

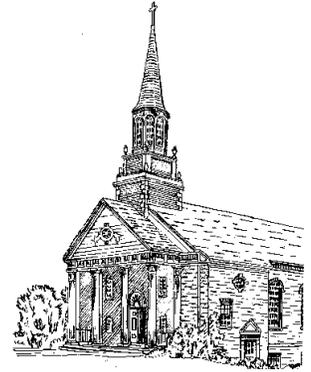
Central Congregational Church

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,

We've come to three of the most important services of the year!

Maunder Thursday Communion Service, 7:30 pm

This is our beautiful candlelight communion service in Fellowship Hall around tables. Come to learn about the striking connections between the Jewish Feast of Passover and the events of Holy Week, as we celebrate Holy Communion on the night of the Last Supper.

Good Friday Tenebrae Service, 7:30 pm

Some folks have told me that for them this service is the most moving service of the year. The account of Good Friday is read, interspersed with spirituals as the sanctuary grows darker. You'll hear some familiar voices sing at the service, along with some new ones like Kristin Strobel, Maria Loew and Andrea Loew.

Easter Sunday!

Come, celebrate the resurrection of hope, life and love! We'll be reflecting on the personal meaning and impact of Christ's Victory. We'll sing the great hymns of Easter and listen to beautifully inspiring music. An Easter Egg Hunt will follow the service in Carson Park!

***Making the Journey of Holy Week with You,
Pastor Rich***

Pastor-Rich@cccchelmsford.org

Rev. Dr. Rich Knight, Pastor
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Weekly Announcements for April 18, 2019

- ✓ Tonight! Maunday Thursday Service at 7:30 p.m.
- ✓ Good Friday Tenebrae Service – Friday, April 19th at 7:30 p.m.
- ✓ Sign up for Easter Vigil – Saturday, April 20th at 6 p.m. to Sunday, April 21st at 6 a.m.
- ✓ Deadline for Annual Reports and May Beacon – Monday, April 22nd
- ✓ Safe Church Advocate Needed – Second Request!

- ✓ Make A Difference Day – April 28th
- ✓ Opera Spectacular Benefit Concert! – Sunday, April 28th at 7 p.m.
- ✓ KiSeLo – Wednesday, April 24th
- ✓ Boy Scout Yard Sale Drop-off – April 20th
- ✓ St. Paul's Soup Kitchen – Monday, April 29th
- ✓ Web Site Updates
- ✓ Meals Ministry would like more volunteers
- ✓ Volunteers Needed for Habitat for Humanity – May 4th
- ✓ SAM's April Focus – Community Teamwork Shelters
- ✓ Please Wear Your Nametag!
- ✓ Lunch with Pastor Rich every Tuesday at noon
- ✓ Do you need a ride to church?

TONIGHT! Maundy Thursday Service – Thursday, April 18, 7:30 p.m. There's no better night to hold a reflective, meditative service of Holy Communion than the night of the Last Supper. We'll gather around tables in Fellowship Hall and once again experience, "*The Feast of the Sacrifice Lamb*," which compares the Jewish Passover to the events of Holy Week. It's a service where you'll learn a lot but also experience the power and significance of communion.

Good Friday Tenebrae Service –Friday, April 19, 7:30 p.m. A Tenebrae service is one of the oldest services in the Christian Church. It's a service of light & darkness, based on the seven last words of Jesus from the Cross. As the words are heard, the sanctuary darkens until it is eventually pitch dark. A single candle re-enters symbolizing the hope of Easter Sunday. Moving spirituals and hymns are sung throughout as we "survey the wondrous cross."

Easter Vigil: We are offering a vigil for twelve hours prior to Easter sunrise from 6:00 p.m. on Easter Eve until 6:00 a.m. on Easter morning. There are half hour segments to sign up for. Ideally, there will be two people in the sanctuary continuously throughout the night, praying and meditating. Please contact Deb Lyons or Lynda Wellman to sign up. **Easter Vigil begins on Saturday, April 20th at 6:00 p.m. and ends on Sunday, April 21st at 6:00 a.m.**

Deadline for Annual Reports and May Beacon articles is this Monday, April 22nd.

Second Request! Safe Church Advocate: After 16 years of filling this position, Jennifer Delikat has decided to step down. As a result of her resignation, we are looking for someone who would be willing to fill this position which involves making sure the provisions of our safe church policy is enforced each time our children are interacting with adults at a meeting our off church property as a group. The Safe Church Advocate ensures we have CORI check results for all youth leaders and chaperones. There are no monthly meetings and the work can usually be done in several time slots during the year. If you think you might be interested in filling this valuable position, you can contact Dick Papenfuss, Council President, or talk directly to Jennifer Delikat about the details. It is a position that must be filled, so we need someone to please come forward. *Dick Papenfuss*

Make A Difference Day! You are invited to join your fellow CCC family members in **Making a Difference** in our community on **Sunday, April 28!** After the worship service we will gather for a **church potluck brunch!** Bring a dish or dessert to share, and also enjoy the "**Taco Bar**" selections that will be prepared by our church chefs Laurie M-C and Doug Drake. After our meal we will go out into our community to tackle service projects, including opening the CCC plots at the **Community Garden**, cleaning the **Bruce Freeman Rail Trail**, and preparing food for **St. Paul's Soup Kitchen**. The God Squad will also be making a difference with a service project! **Sign up** at Coffee Hour on Palm Sunday, **April 14**, or by contacting the church office. If you have questions, ask Lynn Horton, Jennifer Stuart, or Pastor Rich. This is a great day to show our community CCC in action! **God's work, our hands!**

Opera Spectacular Benefit Concert! Our friend Ana Mora, a mezzo-soprano with an incredible voice and a huge career ahead of her, and who has been for the past 2 years a soloist for our Christmas and Easter concerts and has also sung for other church services, is going through financial hardship. This is could

potentially prevent her from earning her Master's degree in Voice Performance at the New England Conservatory next month. As a Venezuelan native, due to her country's current situation, her family is unable to support her financially. Also as an international student, she is unable to apply for loans and other kinds of assistance. Central Congregational Church will host an Opera Spectacular Benefit Concert to support her on Sunday, April 28th at 7:00pm. The program will feature tenor, David Rivera; mezzo-Soprano, Ana Mora; cellist, Taide Prieto and pianist, Francisco Fernandez performing some of the most beloved Opera aria hits, as well as beautiful and moving cello and piano music. The concert will be free admission. A free-will donation will be collected to help support Ana's dream of becoming an opera star. This will be an evening of incredible music, with 4 high caliber musicians, you don't want to miss. There is ample parking and the church is handicapped accessible.

KiSeLo: Wednesday, April 24th – You will want to be there! Brian Acheson, who grew up at CCC, will be doing a program for us about his trip to India as an international teacher exchange sponsored by the U.S. Department of State and IREX. He'll tell about his experiences and interactions with the teachers, students and schools of India. He'll also be showing some slides of his visits to Delhi, Kozhikode and Agra. Hope to see YOU on the 24th at 1 p.m.!

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. You may drop off your items at the church parking lot on 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](tel:978-935-9474). Thank you!

St. Paul's Soup Kitchen: On Monday, April 29th, the Holy Cows will be hosting St. Paul's Soup Kitchen at Eliot Presbyterian Church on Summer St, Lowell. There will be a need for 16-18 Shepherd Pies and 10 double batches of Brownies. Sign-ups will begin today following worship during coffee hour in Fellowship Hall. Thank you, CCC, for all you do to support this most important mission that feeds the many who need and appreciate your loving efforts. *Ellen Kunkel for the SAM Committee*

Web Site Updates: We do our best to keep our web site current, relevant & helpful, so we hope you'll check it out regularly. You'll find pictures of recent events (scroll down to "Galleries"), dozens of Pastor Rich's sermons (see "Sermon Central"), and a new "Donate Button" at the bottom of the home page. We think you'll find this online giving option easy to use. It gives you choices, such as *West Virginia Mission Trip, General Fund* and *Open Pantry*. For paying your pledge we still recommend electronic fund transfer through your bank, since the processing fees are lower. Contact Dick Papenfuss for help in setting this up (dickandkarenp@verizon.net).

Meals Ministry – Connecting Church Families: We are at the present time providing meals for a church family twice a week. We have a wonderful dedicated group of men and women who are providing the meals. We do need some new folks to add to our list of meal providers. If you would be willing to help, please send me an email. With grateful thanks, Ginnie Hall vrh9159@comcast.net.

Volunteers Needed for Habitat for Humanity: On May 4th, David Belleville will be leading a group of volunteers from CCC at a Habitat for Humanity (HFH) construction site in Lowell. Ideally, we need a group of 6-8 adults (18 years or older) to sign up to fill out the crew for CCC. If you are interested, please email David at bellevilledavid@gmail.com so he can provide you with the details and will coordinate the CCC group with HFH.

Social Action and Missions Committee's initiative for April is Community Teamwork Shelters based in Lowell. CTS provides their clients with opportunities for affordable safe housing, helping with rent & utility expenses and offering emergency shelter. It's a fact that families behind on rent & housing issues are most likely struggling with feeding family members adequately, having their utilities turned off and may forgo needed health care. Community Teamwork information will be located on our SAM bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. Community Teamwork has served 63 communities in Middlesex & Essex counties for almost 50 years. Thank you for supporting this worthy cause.

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!!

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>