

# Central Congregational Church

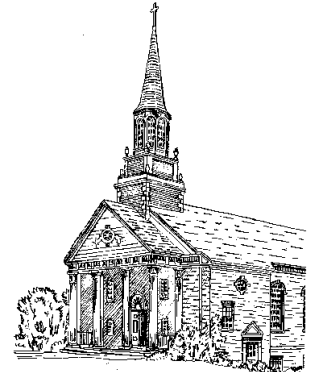
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

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

Rev. Dr. John A. Zachry, Pastor Emeritus



*Dear Friends in Christ,*

## **Men's Breakfast - Sat. Jan. 12, 8:30 a.m.**

Please contact the church office by noon tomorrow (Friday) to sign up for a delicious breakfast. John Carson will be sharing devotions. Then Jay Hungate will talk to us and show a brief but very entertaining film on the Kinetic Sculpture Race.

## **Memorial Service for Robert Acheson**

Also this Saturday, we'll hold the service for Ed Acheson's dad at 11:00 a.m.

## **This Sun. Jan. 13**

### **"Renewal of Baptism" Service.**

At the end of the service those who wish to renew their baptisms will be invited to come forward for the sign of water and a blessing. This is optional of course, but it's a wonderful way to renew one's commitment to Christ

**The Sermon this Sunday is entitled, "The Second Most Important Thing to Keep in Mind While Reading the Bible."** This is likely to be the second most important sermon you will ever hear on understanding the Bible!

## **Winter Book Club**

Please let Linn Flint know asap if you'd like us to order you a copy of Anne Lamont's book, Almost Everything: Notes on Hope, for the Book Club which starts on Tuesday, January 29.

*Serving Christ with You,*

**Pastor Rich**

[Pastor-Rich@cccchelmsford.org](mailto:Pastor-Rich@cccchelmsford.org)

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## **Weekly Announcements for January 10, 2019**

- ✓ Men's Breakfast – Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup>
- ✓ Renewal of Baptism – Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup>
- ✓ Confirmation Class
- ✓ KiSeLo – January 23<sup>rd</sup>
- ✓ Winter Book Club with Pastor Rich
- ✓ Sunday School Teacher Brunch – February 3<sup>rd</sup> – Please help!

- ✓ Financial Peace University – February 7<sup>th</sup>
- ✓ Evening of Love Songs – February 9<sup>th</sup> – Sign up now to perform!
- ✓ Calling All Scouts – volunteer now!
- ✓ Bedtime Prayer Requests
- ✓ SAM's January Focus – Alternative House
- ✓ Thanks from the Acheson Family
- ✓ Lunch with Pastor Rich every Tuesday at noon
- ✓ Do you need a ride to church?

**Men's Breakfast:** Our next Men's Breakfast is this **Saturday, January 12<sup>th</sup>**, at 8:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. Come for a delicious meal and great conversation. Please sign up with the church office by Friday, January 11<sup>th</sup> at noon to reserve your spot.

**Renewal of Baptism:** Two years ago we held a "*Renewal of Baptism*" ceremony at the end of worship on what is known as "*The Baptism of Christ Sunday*," always the second Sunday in January. We will be doing it again this year on **January 13<sup>th</sup>**. It's a great way to renew your commitment to God. Water is used, but it's not a second baptism. The renewal ceremony is optional. Folks who wish to renew their baptisms will simply come forward to the front of the church for a blessing with water from the pastor.

**Confirmation Class:** Regular classes will be held on **Sunday, January 13 and 27** following worship.

**KiSeLo – Kindness, Service, Love:** We invite all women of the church to join us on **Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>**, for our monthly KiSeLo meeting. Our meeting will begin at 1 p.m. with dessert served by our hostesses – Betty Borden, Helen Glinos, and Jane McKenzie. Our program will be painting rocks for the Kindness Rock Project. Through this project, people all over the world paint and hide rocks for others to find. The project is based on the truth that one message at the right moment can change someone's day or their outlook. The messages on these thoughtful pebbles take many forms: gratitude, affirmations, encouragement, and offers of hope – all signposts along the way for someone to find at exactly the right time. Come with words of encouragement and hope to put on a special rock. Let's spread kindness all around Chelmsford. Our Open Pantry suggestion for January is soup. In this cold time of year, let's warm the tummies and hearts of those in need. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Papenfuss. Hope to see YOU on January 23<sup>rd</sup>!

**Winter Book Club:** Pastor Rich will be leading a book club on Anne Lamott's latest book, *Almost Everything: Notes on Hope*. Do we live in an age of hope or despair? Or a little of both most days? Lamott does not look at life through rose-colored glasses, but she finds hope in her faith and in her life. She's a unique Christian writer with her own style of story-telling, humor, earthiness and spirituality. We'll meet three Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m. in the Church Parlor (unless it's being painted) to discuss the book, starting **Tuesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>**. If you'd like the church to order you a copy, please let Linn Flint know by January 13. The cost will be \$10.00. Please let Pastor Rich know if you'll be coming to the gatherings.

**Sunday School Teacher and Assistant Brunch:** Teachers and helpers, please join us for a thank you brunch in room 302 **Sunday, February 3** right after service. We appreciate so much all you do for our children. Please see Cindy Bruetsch, Lynn Horton, or Jen Stuart.

**Church families and members:** Brunch type food donations gratefully appreciated for February 3<sup>rd</sup> Appreciation Brunch. Please see Cindy Bruetsch, Lynn Horton or Jen Stuart. Thank you.

**Financial Peace University:** Members of CCC, I have exciting news!! Financial Peace University is now being offered at multiple churches in Chelmsford!! The Trinity Lutheran Church at 170 Old Westford Rd will be offering Financial Peace University starting in February. Is one of your new year's goals to get going with a budget and get a better handle on debt? Do you know someone who would be interested in a financial goal? Financial Peace University is a great way to start. Here is the info for their class. Planning for the future is hard when you're still paying for the past! Listen—there's a better way! Join my Financial Peace University group, and we'll learn how to beat debt and make a plan for the future . . . together! Interested? Join me, Kate at Trinity Lutheran Church starting **Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>** at 7 p.m. Feel free to sign up at

<https://fpu.com/1080199> Please feel free to reach out to me, Peter White, if you have questions. I'll also be facilitating another class in September.

**Evening of Love Songs:** We will once again be holding our “*Evening of Love Songs*” on **Saturday, February 9<sup>th</sup>**, at 7:00 p.m. We'll be holding a Sound Check/Rehearsal Session Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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.

**Calling All Scouts! Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup>** 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. Positions available include: ushers, readers, front and back door greeters, and offering ushers.

**Bedtime Prayers** “Now I lay me down to sleep . . .” Last Fall we put together a collection of mealtime graces, mostly from prayers submitted by our parishioners. We gave this pamphlet to our church families, as well as displayed them around the church for those who utilize our facilities. Surprisingly, several dozen pamphlets have been taken to be used around the dinner table. So let's put together a collection of Bedtime Prayers! Please send your prayers to Linn Flint or hand it to Pastor Rich on a Sunday morning. Thanks!

**SAM's January Focus Will Be to Support Alternative House!** Alternative House offers women and their children an opportunity to start again, with immediate assistance with personal needs, counseling, legal advocacy and more – a new beginning, free from abuse: physical, emotional, verbal, financial. “No one deserves abuse and it is not your fault.” They provide emergency (up to 90 days) confidential shelter for battered women and their children who are fleeing an abusive situation. Support groups are available for women who have experienced or are experiencing domestic or dating violence. The mission of the Alternative House is “to facilitate the creation of a society in which violence against women will no longer exist. As a means to this end, we offer shelter, support, options, counseling, and advocacy for all battered women (and their children) who seek our help. We are committed to the empowerment of women toward self-sufficiency.” The Alternative House provides community education to reform societal attitudes that allow violence against women. Many of the women arrive at Alternative House with just whatever they can bring with them in an emergency. Alternative House provides them with a laundry basket of essentials and a safe place to live until the situation gets under control. The needs for Alternative House will never be out-of-date, unfortunately. Please look in the Bacon to see the list of needs. A collection box will be in the Narthex for the month of January.

**The Acheson Family would like to thank** all who have held us in their prayers, offered their condolences and cards of support and sympathy during these last few weeks after the loss of our father/grandfather/great-grandfather. Having the support of our church family has given us a comfort and peace during this difficult time.

**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.

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