

FAITH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, UCC

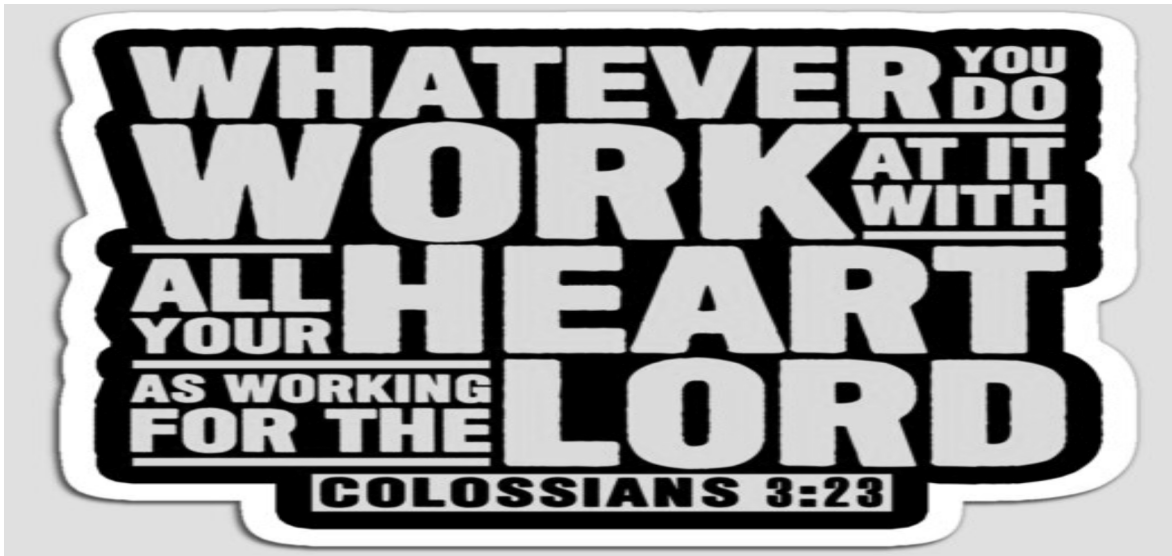
2030 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06120

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://faithmatterstoday.org>

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



October 11, 2026 ~ Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost

PRELUDE

Bro. Wayne Dixon

WELCOME

Rev. Cleo Graham, Sr. Pastor

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dea. 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

(congregants read **BOLD** aloud)

Dea. Cerise Johnson

God looked upon all that had been made—**And behold, it was very good.** In every life, every people, and all creation, God's goodness is reflected. **We come to honor the sacred worth woven into us all.** Let us care for the earth, cherish one another, and celebrate the beauty of God's creation. **With gratitude, wonder, and joy, let us worship our Creator.**

*OPENING HYMN

"Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing"

#175 AAHH

PRAYER OF INVOCATION,

(spoken together)

Dea. Cerise

THE LORD'S PRAYER & SHARING THE PEACE

"Gracious God, You call us to bring our whole hearts to the work before us, serving not for recognition, but with love, integrity, and purpose. Come among us now. Renew our spirits, bless the gifts we bring, and help us offer our best in service to you and to one another. May our worship shape our work, our work reflect our faith, and all that we do bear witness to your grace. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen. And let us now pray the prayer You taught your disciples to pray, saying. "Our Father (Mother, Creator) which art in Heaven..."

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 1:31 & Colossians 3:23

Rev. Arthur Gaither,

[red Bible (NKJV): p. 2 & 1156; blue Bible (NRSV): OT p. 1 & NT p. 156] Assoc. Pastor*"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**"BE EXCELLENT FOR GOD"**

Rev. Gaither

CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP**"Holy Spirit" #319 AAHH**

Rev. Gaither

At this time, we invite you to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and become a member of our church!
You may come forward now and be received by the Pastor or Deacon or speak to the Pastor or a Deacon
after service today. It's never too late, and we will embrace you in faith and thanksgiving!

PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Graham

RESPONSE TO PRAYER**"Spirit Of God, Descend Upon My Heart" (v1)**

#312 AAHH

OFFERTORY APPEAL

Sis. Asha Rooks

GIVE TO FAITH CHURCH 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. Cash App: \$FaithChurch200
5. In-Person: Ushers will now come to the pews to collect your offering.

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM****"Deep River"**

Sis. Patricia Gray, soloist

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Sis. Asha

***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*"O For A Thousand Tongues To Sing"**

#184 AAHH

BENEDICTION

Rev. Gaither

POSTLUDE

Bro. Wayne Dixon

*(*Please stand, if able)*

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



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST



[1]Announcements for the Week [1]



October Birthdays 🎂

Wishing a 'happy birthday' to our Faith family and members born in October: Orelia Myers, Bill Hollis, Linnette Williams, EmmiSoleil Gordon, Eva Walters and Deacon Eric W. Gray! If we missed your birthday, please email our administrative assistant, Regina Waters, with your birthday month and day at faithmatters.admn@gmail.com.

Proportional Giving Reminder 🇺🇸 🙏

Faith Congregational Church reminds all members to participate in 'Proportional Giving,' our annual contribution to the Southern New England Conference of the UCC. This shared gift supports more than 600 UCC churches and ministries throughout our region. The 2026 Proportional Giving amount is \$25 per member, due by December 6, 2026. Please note "Proportional Giving" on your offering envelope or when giving electronically. You can give directly to the UCC at <https://donorbox.org/proportional-giving>. Thank you for your faithfulness and generosity.

Pie Fundraiser 🥧

It's pie time! The Thanksgiving Pie Fundraiser, sponsored by the Stewardship Committee, is upon us. A number of pie varieties will be available, including Apple and Pecan. Each pie costs \$24, yet pecan will cost \$26. The other pie flavors and duration of the fundraiser will be shared with you in the coming days. Please contact Dea. Pamela Walters, Sis. Regina Waters and Rev. Arthur Gaither with questions. All orders must be in by Monday, November 2nd.

Save The Dates - contact Regina Waters at faithmatters.admn@gmail.com with questions.

GHIAA Power Summit

Thursday, October 15 from 6:30–8:30 p.m. at Immanuel Congregational Church, 10 Woodland Street, Hartford. Faith is seeking at least 15 members to attend.

Voices of Faith & Harmony Concert

Sunday, October 18 at 3 p.m. at Faith Congregational Church. Featuring Patricia Gray, Pamela Walters, Thomas Faniel, the Deacon Bill Beckham Singers, and the North End Senior Center Harmonizers.

"Living Faithfully in Our Moral Moment"

New Date: Sunday, November 1 at 4p.m. at Rocky Hill Congregational Church, 805 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill. Author and preacher Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove will explore how people of faith can respond courageously to the challenges facing our communities and nation.

Bible Studies & Park And Pray 🙏 🙏

Weekly Monday Bible Study: 7pm w/ Rev. Arthur Gaither at
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89131531513?pwd=WFQ2M3dNYjZSU3NoCHEzOXRQb3lWUT09>
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 🙏

**Ms. Rebecca Marks & Family
Mr. Jamie Gamble**

**Lady Lorna Blake & Sis. Olga Callender
Sis. Betty Ann Rooks & Dea. A. Lee Martin
Dea. Wendy Christian & Bro. Fred Crayton
Mr. Laurence D. Pinkston II & Mr. Roy Stafford
Sis. Barbara E. James & Ms. Vivienne Cooke
Dr. Ruth Bass Green & Sis. Carrie Simpson
Sis. Doreen Webb & Sis. Donna Burgess
Sis. Orelia Myers & Sis. Audrey Levine
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 Congregational Church
2030 Main Street, Hartford, CT
Rev. Cleo Graham, Pastor

Fall Concert

“Voices of Faith and Harmony”

October 18, 2026
3:00 pm

MUSICIANS

G. INGRID FANIEL STACY CAHOON
DR. RUTH BASS GREEN DR. JONATHAN BERRYMAN
WAYNE DIXON MICHAEL SCOTT, JR.
DAMON COACHMAN TERRY JONES, JR.

PATRICIA A. GRAY, SOPRANO SOLOIST
PAMELA WALTERS, SOPRANO SOLOIST
THOMAS FANIEL, BASS/BARITONE SOLOIST

Special Guests
The North End Senior Center Harmonizers
The Deacon Bill Beckham Singers

Free Will Offering
Light Refreshments in the Fellowship Hall following the Concert

3RD ANNUAL PRIDE INTERFAITH PANEL: **BUILDING BRIDGES FOR RELIGIOUS AND LGBTQ+**

Thursday | **7PM**
Oct 22

*Exploring the intersection of
religious & LGBTQ+ identities.*

All are welcome to join us and hear from a
wonderful panel of local faith leaders.
For questions, please email Pride@cbict.org.

Sponsored by
CBI's Pride, West Hartford Pride & St. John's Episcopal Church



SAINT JOHN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Free Entry | Open to the Public

Location provided with registration.



Registration required,
go to cbict.org or scan
the QR code.



Faith Church is the oldest Historically 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!

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: Asha Rooks

Ass't Treasurer: TBD

Moderator: Norma Sproul

Ass't Moderator: Gail Martin

Trustee Board Co-Chairs: Lorrie Adeyemi & Otis Anthony

Deacons: Pamela Walters (Chair), Vivian MacAlpine (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

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