



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 9

OCTOBER 2019

October Highlights



Sunday, October 6th

World Communion Sunday – 10:00 a.m.
Confirmation Class Orientation – 11:30 a.m.
Blessing of the Animals – 2:00 p.m.



Sunday, October 13th

“Ask the Pastor”
“Coffee Hour Connections”



Sunday, October 20th and 27th
New Member Orientation – 11:30 a.m.



Sunday, October 27th

Bible Sunday
God Squad Hike



Knight Lines

“It’s all we’ve got.”

Dave had just been elected council president at the church where I was serving. He and I had spent quite a bit of time together through the years, almost all of it on the golf course. Dave was an excellent golfer and a gentleman, which made it great to play with him, and we had lots of wonderful conversations on the course. Those who don’t play golf may not realize what a social sport it really is. In fact, some days when you’re playing poorly that can be the only good thing about it!



Dave and I talked a lot about our families, about the game of golf and about his career which often put him in some of the most important board rooms in the country. We’d also talked quite a bit about faith, but rarely about the church. I looked forward to working with him as he became council president. So we met to chat about agenda items and issues that needed addressing in the upcoming year. At that first meeting, Dave said something to me with uncharacteristic firmness. *“Communication is the key”* he said. *“Communication is the key,”* he repeated. I wasn’t used to his tone of voice and it must have made me nervous because I said the first thing that popped into my head (always a dangerous thing for me). *“It’s all we’ve got,”* I replied. He gave me a great big smile and we were off to an excellent start, as if we had both hit beautiful tee shots on the first hole.

Communication is the key within any organization, within a family and even between friends. But recently I’ve become increasing aware of something – we’re all bombarded with information and communication from more places than we could ever imagine. How did all these groups get my email, my address, and my cell phone number? It’s too much! Make it stop! And so we do. We stop reading a lot of our mail and our email. I get a lot of email from organizations that I care about, but I just don’t have time to read them all.

Communication is the key to our church when it comes to things running smoothly, setting priorities, and getting things done. *So I hope you’ll find time to read or at least skim this newsletter.* We’ll also keep you informed via email blasts, Facebook, our web site, and Sunday morning announcements.

We’ll keep in touch and we hope you’ll keep in touch, too. Communication. It’s all we’ve got.

*Serving Christ with You,
Pastor Rich*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (CE) NEWS

Happy fall from your CE Committee! We had a strong beginning of the church year with hot dogs and ice cream kick off – both the kids and the adults enjoyed the fellowship and the food and the weather could not have been more pleasant. Our heartfelt thanks for those of you who helped make it possible.

We continued our tradition of blessing the backpacks and sent the kids into the challenges and triumphs of the school year with our prayers and support.

The older students will also be enjoying many new experiences this year. The Holy Cows will be meeting after Sunday School on the last week of each month and kicked off the year with mini golf on September 22nd. The God Squad kicked off their year with a gathering on September 15th and they will be exploring the themes of ministry and relationships throughout the year.

CE DATES!

Sunday, September 29th: **Bring a Friend to Church** – Call a friend (child or adult!) who you know would enjoy learning more about UCC and bring them along that day.

Sunday, October 27th – **Bible Sunday** – Bibles will be presented to the third graders and to preschoolers.

Sunday, October 27th – **The God Squad Hike** – Watch for details!

Sunday, November 3rd – **Make A Difference Day** – The congregation will do service projects in Chelmsford.

What's Happening at CCC!

JUAREZ GOMES' 20TH ANNIVERSARY AT CCC!

One of the comments we hear a lot from folks who enter our buildings is, "Wow! It's so clean! Everything sparkles!" We know that's due to the loving care and excellent cleaning work of Juarez & Beth Gomes. As many have said, they take care of our church as if it were their own home. This year marks their 20th year cleaning Central Congregational Church! We'd like to present them with a nice financial gift to celebrate 20 years and express our gratitude. We'll be taking donations this month and plan to present them with a check in November. The congregation was very generous in the gift for Francisco & Taide and for Linn. We know this comes on the heels of that, but we hope you'll be generous again as you're able. Checks should be made out to CCC, but clearly marked for Juarez.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Our next Men's Breakfast will be **Saturday, September 28th**, at 8:30 a.m. All men of the church are invited to gather in Fellowship Hall for a delicious breakfast and a great time of fellowship. First-time participants are especially welcome to join us! Please sign up by contacting the church office by **Thursday, September 26th**.

ALL-CHURCH CAMPFIRE – SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH, at 6:00 P.M.

Join us in Carson Park for singing around the campfire and roasting hot dogs, marshmallows & s'mores! Please bring your own lawn chair or blanket. These have been really fun evenings of fellowship and singing! Come and join the fun!



ST. PAUL'S SOUP KITCHEN WILL BE ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH



Please bring your shepherd's pies, brownies, and fruit to church on Sunday, September 29th! Come join the fun of serving people who are in need of a place to go and food to enjoy! Ellen Kunkel will need assistance in transporting the food from the CCC kitchen to Eliot Church on Monday, September 30th and will meet you at 2:30 p.m. in the church parking lot. Please contact Ellen if you can help. Thanks!

Thanks from SAM your Social Action & Missions Committee, Ellen Kunkel or Cindy Bruetsch

TIME TO CLEAN OUT!

The Friends of Boy Scout Troop 74 are collecting items for our Annual Giant Spring Yard Sale. We need your donations of saleable items such as used tools, 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, you may drop off your items at the church parking lot on **Saturday, October 5**, from 9 a.m. – noon.

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

CONFIRMATION CLASS ORIENTATION

A confirmation program provides a wonderful opportunity for a young person, 9th grade and older, to explore, question, learn, and practice the Christian faith. It's one of the most important things the church does. We will have an orientation meeting for students and parents on **Sunday, October 6th**, following worship. We'll meet in Room 202. If you cannot make the orientation, please speak with Pastor Rich as soon as possible. We plan to start this year's class in November. Confirmation Sunday will be in May 2020.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Join us in Carson Park on **Sunday, October 6th** at 2:00 p.m. for our “Blessing of the Animals.” Bring your pets (dogs, cats, birds, ferrets, etc.) for a fun, brief service in the park, celebrating the joy our pets bring us, thanking God for these blessings, and extending a hand of blessing to them. For more information, speak with Pastor Rich.

COFFEE HOUR CONNECTIONS

We are going to try something new on **Sunday, October 13th** that we are calling “Coffee Hour Connections.” For part of Coffee Hour, we will gather round card tables and given a topic to discuss, to get to know each other a little better. This is an optional activity. Designed to strengthen our bonds of Fellowship!

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

New Members Orientation will be held **Sundays, October 20 and 27**, immediately following worship. The gatherings 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.

KiSeLo – Kindness, Service, Love

We invite all women of the church to join us on **Wednesday, October 23rd** for our monthly KiSeLo meeting. Come to Fellowship Hall at 1:00 p.m. and be treated to a delicious dessert and coffee or tea served by our hostesses of the month. This month our own Lillian Beean will be leading us in Chair Yoga. Though it won't be a strenuous routine, you may want to wear comfortable clothing. This exercise will, of course, negate whatever calories we take in eating dessert. If you have any questions, please contact me, Deb Lyons, at 978-930-6830. Hope to see YOU on October 23rd! *Deb Lyons, President*

KIDS CLUB

Kids in grades K-5 are invited to join us for Kids Club on **Tuesdays, November 19, January 14, and March 17 at 6:00 p.m.** We will get together for a pizza dinner and then enjoy a craft, game, or something fun! Each event will cost \$5.00 per child. Look for more information as each date gets closer. If you have any questions, contact Carolyn Chapman at carolyndarlene@gmail.com

LUNCH WITH THE PASTOR

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



Our AmazonSmile program is going great! Even through the slower shopping season of the summer, we received donations from Amazon each month! Keep up the good work and shop, shop, shop!

We didn't quite reach our goal of 10 new users in September, but we'll keep the bar high! Tell your friends and family (they don't need to be CCC members or even live the Massachusetts!) to shop using AmazonSmile and specify CCC as the designated charity!

Remember, anything you buy from Amazon you can buy through AmazonSmile by using <http://smile.amazon.com>. Don't forget to switch to AmazonSmile before checking out!

If anyone needs assistance with using AmazonSmile or setting up an Amazon account, please send an email to amazonsmile@cccchelmsford.org and we'll help you out!

Happy Shopping!



SAVE the DATE! CCC HOLIDAY FAIR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23rd

Some Things Old, Some Things New, Some Things Borrowed, Some Things YOU!!!

The Annual CCC Church Fair is an exciting event and an important fundraiser – start planning NOW for the ways that you can help!!!

Some Things Old – The Holiday Fair has many long-standing traditions! What part of the Fair do you look forward to each year? Fresh-baked apple pies? Handmade crafts? Hot lunch? All of these great CCC Fair favorites need workers and shoppers. Be thinking about the ways you can contribute to their continued success!

Some Things New – Donations of new items are needed throughout the Fair – Silent Auction items, baked goods, live plants, and more! Creative ideas and advanced planning will give you the time to get your Fair donations ready so you won't feel rushed in November!

Some Things Borrowed – Have you attended other fairs and seen a table selling something you were really excited to find?? What was it? Perhaps we can add to our Fair an idea borrowed from another church, school, or community. Talk to your friends and family and ask what is successful in their hometowns. Let's borrow the best ideas and add them to our Holiday Fair!!

Some Things YOU!! Every single person at CCC can help make the Fair a success! Volunteer to set up, clean up, or staff a table at the Fair! Invite your friends and neighbors to come on the 23rd! Take the leap and set up your own table in the Specialty Shoppes part of the Fair, work in the kitchen, buy a raffle ticket, donate books to the Media and More room.... YOU make CCC a great place to find fellowship and YOU make the Fair a successful fundraising event for our church programs and missions. Thank you!!!!

Lynn Horton, Fair Chair
Lynn@terpsoft.com
978-256-8524

CCC Holiday Fair Schedule:

- Sunday, November 17: Donations for Media and More Room (books, games, CDs, DVDs) can be left on the stage; please mark "CCC Fair"
- Thursday, November 21: Fair Set Up in Fellowship Hall 6:30 p.m.
- Friday, November 22: Apple Pie Baking in church kitchen, 9:00 a.m.; Baked Goods can be dropped off; Set Up continues
- Saturday, November 23: FAIR DAY! Open to the public 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

At the Fair:

- Bake Sale Table* – Homemade cookies, cupcakes, breads, muffins, brownies, pies, fudge (Dory Toppan, Chair)
- Jewelry Table* – Women's and Men's pre-owned jewelry; children's items
(Daphne Freeman and Nancy Clark, Co-Chairs)
- Plant Table* – Plants, flowers, vases (Helen Glinos, Chair)
- Craft Table* – Handmade items including knitted goods, ornaments, unique crafts (Karen Papenfuss, Chair)
- Silent Auction Table* – Gift baskets, art, restaurant gift cards, and more surprises!
(Marcia Cassidy and Lynn Horton, Co-Chairs)
- Media and More Room* – Books, games, DVDs, CDs
(High School Youth Group, The God Squad, and their leaders)
- Fair Trade Table* – Coffee and chocolate from workers who are fairly compensated for growing, picking and preparing (Ellen Kunkel, SAM)
- CCC Luncheonette* – Delicious lunch offerings served the day of the Fair
(Doug Drake, Chef, and CCC Kitchen Crew)
- CCC Specialty Shoppes* – Individuals from the church may have a table to sell their homemade items, \$30 fee/table (Lynn Horton, Organizer)

Jewelry Donations for the Fair are requested as soon as possible!! Please remember it takes the ladies a significant amount of time and attention to assess, clean, price, and prepare the jewelry for sale. October is the month to bring your donations to church! You may drop them off in the office during the week, see Daphne Freeman or Lynn Horton on Sunday mornings, or arrange for pick up at your home. (Contact Lynn Horton) Thank you for your help and timely attention to this request!

Our Church Committees in Action!

SOCIAL ACTION AND MISSIONS (SAM) COMMITTEE

The Central Congregational Church (CCC) Social Action and Mission (SAM) Committee's October 2019 monthly mission is to support the Lowell Transitional Living Center (LTLC). LTLC is the largest homeless shelter north of Boston with 90 beds and 70 emergency beds. LTLC provides the most vulnerable adults in our community with shelter, showers, laundry, and three meals a day. LTLC Case Managers specialize in housing, financial assistance, and health and wellness. These managers offer an environment of caring and sensitivity, adapt service plans to meet individual needs and empower guests to become partners in their journey from homelessness to housing.



Many clients have been helped by LTLC. In one year, 108 individuals were partnered with LTLC case managers to achieve their goal of finding a home. Clients of LTLC not only have shelter but a place to get mail, storage for important documents, use of a common phone, a place to take a shower, a place to do laundry, access to new (donated) clothing, necessary toiletries and support needed to move forward with their lives.

Wayne loves it at LTLC and believes without the help of his case manager, he would still be living in a car. Cindy felt as though there was no way things would ever get better for her, but her case manager kept encouraging her that she could turn things around.

SAM will have a box in the Narthex for donations. Please consider donating items from the following list (listed in order of most need):

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Socks (urgent need) | 12. Plus size clothing XXL and up |
| 2. Men & Women Razors | 13. Deodorant |
| 3. T-Shirts | 14. Cereal |
| 4. Blouses for women | 15. Coffee |
| 5. Shirts | 16. Canned food |
| 6. Bottoms (Pants and Skirts) | 17. Unscented lotion (travel size) |
| 7. Jeans | 18. Toothpaste (travel size) |
| 8. Leggings | 19. Toothbrushes |
| 9. Sneakers | 20. Soap |
| 10. Boxer shorts (new) | 21. Shampoo and Conditioner (travel size) |
| 11. Men's and women's underwear (new) | 22. Combs |

Ministries in Our Church

MUSIC MINISTRY

Dear Prospective Singers,

The UCC Chancel Choir, under my direction, would like to extend our invitation to join us every Sunday (beginning this **Sunday, September 29th**!) from 12:30-2:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary for rehearsing together a marvelous set of choral songs for our Christmas Concert on December 8th at 3:00 p.m.

All I can promise is great music and a glorious time joining our voices celebrating Christ.

*Thank you,
Tudor Bota, Music Director*

COMMUNION ENVELOPE DONATIONS *The Good Samaritan Fund*

When you make a donation to the church using one of the Communion Envelopes (either the ones in the pews or in your offering envelope box), your money goes into what we're now calling the "Good Samaritan Fund." As the name suggests, the money will be used to help those in need, almost always in our own area.

Previously, donations went to what was called the Worship & Care Fund. The Deacons were concerned that folks might think we use those funds for worship supplies (communion cups, candles, etc.). Worship supplies come out of the church budget. We believe the name change brings clarity – all communion envelope donations will be used to help those in need, a fitting way to say thanks for the gift of Holy Communion.

PRAYER MINISTRY

Welcome (Welcome Home) Sunday was just that. It was a time to come home. It was a time to renew friendships. It was a time to meet new people and it was a time to welcome all the families back and to see the excitement on the faces of the children as they looked forward to seeing their old friends and make new ones. The parents of the babies were filled with joy seeing the lovely nursery. What did we come home for? We came home so that we may come together to worship God, to pray together, sing together, and have fellowship together. This is our church, our home away from home.

We pray for one another during church and through the Prayer Ministry, we pray for our church family's needs. This is called Intercessory Prayer. When things are not going just right in your life, how wonderful to know that there are people in the Prayer Ministry, thinking of you and praying for you. It is a reminder of how precious this church family is and how blessed we are to be a part of it.

If you would like to be a part of the Prayer Ministry, or if you have prayer requests, for yourself or others, please contact Daphne Freeman, uklady446@yahoo.com, Ginnie Hall, vrh9159@comcast.net, or Wendy Perry, wperry39@comcast.net

MEALS MINISTRY CONNECTING CHURCH FAMILIES *Serving God Through Serving Others*

Through a team of wonderful volunteers, we are able to provide meals to church members in times of need. The purpose is to help someone in need by providing a helping hand in meal preparation, not to dazzle anyone with your culinary skills. In times of need, a friendly face and a meal is a true gift.

PLEASE JOIN US IN THIS HAPPY ENDEAVOR. YES, YOU CAN TRULY MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Please contact Ginnie Hall by phone, in person, or email vrh9159@comcast.net

CHRISTCARE

The evening ChristCare group has begun meeting again after a summer break. We will continue to meet on the second and fourth Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. We will be choosing a new book or video to discuss. As always, we look forward to deepening our faith and our friendships together. Please contact Deb Lyons with any questions. *Deb Lyons*

Notices & Announcements

THANK YOU!!

A special thank you to those who donated t-shirts and socks for the DownEast Maine mission trip. I packaged up 39 bags of shirts, which was about 594 shirts. I also packaged up 3 bags of socks, which contained 20 various sized packs of socks for the migrant workers. I'm sure they are being put to good use. We'll do this again next year, so don't toss out those t-shirts that don't fit or aren't your favorites any more. Watch for sales on socks, too, and we'll see if we can send more up to Maine next year. *Karen Papenfuss*

From Everett and Tammy Johnson, Jonesport, Maine

Everett and I would like to thank the NHN Crew that came and worked on our trailer. They took time out of their lives to help us by putting on a new roof, siding, stairs and deck.

Thank you and god Bless you all.

MILESTONES

Congratulations to Ryan Eldridge and Kayla Newton who were married on Saturday, September 21st at the Lake House in Lanesboro MA. Pastor Rich officiated.

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. No one has signed up, so **there are many weeks available**. 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:

September 29th for Cathy Center in memory of loved ones.

October 6th for Curt Bates

October 27 for Curt Bates

TAKE NOTE

- ✓ Sunday worship services are at 10:00 a.m. Sunday School is held at this time and nursery care is provided as well.
- ✓ Church office hours are Monday thru Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- ✓ The bulletin is printed first thing on Friday morning, so all announcements must be received in the office by Thursday morning.
- ✓ The Church Office will be closed on **Monday, October 14th** in honor of Columbus Day.
- ✓ The November *Beacon* deadline is **Monday, October 21st** with a mailing/emailing date of October 30th.
- ✓ 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 October



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

October 2019



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"

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	Tudor Bota	978-772-3173	tudorbota@gmail.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
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

The Beacon, the CCC Newsletter, is prepared by and for the membership of Central Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, in Chelmsford, Massachusetts. It is published monthly except for August and is distributed to members and friends of Central Congregational Church. This issue was emailed/mailed September 25, 2019.