

# Central Congregational Church

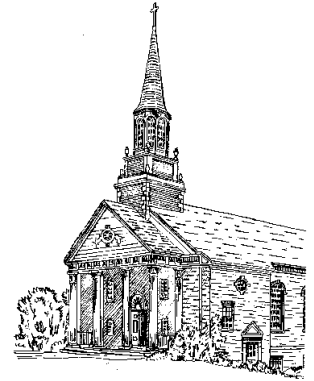
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*"A Community of Faith, Hope, and Love,  
Growing through Worship and Service"*

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Rev. Dr. Richard B. Knight, Pastor  
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Rev. Dr. John A. Zachry, Pastor Emeritus



## CCC Happenings!

It's one of the things I love about our church. There's always something good happening! Below are just a few. Keep reading for the rest!

**Bingo Fundraiser! - this Saturday, April 21 at 4:00 pm** Join us in Fellowship Hall for some fun games of bingo! Doors open at 4 pm. Bingo will start at 4:30 pm. All ages are welcome!

**Sunday Worship's at 10:00 a.m.** This Sunday we're going to study what it means to be a disciple of Christ. Our subject matter will be . . . the original 12 disciples of Christ!

**Our next "Neighborhood Gathering" is this Sunday, April 22 at 2:00 p.m.** We'll meet at Beth Jarok's for a time of fellowship and discussion on the Open & Affirming Process. Sign up by contacting the church office.

**Our next Make a Difference Day is Sunday, April 29.** Brunch will follow worship. Then we'll head out for service projects, including the Community Garden, the Freeman Trail and Cookie-Making & Delivery! Sign up this Sunday!

*Serving Christ with You,*

*Pastor Rich*

978-684-2031 (cell)

## Weekly Announcements for April 19, 2018

- ✓ Open Pantry Donations Needed.
- ✓ Women's Retreat – Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>
- ✓ Boy Scout Yard Sale Collecting – Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>
- ✓ BINGO fundraiser – April 21<sup>st</sup>
- ✓ "Hate Has No Home Here" signs
- ✓ Community Garden
- ✓ DownEast Maine Mission Meeting – Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 p.m.
- ✓ West Virginia Workcamp is On!
- ✓ West Virginia Workshares are available online!
- ✓ St. Paul's Soup Kitchen – April 30<sup>th</sup>
- ✓ KiSeLo – Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>
- ✓ Make A Difference Sunday – April 29<sup>th</sup>
- ✓ ONA – Join the Conversation
- ✓ SAM's focus for April is Community Teamwork
- ✓ Lunch with Pastor Rich every Tuesday at noon
- ✓ Do you need a ride to church?

## **Announcements**

**OPEN PANTRY Donations Needed!** The shelves are empty, so please bring in your donations to refill the shelves. Thank you.

**Women's Retreat** is **Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup> from 9-4** at the Radisson in Chelmsford. All women of CCC are welcome, including those in high school. Have a friend that could benefit from a retreat? Invite her! Take a day to nourish your spirit in fellowship and retreat. Led by Rev. Linda Hirst, we will talk about "wells" – those places where women gather to receive nourishment from the well itself and especially from other women. The cost is \$50, which includes lunch and morning and afternoon tea/coffee. Sign-ups will be in Fellowship Hall after church, at which time a \$25 deposit would be appreciated. Not going to make it to church and don't want to forget? Email Karen Papenfuss, Margie Dissinger, or Sue Mirisola.

**Collecting for the Boy Scout Yard Sale:** You can drop off your yard sale donations on **Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>** from 9 a.m. to noon. Please check the Beacon for the items that are not accepted.

**BINGO Fundraiser:** Join us on **Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>** for a fun time playing BINGO! The doors will open at 4:00 p.m. and BINGO starts at 4:30 p.m. it will cost \$5.00 per board. There will be BINGO basket prizes. Refreshments and snacks will be sold for additional fundraising. All ages welcome

**"Hate Has No Home Here" signs:** The Social Action and Missions Committee (SAM) still has the "Hate Has No Home Here" signs from the Great Lowell Interfaith Leadership Alliance (GLILA). Please pick up a sign during coffee hour on Sunday.

**Community Garden:** There will be seed plantings after church on **Sunday, April 22**, to start our cold season crops e.g. spinach, peas, and lettuce. The garden opening will be on **Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>**, and will be part of the "Make a Difference" Sunday. *Mary Horne*

**Down East Maine Mission** is meeting **Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>** at 7 p.m. at 9 Worthen Street. Please come and become part of this exciting mission trip. For more information, contact Peter White at [peter.c.white@comcast.net](mailto:peter.c.white@comcast.net)

**West Virginia Workcamp is ON!** This year our trip will take place **June 16-23**. The trip is open to adults and teens 16 years and older. Youth younger than 16 can go if a parent goes as well. Meetings will be held May 6 and June 3 at 7 p.m. at 9 Worthen. If you are interested in going please try to attend the meetings to get more details. We need to know who is going by May 1<sup>st</sup> as we will send a deposit to the workcamp.

**West Virginia Workshares!** If you'd like to help with the mission trip, but can't go yourself, you can buy shares directly from me at coffee hour or donate online at [www.youcaring.com/wva\\_workcamp2018](http://www.youcaring.com/wva_workcamp2018). Please share this link with everyone you know and everyone else! Your help means so much to us and all the people we serve in West Virginia. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. Bryan Norman, [brnorman@comcast.net](mailto:brnorman@comcast.net), 508-397-1497.

**St. Paul's Soup Kitchen:** SAM will have sign-up sheets for the St. Paul's Soup Kitchen on **Monday, April 30** at the Eliot Church. Members of the Holy Cows will be hosting this mission outreach. They will be asking for kitchen preps and servers, and donations of Shepherd's Pies and Brownies.

**KiSeLo! Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>** at 1:00 p.m. is our next meeting. 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. Our Open Pantry suggestion is boxed rice or boxed potatoes. We hope to seeing YOU on April 25<sup>th</sup>. How about "Bring a Friend Day" . . . the more the merrier to play BINGO and other games!

**Make a Difference Day! on Sunday, April 29<sup>th</sup>.** Following worship, we'll have a delicious brunch and then we'll head off for service projects. Some of the project will be sending a crew to the Community Garden to help with spring clean-up and planting, sending a crew to do clean-up on the Freeman Rail Trail, and 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*

### **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?" "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? These are the questions and conversations we are sharing as we consider the meaning of becoming an Open and Affirming church. It is 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 ONA Task Force, supported by the Deacons and Pastor Rich, is planning a Neighborhood Gathering on **Sunday, April 22**, 2-4 p.m. at the home of Beth Jarok, 103 Westford Street. We hope that you will attend and join the conversation! Sign up in Coffee Hour, or by calling the church office.

There are 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.

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, Hayley Horton, Beth Jarok, Val King, Deb Lyons, Emily Lyons, Sue Mirisola, Judy Musgrove, Karen Papenfuss, Pastor Rich Knight*

### **SAM's focus for the month of April is Community Teamwork. "Strengthening the Whole Family Providing Affordable Quality Services"**

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 believe that families are the foundation of a strong community and are essential to the health and well-being of our community. Our services touch the lives of families through generations to help them achieve their full potential and increase their ability to thrive and succeed in life. Our affordable child education and care programs provide support to infants and children through age 5, preparing them to be their developmental best through early learning and literacy and healthy social and physical development. We educate and support parents to raise children who are confident, caring, responsible and productive. We offer parenting workshops and one on one parent coaching, family-oriented community activities, family counseling and, when needed, referral to additional professional services. We support young parents, teen parents and even grandparents who play a primary care role. We offer high-quality, extended care for infants, young children up to age 5 and middle school age children, while supporting the demanding schedules of working parents. Community Teamwork offers two youth programs that help build leadership, self-esteem and self-discipline, one through a peace corps-like service to the community and a second that provides young people who have dropped out of school a chance to earn a GED, develop work skills, perform community service, and receive important accreditation. Our families have full access to our financial literacy, asset building, housing, utility and nutrition programs.

**Please consider making a donation, in any amount to Community Teamwork.** For more information, visit [www.commteam.org](http://www.commteam.org), or contact Arlene Belleville or Cindy Bruetsch.

**Lunch with the Pastor** is held every Tuesday at noon.

**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!

**Like us on Facebook** at Central Congregational Church in Chelmsford, United Church of Christ at <https://www.facebook.com/Central.Congregational.Church?ref=hl>

Sunday, April 29  
is our next  
"Make a Difference Day!"



MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE DAY

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Brunch

11:45 am Service Projects

Community Garden

Freeman Trail Clean-Up

Cookie-Making and Delivery

Choir Concert / Congregational Hymn Sing

**Please sign up today!**

*"You are the light of the world. Let your light shine!"*