

# Central Congregational Church

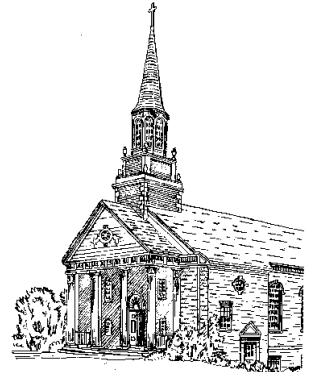
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

One Worthen Street Po Box 339  
Chelmsford, Massachusetts 01824  
978-256-5931 office.admin@cccchelmsford.org

Rev. Dr. Richard B. Knight, Pastor  
pastor-rich@cccchelmsford.org

Rev. Dr. John A. Zachry, Pastor Emeritus



## Dear Friends in Christ,

*Would you rather be a part of a church where it was hard to keep up with everything; or would you rather be a part of a church where nothing ever happened? I'll bet you'd choose vitality every time! Me, too. So please keep that in mind as you read about all that's going on in the next few weeks. There's lots of activities, but it's a sure sign of the Spirit's work within and among us!*

**Worship this Sunday's at 10:00 am!** We'll continue our study of *"One Verse Wonders,"* learning the faith one great verse at a time! The Sunday School kids will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary to go over the song they'll be singing in worship, "Thy Word."

**A New Member Orientation Class** is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. this Sunday. Please let me know if you're planning on attending. It's a great way to learn more about CCC!

**The Blessing of the Animals** will be held in Carson Park at 1:30 p.m. this Sunday. Join us for a fun, crazy, meaningful time with our pets!

**Check out our new sign at the back entrance to the church.** Many thanks to Don Brigham, Bill Clarke and Harry Luro for installing it.

Please read on!

*Serving Christ with You,*

**Pastor Rich**

978-684-2031 (cell)

## **Weekly Announcements for October 18, 2018**

- ✓ Buy a CCC T-Shirt!
- ✓ Benevolent Beaders Sale – Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup>
- ✓ New Member Classes – October 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>
- ✓ Confirmation Orientation for Young people and Parents – October 21<sup>st</sup>
- ✓ Blessing of the Animals – Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup>
- ✓ St. Paul's Soup Kitchen – Monday, October 29<sup>th</sup>
- ✓ November Beacon deadline – Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>
- ✓ KiSeLo – Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>
- ✓ Halloween is Scary! Hunger is Scarier! Please donate food
- ✓ Duo of Hope Concert – Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>
- ✓ Ushers Needed for Concert – Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>
- ✓ Make a Difference Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>
- ✓ Concert Fundraisers Needed!
- ✓ Drivers needed for December Concert

- ✓ Fall Colors and Natural Disasters!
- ✓ Financial Statements have been emailed
- ✓ SAM's Focus – Lowell Transitional Living Center
- ✓ Open and Affirming Process at CCC
- ✓ Lunch with Pastor Rich every Tuesday at noon
- ✓ Do you need a ride to church?

**Church T-shirts:** The Christian Education Committee, with special help from Sarah and Maddie Morin, has been working on CCC T-shirts! We envision groups wearing them when they go out for service projects, such as "Make a Difference Day" on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Cost: \$5.00. Order one for each member of your family TODAY!

**This Sunday!** The **Benevolent Beaders will be holding a sale** of their handmade necklaces and earring. Start your Christmas shopping early and support the Beaders as all their profits go to local charities.

**This Sunday! New Member Classes** will be held on Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup> and next Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, at 11:20 a.m. The classes are a great way to learn more about CCC and meet members in leadership positions as well as other folks who are new to CCC. Please sign up with the church office.

**This Sunday! Confirmation Class Orientation:** A confirmation program provides a wonderful opportunity for a young person, 9<sup>th</sup> grade and older, to explore, question, learn, and practice the Christian faith. We will have an orientation meeting for students and parents following worship. We'll meet in Room 302. If you cannot make the orientation, please speak with Pastor Rich asap. We plan to start this year's class in November. Confirmation Sunday will be in May 2019.

**Confirmation Orientation SPECIAL NOTE: If the confirmand is planning on going on The God Squad hike this Sunday, Pastor Rich will meet earlier with you at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday.**

**This Sunday! Blessing of the Animals:** Join us in Carson Park at 1:30 p.m. for our "Blessing of the Animals." Bring your pets (dogs, cats, birds, ferrets, etc.) for a fun, brief service in the park, celebrating the joy our pets bring us, thanking God for these blessings and extending a hand of blessing to them. For more information, speak with Pastor Rich or Ray Peterson.

**St. Paul's Soup Kitchen** is on Monday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. We still need 4 Shepherd's Pies and 4 double batches of Brownies. All food should be delivered to church on Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. We still need Preppers and Servers from the God Squad and other to sign up during coffee hour! Thank you all for your willing participation in the goal to feed these grateful people.

**The Deadline for the November Beacon** is Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> with a mailing/emailing date of October 31<sup>st</sup>.

**KiSeLo:** We will be meeting on Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. Following a delicious dessert, our program will be "Chair Yoga" lead by Lillian Beean. It won't be a strenuous routine, but wear comfortable clothing. All ladies are welcome to join us!

**Halloween is Scary, but Hunger is Scarier!** Please help the children of CCC fight hunger by bringing in non-perishable food items on Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup>. They will be collecting the food during the Children's Moment. All donations will be delivered to the Lowell Open Food Pantry. Thank you!

**Benefit Concert:** "Duo of Hope," a world-class, cello and piano ensemble, will perform a benefit concert on Sunday, October 28<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. There will be a free will offering, which will help support and will partially sponsor the Christmas concert on December 9<sup>th</sup>. You will enjoy an afternoon of music of the highest caliber with works by Bach, Beethoven, Elgar, and more.

**Ushers Needed!** The Music Committee would like to request several volunteers to be ushers at Francisco and Taide's concert on Sunday, October 28, at 3:00 p.m. If you would like to help out, please contact Christine McNamara or sign up during coffee hour TODAY.

**Make A Difference Sunday – November 4:** Join the fun and fellowship of this new CCC tradition! On **Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>**, we will hold our third “Make a Difference Sunday!” We’ll worship at 10:00 a.m. as usual, and after worship we’ll have **brunch** in Fellowship Hall. Then we will break into work teams and go out and do **service projects!** Projects planned - Clean the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail, Bake Cookies and visit CCC members and others at home and in hospitals, work at our Community Garden plot, and Youth Group projects. All ages are invited to participate! Sign up at Coffee Hour **THIS SUNDAY**, or by contacting the office. Let’s commit the entire day to our God and our community! Please speak with Pastor Rich, Lynn Horton, or Jen Stuart, SS Coordinator, for more information. On Sunday, November 4, Don’t Just Come to Church . . . Let’s BE the Church!

**Concert Fundraising Help Needed!** We are also asking for volunteers that would like to help fundraise for the Christmas Concert. With the ambitious piece that is being prepared, many more musicians will be involved. This would involve approaching Chelmsford businesses with our letter and asking for their support.

**Drivers Needed for Christmas Concert Musicians:** We will also need drivers to transport musicians for the Christmas concert. There will likely be two rehearsals, so we will need folks willing to go to Boston and back two times. Please consider helping out, because without these talented musicians, we would not have the quality performance that we have consistently delivered. If you have any questions, please ask Francisco, or Christine. As the concert date approaches, we will also be requesting food donations for the reception following the holiday concert. Sign-ups will be set-up at coffee hour. Many thanks in advance for your help!

**Fall Colors and Natural Disasters:** Our attention to beautiful New England fall colors is diverted by Mother Nature spreading havoc elsewhere in the world. The SAM Committee is collecting donations to be forwarded to the UCC Disaster Relief Ministry. They have 2 divisions, one for Domestic emergencies (US) and one for International disasters. You may use the SAM envelopes in the pews when making your donations. Specify the fund to which you would like your donation directed, or add that information on the memo line of your check. Make your checks payable to Central Congregational Church.

**Financial Statements:** Financial statements have been sent out via email for the first quarter of our fiscal year from July 1, 2018 thru September 30, 2018. If you see any errors or corrections, please let us know. As well, if you did not receive a statement, have a change of email address, or don not wish to receive you statements by email, please contact the church office, 978-256-5931 or [office.admin@cccchelmsford.org](mailto:office.admin@cccchelmsford.org) or contact Sue Sarafinas, Assistant Treasurer, [statements@cccchelmsford.org](mailto:statements@cccchelmsford.org).

### **The SAM Committee’s October mission is to support the Lowell Transitional Living Center (LTLC).**

Wayne was sleeping in a car before he came to the shelter. Without his case manager he would still be homeless. He loves it at LTLC! The Lowell Transitional Living Center is the largest homeless shelter and support organization north of Boston with **90 beds** and **70 emergency beds**. Socks are the most needed item for homeless shelters and one of the least donated. LTLC is promoting a need for socks all year long. SAM would like you to please consider donating items from the following (listed in order of most need) list: SOCKS!!! (White crew socks, men’s and women’s), Jackets (men’s and women’s), Sneakers (men’s and women’s), Backpacks, Jeans (especially very small men’s sizes 28” waist – 34”), Hoodies (hooded sweatshirts), Plus size clothing, XXL and up, Deodorant, Towels, Unscented lotion (travel size), Toothpaste (travel size) & toothbrushes, Boxer shorts (new), Men’s and women’s underwear (new), and Toiletries like soap, shampoo, and conditioner. There is a donation box in the narthex for the month of October.

## **Open and Affirming (ONA) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**

### **1. Why are we doing this? Don't we already welcome everyone?**

In the history of Christianity certain folks have historically not been welcome in Christian churches. This certainly includes those who are gay, lesbian, and transgender. CCC **is** a welcoming church; however, those who have felt excluded elsewhere don’t know this, and are likely to feel that they wouldn’t be welcome. This is a way to expand and communicate the welcome we already offer at CCC!

## 2. Is ONA just about LGBTQ folks?

No. We strive to welcome all; and we're striving through this effort to intentionally welcome those who have felt excluded by churches.

## 3. If we declare ourselves ONA, will it be noted on our church signs?

Yes. The Task Force envisions putting a small rainbow symbol as well as a small handicapped symbol on our signs. We also envision noting in our bulletin and web site that we are an Open & Affirming congregation.

## 4. What does declaring ourselves ONA mean, practically?

It means that all are welcome into full participation in the life of the church, including the sacraments, rites and ministries of the church, Sunday School, youth groups, weddings, committee ministry, church leadership positions, staff, etc.

## 5. What about the teachings of the Bible?

Pastor Rich has a sermon on our web site ("Homosexuality & the Bible") that addresses specific passages. It's important to remember that the biblical writers had no concept of sexual orientation. To them everyone was straight. So from that vantage point any non-heterosexual behavior must be sin. We know differently today.

## 6. Are we doing this because the UCC wants us to?

No. CCC has talked about ONA for a number of years. In a 2013 survey regarding core values, "inclusivity" was highlighted by many of our members. There has been no pressure or directive from our denomination, the United Church of Christ.

UCC churches have been discussing this issue and declaring themselves ONA since 1985. Currently 180 churches in the Massachusetts Conference are ONA churches.

## 7. How long does the ONA process take?

The CCC ONA Task Force was created in February 2018. The task force members agreed at the beginning that we were going to let the process take the time that was needed, and not set predetermined deadlines. **From Sunday, October 28 – November 7 there will be a survey available** to CCC members to measure where we are as a church in the process. As always, we encourage you to speak directly to Pastor Rich or a member of the Task Force if you have feedback!

The CCC ONA Task Force – Lynn Horton, Monique Billingsley, Marcia Cassidy, Joe Chapman, Ginnie Hall, Hayley Horton, Beth Jarok, Val King, Deb Lyons, Emily Lyons, Judy Musgrove, Kenny Pantuso, Karen Papenfuss, Pastor Rich Knight

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

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

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

**Regular Church Office Hours** are Monday thru Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.