

THE BEACON

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a worshipping praying learning caring outreaching community

CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ
One Worthen Street, Chelmsford, MA 01824

VOLUME 63 NUMBER 4

APRIL 2018



April Highlights

Easter Sunday!

Worship on Sunday, April 1st at 10:00 a.m.

Stewardship Sunday

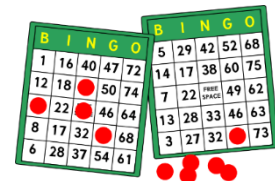
April 8th at 10:00 a.m. Worship
Pledge cards are to be returned.

Pot Luck Brunch following worship

Q & A Session on the Open & Affirming Process

B-I-N-G-O Fundraiser

Saturday, April 21st at 4 p.m.



“Neighborhood Gathering”

at Beth Jarok’s

Sunday, April 22nd at 2:00 p.m.

Fellowship, Refreshments, and Discussion

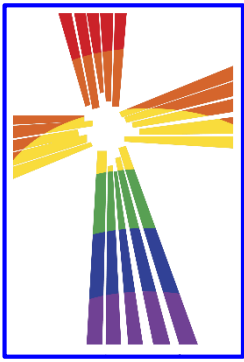


MAKE A
DIFFERENCE DAY

“Make a Difference Day!”

Sunday, April 29th

Brunch & Service Projects following Worship



Knight Lines

As I've said before, I've never been through the Open & Affirming Process, and I'm enjoying learning about it and brainstorming ways to make this journey together. Fortunately, I'm in a pastors' group with five other pastors whose churches have all gone through this endeavor. I've been asking them regularly for their best ideas and what worked and what didn't.

I'd like to share with you a key concept within the Open & Affirming process. It's called, "graceful engagement." Think of it as "grace-filled conversations," where the concept and reality of grace is present in all our interactions. It means we accept one another even when we disagree, even when we may not be able to understand each other at all. We communicate with one another gracefully – full of grace. We truly extend grace to each other as we talk about this subject. We seek to be "open & affirming" with each other as children of God. In other words, "open & affirming" begins with us.

With this thought in mind, we want to give folks an opportunity to ask questions in a comfortable way. Our "Neighborhood Gatherings" have been very helpful and quite meaningful. We also have a plan for a question and answer session on April 8th following a congregational brunch. We've already collected some questions from the congregation. There are two Q & A boxes for you to use, one in the narthex/lobby and one in Fellowship Hall. We'll again put notecards in the bulletins on April 8th. And then following our brunch on April 8th, members of the committee will strive to answer these questions and dialogue with you on these issues. We hope you will participate, gracefully . . . full of grace

*Taking the Journey with You,
Pastor Rich*

ONA Task Force – Join the Conversation

"CCC is already a welcoming church, why do we need to be ONA?"

"What does Open and Affirming mean?"

"What does an ONA church do?"

"Why are we thinking about this now?"

*"We're such a friendly church, why wouldn't gay and lesbian people
know they are welcome here?"*

Do any of these questions echo your own thoughts or feelings? Why is CCC undertaking the ONA process? These are the questions and conversations we are sharing as we consider, as a church, the meaning of becoming an Open and Affirming church, as the designation is called by the UCC. It is indeed an exploratory process in which we listen to one another, and voices from outside of CCC, to discern what is the will of our church family. Your participation is valued and important. We are learning together, we are growing together, we are being intentional together.

The first two Neighborhood Gatherings that were held in March at the homes of the Billingsleys and the Papenfusses were a wonderful beginning. The ONA Task Force, supported by the Deacons and Pastor Rich, is planning two events for April. We hope that you will attend and join the conversation!

- Sunday, April 8, 11:30 a.m. – Church Pot Luck Brunch in Fellowship Hall
- Sunday, April 22, 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. – Neighborhood Gathering at the home of Beth Jarok, 103 Westford Street, Chelmsford

Sign up in Coffee Hour or by calling the church office.

There will also be Question Boxes in the Narthex and in Fellowship Hall this month. You may remain anonymous if you wish. Please use the provided index cards to ask a question, share a thought, or give other feedback. We will use some of the time at the brunch to answer questions that have been submitted.

If you are interested in speaking one-on-one to a member of the Task Force or Pastor Rich, we encourage you to let us know! We are eager to meet with you!

In grace and peace,

*Lynn Horton, Monique Billingsley, Marcia Cassidy, Joe Chapman, Ginnie Hall, Elizabeth Hartigan,
Beth Jarok, Val King, Deb Lyons, Sue Mirisola, Judy Musgrove, Karen Papenfuss, Pastor Rich Knight*

EASTER EVENTS

"The Feast of the Sacrifice Lamb"

On **Thursday, March 29th** at 7:30 p.m., we will gather in Fellowship Hall for the Maundy Thursday Service. This service is not a meal. It highlights the connections between the Passover Meal and the events of Holy Week. A very moving Communion Service, shared in candlelight around tables.

"A Service of Light & Darkness"

On **Friday, March 30th** at 7:30 p.m., there will be a Good Friday Tenebrae Service held in the Sanctuary. This account of Good Friday will be interspersed with music to further tell the story. As the account of Good Friday is read, the sanctuary darkens, in the very moving service.

Easter Vigil

Central Congregational Church has for many years offered up a Vigil for twelve hours prior to Easter sunrise. This is a spiritual time in which one can spend a half hour or more in peace and solitude in the church. It is a wonderful time to reflect on who and what we have in our lives that is important to us. Everyone who has participated in the past leaves with vastly different takeaways and feelings about the experience. Please contact Val King to sign up.



Easter Vigil begins on Saturday, March 31st at 6:00 p.m. and ends on Sunday, April 1st at 6:00 a.m.

What's Happening at CCC!

Stewardship Sunday is April 8, 2018

The 2018/2019 Stewardship Campaign will conclude with Stewardship Sunday on April 8th. The theme for this year has been "What My Church Means to Me." As you fill out your pledge card this year, think about what the church means to you, and if you are part of a family, include them in your considerations.

How important is it that we maintain our vibrant ministry and outreach, support our music program, continue to grow our faith, and all the other aspects of what makes Central Congregational such a special place for all of us. We have a major challenge ahead of us during this campaign as we try to raise the funds to support our church and its programs for the next year. Please consider increasing your support for next year.

Pledge cards will be returned during the offering time on April 8. If you are unable to attend that day, please give your pledge card to a member of the Stewardship Committee or mail it to the church office to the attention of the Stewardship Committee.

*The Stewardship Committee: Heather Landheim, Becky Wisniewski,
Elmer Lyons, and Dick Papenfuss*

Pot Luck Brunch

Following worship on **Sunday, April 8th**, we will have a pot luck brunch followed by a Q & A Session on the Open & Affirming Process. Please contact Laurie Montgomery-College or Doug Drake with how many of your family will be attending and what you will be bringing to contribute to the meal.

BINGO Fundraiser

Saturday, April 21, 2018

Doors open at 4:00 p.m. – BINGO starts at 4:30 p.m.

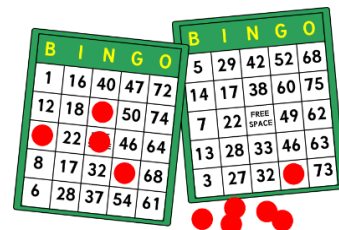
\$5.00 per board

BINGO basket prizes

No daubers needed

Refreshments and snacks will be sold for additional fundraising

All ages welcome



Lunch with the Pastor

Bring your own lunch and join Pastor Rich and a group of friends every Tuesday at noon in room 202.

Benevolent Beaders

The Benevolent Beaders unfortunately had to cancel their March meeting due to the snow storm. Hopefully we can meet this month. We plan to be at CCC on **Wednesday, April 18th**, from 1-3 p.m. in room 308. We have some catching up to do and would very much like some new members to join us. We have such great fellowship and a lot of fun making our different items of jewelry.

Hopefully, we will be able to have a sale in the near future so we can continue to make our gifts to charities. Let us know if you would like to join our Beaders group by calling Nancy Clark or Daphne "Dee" Freeman.

Time to Clean Out!

The Friends of Boy Scout Troop 74 are collecting items for our Annual Giant Spring Yard Sale. We need your donations of saleable items such as used tools, good furniture, small appliances, toys, bicycles, books, dishes, etc. This is a great time to clean out your garage, basement, and attic. Receipts for income tax purposes are available upon request. You may drop off your items at the church parking lot on **Saturday, March 31** and **Saturday, April 21** from 9 a.m. – noon.

We cannot accept: torn, dirty or broken furniture, mattresses or box springs, clothing, child car seats, cribs, tires, large appliances, TVs, large microwaves, computer monitors, CRT's, large exercise equipment, or winter sports equipment. Any questions, please call 978-935-9474. Thank you!

KiSeLo – Kindness, Service, LOve – Ladies Come One, Come All!

Wednesday, April 25th at 1:00 p.m. is our next KiSeLo meeting. We'd love to see some new faces, along with our regular members, of course. Our hostesses are Mary Horne, Nancy Owens, and Kelly Tustin. Our program is "BINGO and Game Day." Come and try your luck at BINGO or join a few friends playing Scrabble, UNO, Phase 10, etc. Come for the fellowship whether you play a game or just sit and converse with a couple friends. Our Open Pantry suggestion is boxed rice or boxed potatoes. We hope to seeing YOU on April 25th.



How about "Bring a Friend Day" . . . the more the merrier to play BINGO and other games!



Make a Difference Day

On **Sunday, April 29th**, we will have our next, "Make a Difference Day." Following worship, we'll have a delicious brunch in Fellowship Hall. Then we'll head off for service projects. The projects are still being finalized, but we know three of them for sure. We'll once again be sending a crew to the Community Garden to help with spring clean-up and planting, and we'll send a crew again to do clean-up on the Freeman Rail Trail. The God Squad will be going to the Lowell Humane Society for a service project. Look for sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall.
Lynn Horton, Jen Stuart, and Pastor Rich

Ministries in Our Church

Summer is for Mission Trips!

Once again this summer, CCC will participate in two mission trips, helping to make homes "warm, safe, and dry." On each trip, we'll do 5 days of home repair for those who can't afford it. You don't have to have construction or house-painting skills to go. This is the best learning-on-the-job experience you'll ever have! Students should have finished the 8th grade in order to go. Here are the dates and who to contact for more information:

- West Virginia Mission Trip – June 16-23 – Contact Bryan Norman
- Down East Maine Mission – Aug. 5- 11 – Contact Peter White

Organizational meetings are held monthly, usually on Sunday nights. Please contact Bryan or Peter, or just show up at the next meeting to learn more and join a trip!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

There are various committees in our church that need your help. By serving on a church committee you are helping your church to accomplish the work that is necessary to do God's work. God has a plan for our church – but it is necessary for each one of us to prayerfully realize that we might have the God given gift that will benefit our church. Don't wait for us to contact you, please contact a member of the *Nominating Committee: Ginnie Hall, Elizabeth Hartigan, Lynn Horton, Deb Lyons, Sue Mirisola, and Lisa Zachert.*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Christian Education Committee has had an interesting winter – our meetings were snowed out for two months in a row! That has not, however, dimmed our enthusiasm for the upcoming weeks. We had a busy Lenten and Easter season where the children learned about the teachings of Jesus and the miracle of Easter. They enjoyed the palms of Palm Sunday and the Easter egg hunt!

The pre-K to 3rd graders have been meeting after the children's sermon to practice the song that they are performing on April 8th. Also on April 8th, all of the elementary students will be working creating "Hope in a Box" which includes food that the church can donate to those in need of extra meals.

The Holy Cows and the God Squad have also been busy. The Holy Cows hosted an Open House for their families where they presented their posters of Heroes of the Old Testament. Please stop by room 302 to see their great work. The God Squad ran the silent auction so many of you supported and attended a weekend in Worcester to work with the homeless. As always we thank you for your continued support for our important programs.

*Your CE Committee,
Elmer Lyons and Mary-Ann Hussey, Co-Chairs
Kristin Strobel, correspondent*

ChristCare

The women's ChristCare group continues to meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., in room 202. Contact Deb Lyons for more information.

The men's ChristCare group meets before church, two Sunday mornings a month, at 9 Worthen Street. Contact Glenn Dissinger with any questions.

New members are always welcome in both groups.

Prayer Ministry

In staying with our Lenten theme from Psalms. Reminders that God is always there with us.

- "The earth belongs to God! Everything in all the world is his." Psalms 24:1
- "He is my strength, my shield from every danger. I trusted in him, and he helped me. Joy rises in my heart until I burst out in songs of praise to him." Psalms 28:7
- "He will give his people strength. He will bless them with peace." Psalms 29:11
- "Blessed is the Lord, for he has shown me that his never-failing love protects me like the walls of a fort!" Psalms 31:21
- "So cheer up! Take courage if you are depending on the Lord." Psalms 31:21
- "In my troubles I pled with God to help me and He did!" Psalms 120:1

The list of verses in Psalms is endless. Just one last verse I learned so many, many, years ago and it will always be with me. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalms 119:105 Allow Him be your lamp and your light. Let us pray with/for you in times of concerns.

If you wish to be a part of the Prayer Ministry or have prayer requests for yourself or others, please contact: Daphne Freeman, Ginnie Hall, or Wendy Perry. And remember to watch and listen for answers because they always come, in the most amazing ways. *Linda Lis*

Prayer Shawl Ministry

We will not be meeting in April, but keep creating at home! Please join us on **Tuesday, May 8th** at 7:00 p.m. for an evening of fellowship as we create shawls that will bring joy to those in need of love and care. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month. *Linda Carson*

CCC's Library in Room 202

Spring! It's a great time to think about volunteering. Hearing about CCC's Make a Difference Sunday on April 29th had me searching the church library for books on the subject.

Growing Little Helpers has scripture based activities for preschoolers that lead them to help their families, church, community, and the world. This book was written for Sunday School teachers, but could be used by parents. Play Lightly on the Earth is filled with nature activities for children from three to nine years old, without the scriptural references.

The Busy Family's Guide to Volunteering has ideas and resources for parents interested in all sorts of family service. The Complete Idiot's Guide to Volunteering for Teens has similar advice in it, but is written specifically for teens.

Finally, the library contains two books that are written with more of an eye to why and how to raise caring, serving young people than the more "hands on" books previously described. These are Parenting for Peace and Justice and Growing Compassionate Kids.

Please note that you don't have to be a parent to get good ideas from these books. However, we choose to help, we all can Make a Difference! *Deb Lyons, Librarian*



In March, The God Squad attended Common Cathedral which serves as an important community for people experiencing homelessness and for parishes who want to be in community with unhoused people. Luckily, power was restored so that we could meet the evening before and make over 150 sandwiches. After the sandwiches were assembled and bagged, we enjoyed pizza, games and fellowship. Nine teens and seven adults shared lunch, conversation, joys, concerns, and worship with the Common Cathedral community. Hannaford's graciously donated paper goods, chips, and juice for this event.

On **Saturday, April 7**, The God Squad will be bringing donations to Catie's Closet and touring their facility. We will be meeting at CCC at 10 a.m. and returning at 11:45 a.m. Catie's Closet converts an unused room within schools into a permanent resource where students in need can "shop" for free clothing and/or toiletries. Catie's Closet provides clothing in a discreet manner to students from Kindergarten thru Grade 12 in schools throughout Eastern Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire.

As part of CCC's "Make A Difference Day," the God Squad will be working on a service project for the Lowell Humane Society and touring the facility on **Sunday, April 29th**. We will be meeting at 9 Worthen Street after coffee hour and returning at 2:45 p.m. Prior to driving to the Lowell Humane Society at 951 Broadway Street, Lowell, the group will have pizza in 9 Worthen Street. Founded in 1873 with the mission of preventing cruelty, the Lowell Humane Society is one of the oldest humane organizations in the state of Massachusetts. The Lowell Humane Society works tirelessly to prevent cruelty, provide care for homeless and distressed animals and educate the public about responsible pet ownership with the goal of improving the quality of life for both animals and people.

Please RSVP Gwen Bottomley for these events.

Community Garden

It doesn't feel much like spring, and yet garden preparations have already started. Seeds have been given to our volunteer seed starter, Cindy Gist, to start the warm weather crops, e.g. tomatoes, sweet peppers, tomatillos, and jalapeño peppers. Other necessary seeds and equipment are being gathered.

There will be seed plantings after church on **Sundays, April 8 and 15**, to start our cold season crops e.g. spinach, peas, and lettuce. The garden opening will be on **Sunday, April 29th**, and will be part of the "Make a Difference" Sunday activities. I hope to see some of you there. It is such a wonderful experience to watch the garden transform into neat orderly rows of beds eager for the plants and seeds we bring, ready to support new life. *Mary Horne*

From Your Social Action and Missions Committee



SAM's Focus for April is Community Teamwork

For nearly 50 years, Community Teamwork, in Lowell, MA, has provided support to local families in need, promoted economic self-sufficiency for all, and fostered a stronger community by partnering with others to expand opportunities for economic growth. Nearly 20,000 families throughout Greater Lowell and across the Merrimack Valley access the resources they need to prepare themselves for a brighter economic future. With the help of Community Teamwork and partners, unemployed workers obtain the skills they need to get and keep a job, parents access safe, quality child care for their children so they can work, children get the strong foundation they need to succeed in school and beyond, families learn to manage tight budgets and save for the future, and our elders are able to stay safe in their own homes.

From the single mom, to veterans, families, or the homeless, all gain training, employment, and the dignity of living in decent housing. Community Teamwork helps people with a long list of services, such as; child care, family supports, nutrition, fuel assistance, housing, skills training, employment, financial education, and individual asset and small business development.

Community Teamwork depends on the generosity of many people across our communities to make monetary and in-kind donations that allow us to reach more people with needed services. We also depend on the hundreds of volunteers of all ages who donate thousands of hours of service helping children, the elderly, the disabled and the disenfranchised. These gifts allow us to deliver much-needed services to 50,000 individuals across 63 cities and towns in Middlesex and Essex counties. Your human capital and financial gifts are helping to create healthy, vibrant communities.

Please consider making a contribution, in any amount, to Community Teamwork. For more information, visit www.commteam.org or contact either Arlene Belleville or Cindy Bruetsch.

"Hate Has No Home Here" Signs

On **Sunday, April 8th**, the Social Action and Missions Committee (SAM) will present to the congregation the "Hate Has No Home Here" signs from the Great Lowell Interfaith Leadership Alliance (GLILA). We will have a table in Fellowship Hall to view them and take one home. A quote from GLILA:



"The Greater Lowell area is home to people of all ages, races, and religions. We speak different languages, have all kinds of families and identities, share varied interests, and abilities. What we have in common is that we find home here, where all are welcome. GLILA celebrates the diversity and seeks to deepen understanding and respect. To demonstrate our continued commitment to a community where all feel safe, GLILA is participating in the "Hate Has No Home Here" campaign. Signs can be display on your front lawn or window reaffirming that "Hate Has No Home Here"; we have adapted those signs to reflect the languages most representative of greater Lowell: English, Khmer, Arabic, Hebrew, Spanish, and Portuguese."

The Open Pantry

Becky Wisniewski mentioned that Open Pantry of Lowell needs to replace their freezer. They are looking at a larger capacity one in order to offer patrons a higher tier of food vs. traditional canned/boxed food. Geoff Bryant, Executive Director of Open Pantry, was called during our meeting to clarify. Approximate cost will be \$5100. A grant has already been submitted to the Boston Food Bank for \$2500. Providing higher quality food such as produce and meats increase the tier status of Open Pantry. Higher "tier status" means a better chance of grants approved by Boston Food Bank. SAM has offered \$1500.00 from the Jean Neal Special Account.

Personalized Superhero Book and Superhero Hat

Dear Church Friends,

Our daughter-in-law, Susie, is starting a nonprofit for children being treated for cancer at Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence, RI, and is seeking volunteers willing to crochet superhero beanies. Please take a look at Susie's message below about the nonprofit. She is very passionate about helping these poor children feel good about themselves as they go through all the difficulties of cancer treatment. The little boy she mentions is Kevy, her friend's son and the inspiration for the non-profit. He has been in our church's Prayer Ministry and is doing remarkably well for such a little tike.

Sincerely,
Karen and Dennis Sheehan

Books and Beanies is a free service provided to the families of the children at Hasbro Children's Hospital in Providence, RI. We create a personalized superhero book and superhero hat for children, ages 4-7, undergoing various cancer treatments at Hasbro Children's Hospital.

The idea all started when a close friend of mine told me her son, a 15-month old, had a cancerous tumor, and was going to need chemotherapy and radiation. I was in absolute disbelief that someone so small would have to go through such an enormous ordeal. Over the last few months, not only did his strength keep my friend going, but we have all been amazed at his strength to keep himself going as a happy 15-month old. In all of our eyes, especially my friend's, her son really is a superhero. I came up with a concept to work on a personalized superhero book for him. I have been working on books for close friends and family members over the last two years that are personalized for their little ones. When talking with a close friend about the book I was working on for my friend's son, she thought it would be a great idea to REALLY make them into a superhero and offer a superhero beanie hat to go with their personalized book. From then on, **Books and Beanies** was an idea that is now becoming a reality.

We have been discussing the idea with the Child Life Services at Hasbro Children's Hospital. They will be offering our services to the parents, and in turn the parents would reach out to us at our email address, booksandbeanies2018@gmail.com. We would then complete the project and ship the package out.

I am in the process of creating a Facebook page in order to solicit funds on a project-to-project basis. There is no cost to create each book, but there is a cost associated with printing the book, as well as the cost of the yarn to make the beanie hat.

We are looking for talented knitters to work on these crocheted beanie hats on a volunteer basis. The turnaround time we would be looking for is anywhere from 2-3 weeks. We would provide the pattern that each of the beanie hats would be based on, and we would provide the cost for the yarn needed if necessary. If you are interested helping us create the beanie hats, please contact Susie at Booksandbeanies2018@gmail.com

Thank you!
Susie Sheehan



This Month Our Thanks Go Out To:

- ♥ Francisco and Taide for a beautiful, faith-filled musical program in worship on March 18.
- ♥ The Choir and Francisco for an awesome "Easter Celebration Concert" March 25.
- ♥ The Deacons and Church Staff for all their Holy Week preparations and efforts.
- ♥ Peter Morin, Joe Chapman, and Jay Hungate for cooking a great breakfast for the Men on March 17.
- ♥ The Open & Affirming Task Force for organizing two terrific "Neighborhood Gatherings" last month. Thanks also to our hosts, Monique and Glen Billingsley and Karen and Dick Papenfuss.
- ♥ Gwen Bottomley and Virginia Timmins for organizing the God Squad participation in the "Common Cathedral" ministry to the homeless and the Confirmation Class serving dinner at the Lowell Transition Living Facility.

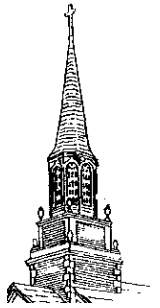
Milestones

Congratulations to Patrick and Samantha Shields on the birth of their second child, Gavin Dakin Shields, who was born March 22nd. Gavin weighed in at 10 lbs. 1 oz. Big Brother Declan is excited to have a new brother.

Steeple Lighting

Lighting the steeple is a wonderful way to honor the memory of a loved one or to celebrate a special occasion. It costs only \$5 for a week. There are many weeks available, so please sign-up on the Sanctuary Committee bulletin board in Fellowship Hall or call the church office.

- April 1st for Doris Moore in loving memory of Bob.
- April 8th for Pat O'Connell in loving memory of her mother, Louise Andersen O'Connell.
- April 15th for Carol Engel in loving memory of her husband, Ted.



Take Note

- ✓ Worship services are at 10:00 a.m. Sunday School is held at this time and nursery care is provided as well.
- ✓ Office Hours are Monday thru Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- ✓ The bulletin is printed first thing on Friday morning, so all announcements must be received in the office by Thursday morning.
- ✓ The May *Beacon* deadline is **Tuesday, April 17th** with a mailing/emailing date of April 25th.
- ✓ The church office will be closed on Monday, April 16th for Patriots' Day.
- ✓ Remember to use the PO Box 339 when mailing things to the Church.
- ✓ Are you still receiving your *Newsletter* by the US mail? Please sign up to receive it via email. It helps the environment! Contact the office at office.admin@cccchelmsford.org
- ✓ MACUCC Emails: Would you like to receive email messages from the Massachusetts Conference of the United Church of Christ or from our Northeast Association? When the office receives these emails, Linn will forward the messages to you. Please send Linn an email and you will be added to the email list.

Do you need a Ride to Church? Can you OFFER a Ride to Church?

If you would like a ride to CCC, please call the Transportation Hotline at 978-905-8220. A church deacon will contact you and make arrangements to drive you to the church. If you are able to provide rides to the church, please contact Lynn Horton. The deacons sometimes need extra drivers, and you could be a real help as a "transportation angel!" Thank you!

Are you looking for a preschool program for your child?



Look no further... The Co-Op provides a loving learning environment where we strive to not only teach your children but to support their social emotional growth. The Co-Op offers many exciting enrichment programs, colorful educational themes, and a setting in which parents and teachers work together to provide a well-balanced base for the children's love for learning!

We offer part time and full time programs, lunch bunch, and extended day!

If you are interested in preschools, please come and check us out or call for more information.

Suzanne Dionne 978-256-3033 or director@centralcoop.org

Take a peek at our website or visit us on Facebook

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I want to thank you for your outstanding support to the music ministry of this church. The concert we presented on Palm Sunday was once again an absolute success. So many people to thank for this that if I were to list everyone I would take half the newsletter!

Thank you Choir, Music Committee, church, and community friends who joined us and supported us. Together, we all made this possible. Thank you Taide, my beautiful wife, for all your patience and work behind scenes. Margie for all the hours you put into helping me be on top of everything, preparing the concert programs, so much more. Thank you everyone who provided help, donated food, time, resources,

money, helped us plan and publicize. Thank you to the performers and the people who attended. All of the hard work pays off when there is a receptive and supportive audience with whom we can share our music. There is so much work involved in putting these concerts together and once again we all delivered at a very high level.

CCC choir and friends who join us – I want to especially congratulate you for your performance. I really think the musical quality of Sunday's concert was superb. I continue to be impressed with your hard work, commitment, attention, energy, and emotion at every rehearsal and at the most important moment, the performance. All glory and honor to God alone!

Many of you already know that next December the CCC choir is performing Beethoven's Ninth Symphony and Choral Fantasy at Carnegie Hall's Stern Auditorium/Perelman Stage in NYC (the biggest of the 3 concert halls at Carnegie, where legendary classical musicians have performed). One week after that we are presenting the same program at CCC in Chelmsford. This project is much much larger than anything we have ever done: the orchestra and choir size that will be needed, the musical difficulty, logistics, budget, and so much more.

Everyone's support and willingness to go the extra mile will be more important than ever before. But I can give you my word that the end result will make the effort worthwhile. There is no more powerful way to touch people's lives than with music while bringing hope, joy and understanding to everyone around us. This is, I believe, the main reason why we play and sing. I am excited to be part of a team that wants to bring these gifts, once only available to a powerful elite, to our entire community.

Thank you once again from the bottom of my heart! I look forward to more concerts with you.

*Many blessings to all,
Your brother in Christ,
Francisco Fernandez,
Music Director*



Please complete and return with your contribution to the church. Thank you.

Stock
Certificate

Stock
Certificate

**West Virginia
Workcamp 2018
June 16 – June 23**

This Certificate Designates

WORKCAMP SHAREHOLDER

_____ **\$100 Master Carpenter**

_____ **\$25 Leader**

_____ **\$10 Friend**

_____ **\$____ Supporter**

*Valid only if signed by a West Virginia 2018 Workcamp agent of
Central Congregational Church, All Saints' Episcopal Church,
or Mont Vernon Congregational Church*

Please bring your completed pledge card to worship on **Sunday, April 8th**, or mail it to church. Thank you.

2018-2019 Stewardship Pledge

Name _____ Envelopes? _____ Yes _____ No

Address _____

Electronic Giving Thru the church Program? _____

I/We plan to give \$ _____ each week or \$ _____ each month

Total planned contribution \$ _____

Signed _____



CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
One Worthen Street
PO Box 339
Chelmsford, MA 01824-0339

PLEASE JOIN US!



**April
2018**

MAKE A
DIFFERENCE DAY
SUNDAY, APRIL 29TH

Central Congregational Church in Chelmsford – United Church of Christ

“A Community of Faith, Hope, and Love, Growing through Worship and Service”

The avowed purpose of this church shall be to worship God, to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to celebrate the Sacraments; to realize Christian fellowship and unity within this church and the Church Universal; to render loving service toward mankind; and to strive for righteousness, justice, and peace.

We invite you to join us in worship on Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Pastor	Rev. Dr. Richard B. Knight	978-256-5931 978-684-2031 (cell)	pastor-rich@cccchelmsford.org
Director of Music	Francisco Fernandez	617-669-6492	pacolencia@hotmail.com
Office Administrator	Linn Flint	978-256-5931	office.admin@cccchelmsford.org
Custodian	Juarez Gomes		
Sunday School Coordinator	Jen Stuart	978-250-8538	jennifer.stuart@cccchelmsford.org
Nursery Supervisor	Emily Lyons	978-250-4029	emilalyons@gmail.com
Church Location:	One Worthen Street, Chelmsford, MA		
Church Mailing Address:	PO Box 339, Chelmsford, MA 01824-0339		
Church Phone:	978-256-5931	Church e-mail:	office.admin@cccchelmsford.org
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		Conference Web site:	www.macucc.org

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