

Central Congregational Church

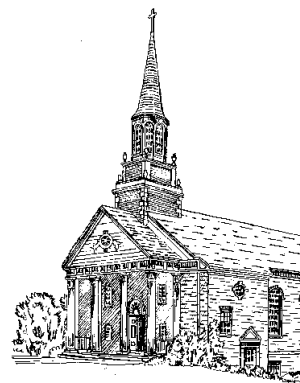
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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Chelmsford, Massachusetts 01824
978-256-5931 office.admin@cccchelmsford.org

Rev. Dr. Richard B. Knight, Pastor
pastor-rich@cccchelmsford.org

Rev. Dr. John A. Zachry, Pastor Emeritus



“A Community of Faith, Hope, and Love, Growing through Worship and Service”

Tuesday, December 1, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

Sad news to tell you . . .

We have sad news to tell you. Rachel Vondal passed away Saturday afternoon from a stroke. Rachel was a longtime member of CCC, active in the choir, the dinner theaters, and KiSeLo. She was known for her quick wit and delightful sense of humor. As of now the family is planning on having a service for Rachel in the church in late Spring. Please keep them in your prayers, as we give thanks for Rachel's life and eternal life.

Serving the God of Eternal Life with You,
Pastor Rich

Worship this Sunday - in the sanctuary and online

This Sunday is the Second Sunday of Advent and we'll be lighting the Candle of Peace. It's also a service of Holy Communion. We suggest bringing your own bread and juice to use for communion. We'll also have the pre-filled cups available. The service will be livestreamed on [Facebook Live](#) and hopefully [YouTube Live](#) as well. Last week we had computer issues and weren't able to livestream on both at the same time. We think we have that solved. In case you were wondering, only 31 people were in attendance in the sanctuary, which made it very easy to socially distance.

Pastor Rich's Advent Devotional this year is “Treasure & Ponder”

This devotional highlights the various Christmas passages in the Bible, with brief readings for each day, along with a prayer and a theme for personal reflection. It's available at the church and attached to this email. We're also happy to deliver one to your doorstep. Just call the church office to receive one.

Zoom with the Pastor - Today at 12:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85214537957?pwd=RHE1ZzBsZktUd1p4RWZmWk1lWHFvdz09>

Meeting ID: 852 1453 7957

Passcode: 859160

Secret Santa On-Line Update:

<https://www.cccchelmsford.org/santa2020/>

From your SAM committee: The Online Secret Santa signups are going fast! Only 28 gifts left to claim as of Monday. Please go to the church website and click on the Secret Santa Signup link if you haven't done so already. Thank you in advance for dropping your labeled wrapped present Sunday December 6 & 13 during church service until noon. *Look for the printable gift tags that were attached to your confirmation email*. Thank you for bringing joy to children & families in our community this holiday season. Please reach out to one of us with any sign up or online question or concern. *Sincerely, Carol Boucek, Julie Carney, Rebecca Wisniewski, Dale Williams, Bryan Norman, Arlene Belleville, Ellen Kunkel, & Cindy Bruetsch*

Christmas Tree Sale Volunteer Sign-ups Have Moved Online:

Dear friends, we have moved the annual Christmas tree sign-up to an online format. If you'd like to volunteer your time, please follow the instructions below. If you have already signed up, we have entered your spots online but please double check the schedule to make sure that your information is correct. Please email or call Joe Chapman and Dick Papenfuss if you have any questions or need help signing up or making a change to your assignments.

Online Signup Instructions:

- 1) Click this link to see our SignUp on SignUp.com: <https://signup.com/go/kgMJAtZ>
- 2) Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like.
- 3) Sign up! It's Easy - you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on SignUp.com.

Note: SignUp.com does not share your email address with anyone. If you prefer not to use your email address, please contact Joe Chapman and he can sign you up manually.

Thanks for your help! Dick and Joe

Poinsettias:

The Sanctuary Committee will again be selling poinsettias starting December 6. The cost this year is \$12. We will be putting the poinsettias in the chancel so they will be seen during the broadcast of the Christmas services and will decorate the windows based on how many are sold. Elizabeth Hartigan will be the contact person. You can see her at church on Sundays or contact her by email at hartigans@gmail.com. Let her know the dedication you want for the poinsettia and if you will be taking the poinsettia or want it donated.

CCC "Dining-To-Donate" At Bertucci's, Monday, December 7

A new monthly fundraiser begins in December! Each month we will feature a restaurant for a special one-day dining event! December 7th will be Bertucci's. 15% of food purchases will be donated to CCC! Keep in mind the code 166-161-524 on your flyer is good to be used at all 54 Bertucci's locations and can be used on To-Go, Dine-In, Catering and Online orders. Share the code with family and friends! And mark your calendar! Next month – **January 4, 2121** – will be Mr. Mac's! Questions? Contact Lynn Horton Lynn@terpsoft.com (978) 256-

An Old Fashioned Zoom Bible Study

Nov 19, 2020 11:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87567971348?pwd=WUFJdFRMNE43RVpWMU9wV1RWeTZGZz09>

Meeting ID: 875 6797 1348

Passcode: 294999**Christmas Caroling in Carson Park Sunday, Dec. 13, 3:30 pm****THE CHRISTMAS FUND: “For Such a Time as This” Esther 4:14**

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. Over the past nine months, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the emergency financial needs of many who serve the church have increased dramatically. These difficult times make the need for the Christmas Fund more urgent than ever. Please consider making a donation by sending a check to CCC, or dropping one in the collection basket, with a notation "for Christmas Fund" or you can give directly on-line to www.christmasfund.org.

Linn Flint

Office Administrator

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Office Hours: Monday thru Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**ADVENT SCHEDULE Back in the Sanctuary**

Sunday, December 6	10:00 am	Advent II, The Candle of Peace Holy Communion (bring your own bread & juice)
Sunday, December 13	10:00 am	Advent III, The Candle of Joy Extra music at the morning service
Sunday, December 13	3:30 pm	Christmas Caroling in Carson Park
Sunday, December 20	10:00 am	Advent IV, The Candle of Love Guest soloist: Katrina Holden-Buckley, soprano

CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE**4:00 pm Children's Christmas Pageant**

It'll be held outside on the front steps of the church.

There will be congregational singing as well as a candle lighting ceremony.

7:00 pm Drive-In Church Service with Candle Lighting

A Service of Lessons & Carols with congregational singing.

We'll get out of our cars for the closing candle lighting ceremony

10:00 pm Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary

A traditional Service of Lessons & Carols with a candle lighting ceremony.