



center church

the first church of christ UCC

invites you to
Walk in the Footsteps of a Prince

Wednesday, May 13, 2026
10:30am – 12:30pm 675 Main St., Hartford



Join us at Center Church in Hartford, CT for a program to welcome a delegation that aims to trace the footsteps of their ancestor, Prince Abdulrahman Ibrahima ibn Sori, from the Official Royal House of Sori and the Root Nine Foundation and Institute. The delegation is composed of HRH Princess Karen W.S. Chatman from Natchez, Mississippi, Dr. Artemus Gaye from Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa, and other descendants from the United States and abroad.

Invited Guests include: American School for the Deaf; Trinity College (Hartford, CT); the Adams Presidential Center (Quincy, MA); the Henry Clay Memorial Foundation and Estate (Lexington, KY); the CT Freedom Trail; CT Democracy Center at the Old State House; the Betsey Stockton Center for Black Church Studies at Princeton Theological Seminary, the Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library at Yale University, historic churches connected to Prince Sori's New England visit; and area research institutions involved in historical preservation.



Parking: Convenient garage parking is available just two blocks of the church at LAZ parking facilities in the Gold Building and Trumbull on the Park (go.lazparking.com). Limited street parking is also available, with a two-hour maximum stay.

HISTORY:

In 1788, Prince Abdulrahman was captured during warfare in Guinea, West Africa, sold into slavery in Natchez, Mississippi, and freed forty years later. His freedom journey brought him through Hartford and to Center Church at the invitation of the Rev. Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet in October 1828. Rev. Gallaudet traveled with Prince Sori throughout Southern New England raising funds for his passage to the Colony at Liberia, West Africa.

ABOUT THE PROGRAM:

Walking in the Footsteps of a Prince is an annual convening that brings together scholars, academic institutions, and descendants to examine and engage in ongoing dialogue regarding the historical legacy of Prince Abdulrahman Ibrahima Ibn Sori. The program provides a structured forum for interdisciplinary discussion, focusing on documented historical connections between Prince Abdulrahman and prominent figures in early American history, including John Quincy Adams, Henry Clay, and Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet, as well as emerging research related to Francis Scott Key. Through critical inquiry and scholarly exchange, the convening contributes to a broader understanding of transatlantic histories, the conditions and processes of enslavement and emancipation, and their continuing significance within African American and African diasporic studies.

AMERICA 250 AFFILIATE
CONNECTICUT



Sponsored by Center Church &
The Teacher's Library at Center Church