

# THE BEACON

## THE BEACON



a worshipping praying learning caring outreaching community

*CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH*

United Church of Christ

*An Open and Affirming Congregation*

VOLUME 65 NUMBER 3

MARCH 2020

## *March Highlights*



**Guest Musicians Ana Mora and David Rivera**

Sunday, March 1 at 10 am



**Special Congregational Meeting  
about the Sabbatical Grant Application**

Sunday, March 8 following worship

**Build-a-Kite Workshop Fundraiser for The Open Pantry**

Sunday, March 15 at 11:30 am



**Lenten Supper** – Wednesday, March 18 at 6 pm



**Committee Fair!** – Sunday, March 22 during Coffee Hour

**Habitat for Humanity Workday**

Saturday, March 28



## Knight Lines



### *Applying for a Sabbatical Grant*

It may surprise you, as it does me, that this is an article about a pastoral sabbatical. I feel like I've just started at Central Congregational Church, but my five-year anniversary will be July 2021. My contract, like all standard UCC pastors' contracts, says I can take a three-month sabbatical after five years of service. The Lilly Foundation, based in Indiana, gives out very large sabbatical grants to pastors and churches. The deadline for applying for sabbatical grants for the summer of 2021 is **April 1, 2020**.

The Lilly Foundation feels it's important for the congregation to affirm and support this clergy renewal program. In fact, they suggest congregations vote to affirm their pastor's application. Our **Congregational Meeting** on **Sunday, March 8** is for this purpose.

The grants are huge and include money (up to 15K) for a "sabbatical pastor" to cover pastoral duties during my time away. One of the things I would do if I receive the grant would be to tour the Holy Land with Alisa and Maddie. Another family trip with all five of us would also happen if we get the grant.

You can find more info on the grants here: <http://www.cpx.cts.edu/renewal/apply/national-program>

The UCC pastor in Billerica, Katherine Adams, got one of these grants for this summer, as did the UCC pastor in Haverhill. Linn Flint's former pastor in Westford also received one a few years ago. Still, the odds are not high for getting one, since it's a nationwide program.

Feel free to contact me or any of our church leaders with any questions. Thanks for your consideration.

*Blessings,  
Pastor Rich*

### **Warrant for a Special Meeting on March 8, 2020**

of Central Congregational Church in Chelmsford, United Church of Christ

To the Members and Friends of Central Congregational Church in Chelmsford:

A Special Meeting of Central Congregational Church in Chelmsford, United Church of Christ will be held on Sunday, March 8, 2020 immediately following the worship service in the Sanctuary to act upon the following articles:

- Article 1: To approve the Sabbatical of Reverend Dr. Richard B. Knight for June 1, 2021 – August 31, 2021.
- Article 2: To authorize the submission of a sabbatical grant application to the Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal Program.

(signed) Val King  
Clerk

### **STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN for 2020-2021**

This year's Stewardship Campaign will take place during the month of March. Starting with a kick-off Stewardship Moment during the Sunday service on March 8 and continuing through to Stewardship Sunday on March 29, the Stewardship Committee will be asking for your help to make this year's campaign a huge success!

What does success look like? Our goal is to encourage everyone to submit a pledge card that indicates how much financial support they are able to provide during our next fiscal year. This is critically important to the church and its missions because it allows us to prepare a balanced budget.

Stewardship appeal letters will be mailed during the week of March 8 and we request that all pledge cards be returned by March 29.

Our campaign theme is, "**Together We Make A Difference**" and with your support we can make a lasting impact in our church, our community, and beyond.

*Thank you for your consideration and God Bless, Stewardship Committee: Sherman Horton, Becky Wisniewski, Heather Landheim, Bill Harrison, and Elmer Lyons*

## LENTEN DEVOTIONS

Lent is a time where Christians pay special attention to their spiritual lives, often by adopting a spiritual discipline during these weeks leading up to Holy Week. This Lent we're suggesting our members and friends consider one of two options for daily devotions.

### 1. United Church of Christ Daily Devotions.

Our denomination sends out daily devotions via email, written by some of the best writers in the UCC. You may sign up to receive them at: [http://www.ucc.org/daily\\_devotional](http://www.ucc.org/daily_devotional)

### 2. Daily readings from the Gospel of John.

Pastor Rich will be preaching from the Gospel of John during Lent. By reading about a half a chapter a day you'll finish this amazing book by Easter. Below is a reading schedule.

Make Lent a time of study and growth!

## Gospel of John – Lenten Reading Plan



<b>March</b>	12 - 6:22-59	24 - 11:28-57	4 – 16:16-33
1 - 1:1-28	13 - 6:60-71	25 - 12:1-26	5 – rest or catch up
2 - 1:29-51	14 - 7:1-31	26 - 12:27-50	6 - 17:1-26
3 - 2:1-23	15 – rest or catch up	27 - 13:1-20	7 - 18:1-24
4 - 3:1-21	16 - 7:32-52	28 - 13:21-38	8 - 18:25-40
5 - 3:22-36	17 - 8:1-30	29 – rest or catch up	9 - 19:1-27
6 - 4:1-42	18 - 8:31-59	30 - 14:1-14	10 - 19:28-42
7 - 4:43-54	19 - 9:1-41	31 - 14:15-31	11 - 20:1-30
8 – rest or catch up	20 - 10:1-21	<b>April</b>	12 – Easter 21:1-25
9 - 5:1-29	21 - 10:22-42	1 - 15:1-17	
10 - 5:30-47	22 – rest or catch up	2 - 15:18-27	
11 - 6:1-21	23 - 11:1-27	3 - 16:1-15	

## LENTEN SUPPER

The Diaconate is planning a Lenten Supper this year on **Wednesday, March 18** at 6:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. Following a simple meal, we'll have a brief time of worship. The theme of our time together will be, "When God Draws Near." Please sign up in advance by contacting the church office [office.admin@cccchelmsford.org](mailto:office.admin@cccchelmsford.org).

## EASTER CONCERT

On **Sunday, April 5**, at 3 pm the Central Congregational Church Choir will present its Easter Concert, 'No Greater Love' by John W. Peterson under the direction of Tudor Bota. The church welcomes back soloists mezzo-soprano Ana Mora and tenor David Rivera, both who have sung at Central Congregational Church on multiple occasions. The concert will also include lovely music played by the Central Congregational Church Bell Choir. A freewill offering will be taken and a reception will follow the concert. Please invite family and friends to this wonderful story of our Savior.

# What's Happening at CCC!

## NEW MEMBER CLASSES

Central Congregational Church asks those who wish to join to attend two new member classes. Classes are scheduled for **Sundays March 22 and 29** at 11:20 am in the Parlor. New members will join on Palm Sunday, April 5. Please speak to Pastor Rich or call the church office if you wish to join.



Our next Men's Breakfast will be **Saturday, March 21**, at 8:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Come for a delicious meal and great conversation. Please sign up with the church office by Thursday, March 19 at noon to reserve your spot.

## CCC COMMITTEE FAIR

Come one! Come all! Come to the CCC Committee Fair! On **Sunday, March 22**, during Coffee Hour, we will have tables set up around Fellowship Hall, each with a member or two from the various CCC committees. You can visit any table you wish, ask questions, and learn about what each church committee does, and what is involved when you join that committee. Annual Meeting on May 17 is the start of a new church "year," and a good opportunity to begin serving on a committee (or two!) If you have questions now, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee - we are your connection to all of the committees!!

*Thank you! Your CCC Nominating Committee,  
Lynn Horton ([Lynn@terpssoft.com](mailto:Lynn@terpssoft.com)), Deb Lyons, and Elizabeth Hartigan*

## CONFIRMATION CLASS

Regular classes will be held on **Sunday, March 1, 15, and 29** following worship in room 303.

The Confirmands will also be helping The Holy Cows at St. Paul's Soup Kitchen on **Monday, March 30**.

## LUNCH WITH THE PASTOR

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

## KiSeLo – Kindness, Service, Love – Women's Fellowship

We invite all women of the church to join us at 1:00 pm on **Wednesday, March 25**, for our monthly KiSeLo meeting. Dessert and coffee or tea will be served by our hostesses: Mary Horne, Pat O'Connell, and Margie Dissinger. Following a brief business meeting, Val King will be speaking on the subject of women's health. She will be answering questions after her talk, so bring any that you may have. For example, Val can help us understand why a doctor may or may not recommend certain preventative tests for women of different ages.

Our Open Pantry suggestion for March is canned fruit, but any non-perishable food item is appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Deb Lyons (978-930-6830). Hope to see YOU on March 25!

## 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 28** and **Saturday, April 25**, from 9 am – 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!

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## *Our Church Committees in Action!*

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### **HOUSE COMMITTEE**

Two major exciting projects for the House Committee at this time are:

1. Creating a new computerized maintenance program to submit and track work requests for the church; this will allow us to keep track of what has been done and when; it will also keep track of the location of all equipment and when they have been serviced and
2. Converting the control of the heating system using smart thermostats that can be controlled remotely and set to automatically come on during times that the church is occupied and turn off if no one is present; this will cut down on heating bills.

Of course we continue to perform routine maintenance like repairing holes in the furnace pipes, fixing leaky toilets, replacing sheetrock and ceiling tiles, and facilitating repair of the oven and dishwasher. We know that the lighting on the cross at the back of the church is partially out, and when weather permits we will fix that. Please call Linn in the church office or Mary at 978-729-5632 if you see anything that needs attention.

Mary Horne, House Committee Chair

### **SAM's MARCH FOCUS IS THE OPEN PANTRY**

Each month SAM focuses on one of the charities that CCC gives to and supports. SAM likes to focus on charities that deal with providing essentials such as shelter, food and proper medical attention. Our focus for the month of March is Open Pantry.

This is going to be an exciting month at CCC for Open Pantry. Watch to see how our Sunday School students are going to help Open Pantry. There will be a visit to Open Pantry on **April 26**.

On **Sunday, March 15**, there will be a **Kite Making Workshop** with Glenn Davison after worship. The cost is \$10 for a kite. A light lunch will be available for a free will offering. Half of the cost of the kite will go to Open Pantry. It is a great family afternoon for a good cause. To pre-register or for any other question on Open Pantry please contact Becky Wisniewski at 978-319-0503.



### **SCRIP PROGRAM COORDINATOR NEEDED**

The Church Council is looking for someone to volunteer to take over the Scrip gift card program. Sue Mirisola has done a great job getting the program started, but now has reason to step aside. We appreciate her hard work getting the program started.

The job consists of maintaining an inventory of gift cards and promoting their purchase by the congregation. Special orders need to be submitted to the supplier when the inventory of cards gets low or when someone orders cards that are not stocked. You would be responsible for collecting payment for the cards and submitting it to the treasurers. Payments for cards ordered can be coordinated through the treasurers. You would need to keep tabs on the value of the cards in your possession and reporting their value to the treasurer on a quarterly basis to ensure the account balances.

If you are interested in assuming this job within the church, please contact Dick Papenfuss by email at [dickandkarenp@verizon.net](mailto:dickandkarenp@verizon.net) or by phone at 978-256-6801. I will be back in Chelmsford on March 4 and you can talk to me at church.

Dick Papenfuss  
Council President

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## *Ministries in Our Church*

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### **CHRISTCARE**

The women's ChristCare group continues to meet on second and fourth Tuesdays, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. They are continuing to study *The Way of Prayer*, which has been prompting interesting, thoughtful discussion. Contact Deb Lyons for more information. (978-250-4029, [deb@dandelyons.net](mailto:deb@dandelyons.net))

The men's ChristCare group meets before church, two Sunday mornings a month, at 9 Worthen Street. Contact Glenn Dissinger with any questions.

New members are always welcome in both groups.

### **PRAYER MINISTRY**

*Do not look forward to what may happen tomorrow;  
the same everlasting Father will take care of you tomorrow and every day.  
Either He will shield you from suffering, or He will give you unfailing strength to bear it.  
Be at Peace, put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations, and say continually:  
"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart has trusted in Him and I am helped.  
He is not only with me ... but in me ... and I in Him."*

St. Francis de Sales

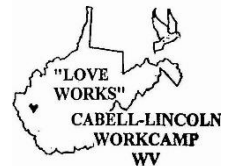
The Prayer Ministry is a group of dedicated Christians who firmly believe in and are committed to the power of prayer. If Prayer is an important factor in your life and you would like to become a part of the Prayer Ministry, we would love to have you join us. If you would like us to offer prayers for yourself, or someone you know, please contact Daphne Freeman [uklady446@yahoo.com](mailto:uklady446@yahoo.com), Ginnie Hall, [vrh9159@comcast.net](mailto:vrh9159@comcast.net) or Wendy Perry, [wperry39@comcast.net](mailto:wperry39@comcast.net).



We will not be meeting in March, so we will gather again on **Tuesday, Tuesday, April 14**, at 7 pm 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*

### **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 20 – 27. 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 1, April 5, May 3, and June 7** at 7 pm 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 service each Sunday up until the week of the trip. 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](mailto:brnorman@comcast.net) or 978-250-8469.

# MAKE A DIFFERENCE WEEK



**Central Congregational Church, UCC**

**July 13–17, 2020**

## **A Week of Service for Kids Grades 3 – 12**

High School students go for free & serve as volunteer leaders!

### **Schedule: Monday – Thursday**

9:00 am	Opening – announcements, song, prayer
9:15 am	Leave for Work Sites
9:30 am	Service Projects
11:15 am	Leave site to return to CCC
11:30 am	Snack, debrief & closing
Noon	Dismissal

**Friday, Day 5** - a fun morning at Kimball Farm!

**Community Service Projects:** (all with plenty of adult supervision!)

Games with Seniors at Summer Place.

Chelmsford Land Trust Clean-Up project

Baking for St. Paul's Soup Kitchen

Canned Food Drive for the Open Pantry

Chelmsford Community Garden – fresh produce for the Open Pantry

***Only \$30 per child!***

**Call the church or check out our web site for registration forms.**

**Central Congregational Church**

**One Worthen St., Chelmsford MA**

**978-256-5931 [www.cccchelmsford.org](http://www.cccchelmsford.org)**

# Notices & Announcements

## THANKS TO THE SCOUTS!

Thanks to all who participated in the Scout Sunday Service on February 9. 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. I would especially like to thank Doug Drake for planning the service.



Participants in the service included:

Prelude: Sam Hargett

Greeters: Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts

Ushers/Offertory: Aly Chapman, Lily Chapman, Sam Hargett, Arthur Mahoney

Children's Moment: Pastor Rich

Sermon: Doug Drake

Flag Procession and Scout BSA Oath: Seth Rigby

Call to Worship: Jake Walsh

Girl Scout Promise, Prayer of Invocation: Brooke Walsh

Prayer of Confession: Lily Chapman

Assurance of Pardon and Call to Praise: Caden Acheson

Scripture Readings: Nicholas Bottomley, Will Dorman

Coffee Hour: Troop 74



Girl Scouts®



## 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:

- ♥ March 29 for Doris Moore in loving memory of her very dear and beloved husband, 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 23** with a mailing/emailing date of March 31.
- ✓ 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 March



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

## **March 2020**

Special Congregational Meeting  
Sunday, March 8 following worship

### *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)	<a href="mailto:pastor-rich@cccchelmsford.org">pastor-rich@cccchelmsford.org</a>
Director of Music	Tudor Bota	978-772-3173	<a href="mailto:tudorbota@gmail.com">tudorbota@gmail.com</a>
Office Administrator	Linn Flint	978-256-5931	<a href="mailto:office.admin@cccchelmsford.org">office.admin@cccchelmsford.org</a>
Custodian	Juarez Gomes		
Sunday School Coordinator	Jen Stuart	978-250-8538	<a href="mailto:jennifer.stuart@cccchelmsford.org">jennifer.stuart@cccchelmsford.org</a>
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:	<a href="mailto:office.admin@cccchelmsford.org">office.admin@cccchelmsford.org</a>
Church Fax:	978-250-3565	Church Web site:	<a href="http://www.cccchelmsford.org">www.cccchelmsford.org</a>
		Conference Web site:	<a href="http://www.sneucc.org">www.sneucc.org</a>

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