

We are pleased to welcome the UHART Gospel Choir
participating in our service this morning.

First Church of Christ Congregational
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Living in Spirit • Committed to Service • Open to All

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE
Third Sunday of Eastertide
JUBILEE CELEBRATION

May 4th, 2025
10 o'clock

Rev. Fredd Ward, Senior Pastor
Jim Boratko, Director of Worship Arts
Amanda Bethune, Director of Faith Formation

FIRST CHURCH WEST HARTFORD		MAY THE 4 TH BE WITH YOU, 2025		SERMON	Various Kinds of Vision(s)	Rev. Fredd Ward
PRELUDE	What if God		Christopher Brinson			
	The UHART Gospel Choir					
WELCOME						
†CALL TO WORSHIP			Dawne Quinn			
	One: Great winds send our spirits soaring,					
	All: opening our hearts to hope and joy.					
	One: Unseen powers on high move in our lives,					
	All: turning our mourning into dancing.					
	One: Weeping may last the night,					
	All: but joy comes with the morning.					
†HYMN 543	Blessed Assurance		ASSURANCE			
†OPENING PRAYER						
	Lord, you come to us at the crossroads and crowded streets and turning points of life. You revise our preconceived notions and invert our priorities. You remove the scales from our eyes so that we're able to see the whole scope of your love, the wide range of humankind we're called to love, and the full measure of joy we experience in your presence. Empower us with your Spirit. Encourage us to love one another as our shepherd loves us. Amen.					
INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE						
SCRIPTURE READINGS	Acts 9:1-20(NT p. 154-155)					
†RESPONSE (HYMN 263)	Surely the Presence of the Lord		WOLFE			
	Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place; I can feel his mighty power and his grace. I can hear the brush of angels' wings, I see glory on each face; surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.					
	© 1977 Lanny Wolfe Music. Used with permission from CCLI, License #4720828					
				PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER		
				Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.		
				HYMN #595	Be Thou My Vision	SLANE
				SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION		
				CALL TO OFFERING		
				Give thanks in all things, for God is good. With our gifts we express gratitude for God's steadfast love which endures forever.		
				OFFERTORY	Let's Just Praise the Lord	T D Jakes
					The UHART Gospel Choir	
				†DOXOLOGY		
				Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;		
				Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts: Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.		
				†OFFERTORY PRAYER		
				Gracious God, you rescue us from ourselves and free us to love others, as you have loved us. Receive the gifts from our hands this day. Accept these offerings as symbols of our commitment to tend your sheep. Amen.		
				CELEBRATION OF JUBILEE MEMBERS	*see insert*	
				†HYMN 588	Have Thine Own Way, Lord	ADALAIDE
				BENEDICTION		
				POSTLUDE	Why We Sing	Kirk Franklin
					The UHART Gospel Choir	

† Please stand in body or spirit as you are able.

Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service!

celebrating
50
YEARS
OR MORE

Celebration of Jubilee Members

One: Gracious God, today we commend and celebrate our jubilee members gathered here below and the great cloud of witnesses who guide us from beyond.

All: We rejoice and we remember!

One: We thank you for all that First Church has meant to its jubilee members and how their lives have been touched by its mission and ministries for fifty (or more) years.

All: We are moved to reflect and revel!

One: We marvel at the inspiration that has been found in this meeting house, through the preaching of gospel truth, through the study of scripture, the singing of sacred songs, and through the sharing of the sacraments.

All: We are filled with awe and appreciation!

One: We are inspired by the many examples of longevity and loyalty to First Church. We promise to honor and emulate their devotion to you.

All: We are encouraged and committed!

One: We pray that you will continue to bless the ties that bind our hearts in Christian love – the hearts of jubilee members and newer members alike. Help us to preserve the best of our past and to be open to various kinds of vision as together we go forward in faith.

All: We ask in the name and spirit of the risen Christ. Amen.

First Church West Hartford Jubilee Members 2025

1953 Robert Hall	1966 Joan Hubbard
1954 Marcia Hall	1966 Hal Kraus
1955 Richard Mount	1966 Helen Sly
1956 Nancy Clement	1967 Ann Bucknam
1957 Nancy Ball	1967 Constance Dunham
1957 Anne Selden	1967 Abigail Perkins
1959 Rosalie Sorenson	1968 Nancy Carlson
1959 Virginia Andrews	1968 Suzanne Gates
1960 Zelia Abbott	1970 Alan Darling
1962 Robert Ball (Choir)	1970 Joyce Darling
1962 Pam Hastings	1970 Marilyn Huntingdon
1962 Mark Tamaccio	1970 Ellen Meinke
1963 Jane Claflin Tamaccio	1971 Carolyn Lind
1964 Douglas Evarts	1971 Clara Bebe Wolf
1964 JoAnne Taylor	1974 Judith Pascoe
1965 Arthur DeGraff	1974 Martha Taylor
1965 Sandra DeGraff	1975 Myra Bowers
1966 Carole Carter	