CORE MINISTRIES

Growing Christians today for the Church of tomorrow is a wonderful vision that will not happen by itself. Our values and our foundations will set the course for the journey ahead; but active, intentional faith in God is required to create spiritual and numerical growth.

We will demonstrate our faith through the following:

- **Worship** - We provide spirit-filled worship characterized by inspired preaching, engaging prayer and uplifting music.
- **Pastoral Care** - We are committed to timely, supportive, compassionate pastoral care in times of struggle and in times of celebration.
- **Spiritual Friendship** - We offer abundant and diverse opportunities for developing spiritual friendships.
- **Spiritual Growth** - We promote Christian formation for children, youth, young adults, families and older adults that encourages us to discover God and deepen our faith.
- **Outreach** - We provide meaningful outreach opportunities in partnership with God’s people in Asylum Hill, in Hartford, across the country and in other countries.
- **Music and Arts** - Through a commitment to high quality and diverse musical and artistic expression, we celebrate a sense of wonder for all creation.

FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Loving and faith-filled lay leaders, ministers, staff and volunteers who work in a collaborative spirit and are growing in Christian faith.

A community of committed people who give generously and joyfully to address annual, capital and long-term funding needs.

A commitment to attract and retain younger generations while continuing to address the needs of older and long-time members.

A willingness to experiment and change to advance our mission.

Well-developed plans to address needs related to programs, staffing, leadership, finance, communications, building and grounds.
Imagine a church ...

that takes seriously the loving, forgiving, inclusive message of Jesus.

where people come as they are, but go transformed, hopeful and ready to change the world.

that is a diverse, relevant, Spirit-filled community for the young ... and the young at heart!

turned outward to its neighborhood and beyond, listening, serving and building relationships.

offering healing and asylum in a harried and troubled world.

Imagine ...

Asylum Hill Congregational Church!

The mission of Asylum Hill Congregational Church is to help people grow in faith and love as disciples of Jesus.

Core Values

**Christ-centeredness**  The loving, transforming way of Jesus is the motivation for and the foundation of all worship, programs and ministries of the church.

  *Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.*  — 1 Corinthians 11:1-2

**Caring**  Called to share God’s love for each person, we seek to build a caring community to support one another through times of joy and struggle. In addition to clergy and staff, we embrace congregational care as a ministry for every member.

  *As I have loved you, so must you love one another.*  — John 13:34

**Diversity and Inclusiveness**  We recognize all people as integral parts of the human family, created in God’s image. We include everyone around Christ’s table and strive to be a place where all people know they are valued for their unique experiences, opinions and gifts. We seek collaboration with other churches and other faiths to spread the inclusive love of God.

  *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*  — Galatians 3:28

**Generosity**  Responding to God’s call to be faithful stewards, we practice generous and transparent use of our resources, valuing each person’s unique gifts of presence, participation and pledge.

  *Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will be watered.*  — Proverbs 11:24-25

**Innovation**  We value our rich heritage, while striving to be a forward-thinking community of disciples always preparing the Church of tomorrow. We recognize and celebrate creative and courageous efforts when they succeed and when they don’t.

  *I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*  — Philippians 3:14

**Joy**  We are grateful for the gift of life and for each other. Fun and laughter are woven into the fabric of our lives together. We strive to bring a spirit of joy to all that we do.

  *Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice!*  — Philippians 4:4

**Justice**  We seek justice and peace through building relationships and through making small, deliberate choices and advocating for individual human rights as well as social and ecological justice. Together, we seek to bring about the world that God intends.

  *God has showed you what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.*  — Micah 6:8

**Peace and Nonviolence**  Following the example of Jesus, we affirm principles and practices that promote peace and reduce aggression/violence.

  *Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*  — Romans 12:21

**Turning Outward**  Following the lead of the Holy Spirit, which drove the apostles out of the upper room and into the streets, we are also sent out into our neighborhood, city, region and world responding to the important issues of our time.

  *If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill; and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.*  — James 2:15-17