

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 11

DECEMBER 2018

December Highlights



Advent Festival

Sunday, December 2nd at 11:30 a.m. following Worship

Blue Christmas Gathering

Monday, December 10th at 7 p.m.

Advent Meditation

Saturday, December 8th at 9 a.m. and
Saturday, December 15th at 10 a.m.



CCC's Amazing Christmas Concert

Sunday, December 9th at 3 p.m.

Sunday School Pageant

Sunday, December 16th at 10 a.m. during worship



Christmas Eve Services

Monday, December 24th
7 p.m. and 10 p.m.

Knight Lines

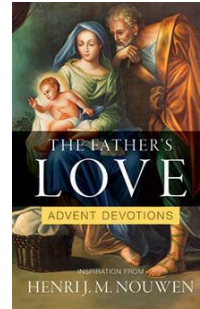
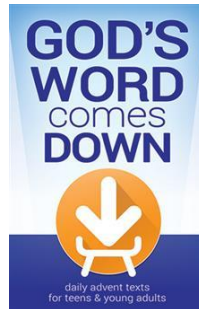
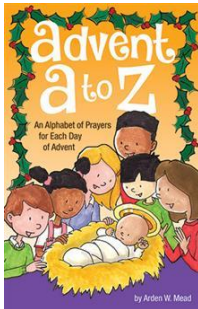
I was going to start this article with the typical, "It's such a crazy, hectic time of year. The church is here to help by giving you some moments of peace amidst the flurry of activities." But that's the wrong approach! To use a sports metaphor, it's playing defense instead of offense.

The Advent/Christmas Season is not a time to simply maintain our faith as best we can during this crazy time. It's not simply finding "a little peace" in-between attacking our endless to-do lists. No, Advent is a time to go deeper in our faith, to probe the depths of the Christmas event and find new meaning in it every single year. Advent is a season of prayer, study, and reflection, a time for spiritual activity and spiritual growth.

To help us this year, the Christian Education Committee has purchased Advent Daily Devotionals for us all. There's one for families with young children, another for teens, and one for adults. Families, we hope you'll keep a copy to be read before or after your evening meal. For others, teens & adults, we hope you'll keep yours in a spot where you'll pick it up daily to read. The adult devotional, "The Father's Love" was written by the renown spiritual writer, Henri Nouwen. Nouwen is one of those authors who is read and respected by folks all across the theological spectrum. I'm sure you'll enjoy his insights on Christmas.

So, let's not just "keep our heads above water" this December. Let's dive in deep into the wonder, mystery, and power of Christmas!

*Taking the Journey with You,
Pastor Rich*



Warrant for a Special Meeting Sunday, December 9, 2018 of Central Congregational Church in Chelmsford, UCC

To the Members and Friends of Central Congregational Church in Chelmsford:

A special meeting of the Central Congregational Church in Chelmsford, United Church of Christ will be held on Sunday, December 9, 2018 immediately following worship to act upon the following article:

Article 1 To seek to be recognized and certified by the United Church of Christ as an Open and Affirming (ONA) congregation, and to affirm this covenant by adopting the following Welcoming Statement:

We are Central Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, and you are welcome here.

Through God's grace, this congregation is committed to being a loving and welcoming community of faith.

We recognize, celebrate, and give thanks for the many diverse gifts of God among us. We affirm that all people are created in the image of God and as beloved children of God, all are worthy of God's love and grace.

We declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation, welcoming into the full life and ministry of the church persons of every race, culture, age, gender identity and gender expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, marital status, education, and economic status. We especially and intentionally welcome all who have known the pain of exclusion or discrimination in the church and society.

We invite all people to join us as Christ's disciples in our faith journey toward openness and understanding, justice, healing, mutual respect, and wholeness of life for all.

Christmas Happenings!

SECRET SANTA PROGRAM

The Secret Santa program, SAM's December mission, has begun with the names of the children who can use gifts at Christmas time being distributed. Gifts are due back at church by **Sunday, December 16th**. This mission was begun by Carol Clevon, former SAM member, 24 years ago through the Chelmsford Housing Authority.

ADVENT FESTIVAL ON DECEMBER 2ND

What is Advent? Advent (from the Latin word “adventus” meaning “coming”) is a season observed by many Christians, a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus at Christmas. It begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day (this year that day is Sunday, December 2nd) and ends on Christmas Eve.

We have a tradition of gathering together for a potluck lunch, creating Advent and Christmas crafts, singing carols, and making an Advent wreath to take home. This is great fun for the whole family and the children love it! The crafts are geared toward the children and the adults have a wonderful time socializing with other adults or “supervising” the craft tables. And the potluck lunch is always yummy.

Please come to the Advent Festival. Mark your calendar for **Sunday, December 2nd** at 11:30 a.m. Questions? Contact Jen Stuart at jennifer.stuart@cccchelmsford.org or 978-905-1895.

“BLUE CHRISTMAS GATHERING”

Christmas can be a difficult time for many people, especially when we’ve had life challenges (such as an illness or a loss) in recent years. Acknowledging that and being with others on a similar journey can go a long way in helping us find strength and even inspiration through the holiday season. That’s what a “Blue Christmas” gathering is all about. We will meet on **Monday, December 10th** at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor. For more information, contact Pastor Rich.

ADVENT MEDITATION

Using an ancient method known as lectio divina (“divine reading”), our Advent Meditation will reflect on some of the great Christmas passages. We will meet on **Saturday, December 8th** at 9:00 a.m. in the Parlor for Advent Meditation. A second gathering will be on **Saturday, December 15th** at 10 a.m. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Rich.

LESSONS AND CAROLS CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Lessons and Carols will be held on **Sunday, December 16th** at 10:00 a.m. during worship. On Sunday, December 2nd, the speaking roles of the pageant will be assigned to children in grades 4-6, so please feel free to request a part as the 1st Reader, 2nd Reader, 3rd Reader, Angel Gabriel, Mary, Joseph, or a Wiseman.

Also, I will be asking for volunteers from the The Holy Cows to read the Call to Worship and Prayer of Confession, take the offering, be an usher, or light the Advent candle. Please let me know if you are interested. Please call me or email with any questions or concerns.

Please see the following schedule to prepare:

- Sunday, December 2nd – Advent speaking roles will be assigned to grades 4-6. I will give them a copy of their script and talk with their families.
- Sunday, December 9th from 11:15 a.m. – noon: Teachers will walk students directly to the stage at coffee hour.
- Saturday, December 15th from 10-11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary
- Sunday, December 16th from 8:45-9:40 a.m. in the Sanctuary
- The pageant is on Sunday, December 16th at 10:00 a.m. during worship

*With great appreciation for your time and efforts,
Kelly Hargett, 978-319-2574, kelhargett@yahoo.com.*

THE GOD SQUAD “YANKEE SWAP” CHRISTMAS PARTY

On **Sunday, December 16**, at 9 Worthen St from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., the God Squad will have their annual Christmas party with fun, food, and friends. There will be a Yankee Swap with a suggested gift price of \$5, so be creative. Please also bring \$5 to cover the cost of pizza and beverages.

CHRISTMAS TREE AND WREATH SALES

As is usual for this issue of the *Beacon*, I am appealing for help in selling our Christmas trees and wreaths. I need help from all age groups, families, singles, men, women, children, groups and anyone else I have missed. There are many two hour slots open each week. Each weekday, we are open from noon to 8:00 p.m. We especially need help on Saturday, December 1st and Saturday, December 8th as I am unavailable those days until the evening shift. You can sign up to help during coffee hour each Sunday, by calling me at 978-256-6801 or by email at dickandkarenp@verizon.net. *Dick Papenfuss*

POINSETTIAS FOR SALE

The Sanctuary Committee will be taking orders for poinsettias on **Sundays, December 2 and 9**, after worship. The cost this year will be \$12. If you are unable to attend church on these two Sundays and would like to order one, contact Elizabeth Hartigan at 978-649-2427 or hartigans@gmail.com.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9TH AT 3:00 P.M.

I'm really excited about our upcoming trip to New York City to perform works by Beethoven at **Carnegie Hall!** About 26 singers and family and friends will leave Chelmsford on Saturday, December 1st, rehearse all day Sunday, and then perform on Monday, December 3rd. What a wonderful and awesome opportunity! I look forward to sharing our musical adventure on our return!

Our Christmas Concert, on **Sunday, December 9th**, will be the biggest ever presented at our church and promises to be the most spectacular as well. It will feature a full orchestra of outstanding professional musicians, the church and community choir, 6 world-class soloists, and myself as conductor and piano soloist. In all, 45 professional musicians who together with our church and community singers will present the majestic and uplifting Beethoven's "Choral Fantasy" and the 4th movement of his Ninth Symphony. This is something truly worth going the extra mile for and truly worth supporting.

I believe that everyone regardless of financial, social, or any other background should have access to the high quality concerts we present. Faithful to this belief, all our church concerts are free admission. This is the reason why we rely and need your support more than ever before.

I am confident that with God's help, as a church and community, we will not only be able to make this happen, but are already shaping the way, setting new standards as to the quality of the music concerts our church and community deserve.

*With much gratitude, Your Brother in Christ,
Francisco Fernandez, Music Director*

HELP NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS CONCERT

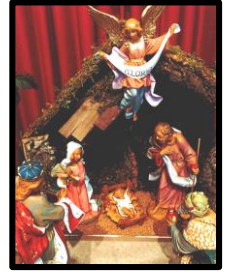
As the Christmas Concert quickly approaches, please consider donating your time or talents to help host the musicians and community on this very special day! Since the musicians are here for a long day, we like to offer a nice selection of festive sweet and savory items. Please sign up at coffee hour, or contact me to let me know what you plan to bring. I could also use one more driver for 5 people on Saturday if you are able. Hope we can count on you!

SHARE YOUR CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Once again, we'd like to offer you the opportunity to send Christmas greetings to your CCC family in a stamp-free way. There will be a bulletin board near the end of the ramp in Fellowship Hall where you can post a Christmas card to your CCC friends. Look for the "Christmasy" bulletin board and use a thumb tack provided there to post your Christmas card. Then be sure to check the bulletin board each week to see who is sending you Christmas wishes

BEAUTIFUL CARDS FOR SALE!

Judy Buswick has created some wonderful Christmas cards for you to send to your family and friends. They show the beautiful crèche which adorns our Communion Table during the Advent Season. The cards are blank inside, so you can write your own sentiment. There are also many cards of Carson Park in different seasons of the year. The cards cost \$2.50 each and are available in the church office. Please stop by and buy!



ANNUAL “WE CAN” FOOD TREE FOR THE OPEN PANTRY

Please join with your church family in this special holiday tradition as we once again create a Christmas tree displaying the Christmas spirit and demonstrating that we “CAN” make a difference. Throughout the holiday season, donations of canned and boxed food (nothing expired or in glass jars) will be placed on our stacked circular shelves in Fellowship Hall. As Christmas approaches our contributions grow into a Christmas tree-shaped display comprised of the donations. The tree will magically grow and appear as it does each year at the Advent Festival on **Sunday, December 2nd** with your help through the first Sunday in January. Then with help from the elves, the contents will be delivered to the Open Pantry of Lowell. Our church is known for the quality of our trees as well as our generosity, so please bring in donations as for some of our neighbors, this is a very tangible form of holiday spirit.

DECEMBER SPECIAL OFFERINGS

During December you will be asked to support two different special offerings.

On December 2, 9 and 16, there will be envelopes in the bulletin for donations to the UCC's Christmas Fund. This money goes to the conference and national church to support retired ministers who have fallen on hard times or possibly been at small churches that were not able contribute significantly toward their retirement.

On Christmas Sunday, December 23 and at the Christmas Eve services, the bulletin will contain envelopes for your Christmas Offering. In the past, this money was included in the budget to support the church. Starting this year, the money collected in the Christmas Offering will go to one of the charities supported by the church through SAM. As we turn our focus to those outside the church that we can help, it will all be given away to make a difference in someone else's life. It will be another way to increase our outreach.

Dick Papenfuss for the Stewardship Committee

What's Happening at CCC!

BENEVOLENT BEADERS

The Beaders had a very productive meeting in November as we made plans for our table to display our jewelry at the CCC November Church Fair. Thanks to Carol Boucek for managing the Beaders table. The sales were excellent and we are able to donate our profits to the charitable causes that we support.

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday, December 5th**, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. in room 308. We invite anyone who would like to join us for our wonderful fellowship and friendly (and lively) conversation.

If you have any questions regarding our group, please call Nancy Clark at 978-256-5763 or "Dee" Freeman at 978-256-2944.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Our next class will be **Sunday, December 9th** following worship. This year's class consists of: Sophia Bruetsch, Emma Hartigan, Madeline Frenette, Ella Morin, Sam Hargett and Alek Rudewicz. Classes are taught by Pastor Rich and Bonnie McGrath.

LUNCH WITH THE PASTOR

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

KiSeLo – Kindness, Service, Love

We invite all women of the church to join us on **Wednesday, December 19th**, for our monthly KiSeLo meeting. Come to Fellowship Hall at **12:30 p.m. (note the earlier time)** for a Christmas luncheon provided by our December Hostesses – Deb Lyons, Karen Papenfuss, and Shirley Zachry. The hostesses would appreciate knowing ahead of time how many to prepare for, so if you could let Karen Papenfuss know if you plan on attending that would be great. (978-256-6801 or dickandkarenp@verizon.net)

We once again will be collecting toys for Toys for Tots. If you wish to participate in this, please bring an **unwrapped toy** so you can make a child's Christmas happier. Our Open Pantry suggestion for December is coffee, tea, cocoa, etc.

If you have any questions, please contact Karen Papenfuss. Hope to see YOU on December 19th!

THE GOD SQUAD

On **Sunday, January 6**, the God Squad will be attending Common Cathedral where we will be serving lunch to approximately 100 people. Common Cathedral serves as an important community for people experiencing homelessness, and for faith communities who want to be in supportive relationship with un-housed individuals and their friends. They share God's love through community, pastoral care, creative expression, and worship on Boston Common.

In preparation for this trip, the God Squad will be meeting on **Saturday, January 5** (time to be determined) to make sandwiches for the next day. After the sandwiches are made, we'll enjoy fellowship and games. The more people that attend, the quicker we can prepare the lunches and the more time we have for fun!

CALLING ALL SCOUTS!

Sunday, February 10th is Scout Sunday and we need your help. Any Boy Scout, Cub Scout, or Girl Scout who is interested in being part of the church service, should contact Gwen Bottomley at gwen.bottomley@gmail.com. Positions available include: ushers, readers, front and back door greeters, and offering ushers.

Ministries in Our Church

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Our December meeting will be on **Tuesday, December 11th** at 6:30 p.m. This is our Holiday get together. Please let me know if you are going to be able to make it or not. *Linda Carson*

CHRIST CARE

The **Tuesday** night ChristCare group will be viewing and discussing "The Purpose Driven Christmas" on **December 11**. We had a really good discussion at our last meeting! We usually meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays, from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. We will only be meeting once in December, because of the Christmas holiday. Anyone is welcome to join us; please contact Deb Lyons so we will know to expect you.

PRAYER MINISTRY

Every day I read from a prayer booklet I subscribe to call "Upper Room." The daily readings help me pray for others and give me a focus for the day. Recently, I read one titled "Please Pray For Me." The author told about a time she went into the bank and the teller was complaining of leg trouble. Right then and there, they prayed together for relief from pain. The author included the following prayer at the end of the reading:

"Our Father in heaven, thank you for the privilege of prayer. May we never miss an opportunity to pray for others. Amen." Leigh Sayers

The CCC Prayer Ministry does not want to miss an opportunity to pray for those who ask. If you wish to be a part of the Prayer Ministry or have prayer requests for yourself or others, please contact:

Ginnie Hall, vrh9159@comcast.net
Wendy Perry, wperry39@comcast.net
Daphne Freeman uklady446@yahoo.com

MEALS MINISTRY

“Share with God’s people who are in need, practice hospitality.” Romans 12:13

We wish to thank all of those who have volunteered to provide meals for church members in time of need. We are off to a good start, but could still use more volunteers. Meals DO NOT have to be homemade. In terms of need or crisis, it is “definitely the caring thought that counts” and the meal, homemade or not, that goes along with it. The purpose is to help someone in need by providing a “helping hand” in meal preparation. In times of need, a friendly face, and a meal, is a true gift. Please keep this thought, **this is a ministry of caring**: it will bring love and blessings to your life as well as those you bless with a meal or two or more. If you would like to participate in this ministry, please contact Ginnie Hall, 978-256-9159 or email vrh9159@comcast.net.

With gratitude and appreciation, Ginnie Hall

BE A LITURGIST?? SURE, YOU CAN DO IT!

A Liturgist is someone who helps lead the beginning of the church service on Sunday morning. This involves reading the Call to Worship and Prayers of Confession, which have been written and provided by the Pastor, announcing the hymns, and perhaps other parts of the service. This is not lengthy or difficult to read or do. Please consider being a Liturgist on some Sunday morning. There is a signup sheet on the Sanctuary bulletin board in Fellowship Hall or simply contact Ginnie Hall. This is a great way to serve your church. Thank you in advance for volunteering.

FLOWER CALENDAR

The new flower calendar for 2019 has been posted on the Sanctuary Committee bulletin board along the ramp in Fellowship Hall. If there are special dates you would like to reserve for donating flowers, please sign the chart as soon as possible.

We encourage everyone to consider donating flowers at some point during the year as the beautiful bouquets we receive from our florist add a special touch to each Sunday's service. After the service you can either take the flowers home or have the Diaconate deliver them to someone who needs their day brightened by your gift. Donations have been declining the past several years and seeing the same artificial arrangement becomes boring very quickly. Please give the idea of donating flowers prayerful consideration. *Sanctuary Committee*

COMMUNITY GARDEN

The garden was put to bed for the winter on November 4th as part of the “Make a Difference Sunday” project. We had a good crew who made light work of it. Thank you to all who participated, especially our teenagers Andrea Loew, Maddie Morin, Quintin Stuart, Nicholas Bottomley, Sam Hargett, and Jeremy Hargett. The final tally for the season was 585.75 pounds of produce, which equaled a donation of \$2,966.38 to The Open Pantry. Our big crops were tomatoes, lettuce, and swiss chard. The weeding and watering crew was great, coming out on hot, sticky, humid days to make sure the plants were adequately water and the weeds were kept to a manageable state. The winner of our weeding contest this year was Dick Herget. It may be winter now, but in a few short months we’ll be starting seeds again.

LIBRARY

Advent is a wonderful time to visit the church library in room 202. There are dozens of picture books for children, including several that tell the story of the first Christmas. There are also many books for adults, both fiction and nonfiction. (I can recommend [The Christmas Box.](#))

Once you have selected a book (or more) that you would like to borrow, please write your name in the black binder provided for that purpose. That will enable us to locate the book if someone else should be looking for it. Merry Christmas, and happy reading! *Deb Lyons, Librarian*

“And when we give each other Christmas gifts in His name, let us remember that He has given us the sun and the moon and the stars, and the earth with its forests and mountains and oceans – and all that lives and move upon them. He has given us all green things and everything that blossoms and bears fruit and all that we quarrel about and all that we have misused – and to save us from our foolishness, from all our sins, He came down to earth and gave us Himself.”

Sigrid Undset

Our Church Committees in Action!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Happy December from the Christian Education (CE) Committee. We are very excited that November's *Make a Difference* day was a great success. The younger children made cookies to give to those who are not able to get to church and the older kids cleaned up the bike path and worked the Community Garden. Thanks to all who helped prepare lunch and organized the workers. Everyone looked great in their new t-shirts! We still have plenty of kid sizes left and if you weren't able to purchase a t-shirt the first time around, we will be ordering more. The shirts were even more popular than anticipated!

Even beyond *Make a Difference Sunday*, our kids were engaged in service for the community. The God Squad served meals at St. Paul's Soup Kitchen and the younger kids carried out their *Halloween is Scary but Hunger is Scarier* campaign to collect food for the Lowell Food Bank.

The Advent Season is a busy time for our youth. We begin the season with our annual Advent Festival on **Sunday, December 2nd**, which the kids all look forward to. If you have children or grandchildren who are not always able to make it to church, think about bringing them to the Advent Festival. We have a nice lunch all together and volunteers help to set up crafts for the kids in fellowship hall. The middle schoolers will be putting on a skit and the younger children will be performing the Christmas carols that they have been practicing for a few weeks.

The students are also planning a Christmas pageant which Kelly Hargett has generously agreed to organize. The pageant will be on **Sunday, December 16th** during worship.

We are wishing you all a meaningful season of Advent and a Merry Christmas.

HOUSE COMMITTEE

The House Committee is now in winter mode. Bernie Boucek serviced the snow blower, so it is ready for action – Thank You, Bernie! The boiler passed its fall start up and appears to be running smoothly, as did the boiler at 9 Worthen St. The relamping project should be completed by December 1, in time for the Christmas concert. We'll be removing the front pews for the concert to allow more room for all the musicians.

Also ready for Christmas will be the lighted cross on the back of the church. It's beautiful and will really look great once mounted.

Because the House Committee has a rotating "chairperson" rather than a dedicated chairperson, we have gone to a "clerk of the month" to contact if there are problems; the name of the clerk of the month will be listed with the house report so you will know who to contact if there are issues to which the committee should attend. Our contact for the month of December is Scott Dorman at 978-677-7106, and his back up is Peter Rogers at 978-256-4354. Please call either one of these gentlemen if there are problems with the appearance or function in the church, 9 Worthen, or affecting the grounds.

ST. PAUL'S SOUP KITCHEN

Monday, December 31st, is the next St. Paul's Soup Kitchen. Sign-up sheets will be made available during coffee hour in Fellowship Hall. The meal will be our traditional Shepherd Pies and brownies. The McGrath family has already volunteered to be Preppers & Servers, however, the more volunteers the better, as there were more than 150 guests the end of October!

SOCIAL ACTION and MISSIONS FOCUS FOR DECEMBER

Christmas Fund for United Church of Christ – "The Light is Surely Coming"

During the Advent and Christmas season, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, who embodied the Holy Spirit and brought God's message to earth to shine like a "lantern, lighting our path", as we've heard recently in Pastor Rich's sermons and children's messages. We have also heard recently about kindness as one of the very basic teachings of Christianity. At this time of year, the UCC Christmas Fund Offering provides us an opportunity to bestow the kindness of much needed financial support to both active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ, who have dedicated their lives to shine Jesus' light on us, sometimes to their personal financial disadvantage. Please consider making a donation to this fund that provides emergency grants, pension and health premium supplements, and "Thank You" gift checks to UCC clergy and lay employees in need. *Respectfully submitted by Julie Carney for Social Action and Mission (SAM) Committee*

NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEWS: Pastor/Parish Relations Committee Transitions

In the alphabet soup of CCC abbreviations, do you know “OPM” and “PPRC”? The OPM is our “Organizational Practices Manual.” This is the reference document for how we organize, equip, and run our various church committees. If you are ever wishing you had guidelines for a church committee, read the OPM! You can find it in the church office and Linn Flint will send you the specific section you need by e-mail.

The PPRC is the “Pastor/Parish Relations Committee.” This committee consists of one pastor and three members of the congregation. Qualifications for PPRC membership include Christian Character, Maturity and Trustworthiness, Patience and Flexibility, Vital Interest in the life of the church, Ability to maintain confidentiality, Ability to appreciate different points of view, Ability to negotiate and reconcile differences, and Availability for listening to church members. Did you know that you have this committee to turn to if needed?

There are guidelines in the OPM that delineate the PPRC Committee’s Purpose and Limitations, as well as their Duties and Responsibilities. The PPRC purpose is to guide relations between the Pastor and the Parish (individuals, church staff, committees), serving as an advocate for both, and working to maintain a climate in which the spiritual life and mission of the Church are strengthened. The PPRC Committee is not responsible for mediating other Church concerns, such as between Church Committees or between another staff member and the congregation.

It is appropriate to have members of the Pastoral Search Committee fill the three positions on the PPRC when a new Pastor is called to CCC. The members of Pastor Rich’s first PPRC, Sue Mirisola, Molly Duggan, and Peter White, have completed their service. They have done a wonderful job, and it has been a long commitment, if you include their years on the Pastoral Search Committee. My gratitude to each of them is surely echoed by the congregation, and certainly by Pastor Rich, to whom their counsel and service on the PPRC have been a blessing.

At the November 14, 2018 meeting of the Church Council, the Nominating Committee put forward candidates for the three PPRC positions: Dory Toppan, Curt Bates, and Bill Clarke. All three have accepted Pastor Rich’s request to serve on PPRC, and were unanimously approved by Council. Please seek out Dory, Curt, or Bill if you need their assistance

Lynn Horton, Nominating Chair

ANNUAL HOLIDAY FAIR 2018 – UP TO THE CHALLENGE

To echo the familiar postman’s creed, *“Neither snow nor cold nor lack of electricity shall stay these CCCers from the swift completion of their appointed Fair duties.”*

Did we have unexpected snow on Thursday night? Yes! But it was after the Holy Cows Youth Group had bravely carried all bins, boxes, and equipment from 9 Worthen to Fellowship Hall. Did we have cold weather on Friday? Yes, but the new boiler kept Fellowship Hall toasty warm while the set-up crew organized all the items on the various sales tables. Did we lose power for over an hour right in the midst of pie baking? Yes, but our pie makers worked by the bit of grey light that came in through the kitchen windows, and our old ovens use natural gas, so pie baking continued unimpeded! Did we have fun and fellowship and faith? Yes! And we surmounted all the challenges that came our way with good cheer and the CCC “can-do” attitude!

The day of the Fair was sunny, and not too cold, and we had lots and lots of shoppers! Friendly faces greeted one another, as Fair visitors selected just the right plant, jewelry gift, craft piece, baked goods, or book. People enjoyed the luncheon and stayed to shop some more. We supported many CCC missions and programs by offering the Benevolent Beaders’ jewelry, the SAM Committee’s Fair Trade coffee and chocolate, and Scrips gift cards for sale. The “Specialty Shoppes” corner celebrated its third year with annual favorites – Baklava by Sundes Fenjan and *By Anne’s Hands* earrings by Anne Washington. New this year on the stage with the Silent Auction items – two raffles! Congratulations to the winner of the “Pay Down Your Pledge” 50/50 raffle, Wendy Piacenza, and to the Scrips Gift Cards raffle winner, Marcia Cassidy. Many thanks to all who bought tickets – we will hold these popular raffles again next year!

Perhaps the greatest challenge of the day was set months ago – the church budget. The Fair income is budgeted to bring in \$7000. We have not quite reached that goal in several years, yet it is good to strive to do as best we can to meet the figure. As of this newsletter printing, the 2018 Fair proceeds stand at **\$6075**. Thank you to each and every one of you for making that challenge a joy to attempt to achieve, together.

It would be impossible to hold this large fund raiser without the dedicated table chairmen. Their commitment to the success of the Fair is tremendous. With deepest gratitude, **Thank You** to: Karen Papenfuss - Crafts & Handwork; Nancy Clark and Dee Freeman - Jewelry; Helen Glinos - Plants; Dory Toppan - Bake Sale & Cookie

Walk; Doug Drake and Jay Hungate - Luncheon Café, Therese Burdo, Christine McNamara, and Lillian Bean, and their entire team - Apple Pies; Ellen Kunkel - SAM Fair Trade Coffee and Chocolate; Marcia Cassidy and your Fair Chair - Silent Auction; and Steve Hartigan and Will Hargett and the God Squad Youth Group - the "Media Zone."

Thanks to all of you, CCC members and friends, who so generously gave your time, hard work, donations, and especially your continuing support to make this annual Fair a success. A special thank you to the MANY bakers, the individual crafters, the Silent Auction donors, the Holy Cows, and our Specialty Shoppes vendors, Anne and Sundes. Dee and Nancy would like a particular thank you to be given to the many generous donors of jewelry and little boxes. I sincerely thank you all. If I have failed to list your name, please accept my apologies and my heartfelt appreciation.

Thank you to: Barbara Allen, Phyllis Atwood, Curtis Bates, Donna Bates, Lillian Bean, Arlene Belleville, Monique Billingsley, Gwen Bottomley, Nick Bottomley, Betty Borden, Bernie Boucek, Carol Boucek, Don Brigham, Cindy Bruetsch, Jim Bruetsch, Sophia Bruetsch, Cynthia Bryant, Jessie Buchanan, Therese Burdo, Judy Buswick, Julie Carney, John Carson, Linda Carson, DJ Cassidy, Marcia Cassidy, Mike Cassidy, Linda Catalano, Cathryn Center, Arlene Christianson, Nancy Parker Clark, Jennifer Delikat, Nancy DiSalvo, Margie Dissinger, Cynthia Dorman, Will Dorman, Doug Drake, Molly Duggan, Shirley Eaton, Carol Engel, Sundes Fenjan, Linn Flint, Daphne "Dee" Freeman, Madeline Frenette, Tonya Frenette, Kathy Gaphardt, Helen Glinos, Jim Glinos, Mackenzie Green, Ginnie Hall, Jeremy Hargett, Sam Hargett, Will Hargett, Emma Hartigan, Kelsey Hartigan, Stephen Hartigan, Trey Hartigan, Hayley Horton, Sherman Horton, Chrissy Hungate, Fiona Hungate, Jay Hungate, Olivia Hungate, Mary-Ann Hussey, Megan Hussey, Beth Jarok, Gale Kenyon, Valerie King, Pastor Rich Knight, Ellen Kunkel, Bruce Kunkel, Barbara Lea, Linda Lis, Harry Luro, Deb Lyons, Emily Lyons, Bobbie Mack, Bonnie McGrath, Jane McKenzie, Christine McNamara, Carolyn Millard, Sue Mirisola, Laurie Montgomery-College, Ella Morin, Katherine Morin, Maddie Morin, Peter Morin, Sarah Morin, Pat O'Connell, Nancy Owens, Kenny Pantuso, Karen Papenfuss, Dick Papenfuss, Wendy Perry, Ray Peterson, Sheila Pichette, Sue Sarafinas, Karen Sheehan, Kristin Strobel, Joshua Timmins, Dory Toppan, Kelly Tustin, Jackie Urban, Brendan Viarella, Janine Viarella, Anne Washington, Matthew Washington, Betsy White, Peter White, Christine Williams, Lee Williams, Becky Wisniewski, Johanna Wray, and Shirley Zachry.

Thank you to everyone who worked very hard for the weekend! I hope that you had as much fun at the Fair as I did!

Lynn Horton, Fair Chair



*Thank you to Lynn Horton for guiding us
through a successful Holiday Fair.
It was a wonderful gathering of fellowship and fun!*



MILESTONES

Sunday, November 25th was a joyful day as we dedicated Hannah Elizabeth Marchand. Hannah is the daughter of Derek and Abby Marchand and was born on September 22, 2018. Derek and Abby were married by Pastor Rich in 2016. The family lives in Billerica.

Also on November 25th, we baptized Keith Kramer Pantuso, the son of Lisa and Kenny Pantuso, grandson of Monique and Glenn Billingsley, and great-grandson of Elisabeth Phinney. Keith is the little brother to Lilla and Charlotte. Keith was born on July 30, 2018.

Our sympathies are with the family of our dear friend, Walter "Bud" Crissey, who passed away on November 14th. A memorial service was held at CCC on November 25th. Please keep Marcia and the family in your prayers at this time.

We also offer sympathies to Lynda Wellman on the passing of her step-father, Ed Wilson, on November 24th. A memorial service will be held at CCC on Friday, December 14th at 4 p.m. Please keep Lynda and the family in your thoughts and prayers.

THANK YOU FROM TROOP 74

Thank you to the members of Central Congregational Church who supported the Troop 74 bread sale. The Troop baked over 1500 loaves of bread for our fundraiser. Along with allowing the Troop to meet its fundraising goal, the Troop was able to help the community. Over 200 loaves of quick breads were donated to organizations in the community including: Chelmsford Food Pantry, Table of Plenty, and Lowell Transitional Housing. Your support continues to assist Boy Scouts while letting them help others in our community.

SPECIAL THANKS

This month we extend our heartfelt thanks to:

- Laurie Montgomery-College and Doug Drake for brunch on "Make a Difference Day" and all who took part to Make a Difference!
- Sarah Morin and her family for coordinating the t-shirt sales!
- Jessie Buchanan and Jane McKersie for sponsoring the incredible soloists, Ana and David, on November 11th. What a morning in church!
- Francisco and Taide for playing with Ana and David, as well as to Francisco for putting the program together!
- Lynn Horton for coordinating the Holiday Fair and for making it look easy! And thanks to all those who helped!
- Dick Papenfuss and all those who helped unload Christmas Trees, set up the tree stands, and now selling them!

HOUSE COMMITTEE WORKS WITH GIRL SCOUTS

Al and I would like to thank you and your Girl Scouts for welcoming us to your meeting Sunday afternoon, November 18th, at Central Congregational Church, to review the Solar Panel Installation Project, the Heating System Upgrade, and the LED Lighting Project. The Scouts were very courteous and attentive given the amount of information presented. Please be sure to let us know if there are items that require clarification, especially as they relate to energy conservation.

Just replacing an incandescent bulb with an LED equivalent at home, can give a Scout a wonderful, positive feeling of doing her part to conserve energy!

Best regards,
Peter L. Rogers
CCC House Committee

Hello Peter,

Thank you and Al so much for taking the time to educate the girls on energy conservation. Both of you helped the girls earn a badge and learn more about solar panels, light bulbs, and boilers. After you left, they made posters to bring home on what both of you taught them.

Again, thank you and Happy Thanksgiving!

Tanya Parshley
Leader of Girl Scout Troop 76127

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.

For the week of December 23rd, we light our Steeple for the Bruetsch family in loving memory of Ellenor and Carolyn, Sophia's grandmothers.



DID YOU KNOW? – FROM THE INCOME TREASURER

- ✓ You can have your contribution statement emailed to multiple email addresses.
- ✓ That if you want to have your tax-deductible contributions counted for the 2018 tax year, the contributions must be received in the church office by December 31, 2018.
- ✓ That you can donate stock to the church as a contribution (contact Dick Papenfuss for details).
- ✓ That you may request a contribution statement for your tax records even if you have not pledged. Please contact Sue Sarafinas for a contribution statement.

If you have any questions about your contributions or pledge, please don't hesitate to contact me. Please leave a message and I will get back to you.

Sue Sarafinas, Income Treasurer
sueth@gmail.com or 978-251-9991

TAKE NOTE

- ✓ The bulletin is printed first thing on Thursday morning, so all announcements must be received in the office by Wednesday morning.
- ✓ The January *Beacon* deadline is **Monday, December 17th** with a mailing/emailing date of December 28th.
- ✓ The Church Office will be closed on Monday, December 24th and Tuesday, December 25th.
- ✓ The Church Office will also be closed on Monday, December 31st and Tuesday, January 1st!!
- ✓ 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.

CENTRAL CO-OPERATIVE NURSERY SCHOOL

Save the Date for the Central Co-Op's 3rd Annual Winter Carnival that will be held during Chelmsford Winterfest on **Saturday February 2, 2019!**

Central Co-Operative Nursery School is a nonprofit preschool for children ages 2.9-5 years old. The Co-Op offers a play-based educational curriculum with a variety of schedules including half day and full day options. The Co-Op also has a toddler prep program that offers sessions throughout the year for 2-year-old toddlers and a parent.

We invite you to visit our website www.centralcoop.org to learn more about the benefits of a cooperative preschool education and to learn more about the school.

Call 978-256-3033 or email director@centralcoop.org to schedule a tour. Registration begins February 1, 2019 for the 2019-2020 school year.



CANCELLATION

If worship services are to be cancelled due to severe weather, Pastor Rich will make the decision no later than 6:30 a.m. on Sunday morning. He will then contact Francisco Fernandez, Val King and Dory Toppan (Senior Deacons), and Scott Dorman (for House Committee),

All others may look for cancellations of our church service by checking:

- ✓ The church answering machine (978-256-5931)
- ✓ The website (www.cccchelmsford.org)
- ✓ Facebook

Please use your own judgment when traveling to church services or other functions during inclement weather.

CHURCH PARKING

We now have a well-marked parking lot. There are 6 handicapped spaces plus a handicapped space for a van. There are also 5 more spaces marked with a yellow "S" on a blue square. These are for our seniors on Sunday. They are open to everyone during the rest of the week. There are also three "Reserve" spaces for staff.

Please remember to allow access to the Church building for fire trucks and emergency vehicles, especially on special Sundays when we have a greater than usual number of vehicles that need to be parked. On those occasions, we have to be to allow access for emergency vehicles. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

SCRIP PROGRAM

You are invited to join our Scrip Program. It is a different kind of fundraiser – it turns your everyday shopping into earnings for CCC! By paying for your purchases with gift cards, you'll earn money on your groceries, gas, dining out, home improvement projects, clothing, travel and more!

Gift cards through the Scrip Fundraiser will be available for sale during coffee hour on Sunday, December 2nd. Some of the cards include: Target, Kohl's, Walmart, iTunes, Marshalls, Chili's, the 99's, and of course, Dunkins. Order forms and checks made out to CCC (with "Scrip" on the memo line) can be turned in during coffee hour, too. The order will be placed in time for you to have your cards before Christmas.

The church receives a rebate on all cards purchased, though you only play face value for the cards. The total raised to date is \$361.18! Any questions? Please email me at cccscrip@cccchelmsford.org.

Thanks! Sue Mirisola



Be sure to support CCC by using AmazonSmile for your Christmas gift shopping this season!

Amazon's warehouses are full of fun gifts for all ages and they have speedy delivery so it isn't too late to shop!

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 that there are many CCCs out there, so be careful to select the Chelmsford MA option!

Your Account > Change Your Charity > Search Results

Choose from almost a million charities, schools, and other nonprofits. We will reach out to the organization you select to ensure it is ready to accept donations from Amazon.

Central Congregational Church

Showing 1-25 of 85 Results Sorted by: Relevance

Central Congregational Church About ▾ Christian	Chelmsford MA	<input type="button" value="Select"/>
Central Square Congregational Church About ▾ Christian	Bridgewater MA	<input type="button" value="Select"/>
Central Congregational Church About ▾	La Mesa CA	<input type="button" value="Select"/>
Central Congregational Church About ▾ Protestant	Providence RI	<input type="button" value="Select"/>

A red arrow points to the "Chelmsford MA" option, and a mouse cursor is hovering over its "Select" button.

While shopping on smile.amazon.com you will see the text: "Supporting: Central Congregational Church" on the top navigation bar.



Remember that even after you've selected CCC as your designated charity, you still need to use the <http://smile.amazon.com/> site! If you (by habit) go to the main Amazon web site and add things to your shopping cart, they will be there in your AmazonSmile shopping cart too! Just remember to switch to the AmazonSmile site before checking out!

If you have any questions, please email amazonsmile@cccchelmsford.org. Thanks for supporting CCC! Merry Christmas!



Calendar



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

December 2018



Come to the Advent Festival
 and Potluck Luncheon
 Sunday, December 2nd

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 Supervisors	Emily Yurkus Sue Mirisola	978-944-2551 978-420-7865	emilyyurkus@gmail.com mirisola@comcast.net
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

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