

Central Congregational Church

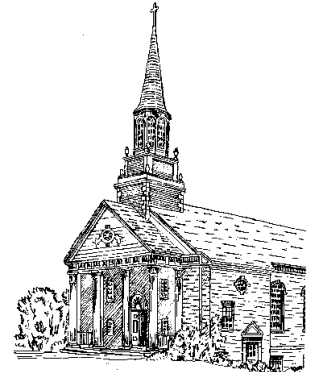
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*"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



This weekend at CCC!

The Advent/Christmas Season is in full swing!

Christmas Pageant Rehearsal will be this Saturday at 10:00 a.m., as well as, Sunday at 8:45 a.m.

Advent Meditation will be held this Saturday, December 15 at 10:00 a.m. in Rm. 202.

This Sunday is the Sunday School Christmas Pageant! The children will present to us the story of Christmas, followed by a skit from the God Squad based on Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. It promises to be another joyous, meaningful morning in worship!

Hacked! I've noticed a few of our members have experienced computer hacks via Facebook. Be careful opening "Friend Requests." If you're already "friends" with that person (or you have no idea who they are), don't open it!

They'll be no hacking in Heaven!

Serving Christ with You,

Pastor Rich

978-684-2031 (cell)

Weekly Announcements for December 13, 2018

- ✓ Christmas Tree Sale Needs Volunteers to Help!
- ✓ Beautiful Christmas Cards by Judy Buswick for Sale
- ✓ Secret Santa Gifts due December 16th
- ✓ Advent Meditation – December 15
- ✓ Gift Cards thru Scrip Gift Cards
- ✓ Nursery Volunteers Needed!
- ✓ Our Sunday School Christmas Pageant – December 16
- ✓ Share Your Christmas Greetings
- ✓ "Can Tree" – Please bring in donations to make our tree overflowing!
- ✓ KiSeLo – December 19th
- ✓ St. Paul's Soup Kitchen – December 31st
- ✓ SAM's December Focus – The Christmas Fund

- ✓ Lunch with Pastor Rich every Tuesday at noon
- ✓ Do you need a ride to church?

Tree Sales Help Needed: Please sign up to help sell our Christmas trees and wreaths. There are many open slots each day of the week. If you can spare two hours all help is appreciated. We can find a slot for anyone. The more people who volunteer to do a little the less some people are required to do a lot. Please help by signing up by calling 9789-256-6801 or by email to dickandkarenp@verizon.net.

Time slots needed to be filled:

Thursday, Dec. 13 All set with help

Friday, Dec. 14 All set with help

Saturday, Dec. 15 2-4 pm: NO ONE HAS SIGNED UP – need 2-3 people as it should be a busy time
4-6 pm: two more people needed

Sunday, Dec. 16 12-2 pm: two people needed
2-4 pm: two people needed
4-6 pm: one person needed
6-8 pm: one person needed

Monday, December 17 thru Thursday, December 20: Help needed for every shift every day!

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!

Secret Santa: Wrapped gifts are due in church by December 16th.

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 15th** at 10:00 a.m. in the Parlor for Advent Meditation. If you have any questions, contact Pastor Rich.

Gift Cards available for purchase during coffee hour. Easy shopping for Secret Santa gifts or anyone else on your list, all the while a percent of the purchase is returned to the church. There are also gift card envelopes and boxes for sale. All proceeds of these go to CCC! If you placed an order in the last week, your cards have arrived. Please see me in the nursery before church or in fellowship hall during coffee hour. Thanks! Sue Mirisola

Nursery Volunteers are needed! Please sign up in Fellowship Hall or email one of us. Thank you! Emily Yurkus. emikyurkus@gmail.com and Sue Mirisola. mirisola@comcast.net

This Sunday! Our Sunday School Christmas Pageant will be held at 10:00 a.m. during worship. Please see the following schedule to prepare:

- 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

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

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 is 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

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.

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!

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. 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*
Council President

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.