



---

*CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH*

United Church of Christ

*An Open and Affirming Congregation*

VOLUME 65 NUMBER 7

SUMMER 2020

---

**MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE  
WEEK**



**Central Congregational Church, UCC**

***A Virtual Make a Difference Week – July 13-17, 2020***

This year's Make a Difference Week will be an online, virtual experience! Daily Projects will be done individually with one's own family, with suggested projects for each day, Monday – Thursday. Group Get-Together's will be held online. They'll be an opening program Monday, July 13 at 10:00 am. We'll meet online at 4:00 pm daily to celebrate the work that's been done. Friday will be a family fun day with a drive-by celebration in the afternoon.

Sign-ups have begun. Click here for [online registration](#).

***SUNDAY WORSHIP***

We will be holding Drive-in Church in the parking lot for most of the summer. Please enter from North Road and watch for our Parking Lot Attendants to guide you to a space. The service will be broadcast onto your car radio at 87.9 FM. In case of rain, we'll go inside and record a service for our YouTube channel. Folks are invited now to attend this service inside with the proper precautions.

**Honoring Our Graduates:** On **Sunday, August 2**, we will be worshipping in Carson Park at 10:00 am. The focus of the service will be honoring our high school graduates. This is always a special Sunday and this year's class is exceptional. Hope to see you in the Park! (Inside in the event of rain.)

## Knight Lines

I'd simply like to share what I said at the annual meeting last Sunday.

A few weeks ago my family and I were watching one of our favorite movies, *"Night at the Museum: The Battle for the Smithsonian."* If you've ever seen this classic, you know the travesty that took place when this gem was snubbed at the Oscars! At the end of the movie something said by Larry Daley of Daley Devices resonated with me. He said:

*"Happiness is doing what you love with people you love."*

The minute I heard that, I said to myself, "That's why I'm so happy!"

Thank you for the joy of serving God with You!

Love,  
Pastor Rich

## Pastoral Care

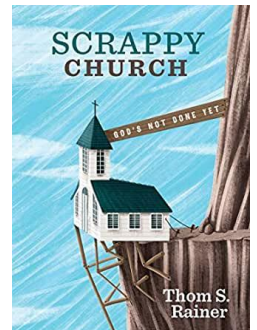
I've begun to have face-to-face/mask-to-mask meetings with folks in Carson Park (seated at 2 different picnic tables) and on peoples' back porches. So, if you'd like to talk and you have a mask, feel free to give me a call. I'd love to chat! *Pastor Rich*

## Internet Fraud

Two weeks ago several people received a fake email from me asking for gift cards. *I will never send you an email requesting gift cards be sent to me!* When you get these requests, from me or anyone else, always check the email address. You'll often find that it resembles the person's real email, but it's been slightly changed to try and fool us. Don't fall for it! *Pastor Rich*

## Summer Book Club

Pastor Rich will be doing a book club this summer on Thom S. Rainer's book, "Scrappy Church: God's Not Done Yet." This little book (117 pp) lays out three practices of "scrappy" churches that enable them to not only survive, but actually thrive in today's largely secular world. You may purchase the book on Amazon or [christianbook.com](http://christianbook.com). However, Pastor Rich purchased 10 copies on sale that he will lend out, first come, first serve. Discussion meetings will be held **Tuesdays, July 7, 14, & 21** at 7 pm on Zoom. Please let the pastor or the church office know if you'll be participating and would like a loaner copy.



## Monday Night Movie Club: "The Invention of Lying"

Our Movie Club has switched to every other Monday. Our movie for **Monday, July 6**, 7 pm, is *"The Invention of Lying,"* a fascinating film starring Ricky Gervais, Jennifer Garner, Jonah Hill, and Tina Fey. Gervais plays a man who is the first human with the ability to lie in a world where everyone can only speak the truth. You'll recognize some familiar scenes in the movie, which is available on Netflix. Look for Zoom info in future emails.

## Tuesday: "Zoom at Noon"

We're Zooming Tuesdays at Noon. After checking in with each other we tackle a discussion topic together.

### **CCC's Labyrinth has been revitalized!**

Molly Duggan, Val King, Jay Hungate, and Pastor Rich have all done nice work rejuvenating our beautiful prayer labyrinth behind 9 Worthen. You'll find a prayer guide on one of the trees behind the bench. The guide has 3 different ways to pray through the 8 "circuits" of the labyrinth. You'll find numbers on each different circuit (or loop). You may stop at each numbered rock for prayer or use that prayer suggestion on the guide sheet for that circuit. In a time where we all need to find peace, CCC is blessed with this wonderful, sacred space. We hope you'll take advantage of it.



### **Understanding "White Privilege"**

There's been a lot of talk recently about White Privilege. It's a very misunderstood concept and much-maligned by those who don't understand it. The concept of White Privilege is not suggesting that those of us with white skin had it easy or that everything was handed to us. It doesn't mean that we never had to struggle and work hard for success. The concept has almost nothing to do with OUR personal stories. It has to do with the hurdles that people of color, especially African Americans, have to deal with simply because of the color of their skin. They have hurdles that Whites do not. We have some advantages that we're not even aware of most days. Below is a summary of a helpful article on the subject. You can find the entire article online, ["10 Examples That Prove White Privilege Exists in Every Aspect Imaginable."](#)

1. I have the privilege of having a positive relationship with the police, generally.
2. I have the privilege of being favored by school authorities. Kids of color get harsher discipline, and are more likely to be suspended for things white kids usually don't.
3. On average I attend better schools, whether public & private.
4. I learn about my race much more thoroughly in school.
5. Children's books overwhelmingly represent my race.
6. The media favors me. Ex. We humanize white school shooters (his horrible childhood & mental illness led him to do it) and we demonize black violence.
7. I don't have to worry about and overcome violent stereotypes about my race.
8. I can ask that we all be "colorblind" because my race is favored in society.
9. I don't have to deal with the daily toll of being discriminated against.
  - a. Black kids receive less pain meds for the same injuries than whites.
  - b. Addiction among whites is a "health problem." For blacks it's considered a "crime problem."
  - c. Job applications – black sounding names get 50% fewer call-backs for interviews.
10. Most days I don't have to think about the issue of racism, discrimination and racial injustice.

### **Prayer Ministry**

During the summer months the Prayer Ministry does not go on vacation. Prayer is part of Christian fellowship. Christian fellowship fosters things like trust, hope, a sense of belonging, security, lifelong friendships, faith, patience, and best of all a true unconditional love for God. Being part of a church family is a "Precious Gift". If you have any prayer requests for yourself or others, please contact Dee Freeman, Ginnie Hall, or Wendy Perry. Prayer is the key to the "Heart of God". *Blessings, Ginnie Hall*



Thank you all for supporting CCC through your shopping on AmazonSmile! We got our Quarterly report from Amazon and our numbers are still really good! We certainly have some consistent AmazonSmile shoppers and we get new ones all the time! Remember, anything you can buy on Amazon can be purchased through AmazonSmile and a portion of each sale goes to CCC! Just be sure to use AmazonSmile to “check out” when you buy anything! Use the web site <http://smile.amazon.com> to check out and pay! Your purchase price does not increase – and CCC receives a percentage of the sale! It’s “easy money!”

AmazonSmile NEWS! You can now use AmazonSmile to check out using the mobile app! You can “Smile” on the go!

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

## **Milestones**

On Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, we welcomed Cora Bailey Nitche to our church family as she was baptized during the service in Carson Park. Cora is the daughter of Joe Nitche and Julie Morris-Nitche and was born on January 30, 2020. Her godparents are Rich and Briana Musto. Cora also has a big brother, Brian, who is 11 years old. The Nitche family learned about CCC thru their involvement with the Cub Scouts.

## **SOCIAL ACTION AND MISSIONS WORK!**

First we would like to thank Kelsey Hartigan for her term on SAM and wish her well as she begins college. It was a pleasure to have her knowledgeable voice on our committee. SAM is also excited to report that St. Paul's Kitchen is back and running and that SAM intends to go ahead with our regularly scheduled meal for the 5th Monday in August, with help from the God Squad.

We been able to meet over Zoom during the past few months. We have distributed money that CCC and members have entrusted to us. Two charities that we feel have responded to area needs during the pandemic are the Open Pantry of Greater Lowell and the Lowell Community Health Center. Open Pantry has been able to stay open for all but one day. They have changed their routines for distribution to increase safety for all. We want to thank for their courage and commitment. Many of their volunteers are over 60.

Rebecca Wisniewski received a call from Clare Gunther of the Lowell Community Health Center thanking us for CCC's donation. You may remember her from her visit to our church last year. She said that given all that is going on in the world it was uplifting for them to receive our check. We caught up on what that they have been doing during the Pandemic.

The Lowell CHC doesn't have beds so they were not caring for patients. However, they worked to field questions about Covid-19, direct people dealing with the illness and to get information out in multiple languages. Like many places they have had to furlough many on their staff but have been able to keep all their doctors. A bright spot is that starting in mid-March insurance companies began to allow doctors to charge for telemedicine. This is wonderful because so many of their clients have no transportation other than mass transit.

Lowell CHC has also made incredible strides with their call center. They have new technology that has reduced wait times and abandoned calls. They were also able to integrate this with translation services.

The LCHC is doing its part with COVID-19 Testing and Contact Tracing. COVID-19 walk-up, drive-by testing site is up, running, and making an impact. Testing is by appointment only. Contact Tracing at Lowell CHC is part of a state-funded effort led by the global nonprofit Partners in Health to stop the spread of COVID-19 by identifying and reaching out to those who have been exposed. Please tell everyone you know to answer the call when it comes from the MA Covid Team or with the exchanges 833 or 857.

It was wonderful to talk with Clare Gunther and to know that we were able to help fund the work that they are continuing to do.

*God Bless and Stay Safe,  
SAM*

## **Covid-19 Fund**

Church Council has established a Covid-19 Fund to assist individuals and families in need during this crisis. CCC members and friends have generously contributed to the fund. If anyone knows of someone in need please let Pastor Rich know so we can help. Thanks to everyone who has donated!

## **Food Drive**

Canned goods will be collected each Sunday for the Open Pantry. You may place them on the table by the playground or hand them to a deacon.

## **Seeking Nursery Coordinator**

Our Christian Education Committee is seeking a Nursery Coordinator for the upcoming year starting in September, assuming we're back worshipping in the sanctuary. The coordinator provides nursery care each Sunday and schedules volunteers for each week to be the second person in the nursery. Contact CE chair, Carolyn Chapman, [carolyndarlene@gmail.com](mailto:carolyndarlene@gmail.com), for more information and to apply for this paid position.

## **Christian Education Happenings!**

As we navigate through these challenging times, your CE Committee continues to plan ways we can support our youth. This spring, many classes launched into zoom Sunday School immediately, with teachers learning along with the general population about how to conduct online classes. Each week we watched each other teach and learned from each other- we learned to prepare a lesson, share our screens, and get feedback from the students. We also learned about what types of lessons resonated most with kids.

We continue to try to find new ways to be a community. For example, the elementary students had a "Topping Party" to end their year where they brought cake/cookies/ice cream and added toppings together while we met. One week we created art and letters and sent them to people in our church community who we thought could use a smile. If you have ideas for our youth community, please contact a member of CE. We are always happy for new ideas. While we are grappling with the knowledge that so many doors are closed right now, we are also trying to focus on the possibilities offered by this new online world. Focusing on what works and what we can try has helped us to cope as a committee.

On that note, we would love to welcome new members to the Christian Education committee. We are also welcoming anyone who is interested in teaching Sunday School in the fall. This is a special committee- I leave each meeting with a wonder at their kindness and compassion. If you are new to the church or are looking for a new way to be involved, the Christian Ed committee is a great place to start. You can also contact one of us for any additional information. We're also working on a revamped, "Virtual Make a Difference Week" for July 13-17. Look for more information in this newsletter.

*Kristin Strobel Correspondent  
Carolyn Chapman and Jenny Walsh co-Chairs*

## **House Committee**

The House Committee has been working in concert with the Trustees to redesign and replace the piping for the boiler system, which will be quite a project. The church has been readied for summer with storm windows replaced by screens, and air conditioners and dehumidifiers in place. Juárez has washed the windows, cleaned the carpets, and painted the picnic tables in Carson Park. House members have joined with Pastor Rich on several painting projects inside the church. The irrigation system is up and running. We will work through the summer to keep the grounds looking neat and find more areas that need to be painted, repaired, or replaced. As always, if you find something that needs our attention please let me know. My email is [marywh54@gmail.com](mailto:marywh54@gmail.com) and phone is 978-729-5632.

## **Nominating Committee - Opportunities to Serve!**

At the Annual Meeting of CCC held on Sunday, June 28, the Nominating Committee's proposed slate of church officers and committees were elected for the 2020-2021 church year. (See the Annual Report for a full listing, adding Dirk Zwart to the Diaconate 2023 group.) Many people are needed to keep CCC's good works and programs running, and we are thankful to the dozens of individuals who said "Yes!" when they were invited to serve. There are still vacancies on a few committees. You are welcome and encouraged to contact the Nominating Committee to learn about these roles, and to join a committee! New members can be added throughout the year!

To the committee members who have just completed their terms of service – thank you! Your commitment to CCC has made us a stronger, more vibrant church, and we thank you for your involvement!

*Your Nominating Committee - Lynn Horton, Deb Lyons, Elizabeth Hartigan*



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

*July 2020*

*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"*

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>

*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 June 30, 2020.