

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

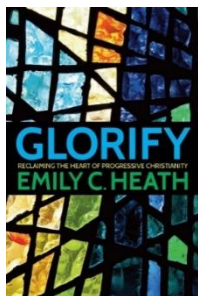
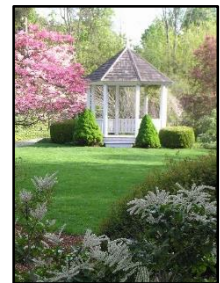
VOLUME 63 NUMBER 7

SUMMER 2018

July Highlights

Summer Worship is at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Night Church in Carson Park
Sunday, July 15th and Sunday, August 12th
at 6:00 p.m. for an informal church worship
Regular 10 a.m. Worship will still be held



Summer Book Club with Pastor Rich
Tuesday, July 24th and 31st at 7 p.m.

Lowell Spinners Baseball Game
Wednesday, July 25th at 6:35 p.m.



Knight Lines

Three years ago I was having lunch with a rabbi friend of mine named Howard. Howard serves a synagogue in the Andover area and teaches Social Justice at Merrimack College. The lunch I'm thinking about occurred during the Syrian refugee crisis. You probably remember the gut-wrenching pictures we all saw on TV. Howard, like all of us was deeply moved and troubled by the tragedy in Syria and the struggles of the refugees to find safety. As you will recall, many of them died crossing the Mediterranean Sea.

During our lunch Howard told me that Jews have tended to be quite concerned and compassionate with the plight of refugees. "It goes back to our history as a people," he said. I immediately thought of modern history, but Howard's identity and heritage as a Jew goes back much farther than that. He was thinking about Abraham & Sarah's journey and their search for the Promised Land; and then to the Israelites enslavement in Egypt, their wandering through the wilderness trying to get back to the Promised Land, their exile to Babylon and then their return.

The ancient Jews were often sojourners, refugees, aliens and immigrants in strange and foreign lands. So they empathize with refugees because of their history. God called them to that in the Hebrew Bible, our Old Testament. Take a look:

"When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God." – Leviticus 19:33-34

"You shall not wrong a sojourner or oppress him, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt." – Exodus 22:21

"You shall not oppress a sojourner. You know the heart of a sojourner, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt." – Exodus 23:9

"Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts." – Malachi 3:5

"He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt." – Deuteronomy 10:18-19

"And you shall not strip your vineyard bare, neither shall you gather the fallen grapes of your vineyard. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God." – Leviticus 19:10

"And when you reap the harvest of your land, you shall not reap your field right up to its edge, nor shall you gather the gleanings after your harvest. You shall leave them for the poor and for the sojourner: I am the Lord your God." – Leviticus 23:22

I can't help but think about these passages when I watch the news regarding the refugee crisis along our southern border and the immoral act of separating children, even very young children from their parents. As you know the Hebrew Scriptures are part of our Bible, and the history of the Israelites is our sacred history, too.

May God help us find a way to be compassionate to these sojourners. For we were once sojourners, too.

*With you in prayer,
Pastor Rich*



Thank You, Bruce!

Bruce Kunkel has stepped down from the position of Assistant Treasurer for expenses after 19 years on the job. In this position, Bruce has been responsible for paying all the bills for the church over this period. Doing this church job requires tremendous dedication as you have to spend multiple hours each week performing its duties. Checks have to be written, proper accounts charged, members reimbursed, clarification of requests made, and file a month end report of all disbursements with the Treasurer.

Bruce has performed these duties well over this extended period. I would personally thank him for the time and effort he has put into this position since it was created. He and I have worked together for this entire time. We have solved a lot of problems along the way and I could always count on Bruce to do whatever was needed to get the job done.

When you see Bruce this summer, thank him for the job he has done over all these years.

Thank You, Bruce for a job well done!

*Dick Papenfuss
Treasurer*

What's Happening at CCC!

Carnegie Bound Choir Holds Fundraiser at Chelmsford 4th of July Parade

The Central Congregational Church Concert Choir under the direction of Francisco Fernandez will be performing in New York City at Carnegie Hall this December. Invited by the Distinguished Concerts International New York, a professional concert planning organization, the Chelmsford group will perform, together with other choirs and a professional orchestra and singers. This performance will take place in the big auditorium in Carnegie Hall in NYC on December 3, 2018. This invitation is a result of the success and quality the choir has consistently delivered in their concerts. The program in NYC will be Beethoven's 9th Symphony and Choral Fantasy. These masterworks are among of the most massive and grand symphonic/choral pieces ever written, and will be presented with a full orchestra and professional soloists.

To help defray costs of the trip, the choir will hold a fundraiser at the Chelmsford 4th of July parade. They will be set up in the church parking lot (off North road along the parade route) selling bottled water and baked goods. Your patronage will be greatly appreciated to help them on this grand adventure.

Also, the Concert Choir will present these same pieces at Central Congregational Church for their own Christmas Concert on Sunday, December 9, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

Margie Dissinger



SUMMER OFFICE HOURS:

- **Week of July 2** – Closed Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Open Thursday and Friday
- **Weeks of July 9, 16, 23, and 30** – Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Closed Monday and Friday
- **Weeks of August 5, 12, and 19** – Open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Closed Monday and Friday
- **Week of August 26** – Open Monday thru Thursday, Closed Friday

Lunch with the Pastor

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

Sunday Night Church in Carson Park

Join us on **Sunday, July 15th**, and **Sunday, August 12th**, at 6:00 p.m. for an informal church worship service in Carson Park. Please bring a chair or blanket to sit on.

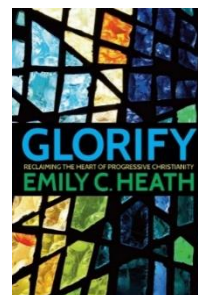
We will still hold the regular Sunday morning worship at 10 a.m.

Summer Book Club

I am leading a book club on Emily Heath's: Glorify: Reclaiming the Heart of Progressive Christianity on **Tuesday, July 24th and 31st** at 7 p.m.

Heath pastors the UCC church in Exeter, NH. She's a self-described,

"Christ-follower, displaced Southerner, binary-smasher, PhD dropout, former religious "none," fly-fishing enthusiast, progressive evangelical, amateur genealogist, recovery believer, Sox fan, Trinitarian, marriage equality advocate, LEGO lover, prepster not hipster, blogger, Reformed theologian, fantasy football fanatic, 13th generation New Hampshireite, and church lover."



She strives for a faith and a church that is "deeply rooted, radically relevant and Christ-centered."

Frequently in recent years the only Christian voices heard in the public arena are Fundamentalist ones. I think it will be very meaningful to read a thoughtful, pastoral, progressive voice who cares deeply about the church and discipleship. You don't have to purchase the book. Copies are available at the church office. Please contact Linn Flint to borrow a copy. *Pastor Rich*

Lowell Spinners Baseball Game

Lowell Spinners Game on **Wednesday, July 25th** at 6:35 p.m. We've got 20 tickets (15 are already sold!) and an option for 10 more to the Spinners baseball game. See Lynn Horton during coffee hour or Linn Flint during the week. Tickets are only \$6.00

Ministries in Our Church

CALLING ALL SINGERS AND RINGERS

Calling All Men at CCC!
HELP!!

We desperately need bass and tenor voices to sing in the choir beginning in September.

Come help sing for God!

Calling All Bell Ringers!

We desperately need people to join the Handbell Choir in September.

Come help ring those bells for God!

Contact Francisco or Christine McNamara, Music Committee Chair, if you are interested and want to help.

CHRIST CARE

The ChristCare groups will not be meeting for the months of July and August. As always, please contact Deb Lyons for more information about the Tuesday evening group or Glenn Dissinger with any questions about the men's Sunday morning group. New members are always welcome.

PRAYER MINISTRY

Part of this is taken from a Daily Devotional, "The Insights of Isolation"

"I would not wish the insights of isolation on anyone. But should you ever find yourself out in the far distant parking lot of your own social or business life, know this: You will learn important things about your own failings, about the failings of others, and about the infallible God who will not let you go. Put your trust there, where it belongs."

Prayer

What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!

Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer!

Jesus knows our every weakness, thou wilt find a solace there. Amen

The Prayer Ministry does not go on vacation. If prayer is important in your life and you would like to become a part of the Prayer Ministry, we would love to have you join us. If you would like us to offer prayers for yourself or someone you know, please contact Ginnie Hall, Daphne Freeman, or Wendy Perry.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

The first harvest was held on June 18th with lettuce, chard, onions, beets, garlic, pak choi, basil, parsley, and thai basil delivered to The Open Pantry. The tomatoes and tomatillos are growing big and strong. We have a great crew watering daily and weeding like crazy to stay ahead of the weeds. If you're in the area, come in and take a look at the garden – **it's a great sight!** *Mary Horne*

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Work with the new boiler continues to ensure maximum efficiency and the relamping project is nearly done. Next time you're in Fellowship Hall, look up at the new LED lights above you. This summer, we will be making sure the grounds are kept neat, the grounds keeping equipment is maintained, the sprinklers work, and the carpets are cleaned. We hope you all have a great summer! *Mary Horne*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Happy Summer from your Christian Education (CE) Committee! We have had a great year of learning and sharing and living in God's love. Thanks to all of you who have helped make our Sunday School program a success this year. Our Sunday School teachers and director, our parents, the kids themselves . . . also all of you who led an art project, or played the guitar, or came to watch the Christmas play, or sang with us during youth Sunday. We could go on and on about all the support and love we have had from the far corners of the church. The dedication to our youth is something that makes our church a vibrant and special place. The picnic after Youth Sunday was an amazing example of fun and fellowship with the older students and the younger students enjoying time together – a special thanks to Elmer Lyons for his expert game leadership. We were also thrilled with the turn out for Sunday School in the Park!

We wish all the graduates much success as they go on to their new adventures and hope to see them all often! We especially want to thank Emily Lyons for her amazing work in the nursery this year! We are looking for a new nursery worker so please contact any member of the CE Committee if you know anyone who might be interested in the position!

The CE Committee is also excited about its work in supporting adult education and we'll continue to work with the various adult groups within the church in the coming year.

Our Committee will be working over the summer to provide the structure necessary for another successful year. We are also looking to provide more opportunities for those who want to be part of the youth program but are not able to give a long term commitment. If you have ideas about a project or a story or song or something else entirely, that you would like to lead or assist, please contact someone on the CE Committee or Jen Stuart, our Sunday School Coordinator. Have a great summer!

Best,

Kristin Strobel, correspondent

Mary Ann Hussey and Elmer Lyons, co-chairs for 17-18 School Year

Mary Ann Hussey and Carolyn Chapman, co-chairs for 18-19 School Year

LIBRARY

Summer seems like a good time to look at the fiction section of the church library. There are some good beach reads on the shelves! Our collection includes two popular series of novels, other works by well-known authors, several books of Biblical fiction, historic novels, and a couple of young adult titles.

One of the series is the Joshua series by Paul Girzone. The evening ChristCare group recently read the first book in that series, Joshua: A Parable for Today. The other series is commonly known as the Mitford series by Jan Karon. I can personally recommend those books.

Biblical novels use fictional license to fill in the gaps in what we read in the Bible. One bestseller, The Red Tent, tells the story of Jacob's daughter Dinah, showing us a woman's perspective on Biblical events. Other titles in our collection consider the lives and stories of women and men from Eve to the Apostle Paul.

Our library has historical novels set in the American Civil War and World War II. We also have several novels by Tracie Peterson, who writes both historical and contemporary fiction that focus on Christian characters, and Janette Oke, a pastor from the Canadian prairie, who writes about the lives of North American settlers. You may have heard of her "Love Comes Softly" series, as it was made into a series of movies for the Hallmark Channel.

Please come browse the Fiction shelves to see our other Christian novels. As always, please sign your books out in the notebook provided on the bookshelf and let me know what you thought of them when you bring them back!

Youth Leadership and Goals Workshop

Course #124, \$59, Community Ed Room 17

Two-part Workshop: Monday, July 30th and Tuesday, July 31st from 9–11:30 a.m.,

For children entering grades 7–12

Developing personal leadership skills and clarity in goals are critical components in enabling youth to become healthy, productive contributors. This two-part workshop is designed to establish a foundation for self-directed learning strategies by which young people take responsibility for their own personal improvement. In the first session, we talk about the interrelationship of attitudes, skills and knowledge and goal setting in leading ourselves and influencing others, including the effect that our attitudes have on ourselves and others. During the second session, we address the importance of goals and how to think through creating the future that you want. Each participant will dive deeper into his or her personal goals through a facilitated methodology for identifying goals, goal setting, and achievement through developing a clear plan of action. The inside-out development approach in this workshop aims to help empower youth to realize their potential along with supporting the development of character, confidence and values that promote healthy behavior. **Instructor: Virginia Crocker-Timmins**

The workshop is listed on Page 8 of the Chelmsford Community Ed summer programs catalog (<https://www.chelmsford.k12.ma.us/Page/1547>)

OUR 2018 WEST VIRGINIA WORKCAMPERS



Down East Maine Mission – Aug. 5- 11

The DownEast Maine Mission team would like to ask you to sponsor our meals in Maine.

Kelly Hargett has asked for volunteers to make a meal, but that isn't always possible for everyone. Another wonderful way to help us is to sponsor the cost of a meal, plus write the prayer we will use before we eat. CCC will need to support 10 meals with either food or sponsorship plus a prayer for each. Breakfast sponsorships cost \$50, lunch sponsorships cost \$50, and dinner sponsorships cost \$100, and all have the same request to write a prayer to be read before the meal as our grace. Feel free to jointly sponsor with someone and split the cost and the prayer writing.

Please email Peter White and Elizabeth Hartigan if you would like to sponsor a meal. The prayers from our sponsors are an important part of our mission. We usually take a minute to be sure the group gets an introduction to the person(s) sponsoring the meal. In that way, you are there with us in spirit as we help our neighbors in Maine. As the trip treasurer, Elizabeth will be collecting the money and I will be collecting the prayers. *Thanks as always for your support in our mission work.* Peter White, DEMM Mission Trip organizer, peter.c.white@comcast.net



T-shirts for DownEast Maine Mission:

The Down East Maine Mission T-shirt and socks collection has been a pet project for Minnie Collins for about 8 years. I am attempting to fill Minnie's "big shoes." She knew I was doing this, so in her last weeks she "counseled" me on how to package up the T-shirts and socks, to take non-T-shirts to St. John's donation box and of course how to publicize the collection. BUT – I need your help! The collection boxes will be in the Narthex through Sunday, July 22nd. We could use more adult crew socks; so when you see a good sale, BUY, BUY, BUY! (The socks have to be new, unlike the T-shirts.) Let's do Minnie proud with our donation this year!

Karen Papenfuss

From Your Social Action and Missions Committee



St. Paul's Soup Kitchen

CCCers have been very kind so far with their donations of food for St. Paul's Soup Kitchen, taking into consideration that these are summer Sundays now! We need just 4 more double pans of brownies. However, more donations of both Egg and Chicken salad, (for the making of sandwiches in the Eliot Church kitchen), would be appreciated for the dinner on **Monday, July 30th**.

We may carpool from the CCC parking lot. We will arrive by 3:30 p.m. to make the sandwiches. The meal starts at 5 and clean-up is usually finished by 6:30. The meal is so appreciated.

All food should be brought to the CCC kitchen on Sunday, July 29th.

*All thanks for contributing to this much anticipated meal by our guests.
Cindy Bruetsch & Ellen Kunkel for the SAM Committee*

NEWS from SAM

Pastor Rich, at Julie Carney's suggestion, has contacted the Sathya Sai Baba Center, the congregation that uses our building on Saturdays evenings about a date for SAM to visit their service; SAM wishes to acknowledge and share our common use of CCC for worship. A date has not yet been chosen.

SAM discussed beginning a new initiative in fall with the Open Pantry of Greater Lowell. We would designate a regular "food donation Sunday" to better assist CCC with remembering. SAM members agreed that the first Sunday of the month, Communion Sunday, would be a helpful date. SAM will submit reminders to the church office for the weekly announcements. CCCers are still very much welcome to donate food at any other time, however!



TRI-CONFERENCE NEWS!

The Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island Conferences of the United Church of Christ held their second joint annual meeting in Springfield, Massachusetts in mid-June. At this meeting, the three Conferences voted to form a new, unified Conference. This was the result of a year of planning initiated by a vote taken at last year's joint annual meeting. It was very exciting to be at the meeting and participate in this moment. It felt as though the Holy Spirit was present in the room, emboldening the delegates of churches all over southern New England to step into the water of change, trusting that God will take us safely across to our future together. This action is a sign that we can accomplish more together than apart. The three Conferences were already sharing resources during the past year; it seems likely that that will continue and grow. In addition, joining the three Conferences will give us a larger footprint. Not only will the UCC churches in the three states be part of a single Conference, but the Conference will allow other bodies, both religious and secular, who share the same "vision, mission and purpose of the new Conference to join as non-voting associate members." Read more about this exciting news on the UCC website:

http://www.ucc.org/news_connecticut_massachusetts_and_rhode_island_conferences_vote_to_go_forward_together_as_one

Keep in mind that our church is entitled to send two delegates to the Conference annual meeting. Having another representative at the meeting would have allowed our church to sit in on more sessions and network with more people. We can learn so much from other churches. To find out more about what it means to be a delegate or to learn more about the new joint Conference, speak to your delegate, Deb Lyons.



CCC's latest fundraiser is AmazonSmile, a simple way for you to support the church and our missions every time you shop on Amazon, at no cost to you. When you shop through smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection, and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization, CCC!

To get started, simply go to <http://smile.amazon.com/>. You will be prompted to log into your Amazon account and select the charity you would like to support. When you enter "Central Congregational Church" into the charity search box, you will see there are many CCCs out there, so be careful to select the Chelmsford MA option! While shopping on smile.amazon.com you will see the text: "Supporting: Central Congregational Church" on the top navigation bar. Be sure to use the smile.amazon.com site and not the standard amazon.com site when shopping to ensure that Amazon provides CCC with the designated donation!

If you have any questions, please email amazonsmile@cccchelmsford.org. Now get shopping!

MILESTONES

Our prayers and sympathies are with the family of Minnie Collins, our dear friend who passed away on June 10th. A service celebrating the promises of God and Minnie's life was held at CCC on June 13th. Memorial donations may be sent to the church so that we can purchase some special item in Minnie's honor. Please keep Roger, Minnie's loving husband of 62 years, in your thoughts and prayers.

On June 10th, we baptized and welcomed Benjamin Thomas Eldridge into our church family. Benjamin is the son of Shannon and John Eldridge. The family lives in Chelmsford on Mill Road. Shannon is a voice teacher in North Andover and also teaches theater classes for several community theaters and arts organizations in the Merrimack Valley. John is a professional pianist, having played in pits for the North Shore Music Theater and Reagle Music Theater. Besides going to the theater, the family loves spending time on the Cape in the summer.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

On Sunday, June 24th, we welcomed six new members to our congregation.

Betty Bastian is now retired, but she was a school teacher in Chelmsford for 30 years! She loves traveling, playing the piano, quilting, and listening to audiobooks. She spends lots of time with family including grandchildren and great grandkids. Betty is the mother of Val King. Betty decided to join CCC after she attended a women's fellowship and was impressed with the relationships and the people. She is glad for the wonderful handicap accessibility at the church.

Lillian Bean has been attending CCC for many years and decided that it felt like the right time to become an official member. Lillian rings with the Bell Choir, sings with the Chancel Choir, works in the CCC community garden, and helps at the church Fair. She is on the House Committee and is a member of KiSeLo.

Maureen Magnusson was married at CCC and was a very active member many years ago. She missed the church and is glad to be back. Her daughter, Jennie Walsh, and family have also begun attending CCC. Maureen loves gardening, spending summers in Maine, and spending time with her dog, Maisy. And of course, she loves spending time with her family and three grandsons!

Kenny Pantuso is husband to Lisa Billingsley Pantuso and father to Lilla, Charlotte, and #3 Keith (not yet born!) Kenny is a business owner and manager of Vinal Square Craft Beer House. For Kenny, it felt like the right time to join.

Jennie Walsh is a preschool teacher and enjoys spending time gardening, hiking, swimming, birdwatching, being in Maine, and finding new cooking recipes. Jennie grew up at CCC and felt it was important to deepen her connection with the church and establish a more meaningful relationship within the church community.

Joe Walsh is a registered nurse and loves boating, traveling, and his ATV. He and his wife, Jennie, are the parents of Joshua (age 15), Jonathan (age 13), and Joseph (age 10).

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.

- July 22nd for Beth Jarok in loving memory of John Jarok.



TAKE NOTE

- ✓ Summer Worship services will remain at 10:00 a.m. for the summer.
- ✓ The bulletin is printed first thing on Thursday morning, so all announcements must be received in the office by Wednesday morning.
- ✓ The September *Beacon* deadline is **Monday, August 20th** with a mailing/emailing date of August 29th.
- ✓ Remember to use the PO Box 339 when mailing things to the Church.
- ✓ Do you need a Ride to Church? Transportation to Sunday services and other church events is available. Please call the CCC Transportation Hotline at 978-905-8220. A church deacon will contact you and make the arrangements to drive you 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.



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

Summer 2018



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. all Summer!

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			
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
Church Fax:	978-250-3565	Church Web site:	www.cccchelmsford.org
		Conference Web site:	www.macucc.org

The Beacon, the CCC Newsletter, is prepared by and for the membership of Central Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, in Chelmsford, Massachusetts. It is published monthly except for August and is distributed to members and friends of Central Congregational Church. This issue was emailed/mailed June 27, 2018.