAHH

SCRIPTURE

Luke 21:25-28

Pastor Graham

[red Bible (NKJV): p. 1034; blue Bible (NRSV): NT p. 65]
"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

"A REFUGE AND HOPE IN TROUBLING TIMES"

Pastor Graham

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP

"Soon and Very Soon" #193 AAHH

Deacon Cerise

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

"We Will Glorify"

#286 AAHH

TIME OF OFFERING Brother Oscar Reese

GIVE WITH A GRATEFUL HEART - REMEMBER THE SAINTS' OFFERING

- 1. Text: Send a text to 73256 Type: 'faithchurch' and follow the prompts.
- 2. Online: At https://www.faithmatterstoday.org . Look for the Donate 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

"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"

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."

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

*STATEMENT OF FAITH

COMMUNION HYMN

(see pg. 3)

#680 AAHH

ΑII

ΑII

"Taste and See"

ADVENT COMMUNION LITURGY

(see pg. 4)

Pastor Graham & Deacons

DISTRIBUTE ELEMENTS

*PARTING HYMN

"Oh, The Blood of Jesus"

#265 AAHH

(* Please stand, if able)

Hymnals - AAHH: African American Heritage Hymnal; NCH: New Century Hymnal; OLOFOB: One Lord, One Faith, One Baptisma

• 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



Statement of Faith

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, God our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will, declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior: You have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues and races.

You call us into your church:

To accept the cost and joy of discipleship,

To be your servants in the service of others,

To proclaim the Gospel to all the world,

To share in Christ's baptism and eat at this table,

To join Him in His passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you:

Forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,

Courage in the struggle for justice and peace,

Your presence in trial and rejoicing,

And eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you.

Amen.

An Advent Communion Liturgy

Leader: Holy God, We give thanks for your creation, fragile, yet fruitful, enough for all.

People: We give thanks that you call us into community where love and justice may flourish, enough for all.

Leader: We give thanks that you invite us on this Advent journey. Awake, curious, longing to meet you, we set out for your table of grace.

People: You light our path one step at a time, beckoning us onto a Way that offers us new eyes to explore the vision of the Promised One; new senses to feel the heartbeat of the Vulnerable One; new courage to share the urgency of the Ruler of Peace.

Leader: One more step, one more stretch, one more challenge takes us deeper into the mystery of your abundant life: a world healed, renewed; all nature, all people at peace.

People: We give you thanks for sending us Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-Us, whose life, death and resurrection have become for us the Way to find you, to know you, to join with you in creating your new heaven and new earth.

Leader: We remember the night when Jesus gathered at table with his friends in a time of struggle and fear, took bread, blessed it and gave it to them saying...

People: "Take and eat: for this is my body."

Leader: And after supper, as Jesus looked forward to your desired day of joy and power; he took the cup of wine, again gave You thanks and praise and said...

People: "Take this, all of you, and drink. This is the cup of the new covenant, my life poured out for you. I will drink this with you again in the reign of God. Share this bread and this cup in memory of me."

Leader: Come now, Holy Spirit of God—As you were present at creation, be present now, and let these gifts of bread and cup become for us the bread of life and the cup of blessing.

People: We participate in the new life Christ gives.

Leader: As you were sent by Jesus to accompany us on our journey of faith, be present now, and transform this community, sharing this bread and cup, into one body in Christ.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

All

Christ, our Lord and Savior, as we await the day when we celebrate the Bethlehem birth, we are blessed this day to celebrate Holy Communion. This bread and cup, which you give to us, are food for our spiritual journey. Let it nourish our spirits. Remind us of our need for grace, and bring us together as the Body of Christ. For the hope that we see, we are grateful to You. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world until Christ comes in final victory. Amen.

1819 2019 Colegation 200 Hours, Six Sax Sq. Sainte Faith Congregational Church, CCC

Faith Church Announcements



Youth Sunday School Session 👨

The Children/Youth Sunday School will not be held on first Sundays (until further notice). Virtual Sunday School lessons will appear in the bulletin for first Sundays. Families, please review and discuss the following Sunday School Lesson with your children/youth:

- Kids' Table Virtual Sunday School Lesson Topic: ADVENT
 - o YouTube Channel:
 - Go to Douglas Talk "What is Advent?" https://youtu.be/u4jlzh_x04k?si=PH3Cxd-132GA4KIi
 - Twinkl Educational Publishing "What Is Advent?" https://youtu.be/RfN7ucvUx4s?si=PyHRAdSVDHb0QLG9

Faith Church is being called upon to fund (roughly \$150) a complete meal with dessert to feed between 75-100 people. Thank you to those that donated, yet more is needed. So to all Individuals, Ministries and Committees...give TODAY during the Time Of Offering. Note 'Warming Center' on your gift, and See Betty Ann Rooks if you have questions.

NEW DATE - "Joyful and Triumphant" - A Concert For The Community 🜆 👼

Featuring The North End Senior Center Harmonizers, area choirs and instrumentalists from the Hartford area, will take place Saturday, December 21st at 2 p.m. at Faith Church. Admission is free, and a free-will offering will be taken to benefit the ministries of our church, in particular our physical plant.

Dates to Remember

Christmas Eve Service (12.24): In-Person at Faith Church; 6PM

Mew Year's Eve Prayer (12.31): Broadcast via Faith's YouTube Channel at ~ 11:45PM

Young People's Sunday & Tree Trimming

Our young people will be leading us in worship on Sunday, December 8th, so please come out and support these dynamic young minds in their service to God! Also, all young people are asked to decorate our Christmas tree after that day's worship. If you wish to donate an ornament, feel free!

🚜 OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU 🚜

Mother Mary Ingram (Pastor's Mother)
The Family of Mr. Noel McGregor
Dea. Al Strother & Dea. Eric W. Gray
Dea. Wendy Booker-Nixon & Mr. Michael C.
Sis. Carrie Simpson & Mr. Vendrys Johnson
Sis. Michelle Anthony & Sis. Irene Pittman
Jeffrey & Gwen Anderson
Dea. A. Lee Martin & Sis. Orelia Myers
Mr. Jeffrey M. Bass & Ms. Judith A. LaBelle
Ms. Frances Burton & Sis. Doreen Webb
Min. Patricia Hollis & Roy Stafford
The Families of Faith Members who have lost Loved Ones



The North End Senior Center Harmonizers Presents



A Concert for the Community

Featuring

The Deacon Bill Beckham Singers

The Bloomfield United Methodist Church Bell Choir

Dr. Jonathan Berryman, Organist

Mrs. Grace Ingrid Faniel, Pianist

Mr. Eustace Straker, Organist

Mr. Wayne C. Dixon, Director

Saturday, December 21, 2024

2:00 PM

Faith Congregational Church, 2030 Main Street, Hartford, CT

Happy Holidays!!!

Faith Congregational Church 2030 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06120

Shoe Size Fundraiser

Simply donate funds according to your shoe size!

For example: If you wear size 9 you would donate \$9.00. If
you wear size 10 you would donate \$10.00, etc.

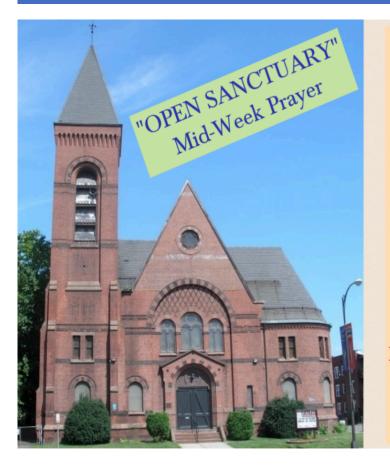
- 1. Payments can be made to Faith Congregational Church by cash or check.
- 2. Text: Send to 73256 type 'faithchurch' and follow the prompts.
- 3. Online: https://www.faithmatterstoday.org Look for the donate button.

Feel free to participate more than once.



Donations will be collected through December.

Questions: See Betty Ann Rooks





Every Wednesday at 1 p.m.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81190174109? pwd=p3jWpVfzCk2sCJyDTVkPSGuttWTg9e.1

By Phone: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York) Meeting ID: 811 9017 4109 Passcode: 555487

Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kJoBQuk3D

All Are Welcome 💙 🌈 🙏

Advent Word Search

J	J	Τ	W	Υ	Υ	S	Н	Ε	Р	Н	Ε	R	D
U	0	В	Ε	Т	Н	L	Ε	Н	Ε	М	Ε	L	S
Υ	S	Υ	L	N	R	Т	٧	F	N	G	W	R	S
L	Ε	S	N	Ε	С	N	Τ	K	N	Α	R	F	G
Р	Р	S	Τ	٧	G	G	J	Α	В	Т	0	S	N
K	Н	Α	Т	D	Н	N	М	Ε	F	Τ	Τ	D	1
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S	F	Χ	J	R	R	S	R	Т	K	U	Α	L	Ε
Χ	Ε	L	В	Α	Т	S	Υ	Ε	Ι	Α	S	Z	Ε
0	В	٧	С	F	Z	Ε	Ε	R	N	٧	R	G	R
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Z	Ε	G	0	L	D	В	Τ	Z	D	0	Т	Т	Т
R	Α	Χ	D	N	D	М	Ι	Α	М	В	Р	G	Υ
М	Υ	R	R	Н	U	С	D	N	Z	Υ	R	Ι	0

FRANKINCENSE MAGI NAZARETH ADVENT ANGEL **GIFTS** MANGER SAVIOR MARY BETHLEHEM GOLD SHEPHERD BLESSING **JESUS** MIRACLE STABLE EAST JOSEPH MYRRH STAR FAITH JOY NATIVITY THREE KINGS

DIRECTIONS: Find and highlight the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.



IF YOU WANT TO FEED YOUR SOUL, WE'VE GOT A GREAT MENU!

There are committee members needed for these positions and others. If interested in learning more or signing up, please email the contact the person listed. As life throws us curveballs, our ability to serve can change and we understand that. We are all volunteers-having fun, making a difference, and supporting each other! We can't do it without you!!!

Adult Sunday School

To provide those over 18 via a gifted disciple (the teacher) with a systematic study of Scripture, and an emphasis on personal spiritual growth.

Board of Christian Ed. / Youth School

The Board determines the educational objectives and programs of the Church community.

Youth School provides those aged5-12 via a gifted disciple (the teacher) with an age-appropriate study of Scripture, and an emphasis on personal spiritual growth.

GHIAA

Members from various churches in CT identify specific social justice issues to work on together using the process and principles of broad-based organizing. They work on issues for which there is common ground theologically.

Hospitality/Collation

When requested, provide and serve food and beverages for monthly coffee hours and special events at church. Purchase of supplies, as well as setup, breakdown, and cleanup, are additional duties.

Men's Ministry

To promote Christian brotherhood and spiritual growth. Study Christian principles, support the church and enhance the fellowship among the men of the church. Also engage in outreach projects with the church and community.

Missions

To assist our local, national, and international families and churches. To promote Christian fellowship and nurture the human community and restore the environment and economics to God's service.

Music/Choir

Help create an atmosphere for worship by providing congregational singing during worship services and special events, and connecting the congregation to the musical history and traditions of the church.

Nominating Committee

Shall be appointed by the Church
Council to present a slate of officers,
board, committee, and ministry
members as well as members-at-large
to the Church Council. It shall choose
members it deems best qualified to fill
those positions.

Safety & Security

Works to protect individuals and the church interior and exterior against any hurt, harm, or danger, be it by an act of terrorism, threats, assault, property damage, or other criminal activity.

Sanctuary Guild

Responsible for the purchase, placement and storage of flowers, candles, decor and linens to dress the Altar, Sanctuary, Narthex and other areas of the church, as needed. Also decorates the church according to the event /liturgical calendar.

Scholarship

To provide the children of Faith members with a college scholarship to help offset the cost of books and incidentals. Funds are secured by fundraisers and donations from members.

Social Media/Webmaster

To post, edit and update content to our YouTube channel, Facebook page and Website that will best serve our Faith community and others within the state and beyond.

IF YOU WANT TO FEED YOUR SOUL, WE'VE GOT A GREAT MENU!

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are all volunteers-having fun, making a difference, and supporting each other! We can't do it without you!!!

Stewardship

To educate, motivate and develop strategies to encourage stewardship (giving) within the church membership. Also, to keep a faithful record of pledge accounts and furnish each contributor with a quarterly statement.

Technology Deacons

To provide audio/visual services (at Faith Church and remotely) during church worship and special in-house meetings and events. Also, to provide live streaming or hosting service via YouTube or Zoom (by operating a laptop as well as a video camera, switcher and/or soundboard) for those unable to participate in person.

Trustee Board

The Board of Trustees has a responsibility for the custody of all property of the church and full charge of its financial affairs. The Board establishes personnel policies, provides sufficient surety for all officers who handle Churchfunds and provides for custodial care of church property.

Ushers

As a gatekeeperof the church, the Ushers are to keep abreast/pay attention to what is going on in the church during a service or event. To be ready to offer any assistance to people who may appearto need it.

Women's Ministry

To promote Christian sisterhood and spiritual growth. Study Christian principles, support the church and enhance the fellowship among the women of the church. Also engage in outreach projects with the church and community.

CONTACT ...

Adult Sunday School artgainther @gmail.com

Board of Christian Ed. / Youth School gezcez@yahoo.com

<u>GHIAA</u>

cknightja@aol.com

CONTACT ...

Hospitality/Collation bwiggins860@gmail.com pag4812@gmail.com

> Men's Ministry alsaphi@aol.com

Missions cknightja@aol.com

CONTACT ...

Music/Choir mrsrooks89@gmail.com faithmatters.music15@gmail.com

> Nominating Committee geegish@gmail.com

Safety & Security melvingraha@aol.com

CONTACT ...

<u>Sanctuary Guild</u> mrsrooks89@gmail.com

> Scholarship maxmorison@aol.com

<u>Social Media/Webmaster</u> faithmatters.admn@gmail.com

CONTACT ...

<u>Stewardship</u> ctacorn@comcast.net

> <u>Technology Deacons</u> faithmatters.admn@gmail.com

Trustee Board alfredagaither@gmail.com

CONTACT ...

<u>Ushers</u> thomnchelz@aol.com

> Women's Ministry abreeves25@gmail.com



2024 FAITH CALENDAR

JANUARY

1 New Year's Day

6 Epiphany

15 MLK Celebration Service / MLK Day

28 Annual Meeting

FEBRUARY

1 First Day of Black History Month

13Shrove Tuesday

14 Valentine's Day/Ash Wednesday Services (2)

19 Presidents' Day

21 Wonderful Wednesday Begins

MARCH

1 First Day of Women's History Month &

World Day of Prayer

24 Palm Sunday

27 Wonderful Wednesday Ends

28 Maundy Thursday

29 Good Friday

31 Resurrection Sunday/Easter

APRIL

21 Congregational Quarterly Meeting

28 Pastor Graham's Installation

MAY

1 First Day of Asian Pacific American

Heritage Month

12 Mother's Day

19 Pentecost & Women's Day

27 Memorial Day

JUNE

1 First Day of Pride Month

9 Pastor's Conversation w/ the Congregation

16 Father's Day, Scholarship & Juneteenth Sunday

19 Juneteenth

23 Men's Day

30 Young People's Sunday

JULY

4 Independence Day

14 Joint Worship - Immanuel at Faith

28 Joint Worship - Faith at Immanuel

AUGUST

11 Friends & Family Church Cookout

SEPTEMBER

2 Labor Day

11 'Open Sanctuary' Begins

15 First Day of Hispanic Heritage Month

22 205th Anniversary Service

29 Young People's Sunday

OCTOBER

141 ndigenous Peoples' Day

20 "Praising The Beauty of His Holiness" Concert

27 Congregational Quarterly Meeting

NOVEMBER

1 First Day of Amerindian Heritage Month

5 Election Day

11 Veterans' Day

18 Candlelight Memorial Service

28 Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

1 First Day of Advent

8 Young People's Sunday

14 "Joyful and Triumphant" Community Concert

24 Christmas Eve Service / Last Day of Advent

25 Christmas Day

26 First Day of Kwanzaa

31 New Year's Eve /Pastor's Broadcast Prayer for

the New Year (via Our Church YouTube Channel)



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's 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

Office Manager: Patricia A. Gray

Administrative Assistant: Regina Waters

Pastoral Support: Rev. Arthur Gaither

Minister of Music: Wayne Dixon

Treasurer: Gail V. Martin

Moderator: Norma Sproul

Ass't Moderator: Alice Lumpkin

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

Llonia Jackson (Lead), Andrew 'Al' Strother (Lead), Mark Welch (Lead), Johnny Barnum, Wendy

Booker-Nixon, Eric W. Gray, Cheryl 'CC' Johnson, A. Lee Martin, Chelsea Neal, Arthur Rooks,

faithmatters.pastor1@gmail.com faithmatters.church@gmail.com

faithmatters.admn@gmail.com

faithmatters.music15@gmail.com

faithmatters.treasurer@gmail.com

artgaither@gmail.com

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