

THE BEACON

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a worshipping praying learning caring outreaching community

CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

VOLUME 64 NUMBER 3

MARCH 2019

March Highlights



Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, March 6th at 7:00 p.m.

The God Squad Silent Auction and Bake Sale

Sunday, March 10th and 17th following worship



Lenten Supper

Wednesday, March 20th at 6:00 p.m.

Men's Breakfast

Saturday, March 23rd at 8:30 a.m.



Saturday, March 9th

Before you go to bed,
remember to turn your clocks **AHEAD** one hour
for Daylight Savings Time.
You don't want to miss church!



Knight Lines

Have you ever heard of the “Roloids Robber”? His name was R.A. Mortland, from Hennepin, Minnesota. Mr. Mortland clearly found his work too stressful. You see, he robbed convenience stores, eight to be exact. He got his nickname because he would often ask the store clerks for antacid tablets while he was waiting for them to hand over the money. He needed antacid because of the stress of doing what was wrong. I wonder if he ever made that connection?

Lent is about making that connection. It's about prayerfully searching our lives for the things that don't belong, things that diminish our joy, harm our relationships, and weaken our spirituality. So if we're to give up anything for Lent, it's this – sin. The New Testament word for sin, *hamartia*, means, “missing the mark.” It's an archery term for landing short of the target and missing the bulls eye. One confession of sin puts it well. It's “living by less than the best we know.”

This is why we need Lent. Because we need the practices of prayerful reflection, confession and repentance. We need religious practices that start with the heart. It's the Control Room of our lives, that place where decisions are made, values are held or not, where love reigns or doesn't. God can see in there quite clearly. It takes us a bit more work. That work is Lent.

So skip the Roloids, Let's have Lent instead.

*Taking the Journey of Lent with You,
Pastor Rich*

What's Happening at CCC!

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

The season of Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, March 6**. Our worship service will be held in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Rich will share a message on the meaning of Ash Wednesday and the spiritual journey of Lent. The service will conclude with the sign of ashes on the forehead for anyone who wishes to come forward.

LENTEN SUPPER

The Diaconate is planning two Lenten Suppers this year. The first will be held **Wednesday, March 20th** at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Following a simple meal, we'll have a brief time of worship which will include a message from a member of CCC. Please sign up in advance by contacting the church office office.admin@cccchelmsford.org. Our second Lenten Supper will be held on **Wednesday, April 3rd**.

EASTER CELEBRATION CONCERT

I am tremendously excited to announce that on **Sunday, April 7th** at 3 p.m. the CCC choir along with community singers and world-class soloists and instrumentalists will present its annual Easter celebration concert. We have had an orchestra play with us for the last 3 Christmas concerts, but this will be the first time we will have a chamber orchestra for an Easter concert! So help us spread the word, make plans to attend, and to support this beautiful and important ministry of our church.

We will be performing selections from The Crucifixion by J. Stainer, Ave Verum Corpus by W. A. Mozart, and Gloria by A. Vivaldi. It will be a beautiful afternoon of reflection and celebration with magnificent master works performed by extraordinary musicians, right here at our church. There is no admission fee, but there will be a freewill offering to help defray expenses.

Please consider being generous so we can continue to plan, grow, and have many more concerts like this in the future. Following the concert, there will be a social hour with light refreshments and an opportunity to meet the performers.

I am extremely excited and looking forward to seeing you all here in just a few weeks! Make sure everyone you know finds out about how awesome our church music program is!

*Many blessings,
Francisco Fernandez, Director of Music*

NURSERY PARENT PARTY

Parents of nursery aged children are invited to gather in the Nursery on **Sunday, March 10th** following worship for a time of fellowship. This is a chance to meet other parents and the nursery staff. Light snacks and refreshments will be provided. Please RSVP to Jennifer Stuart, our Sunday School Coordinator, at jennifer.stuart@cccchelmsford.org if you can or cannot attend. See you on March 10th!

GOD SQUAD SILENT AUCTION AND BAKE SALES – MARCH 10 AND 17



The God Squad began 2019 by serving the hungry and homeless in Boston on January 6 and worshipping with all who attended Common Cathedral that Sunday. The God Squad's next mission trip will be March 29-30. We will be attending City Reach in Boston this year, arriving Friday night, and staying through Saturday afternoon! To fund these two mission trips the high school youth group will hold fundraising events on March 10 and 17. **Donations for the Silent Auction will be most appreciated!** (Restaurant or movie gift cards, artwork, gift baskets, services, or perhaps some gifts that are sitting unused in your home!) Come to Fellowship Hall after worship on the **10th and 17th of March** to place your bids! We will also have delicious treats available

at our Bake Sale! Thank you for supporting our youth! Please contact Lynn Horton if you have questions or wish to make a donation. Lynn@terpsoft.com or 978-256-8524

GOD SQUAD NEWS - "CITY REACH" RETREAT

We have a unique opportunity on March 29 and 30 called, "City Reach." It's an overnight experience to learn about Boston homelessness and make a difference! We'll leave CCC at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, March 29th and travel to St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral, 138 Tremont St., Boston. The program ends Saturday by 3 p.m. Please sign up by Sunday, March 24. We'll need signed permission slips and medical forms. Contact Pastor Rich with questions.

BENEVOLENT BEADERS

The Beaders had a meeting on February 6th and it was decided that we will not have a meeting in March, but will have a meeting in April and the date will be announced in the April newsletter. The Benevolent Beaders have done well with their handmade products and have reached our goals and been able to donate over \$9000 to different charities. We are a smaller group now and for to many reasons, we have decided to bring our jewelry making to a conclusion. If you have any questions, please contact Daphne (Dee) Freeman at 978-256-2944.

Editor's Note: The Benevolent Beaders began in February 2010 with seed money from the Harold and Eleanor Grant Fund.

CONFIRMATION CLASS – Classes will be on **Sundays, March 3, 17, and 31** at 11:30 a.m. in room 302.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Our next Men's Breakfast will be **Saturday, March 23rd** 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, March 22nd by noon to reserve your spot.

KiSeLo – KIndness, SErvice, LOve

We invite all women of the church to join us on **Wednesday, March 27th**, for our monthly KiSeLo meeting. We'll begin at 1 p.m. with our business meeting. Our program will be a tea tasting party with Carol Boucek, Dee Freeman, and Jane McKersie as our Hostesses. We plan to try four types of herbal tea. Each type will be accompanied by a matching tea-time treat, some savory and some sweet. So wear a fun hat (if you have one) and bring a favorite or special cup (again, if you have one); but, in any case, join us for our tea tasting party!

Our Open Pantry suggestion for March is canned fruit, but any non-perishable food item is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Papenfuss (978-256-6801). Hope to see YOU on March 27th!

TIME TO CLEAN OUT!

The Friends of Boy Scout Troop 74 are collecting items for our Annual Giant Yard Sale. We need your donations of saleable items such as used tools, good furniture, small appliances, toys, bicycles, books, dishes, etc. This is a great time to clean out your garage, basement, and attic. Receipts for income tax purposes are available upon request. To make it easier for you, you may drop off your items at the church parking lot on **Saturday, March 30** and **Saturday, April 20**, from 9 a.m. – noon.

We cannot accept: torn, dirty or broken furniture, mattresses or box springs, clothing, child car seats, cribs, tires, large appliances, TVs, large microwaves, computer monitors, CRT's, large exercise equipment, or winter sports equipment. Any questions, please call 978-935-9474. Thank you!

NEW MEMBER CLASSES



New Members Classes will be held **Sundays, March 31 and April 7**, immediately following worship. The classes are a great way to learn more about Central Congregational Church and meet members in leadership positions as well as other folks who are new to CCC. Please contact the church office and our office administrator, Linn Flint, to sign up. Speak with Pastor Rich or one of our Deacons for more information.

LUNCH WITH THE PASTOR

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

SUPER SATURDAY

“Super Saturday,” sponsored by the Mass Conference of the UCC, is on **Saturday, March 16th** in Wilbraham, MA (an 80 min drive). There are a number of workshops that our relevant to our church, its ministry, and mission. Here are just a few:

- Church Vitality: Discover Your “Why?”
- Simplifying Church Structure
- Who is My Neighbor?
- Funding Your Ministry: Sharing Successes and Lessons Learned
- Safe Conduct/Safe Church
- How to Grow Leadership Capacity and Skills Without a Leadership Development Program
- Higher Elevations in Church Communication
- Once Upon a Time’ Is Holy Time: Storytelling in Sacred Spaces
- Beer and Hymns (I’m not kidding)
- What You Should Know About What Children Know
- Safe Conduct/Safe Church
- Confirmation: Is This Model Still Valid for Today’s Youth?
- Higher Elevations in Church Communication
- How to Engage Teens from Former Teens.

For the complete listing go to: <https://www.macucc.org/eventdetail/11156586?>

Pastor Rich is definitely going because he’s presenting a workshop on “Premarital Counseling for Busy Pastors & Couples.” Speak to him asap if you’re interested in going.

SAVE THE DATE!

Make a Difference Camp!

July 15-19, 2019

A Week of Service for Kids Grades 3 – 8

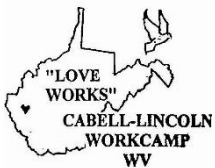
Rising 3rd Graders are eligible.

High School students may serve as Volunteers & Crew Leaders!



Ministries in Our Church

WEST VIRGINIA WORKCAMP



Each year, in June, CCC sends a group of youth and adults to the Cabell-Lincoln Workcamp in Huntington, WV for a week. We call this our “West Virginia Workcamp” mission trip and it’s done in partnership with All Saints’ Episcopal Church in Chelmsford and Mont Vernon Congregational Church in Mont Vernon, NH. At the workcamp, we meet up with other groups from all over the eastern U.S. and split into small work crews. Each crew goes to a home site and makes repairs that the homeowner cannot make themselves. The goal is to make each home

“Warm, Safe and Dry.”

This year our trip will take place June 15 – 22. The trip is open to teens 14 years and older and adults. Youth younger than 14 can go if accompanied by a parent. Meetings this year will be on **Sundays, March 3, April 7, May 5, and June 2** at 7 p.m. at 9 Worthen St. If you think you are interested, please attend the early meetings to get more details. We need to know who is going by May 1st, as we need to send a deposit to the workcamp.

If you’d like to help with this mission trip, but can’t go to West Virginia yourself, there are ways to contribute. Workcampers will be selling workcamp shares after the service every Sunday through June 10. Just give a donation in any amount and you’ll get a “share” in the workcamp and also be signed up to get 2 postcards from workcampers. Other fundraisers will also be planned. All the money raised goes to defray the cost of the trip. If you have questions, please contact Bryan Norman at brnorman@comcast.net or 978-250-8469.

CHRISTCARE

The women’s ChristCare group is finishing up 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 (**March 12th and 26th**), from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. *Deb Lyons, ChristCare Equipper*

COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Community Gardens annual meeting was held on January 27th. We reserved our usual two plots and learned of changes at the gardens, such as plans to add four new water tanks and digging a well to keep the irrigation pond full. What should we grow this year?

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

We will NOT be meeting in March, but please join us on **Tuesday, April 9th**, 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

*"Everything is possible for one who believes, still more for one who hopes, even more for one who loves, and most of all for one who practices and perseveres in these three virtues."
Brother Lawrence of the Resurrection (1614-1691)*

The CCC Prayer Ministry is made up of believers. We believe that when we pray, God hears our pleas and provides us with answers. We are also hopeful. Having hope opens the door for answers and clear direction. Being part of this ministry has done much to strengthen my faith. I have seen prayers answered in the most amazing ways, from physical healing to renewed hope to peaceful passings. When a group of individuals is requesting God's grace and direction, God is listening, God hears and God answers.

If you wish to be a part of the Prayer Ministry or have prayer requests for yourself or others, please contact: Daphne Freeman, uklady446@yahoo.com, Ginnie Hall, vrh159@comcast.net or Wendy Perry, wperry39@comcast.net. And remember to watch and listen for answers because they always come, in the most amazing ways.

Our Church Committees in Action!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The CE Committee has been busy with some new fellowship and service ideas for our youth. A core, committed group have been putting together an engaging "Make a Difference Camp" for our youth and our community during July. Stay tuned to hear more details about that soon. We are also putting together a new fellowship opportunity for elementary students called "Kids Club" where our youth can bring their friends for games, bible stories, and pizza once a month.

We are also beginning an initiative to reach out to the general congregation to see if we can make more connections between the youth and the young at heart. We know that many in the congregation have gifts and interests that they would enjoy sharing with our young people but they don't have a lot of time. We are hoping to set up a schedule where you might commit to getting involved with our Sunday school for just one day. If there is a song or an instrument or a craft or a play or a game – whatever it is! – that you might want to share. I should note that the kids' expectations are not high – they enjoy novelty, kindness, and enthusiasm as much or more than raw talent. Please don't think you need to be "good" at something in order to share it – a sense of fun and a desire for community is the important piece! They are a great group of kids and it is fun for them to have more adults that they can recognize and make a connection with. It might also be nice for some of the adults who don't currently have a reason to be connected to the youth program to have a more personal connection with the kids as well!

*As always, thank you for your support our CE mission,
Carolyn Chapman and Elmer Lyons, Co-Chairs
Kristin Strobel, Correspondent*

HOUSE COMMITTEE

We welcome our newest member, John Wellman, and look forward to working with him. Thank you for joining us, John.

SAM's MARCH FOCUS WILL BE UCC's ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

There are so many areas of need in God's world: hunger, sickness, disasters, and injustice. But there is hope! We are that hope! Apostle Paul tells us in Ephesians 3:20 that it is through us that God accomplishes more than we can ask or imagine. We are his agents for change. We should not only care about ourselves but also those around us, both near and far. Please give this month so we can help make a change for a better world.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

"The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I don't need you!' And the head cannot say to the feet, 'I don't need you!'"

1 Corinthians 12:21 New International Version (NIV)

I have been thinking about this verse that Pastor Rich shared with us in worship. Just as there is no part of the human body that is unnecessary, so too is each committee integral to the health and successful running of the body of CCC. Our members of SAM do good works in the community and they need the House Committee to keep our church warm and safe for meetings; the Christian Education Committee focuses on the development of our youth and families and the Sanctuary Committee makes sure all is in place for our worship services. Each part of our church family is important and vital to Central Congregational Church!

Now is the time to be thinking about your involvement in the committee work of CCC. Are you currently participating in a committee? Would you like to be? Do you know what each committee at CCC does?? Perhaps your term of service on a committee is coming to an end – what will you do next? Every committee at CCC, from Communications to Trustees, Members-at-Large to Music, needs a full complement of members to run effectively. At Annual Meeting on May 19th, the Nominating Committee will propose a slate of nominees for each officer position and committee opening – we need everyone to consider the part of the church body they can make stronger!

Information about each committee is available, by e-mail or at coffee hour later this month. Please see Lynn Horton, Deb Lyons, or Elizabeth Hartigan, your CCC Nominating Committee, to volunteer for service to our church through committee participation! We need your feet and eyes, and minds, and hearts!

Notices & Announcements

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!!

THANKS TO THE SCOUTS

Thanks to all who participated in the Scout Sunday Service on February 10th. It is a wonderful way for the sponsored Scouting units (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Cub Scouts) to show their appreciation to the church community that supports us in SO MANY ways during the year. A special thanks to Pastor Rich for the freedom he allows us in creating and overseeing the service as well as the congregation for their continued support of all the Scouting programs. I would especially like to thank Doug Drake for planning the service. I apologize if I left anyone off this list. *Gwen Bottomley*



Participants in the service included:

Greeters: Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, and Girl Scouts

Ushers/Offertory: Lily Chapman, Caden Acheson, Brendan Viarella, Joseph Walsh

Sermon: Doug Drake

Girl Scout Promise, Unison Prayer: Lily Chapman

Call to Worship: Owen Walsh

Prayer of Invocation and the Lord's Prayer: Bennett Acheson

Scripture Readings: Seth Rigby, Nicholas Bottomley

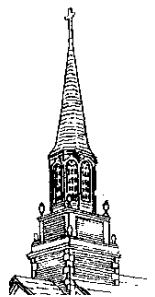
Coffee Hour: Troop 74

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:

- ♥ March 3 for Daphne Freeman in loving memory of her husband, Bruce, whose birthday was on March 4th and in loving memory of her sister, Kathleen, whose birthday was on March 3rd.
- ♥ March 31 for Doris Moore in loving memory of Bob.



TAKE NOTE

- ✓ The bulletin is printed first thing on Friday morning, so all announcements must be received in the office by Thursday morning.
- ✓ The April *Beacon* deadline is **Monday, March 18th** with a mailing/emailing date of March 27th.
- ✓ 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.

Calendar



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



March 2019

Join Us for
Ash Wednesday Service
March 6th 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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