

FAITH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

2030 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06120

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

Rev. Cleo Graham, Pastor

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

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



L: June 1976 Hartford Courant photo of Dea. Dames Chafin installing the cornerstone. R: Current views of the cornerstone

May 3, 2026 ~ Fifth Sunday of Easter ~ Communion Sunday

PRELUDE

Brother Wayne Dixon

WELCOME

Rev. Cleo Graham, Pastor

ANNOUNCEMENTS & WELCOME SONG

Deacon Pamela Walters

[Faith Church Welcome Song](#): *"You are welcome in this place in Jesus Name. You are welcome in this place in Jesus Name. We're glad you've come among us, and we pray you feel God's Love through us. You're welcome in this place in Jesus Name!" (Sung twice)*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

(Congregation reads **BOLD** aloud)

Deacon Charron Stoddart

Come, people of God, and be built up in love. **We come as living stones, gathered into Christ's community.** Once we wandered without direction. **Now we are God's people, called by mercy and grace.** Christ is our cornerstone, strong and faithful. **In Christ, we find belonging, purpose, and hope.** Come, proclaim the mighty acts of the One who calls us out of darkness. **We come to worship in the light of God's love.**

***OPENING HYMN**

"The Solid Rock"

#385 AAHH

INVOCATION & SHARING THE PEACE

(spoken together)

Deacon Charron & Congregants

"Holy God, you call us into a marvelous light and gather us together as your people. Build us into a living community of faith, rooted in Christ, our Cornerstone, where love is shared, mercy is practiced, and all are welcomed with grace. Come among us now in this time of worship. Shape us by your Spirit and renew us for the work of hope and justice. In the name of the risen Christ we pray. Amen." And let us now share a moment of peace with each other!

SCRIPTURE 1 Peter 2:1-10 Pastor Graham
[red Bible (NKJV): p. 1189; blue Bible (NRSV): NT p. 185]
"The Word of God for the People of God. Praise Be to God!"

*GLORIA PATRI (sung)
*"Glory be to the Father (Creator, Mother) 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 CHRIST THE CORNERSTONE, WE THE LIVING STONES Pastor Graham


CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP *"Jesus Is A Rock In A Weary Land"* #222 AAHH
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 Sis. Carol Knight-Mosby

RESPONSE TO PRAYER *"In Times Like These"* #309 AAHH

OFFERTORY APPEAL Pastor Graham

GIVE WITH A GRATEFUL HEART - **REMEMBER THE DEACONS'** & **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN OFFERING**

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 HYMN *"Cornerstone"* Faith Choir

OFFERTORY PRAYER Sis. Patricia Gray

*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 (see pg. 3) All

COMMUNION HYMN *"Break Thou The Bread Of Life"* #334 AAHH

COMMUNION LITURGY (see pg. 4) All

DISTRIBUTE ELEMENTS Pastor Graham, Rev. Gaither & Deacons

PARTING HYMN *"The Church's One Foundation"* #337 AAHH

(* Please stand, if able)



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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.

A Responsive Communion Liturgy

Leader: Let us gather around the table with the offering of bread and drink upon it and the promise of the Living Christ among us. This is the welcome table of God where all who seek to be at peace with their neighbor and all who seek the mercy of God in Christ are embraced. Come, for we are invited into this holy mystery. Come.

People: **We are ready!**

Leader: Jesus said: "I am the bread of life. All who come to me shall not hunger, and all who believe in me shall never be thirsty.

People: **We are hungry and thirsty. O Lamb of God, we come!**

Leader: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took his authority as the Christ and offered the bread in thanksgiving and said . . .

People: **"Take, eat. This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."**

Leader: In the same way, and by the same authority, Jesus offered the cup in thanksgiving and said,

People: **"Take, drink. This is my blood of the new covenant which is poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it in remembrance of me."**

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit. Come. Open our eyes to the mystery of Christ's presence in these ordinary things in these our ordinary lives. May they be for us the very essence of the living Christ in our midst. Through the broken bread . . .

People: **We participate in the Body of Christ.**

Leader: Through the cup of blessing . . .

People: **We participate in the new life Christ gives.**

Leader: These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all things are ready! Now, take, eat the broken bread remembering the body of Christ, broken for us. Together, drink from the cup of Salvation and remember that Christ's blood was shed for us.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

All

Gracious and loving God, you have made us one in the body of Christ, and nourished us at your table with holy food and drink. Thank you for feeding our hunger and relieving our thirst. Now send us into the world to do the work you have given us to do: to find the lost and lonely, to heal broken souls, to free prisoners, and make the powerful care. Grant us strength to persevere in resisting evil, and to proclaim in all we say and do your good news in Christ Jesus our Savior. Amen.



Announcements For The Week



Youth Sunday School Lesson 🙏

Youth Sunday School Session (ages 5-12) for first Sundays are virtual. This is the lesson for May 3, 2026. Families, please study this lesson with your youth:

Topic: Prayer - "Let us pray!" Scriptures/Prayers: Palms 23, 100 and 121

Lesson: What is Prayer? YouTube Channel: GQ Kidz.org <https://youtu.be/E3cJkF2zQ4w?si=5DmOXM2AmEaiFxhu>

Songs w/Lyrics:

- "How To Pray Song - P.R.A.Y" - YouTube Channel: Brian Playland - Kids Songs and Bible Stories <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZcusPx4yQV0>
- "This Is The Day The Lord Has Made" - YouTube Channel: Lion Tribe Song & Dance <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=USJxemlCMY>

Women's Day & Potluck 🍷🌸🌺 This year's Women's Day will take place on Sunday, May 17th at Faith Church at 10 a.m. The service will be live streamed, all are invited to wear floral prints of any color, and our guest speaker is Rev. Tamara Moreland of the First Congregational Church of Norwalk! We will be having a potluck reception on the day, so consider what you want to bring and fill out the sign up sheet at Patricia's desk. We anticipate a good time in the Lord, and remember to submit your \$100 financial gift towards Women's Day!

🙏🎵 Faith Church Women's Day Choir Needs You!

Rehearsal takes place at Faith on:

- Tuesday, May 5th at 6 p.m.
- Tuesday, May 12th at 6 p.m.
- Friday, May 15th at 6 p.m.

Remember, Women's Day is May 17th, so come on out and make a Joyful Noise!

🏠 Andrea Barton Reeves - Graduation Announcement

We celebrate Sis. Andrea on her graduation from Yale Divinity School! Monday, May 18 | 12:45 PM (Seating by 12:00-12:15 PM) Yale Divinity School, 409 Prospect St., New Haven. No tickets required. Street parking available (carpooling encouraged) with a reception to follow. Please keep Andrea lifted in prayer as she reaches this milestone!

🍷🙏👥 The Circle of Hands Foundation (COHF) 14th Annual Benefit Dinner on Saturday, June 6th

Please join Errol and Maxine Smith and the Board of Directors of the Circle of Hands Foundation Inc. for an evening of entertainment, fun and recognition of four outstanding individuals in our community. COHF is a Hartford based 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization that assists three orphanages in Jamaica caring for children with HIV/AIDS. Please contact Errol or Maxine at (860)729-8440 if you are interested in attending, purchasing an ad in our program booklet or to make a donation.

Bible Studies & Park And Pray 📖🙏

Weekly Monday Bible Study: 7pm w/ Rev. Arthur Gaither at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89131531513?pwd=WFQ2M3dNYjZSU3NocHEzOXRQb3lWUT09>

Monthly Deacons' Bible Study: 6:30pm, on the 2nd Tuesday

Remember our Sick and Shut in your prayers, and all may Park and Pray at 1:11 pm for a Daily Prayer in the Spirit with Pastor Graham or at <https://parkandprayat111.com>

🙏 OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU 🙏

**The Graham Family
Sis. Olga Callender**

**Dea. A. Lee Martin & Sis. Audrey Levine
Sis. Barbara E. James & Ms. Vivienne Cooke
Dr. Ruth Bass Green & Sis. Carrie Simpson
Sis. Doreen Webb & Sis. Donna Burgess
Sis. Orelia Myers & Mr. Roy Stafford
Mr. Jeffrey M. Bass & Ms. Judith A. LaBelle
Min. Patricia Hollis & Bro. Bill Hollis
The Families of Faith Members who have lost Loved Ones**

Faith Church's Open and Affirming Covenant

*“There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female.
For you are all one in Christ Jesus” ~ Galatians 3:28*

*“So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other.
Just as I have loved you, you should love each other.
Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples.” ~ John 13:34-35*

At Faith Congregational Church of Hartford, CT, we believe that faith matters—today and always!

As an Open and Affirming church of the United Church of Christ, we claim with one voice that ALL people are created in the image of God and are beloved beyond measure! All persons are invited to fully share and participate in the membership, leadership, ministry, fellowship, worship, sacraments, responsibilities, blessings and joys of our church family.

We welcome and celebrate people of all races, ethnicities, abilities, ages, sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions. All manner of human diversity, including class, national origin, residency status, economic circumstance, family configuration, physical, cognitive, or emotional ability and education are respected and loved! And we commit ourselves to the continued fight against the systemic injustices of this world.

Whether you are filled with faith, filled with doubt, or somewhere in between, you are not just accepted here—you are embraced. Faith Church is a place where your talents and abilities are needed and your presence is a blessing.

Faith Matters and You Matter.



**No matter who you are,
or where you are on life's journey
YOU'RE WELCOME
AT FAITH**
FaithMattersToday.org (860) 547-0820

Faith Congregational Church
2030 Main Street
Hartford

a just world for all
ucc.org

Join Our Capital Campaign:
We cordially invite you to take part. Whether you're an individual eager to create an impact, a business looking to give back to the community, or a volunteer willing to lend a helping hand, there's a place for you in our journey.

Our Vision:

- Restore and sustain our historic church building
- Enhance accessibility and technology for ministry and mission
- Invest in the next generation of faith leaders and community impact

FAITH FORWARD:
Honoring Our Past, Building Our Future!

DONATE NOW!
Send a text to 73256...
Type: 'faithchurch' and follow the prompts!

2030 Main St, Hartford CT | faithmatters.admn@gmail.com |
860-547-0820 | faithmatterstoday.org |

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 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!!!**

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Adult Sunday School</u></p> <p>To provide those over 18 via a gifted disciple (the teacher) with a systematic study of Scripture, and an emphasis on personal spiritual growth.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Board of Christian Ed. / Youth School</u></p> <p>The Board determines the educational objectives and programs of the Church community.</p> <p>Youth School provides those aged 5-12 via a gifted disciple (the teacher), with an age-appropriate study of Scripture and an emphasis on personal spiritual growth.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Capital Campaign</u></p> <p>Members work on targeted fundraising efforts, over a 1 to 3-year period, to raise significant funds for the church's roof repairs. The campaign involves recruiting leadership and coordinating volunteers to draft narratives, leveraging ties with/ the community and legacy members, recruiting solicitors, tracking donations, etc.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>GHIAA</u></p> <p>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.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Hospitality/Collation</u></p> <p>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.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Men's Ministry</u></p> <p>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.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Missions</u></p> <p>To assist our local, national, and international families and churches. To promote Christian fellowship, nurture the human community, and restore the environment and economics to God's service.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Music/Choir</u></p> <p>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.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Nominating Committee</u></p> <p>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.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Safety & Security</u></p> <p>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.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Scholarship</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Social Action Committee</u></p> <p>Responsibility to give aid and, where necessary, conduct its own programs calculated to express Christian concern for war, racial conflict, hunger, poverty, welfare, education, environmental problems, prison reform, and human economic, social, and political systems.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Social Media/Webmaster</u></p> <p>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.</p>

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<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Stewardship</u></p> <p>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.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Technology Deacons</u></p> <p>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.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Trustee Board</u></p> <p>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 Church funds, and provides for custodial care of church property.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Ushers</u></p> <p>As a gatekeeper of 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 appear to need it.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Women's Ministry</u></p> <p>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.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>CONTACT...</u></p> <p><u>Adult Sunday School</u> artgainther@gmail.com</p> <p><u>Board of Christian Ed. / Youth School</u> gezcez@yahoo.com</p> <p><u>GHIAA</u> cknightja@aol.com</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>CONTACT...</u></p> <p><u>Hospitality/Collation</u> bwiggins860@gmail.com pag4812@gmail.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Men's Ministry</u> alsaphi@aol.com</p> <p><u>Missions</u> cknightja@aol.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>CONTACT...</u></p> <p><u>Music/Choir</u> mrsrooks89@gmail.com faithmatters.music15@gmail.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Nominating Committee</u> TBD</p> <p><u>Safety & Security</u> melvingraha@aol.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>CONTACT...</u></p> <p><u>Sanctuary Guild</u> mrsrooks89@gmail.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Scholarship</u> maxmorison@aol.com</p> <p><u>Social Media/Webmaster</u> faithmatters.admn@gmail.com</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>CONTACT...</u></p> <p><u>Stewardship</u> artgainther@gmail.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Technology Deacons</u> faithmatters.admn@gmail.com</p> <p><u>Trustee Board</u> melvingraha@aol.com</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>CONTACT...</u></p> <p><u>Ushers</u> thomnchelz@aol.com</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><u>Women's Ministry</u> mrsrooks89@gmail.com wendybooker3@gmail</p>	

JANUARY

1 New Year's Day
 6 Epiphany
 19 MLK Celebration Service / MLK Day
 25 Annual Meeting

FEBRUARY

1 First Day of Black History Month
 14 Valentine's Day
 16 Presidents' Day
 17 Shrove Tuesday
 18 Ash Wednesday Service (12p & 6p)
 25 Wonderful Wednesday Begins

MARCH

1 First Day of Women's History Month
 Wonderful Wednesday Ends
 6 World Day of Prayer
 8 Daylight Savings Time Begins
 29 Palm Sunday/Young People's Sunday

APRIL

2 Maundy Thursday Service (6p)
 3 Joint Good Friday Service @ Immanuel (12p)
 5 Resurrection Sunday/Easter
 26 Congregational Quarterly Meeting

MAY

1 First Day of Asian Pacific American Month
 10 Mother's Day
 17 Women's Day
 24 Pentecost
 25 Memorial Day
 31 Young People's Sunday

JUNE

7 Juneteenth Sunday
 14 Men's Day
 19 Juneteenth
 21 Father's Day & Scholarship Sunday

JULY

4 Independence Day
 26 Hartford Black Pride Service/
 Congregational Quarterly Meeting

AUGUST

Friends & Family Sunday/Church Cookout

SEPTEMBER

7 Labor Day
 15 First Day of Hispanic Heritage Month

OCTOBER

12 Columbus Day
 TBD Patricia Gray Concert
 25 Congregational Quarterly Meeting

NOVEMBER

1 First Day of Amerindian Heritage Month/
 Daylight Savings Time Ends
 3 Election Day
 11 Veterans' Day
 16 Candlelight Memorial Service
 26 Thanksgiving
 29 First Day of Advent/Young People's Sunday

DECEMBER

24 Christmas Eve Service / Last Day of Advent
 25 Christmas Day
 26 First Day of Kwanzaa
 31 New Year's Eve / Watchnight

A Spiritual House: 1 Peter 2:2-10

J T K R S X T V X V B F I D B Y L W A I G Z B B
 Y S T E A E Z J O V Q O C A I P E R U P C O P P
 S N V R C I J M E P R I E S T H O O D V G F W H
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 T M Y S I K H X V D G M A R V E L O U S F S P N
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 D Y N Z N T X U V Z P A F N E W T E O F Z R L O
 F B A S E R A O P D R W H R R O H W N R Y F X T
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 C C J Q F C N K E A V S S U O G I M F O O D L G
 D K Z A O Q P S Y G A A S Z S F J L R L F O C M N
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 X G E I C A A C D W X Y E J L U Y U Q M T K C I
 P D D E T C E J E R R T B E G R F S O Y M R T L

living stones
 sacrifices
 precious
 royal
 grow

cornerstone
 stumbling
 darkness
 light
 holy

chosen race
 marvelous
 offence
 mercy

priesthood
 rejected
 house
 pure

Revealing History: The Cornerstone of Faith and Talcott Street Congregational Churches

September 23, 2025

Recently, Otis Anthony, Terence Bagby, and Thomas Best removed an overgrown bush on the right side of Faith Congregational Church's main entrance, revealing the long-hidden cornerstone of the old Talcott Street Congregational Church. This cornerstone had been obscured for years by the dense foliage. The historical significance is further deepened by the fact that Deacon James C. Chafin,¹ grandfather of current Deacon Cerise Riley, was responsible for attaching this cornerstone to the building in 1976.



Cornerstone
Faith Congregational Church
2030 Main St., Hartford, CT
View: west

¹ James Crenshaw Chafin Sr., born on 22 Aug 1906 in Lake Charles, Calcasieu Parish, Louisiana; died on 15 Nov 1977 (aged 71) in Hartford, Hartford County, Connecticut.

This cornerstone marks a very important period in the history of Faith Congregational Church. The African Religious Society of Hartford purchased property at the corner of Talcott and Market streets in 1826 and constructed a stone-and-brick church. This building served as a vital center for Hartford's Black community, hosting abolitionist activities and establishing a school for Black children. By 1860, the church was renamed the Talcott Street Congregational Church. The original structure was eventually torn down in 1906 to make way for a new, larger two-story building due to the congregation's growth under Rev. Robert F. Wheeler. The church remained at the Talcott Street location until 1954, when it moved to its current address at 2030 Main Street after merging with Mother Bethel Methodist Church to form Faith Congregational Church. The former Talcott Street church building was demolished within a year of this move.



Hartford Courant

Monday, June 21,
1976, page 23

Cornerstone Laid

Deacon James C. Chafin places cement on the cornerstone from the old Talcott Street Church at Faith Congregational Church, 2030 Main St., Sunday to commemorate the church's 150th anniversary (Courant Photo by Anthony Bacewicz).

Church Marks 150th Year By Placing Old Cornerstone

By MICHELE BORDERS

Faith Congregational Church Sunday celebrated the 150th anniversary of its roots by placing the cornerstone from one of its predecessors, the former Talcott Street Church, in the front wall of Faith Church.

In 1953, the Talcott Street church, founded in 1826, and Mother Bethel Methodist Church merged to form Faith Congregational Church.

John Stewart Jr., church treasurer, said the church is the oldest predominantly black congregational church in New England and the third oldest such church in the country.

The cornerstone had been kept in storage to await the bicentennial and the 150th anniversary, Stewart said.

An anniversary booklet, a \$2-bill, two \$50-cent pieces, church programs, proclamations from the governor and newspapers containing recent articles about the church anniversary all were placed inside the church wall before the cornerstone was moved into place. About 200 members of the congregation looked on.

Lura B. Wells, 88, of 278 Cornwall St., was honored as the oldest member of the church attending the ceremonies. Mrs. Wells; the Rev. Albert A. Thompson, a for-

mer pastor of the church; the Rev. Charles Blake, current pastor; the Rev. Mark Welch, and Deacon James C. Chafin all placed cement on the cornerstone.

Earlier in the service, the church's \$80,000-mortgage was burned ceremoniously. The mortgage had been taken out to restore damage from a 1959 fire. The last payment was made recently.

The four-day anniversary celebration began with a community night Thursday. A concert by the chancel choir was Friday, and the anniversary banquet was Saturday. The actual anniversary date was May 11.



Faith Church is the oldest Black Church in the city of Hartford. In our 207th 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 an **Open & Affirming, 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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Deacons: Mark Welch (Chair), Pamela Walters (Co-Chair), Johnny Barnum, Wendy Booker-Nixon, Eric W. Gray, Llonia Jackson, Cheryl 'CC' Johnson, A. Lee Martin, Chelsea Neal, Charron Stoddart, Andrew 'Al' Strother, Linnette Williams	
Tech Deacons: Aiden MacCullagh, Regina Waters, Otis Anthony, Yvonne Brown On Call: Marcelus Brown, Yannick Gordon, Savannah Hayes, Gail V. Martin	
Ushers: Lenore Bailey, Mika Benford, Veronica DeLandro, Sharon Flowers, Dea. Llonia Jackson, Carol Knight-Mosby, Chelsea Neal, Errol Smith, Loretta Smith, Dea. Andrew 'Al' Strother, Dea. Mark Welch, Dea. Linnette Williams	
Sexton: Thomas Best	