

THE BEACON

THE BEACON

a worshipping praying learning caring outreaching community

CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

VOLUME 64 NUMBER 2

FEBRUARY 2019

February Highlights



Souper Bowl Sunday!

Sunday, February 3rd at 10 a.m.

We are collecting donations for The Open Pantry.

Sunday School Teacher Appreciation Brunch

Sunday, February 3rd at 11:30 a.m.



“An Evening of Love Songs”

Saturday, February 9th at 7 p.m.

A Coffeehouse Concert with CCC singers!



Scout Sunday

February 10th at 10 a.m.

Celebrate Scouting supported by CCC!



“Holy Cows” Middle School Youth Go Bowling!

Sunday, February, 10th at 3:00 p.m.

“Ask the Pastor”

Sunday, February 17th at 10 a.m.





Knight Lines *The Last Thing We Talk About*

True story. Many years ago, in a land far, far away, I had a much-beloved parishioner I'll call Pauline. She was a pillar of the church and had lots of friends in the church. Pauline spent quite a bit of time with her friends, and on one occasion, close to her passing, she mentioned to them that she did not want to be cremated. Years ago, she thought she wanted to be cremated, but now she had changed her mind. Unfortunately, Pauline never told her one and only son, who lived out of town. So when Pauline died her son arranged for cremation. Her friends protested! Every single one of them called the son and informed him of what his mother had said. It was a mess, and frankly, it put a somewhat dark cloud over the funeral and over the son's feelings about the church his mother dearly loved.

The point of the story of course is that death shouldn't be the last thing we talk about. Letting your family know your specific wishes is one of the most loving things you

could ever do! It will make things much easier for them at a time of great loss. If you're not comfortable talking about it, I have a solution, a Funeral Wishes Worksheet. You can simply fill it out and bring it into the church office. We'll make a copy for our files and you can keep the original with your important papers. You'll find this worksheet at the end of this newsletter. Copies are also available at church. If you have any questions, please give me a shout.

One of the most special parts of this worksheet is writing down your favorite hymns. I'm sure many of you have been to funerals where the pastor says, "We're going to sing Charlie's favorite hymns today." It's incredibly meaningful to all those gathered. I hope you'll consider writing a few things down. It's like a final gift to your family, one that will make their job much easier and even more meaningful.

*Serving the God of Eternal Life with You,
Pastor Rich*

What's Happening at CCC!

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY is the second largest day of eating in the United States after Thanksgiving. This year, most of us will cheer the Patriots on with friends and family. While we munch on way too many snacks, let's remember those who face hunger on a daily basis. Hunger is a very serious problem in the United States. One in seven Americans does not have access to enough food. There are more than 6.4 million children living in this country in food insecure households. Hunger is not just an issue for people struggling with poverty and homelessness. It reaches far and wide.

The Open Pantry in Lowell serves over 1500 people each month. More than one third served are children. The Open Pantry offers assistance without discrimination based on race, creed, or nationality. Check out their website www.theopenpantry.org. From The Open Pantry Facebook page: "...we have seen unusually high numbers of clients to begin January (2019). Usually, the first 2 weeks of a month are relatively quiet with most people coming during the last 2 weeks of the month. Through Thursday 1/17, we have already fed 1,205 people here at the pantry – this will shatter the number of people served in January in any year since 2008." This year the need is great.

On Super Bowl **Sunday, February 3rd**, the Holy Cows (grades 5 – 8) will be collecting monetary donations as well as non-perishable food items for the Open Pantry during coffee hour. Especially needed are nutritious items such as canned vegetables and fruits, can soup, can tuna, pasta, cereals, and powdered milk. Please consider making a donation to this worthy mission. *Thanks, Bonnie McGrath*

GO PATS!!!!



"EVENING OF LOVE SONGS"

We'll once again be holding our "Evening of Love Songs" on **Saturday, February 9th**, at 7:00 p.m. Come for a lovely evening of love songs, some sing-a-longs and even some comedy. Join us in a candle-lit Fellowship Hall for this coffeehouse concert!

We will be holding a Sound Check/Rehearsal Session on **Sunday, February 3rd** from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. We're asking everyone who's planning to perform to come to this rehearsal. Contact Pastor Rich to sign up.



BENEVOLENT BEADERS

The Beaders did not meet in January due to illness of a few of our ladies, so hopefully we will have a meeting in February, if the weather co-operates. We received a very nice letter of appreciation from "My Father's House" in North Chelmsford for the check we had sent just before Christmas. they certainly needed the help.

Our next meeting will be on **Wednesday February 6th**, in room 308 at 1-3 p.m. We welcome anyone who would like to join our group for fellowship, lively conversation, and fun. We hope to have a sale of our jewelry in the Spring so we will be discussing that also.

If you would like information concerning the Beaders please contact Nancy Clark at 978-256-5763 or Daphne Freeman at 978-256-2944.

CONFIRMATION CLASS: We will meet February 3rd and 10th this month.

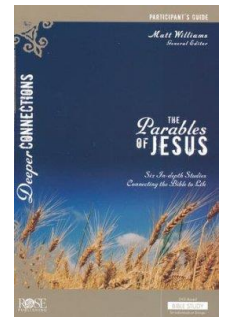
CALLING ALL SCOUTS!

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.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

On **Sunday, February 17th**, from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m., the Women's group will start a new 7-week study on the Parables of Jesus. We will be taking a new look at familiar stories to deepen our understanding of what they mean and their relevance in our lives today.

Look for signups in Fellowship Hall at Coffee Hour or contact Margie Dissinger at margie228@gmail.com or 978-256-3707.



KiSeLo – Kindness, Service, Love

We invite all women of the church to join us on **Wednesday, February 27th**, for our monthly KiSeLo meeting. Our meeting will begin at 1 p.m. with dessert served by our hostesses: Jessie Buchanan, Margie Dissinger, and Mary Horne.

Our program will be book reviews. Each member is invited to bring a book or title of a book which she has enjoyed reading. This is not mandatory, but is encouraged. Everyone who is willing could tell a few sentences about her book and why she enjoyed it. A few members have been asked to give a review which is more detailed – but still short – about her book. Those who would like to may participate in a book swap, so bring along any books you've finished and want to share. Both fictional and non-fictional books are welcome, as are books on tape. The committee hopes this will be a fun, informative and inspirational time of sharing.

Our Open Pantry suggestion for February is peanut butter and jelly; but, as usual, any non-perishable is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Papenfuss (978-256-6801). Hope to see YOU on February 27th!

LUNCH WITH THE PASTOR

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



Introducing,

Make a Difference Camp!

July 15-19, 2019

A Week of Service for Kids Grades 3 – 8

Rising 3rd Graders are eligible.

High School students may serve as Volunteers & Crew Leaders!

We're going to try something new this summer. It's called, "*Make a Difference Camp*." It's a bit like Vacation Bible School, but instead of staying at the church to learn, we'll go out into the community and learn about discipleship through serving others. The projects will include things like: Chelmsford Community Garden – weeding & watering, Games with Seniors at Summer Place or another Retirement or Nursing Home, Rail Trail Clean-Up in Chelmsford, a Canned Food Drive with a visit to the Open Pantry in Lowell.

Below is our current thinking regarding a typical day at *Make a Difference Camp*:

Schedule: Monday – Thursday

9:00 a.m.	Opening – announcements, song, prayer
9:15 a.m.	Leave for Work Sites
9:30 – 11:15 a.m.	Service Projects
11:15 a.m.	Leave site to return to CCC
11:30 a.m.	Snack & Closing – debrief in small groups, song & prayer
Noon	Dismissal

Friday, Day 5 will be a fun morning at Kimball Farm!

This Spring we'll be looking for volunteers to help. This event is sponsored by the Christian Education Committee (with the hope of reaching families beyond our church) and is being planned by a leadership team of Lynn Horton, Carolyn Chapman, Jen Stuart, and Pastor Rich Knight. Please let us know if you have questions or ideas.

Ministries in Our Church

CHRISTCARE

Just in time for Valentine's Day, the women's ChristCare group is reading The Five Love Languages by Gary Chapman. We are discussing ways in which we experienced love as children and ways in which we express and understand love as adults. Once we finish this book, we expect to be reading What is the Bible? by Rev. Anne Robertson. As always, we welcome new members to our group at any time. We meet on the second and fourth **Tuesdays, (February 12th and 26th)** from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

"WE CAN" FOOD TREE

As we have concluded this years "We Can" Food Tree drive, I wanted to give a shout to all those who participated and brought in canned and dry goods. The need is great and the CCC of Chelmsford came through with the largest collection of food I have seen since we started setting up the tree! Well done CCC! *Regards, Pete Rudewicz*



COMMUNITY GARDEN

The gardening season starts in the middle of cold and snowy January with the annual meeting of Chelmsford Open Spaces Stewardship held in Fellowship Hall. I'm already mapping out the 2019 garden on graph paper and looking at seed catalogues. I hope to see a lot of people at the garden opening and will announce the date when I know it. *Mary Horne*

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Please join us on **Tuesday, February 12th**, at 7 p.m. at the Carson home for an evening of fellowship as we create shawls that will bring joy to those in need of love and care. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month. *Linda Carson*

PRAYER MINISTRY

In the January Beacon "Knight Lines" Pastor Rich quoted a piece called "Do You Pray?" One line of it is "Prayer is the voice of love, friendship, genuine relationships." Often we pray for those we love, our friends and other people we have some type of relationship with. In other words, intercessory prayer. Intercession is one of the most important aspects of faith and praying life. Prayer acts as a way for us to acknowledge God's power. Prayer transforms the person doing the praying as much as the one being prayed for.

The most precious gift you can give someone is to pray for them. Romans 12:12 says, "Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer."

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

Please send me your favorite Bible verses!

This month, I'll be working on a Lenten Devotional based on CCC's favorite verses. But I need your help. Even if you're not sure of the exact chapter and verse, you can just send me the written verse as best you remember it. Thanks for your help! Pastor-Rich@cccchelmsford.org.

Our Church Committees in Action!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

We are excited to be introducing a new theme for the spring semester, "Planting the Seeds of the Spirit." As we move through the spring, our Sunday School children of all ages will talk about what it means to plant the seeds of the spirit in their own lives, as well as the church and larger community.

As we look forward to these new opportunities, we also want to thank Cindy Bruetsch and her team of parent volunteers for hosting the Teacher Appreciation Lunch on February 3rd! We feel so blessed to have the support for our teachers and for our Sunday school program as a whole. The larger congregation has played such an important role in giving our students have a sense of belonging in this church community and we continue to thank you for your support.

A few notes about upcoming events – the Holy Cows will be taking the Souper Bowl collection during Super Bowl Sunday, February 3rd, and the children are preparing to sing "We Shall Overcome," a theme song of the Civil Rights Movement in our country during the month of February.

HOUSE COMMITTEE

First and foremost, we welcome our new member, John Wellman! We look forward to working with you. Now that the major projects (the boiler and the relamping of the church) are over, the House Committee can turn its eyes back to more routine activities. We'll be painting, updating out-of-date items, and ensuring that the church and those we support can function smoothly.

If you notice something that needs our attention, please call our "February Clerk of the Month" Bill Clarke at 978-256-8570 or his back-up Don Brigham at 978-250-1439.

SAM's FEBRUARY FOCUS WILL BE TO SUPPORT HABITAT FOR HUMANITY!

In February, SAM welcomes back Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lowell as of one our monthly initiatives. Habitat Lowell builds and rehabs homes to be affordable and energy efficient to help needed families to stand on their own. They also offer assistance to low income home owners, seniors, veterans and those disabled, with homes in need of repairs.

They also support and run ReStore, a discount retail outlet open to the public, with all proceeds going right back into building low income homes. A representative from Habitat for Lowell will be present during coffee hour throughout the month of February to provide additional information.

As a reminder, on **Sunday, February 3rd**, is SAM's designated "food donation Sunday" with non-perishable items supporting the Lowell Food Pantry. CCCers are still very much welcome to donate food at any other time of the month as well. *Arlene Belleville*

QUOTE OF NOTE:

"On what basis do we people of different religious commitments meet one another? First and foremost, we meet as human beings, who have so much in common: a heart, a face, a voice, the presence of a soul, fears, hope, the ability to trust, a capacity for compassion and understanding, the kinship of being human. My first task in every encounter is to comprehend the personhood of the human being I face, to sense the kinship of being human, solidarity of being." Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel

Central Congregational Church - Chelmsford, MA

Funeral Wishes

The Last Thing We Talk About

“My funeral’s going to be lovely. I’m sorry I’m going to miss it by just a few days.”
Garrison Keillor

Name:

Date:

Address:

Family Member or Friend who will most likely handle the arrangements:

Choice of Funeral Home:

Funeral Wishes

Cremation? (circle one) yes no

Viewing/Calling Hours? yes no

Open Casket? yes no

Memorial Donations yes no If yes, where to? _____

Service (circle one)

in the church at the funeral home graveside service at the cemetery

Place of burial: _____ Has a plot been purchased? yes no

Favorite Hymns: (see reverse side for suggestions)

Favorite Solos or Songs to be played or performed:

(suggestions: The Lord’s Prayer, On Eagles Wings, You Raise Me Up, various hymns)

Favorite Scripture Passages: (see reverse side for suggestions)

Any other specific wishes:

Signature: _____

Hymn Suggestions

Abide with Me

Amazing Grace

Be Still My Soul

Because He Lives

How Great Thou Art

I am the Bread of Life

In the Garden

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Old Rugged Cross

On Eagles Wings

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Rock of Ages

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

When Peace Like a River (It is well with my soul)

Scripture Passages for Funerals

Psalm 23: *The Lord is my shepherd*

Psalm 46: *God is our refuge and strength*

Psalm 91: *You who live in the shelter of the Most High*

Psalm 121: *I lift up mine eyes to the hills; from whence does my help come?*

Psalm 139: *Where can I flee from Thy presence?*

Ecclesiastes: *To everything there is a season . . . a time to be born and a time to die.*

John 14:1-3: *In my Father's house there are many mansions . . .*

John 14:18-20, 27 *Peace I leave you. My peace I give to you.*

Romans 8:35, 37-39: *Nothing can ever separate us from the Love of God.*

I Corinthians 13: *The greatest of these is love.*

I Corinthians 15:50-57: *We will all be changed, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.*

II Corinthians 4:16-18: *So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away our inner nature is being renewed day by day.*

II Corinthians 5:1-4: *For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*

I Thessalonians 4:13-18: *For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep in him.*

Revelation 21:1-5: *Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth . . .*

Central Congregational Church

978-256-5931

Rev. Dr. Richard B. Knight, Pastor

Pastor-Rich@cccchelmsford.org

Linn Flint, Office Administrator

Office.Administrator@cccchelmsford.org

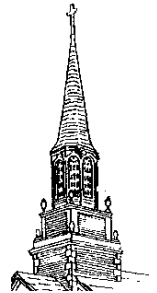


Hello! My Name Is...

Remember to wear your name tag at church every Sunday, both in the service and during coffee hour. Do you need a name tag? See Lynn Horton or contact the church office directly. Thank you!!

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.



We light Our Steeple for the week of:

February 24th for Tonya Frenette in loving memory of Grandma Duda and Phumin Sang.

MILESTONES

Our sympathies are with the family of Jim Gifford. Jim passed away on January 13th. A funeral service was held at CCC on Saturday, January 19th. Jim is remembered by many as a friendly school bus driver in Chelmsford for 40 years!

TAKE NOTE

- ✓ The bulletin is printed first thing on Friday morning, so all announcements must be received in the office by Thursday morning.
- ✓ The March *Beacon* deadline is **Tuesday, February 19th** with a mailing/emailing date of February 27th.
- ✓ The Church Office will be closed on Monday, February 18th for Presidents' Day.
- ✓ 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

Central Cooperative Nursery School's 3rd Annual Winter Carnival will be held during Chelmsford Winterfest on **Saturday February 2nd**! Join us for raffles, games and entertainment! Price is \$5 per person, \$20 family cap for admission. Raffle tickets are 10 for \$5, 25 for \$10. Hope to see you there!

Central Co-Operative Nursery School is a nonprofit preschool for children ages 2.9-5 years old. Registration for the 2019-2020 school year begins February 1, 2019. For more information, call 978-256-3033 or email director@centralcoop.org to schedule a tour.

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.



Jennifer Stonehouse
Central Cooperative Nursery School
Publicity Chair, Board of Directors
publicity@centralcoop.org

THE GOD SQUAD AT COMMON CATHEDRAL, BOSTON MA



Sandwich making the night before





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



February 2019

Join us for
"An Evening of Love Songs"
Saturday, February 9th at 7 p.m.

Central Congregational Church in Chelmsford

United Church of Christ

An Open & Affirming Congregation

"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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