

THE BEACON

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a worshipping praying learning caring outreaching community

CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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MAY 2021

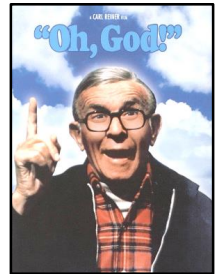


MAY DINING TO DONATE at MOE's

Monday, May 3

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, May 16, 2021



MAY MOVIE GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Monday, 5/10 – “Oh, God!”

Monday, 5/24 – “Evan Almighty”



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

May 23



HOLY COWS MINI-GOLF

Sunday, May 23 at 3 p.m.

Knights Lines

I think it was the first Christian book I ever read outside of the Bible, Bruce Larson's, No Longer Strangers: An Introduction to Relational Theology. Relational theology is based on the premise that since God is Love, God is inherently relational. You've heard this passage, "It is not good for the man to be alone." Perhaps it wasn't good for God to be alone either, and so God created humanity so that God's Love could be shared, for what is love if it's not shared?

I feel like over this past *Year of Covid* we've all gotten a refresher course in relational theology. What is love if it's not shared? Love longs to be expressed - heart to heart and face to face. Zoom's been good, but hugs are even better.

God is personal, relational. Our faith is relational, with God, with each other, with our neighbors, with the poor, with creation. It's all relational! Many of us experience God most strongly when we're with others - praying, worshipping, serving together. So it's been hard not having our sisters and brothers in the faith there to sustain us. We've had to dig deep and remember the compassion, presence, and promises of God.

If we've learned or at least been reminded of one thing over this past year, it's that we're relational beings. We need each other. We need God. We need God and each other together!

We'll continue to open slowly and safely, but surely. Thank God!

*Serving Christ with You,
Pastor Rich*

ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of Central Congregational Church will be held immediately following the Worship Service, at 11:00 a.m., on **Sunday, May 16, 2021**. There will be a Zoom broadcast of the live meeting, and a limited number of church members may attend in-person, with Covid-19 protocols of social distancing and mask wearing.

There will be a slideshow to celebrate the past year. Please submit joys, expressions of gratitude, and other words that you wish to share to Lynn Horton or to the church office PRIOR to meeting, so that they can be included. Photos of church activities from the year are welcome. **Deadline for submissions is Friday, May 7.**

Details for attending the Annual Meeting via Zoom will be included in weekly church e-mails. Please direct questions to Lynn Horton, Council President, or Peter White, Church Moderator. Thank you!

Warrant for the Annual Meeting on May 16, 2021

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

The annual meeting of the Central Congregational Church in Chelmsford, United Church of Christ, will be held on Sunday, May 16, 2021, at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary and via Zoom to act upon the following articles:

- Article 1 To elect a Moderator.
- Article 2 To celebrate the events of the past year.
- Article 3 To act upon the recommendations of the Nominating Committee to elect the officers of the church.
- Article 4 To receive the reports of all committees.
- Article 5 To amend the Constitution Article X – Property and Finance – Section 3 as follows:
Delete: “for gifts and bequests in amounts less than \$50,000, one-half of the donation shall be placed in the Endowment Fund, and one-half shall be placed in the Remembrance Fund;”
And replace with: “for all gifts and bequests in amounts up to and including \$10,000, the total amount shall be placed in the Remembrance Fund; for all gifts and bequests in amounts greater than \$10,000 but less than \$50,000, one-half of the amount in excess of \$10,000 shall be placed in the Endowment Fund, and one-half shall be placed in the Remembrance Fund;”
- Article 6 Approve the budget for the fiscal year 2021 – 2022.
- Article 7 To transact any other business that may lawfully come before the meeting.

(signed) Val King, Clerk

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

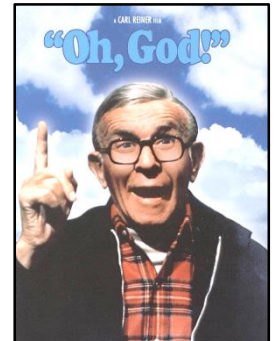
BUDGET MEETING

The first budget meeting for putting together a balanced budget, that can be presented to Council and the Annual Meeting, will be on **Monday, May 3 at 7:30 p.m.** Anyone in the congregation interested in participating in the budgeting process is welcome to attend. It will be a "Zoom" meeting. We will send out the link before the meeting. Please let me know if you plan to attend, so I can email you preliminary budget information before the meeting. Dick Papenfuss, Treasurer

MAY MOVIE GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Monday, 5/10 – Oh, God!

The short description of this movie – George Burns plays God! The longer version – John Denver and Teri Garr portray Jerry and Bobbie Landers, an average California couple. Mild-mannered Jerry is not a religious person, but when he receives a note to attend an interview with God, his ordinary life takes many unexpected and challenging turns as he ultimately tries to convey God's messages to others. Directed by Carl Reiner, this 1977 movie was a smash hit, re-establishing George Burns as the master of comedy at age 80 and prompting two sequels.



Monday, 5/24 – Evan Almighty

You don't have to have seen Bruce Almighty to enjoy this sequel. Steve Carrell is Evan Baxter, a former Buffalo, NY newsman who has been elected to Congress with the slogan, "Change the World." When God contacts Evan with instructions to build an ark, as well as providing the materials and animals to do it, Evan must see if he really can make a change in the world with more than just a campaign promise. You may be inspired to practice Acts of Random Kindness as well!

The CCC Movie Group is open to all! Watch the movie(s) on your own, then join the group on Zoom at 7:00 pm on "Movie Mondays" to discuss. Zoom links to each Movie Night will be included in the weekly church-wide e-mails. Contact Pastor Rich or Lynn Horton if you have questions!

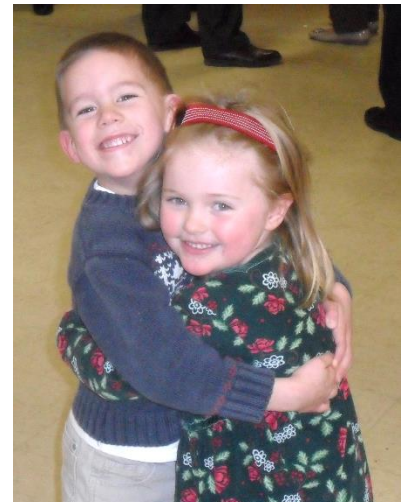
HOLY COWS MINI-GOLF

The Holy Cows (Middle Schoolers) will be going miniature golfing on **Sunday, May 23**, meeting at Max's Country Golf in Tyngsborough at 3:00 pm. Please sign up by emailing Pastor Rich.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY - May 23, 10:00 am in Carson Park

This year's class consists of Alyssa Desfosse and Trey Hartigan. If you take a look at the picture, you'll see that the make-up of this class was meant to be! Confirmation Sunday will be May 23 at 10:00 a.m. in Carson Park.

Congratulations, Alyssa & Trey!



Picture not current!

TUESDAY: "ZOOM WITH THE PASTOR"

We're Zooming Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m. After checking in with each other we tackle a discussion topic together.

LUNCH IN THE PARK - WEDNESDAYS AT NOON

With the warmer weather here it's now possible to gather together safely outside for lunch and fellowship. Please bring a bag lunch and join us around the picnic tables in Carson Park, Wednesdays at Noon, starting **May 12**.

CCC COMMITTEES AT WORK

COUNCIL CORNER: *A monthly update on the activity of the CCC Council*

News from the April 14, 2021 meeting:

- Pledged giving and non-pledged offerings continued to strengthen in March. Congregational giving is still under budget, but Treasurer Dick Papenfuss is optimistic that pledge-fulfillment will increase in the remaining quarter of the fiscal year.
- An anonymous church member has repaid the solar panel installation expenses. Electricity generated by the panels and the sale of SRECs (Solar Renewable Energy Certificates) now will be a significant source of income to CCC.
- The Stewardship Campaign is progressing. To date pledge activity has been steady, with about 30% of respondents utilizing the on-line pledging option. The Stewardship Committee is still seeking responses from several congregants and reported the potential for a \$8,000 shortfall, despite many new and increased pledges.
- Council approved a change to Constitution Article X, "Property and Finance," Section 3, as proposed by the Trustees. This section directs the allocation of unrestricted gifts and bequests between the Endowment Fund and the Remembrance Fund. The amendment will be ratified at Annual Meeting; changes to the Constitution require a two-thirds affirmative vote of the church membership present at a duly called meeting. (See the see Article 5 of the Annual Meeting Warrant in this issue of the Beacon.)
- The Nominating Committee presented the proposed slate of church officers and committee members for 2021-2022. The Council members voted to accept the slate and it will be Article 3 at the Annual Meeting for a vote by church members.
- CCC fundraising events are being held monthly to make up for the Holiday Fair income budget shortfall. In April the Tavern in the Square event raised \$95.92; Bakery Day raised \$98 which is designated for SAM.
- The Sabbatical Minister Search Committee is working diligently to engage a short-term replacement to serve CCC in Pastor Rich's absence. Pastor Rich's sabbatical begins on June 7, 2021.
- A new CCC ministry, the Creation Care Group, has been formed by the members of the "Climate Church, Climate World" book discussion group.

The next Council Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, May 12, 2021** at 7:30 p.m., via Zoom. Anyone from CCC is welcome to attend! Contact Lynn Horton if you would like the Zoom link information.

Lynn@terpsoft.com (978) 256-8524

HOUSE COMMITTEE

We, the members of the House Committee, are turning our attention to summer projects. We'll be repairing the corral fence between the parking lot and the professional building. We'll also be repaving part of the entrance drive, replacing part of the speed bump on the exit drive and repainting the speed bumps, arrows, and handicap parking symbols on the asphalt. The deck at 9 Worthen needs to be repaired and refinished, and the cross needs to be repainted. We'll be busy!

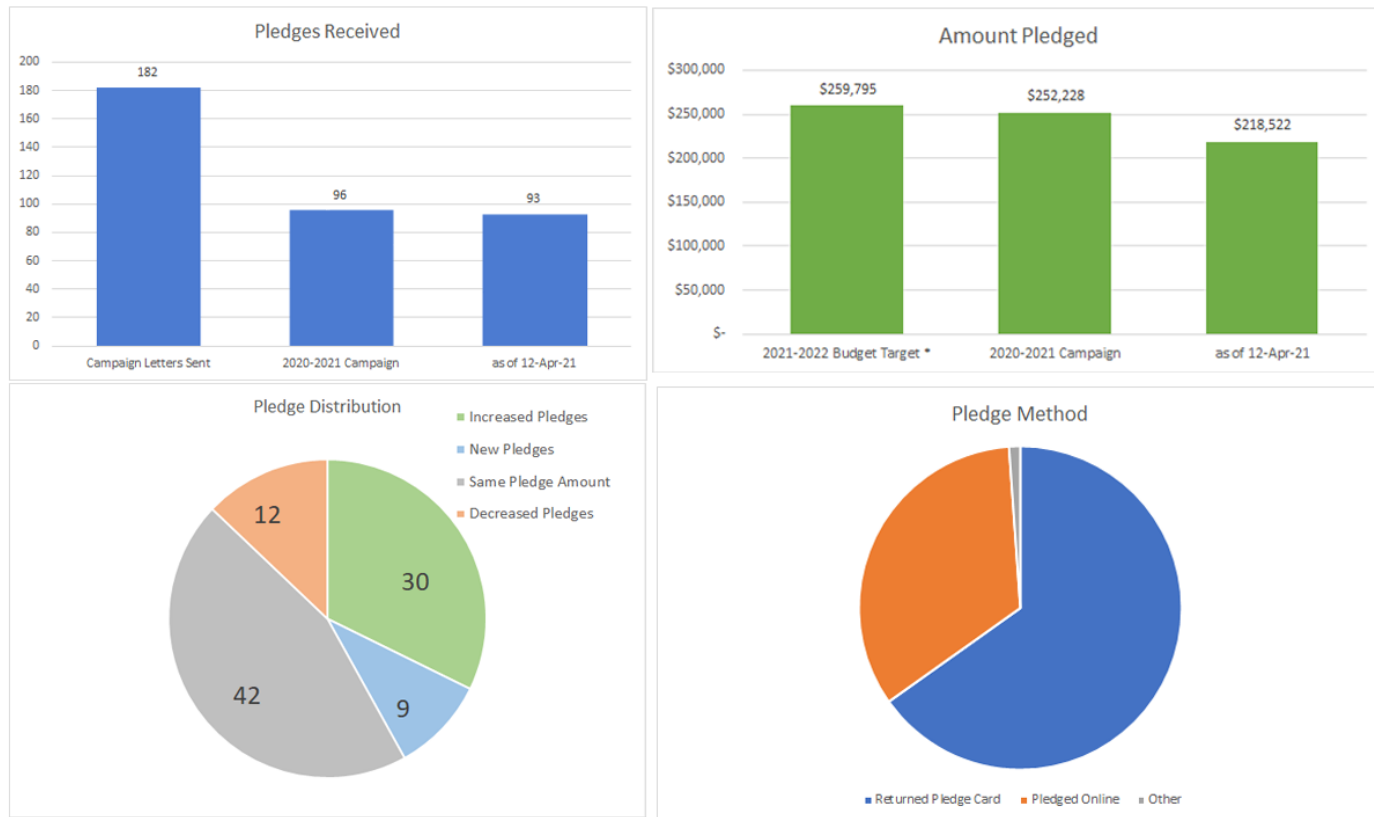
STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Stewardship is what we do to manage something that has been placed under our responsibility. Stewardship includes wise management of our treasure, time, and talents so that we can use these things in service of the Lord for the benefit of others.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to everyone who has pledged their support for CCC's next fiscal year! The Stewardship Campaign has (so far) been successful both in participation and in moving us toward our financial goal.

We are still missing some pledge responses, however. If you have yet to pledge, please do so as soon as possible. The budget is being prepared for the church's Annual Meeting later this month and the more pledges we have, the more we can include in the budget!

Stewardship Campaign Progress (as of April 12):



We have received 93 pledges, only a few short of the total we received last year, which is great. Total pledged amount is currently at \$218,522. This is 87% of the way to the total we achieved last year. We received 30 pledges that were increased over last year. 32% of pledges were increased! We also have 9 brand new pledges this year! One third of our pledges were submitted online via the Stewardship web page (<https://www.cccchelmsford.org/stewardship>). We have also had more pledges utilize the automatic withdrawal program for their giving!

With all of this success, however, **we are still projecting a short-fall** compared with last year. There are still people we haven't heard from, and if we could get them to renew their pledges at last year's level, we can meet the budget goal! If you have not done so, please pledge TODAY!

We would also ask those who HAVE pledged to please consider increasing their pledges by a small amount, maybe \$2 or \$3 per week, to help us close the gap! If you are able to adjust your pledge, contact Dick Papenfuss at dickandkarenp@verizon.net and he'll make the change!

As always, contact sherm@terpsoft.com with any questions!

Stewardship is also about sharing our time and talents. We would like to recognize all the energy and talent that have gone into keeping our congregation strong during the past year. Thank you all again and God Bless!

Your Stewardship Committee: Sherman Horton, Becky Wisniewski, Cynthia Dorman, Bill Harrison, Elmer Lyons, and Dick Papenfuss

HAPPY SPRING FROM THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (CE) COMMITTEE

The flowers are blooming and the leaves are out in Carson Park and the CE Committee has been making plans to take advantage of the beautiful weather. This spring the Sunday School has focused on Love for God, Love for our Neighbors, Love for our environment, and Love for ourselves. In order to show love for our neighbors, we'll have our Spring Make a Difference Day on **Sunday, May 2**, where we will make cards and pick up trash on the bike path.

We are celebrating our love for our environment with an upcoming Sunday School hike. On May 16th, John and Linda Carson have kindly agreed to speak to us about the significance of Carson Park, a place that has come to have a special significance to our youth this year.

Plans are underway for Make a Difference Week from July 26-30!

Ministries in Our Church

PRAYER MINISTRY

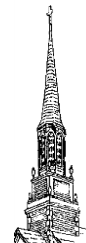
If you want to be part of a caring, loving, rewarding team, join the Prayer Ministry and become a Prayer Warrior! Having only being a church member for one year, I wondered if I knew enough church members to be part of this team. But it did not take me long to realize this was not just a local ministry but a global one. I did not half to know the people personally I was merely a prayer partner. God knew them personally and that's what counted. Remember what I said at the beginning, "If you want to be part of a caring, loving, rewarding team, Join the Prayer Ministry!" Blessings in His Word. *Mary Harrison*

If you would like us to pray with/for you about a concern or a situation contact: Ginnie Hall, 978-256-9159 or vrh9159@comcast.net, Wendy Perry, 978-455-8545 or wperry39@comcast.net, or Daphne Freeman, 978-256-2944 or uklady446@yahoo.com.

STEEPLE LIGHTING

We light the steeple this month in honor and reverent memory of those who have died in service to our country.

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13



CREATION CARE GROUP NEWS

The group is planning several events for summer Sundays in the Park and we hope to have more information and dates in the June newsletter. Meanwhile, we hope that the congregation found Pastor Rich's Earth Day message on climate change to be of interest. We will be adding a page to the CCC website to provide information on the group's activities, as well as other informational resources.

We would also like to make people aware of a group in town, Chelmsford Climate Action Team, that presents monthly meetings in collaboration with Chelmsford Library. The series is titled Climate Conversations and is held on the second Thursday of each month at 1:00. Programs are recorded and available for viewing afterwards for those who cannot attend live. Upcoming meetings in May and June include a talk on Planting with Native Species and a talk on Home Energy Efficiency. See the activities page at chelmsfordclimate.org and view the McCarthy Middle School art class slide show Kids for Planet Earth!

MILESTONES

We have very sad news to tell you. Longtime member and friend to many, Judy Musgrove, passed away on April 8. She took a very bad and tragic fall in her home, a reminder to us all of how easily that can happen. Judy was active in the church in many ways through the years, including filling in for Linn Flint in the office when Linn was away. We all will miss Judy very much. Please keep her sons Robert and David in your prayers, along with grandson Zachary.

John Chipman passed away March 28 of Alzheimer's. John and Betsy were members of CCC for over 20 years before moving to Florida. They recently reconnected with the church by sitting together every Sunday morning and watching our livestream services. Betsy shared with me that it brought them great comfort. Please keep Betsy and the family in your prayers.

We have received word that Margaret Garlow passed away on March 31. Margaret was a longtime member who moved away but reconnected with us during Covid. She watched our online services and joined in on Tuesday's Zoom gatherings, Thursday's Online Bible Study, and some of our evening Zoom gatherings. She enjoyed connecting with old friends through this modern technology. Margaret was two weeks shy of turning 100. Please keep her family in your prayers.

Nancy Clark & the Benevolent Beaders: We're sad to report that Nancy Clark passed away at her home surrounded by family on Tuesday, April 20. She was 100 years old. Nancy was a longtime member of CCC, best known in recent years for being a founding member of the Benevolent Beaders. We'll miss you, Nancy!



Nancy is on the far right in the pink jacket!

From Your Social Action and Missions Committee



SAM's MAY FOCUS WILL BE TO SUPPORT HABITAT for HUMANITY

The Social Action and Missions (SAM) Committee's initiative for the Month of May is **Habitat for Humanity of Greater Lowell (HFHGL)**. In their 30th year, HFHGL has served the local Merrimack Valley in helping to provide safe and decent places to live for families in our community, while striving to break the cycle of poverty and homelessness. There are several ways to support the HFHGL mission: by making a monetary donation online at <http://lowellhabitat.org>, or by check in the weekly collection basket or by dropping off new or gently used household items. All items are tax-deductible. They accept furniture as well! For information about household donations, hours and location, visit www.lowellhabitat.org/restore.



FUNDRAISING

MAY BAKERY DAY

The April "Bakery Day" raised \$98 for CCC, all of which is designated for SAM! The five monthly Bakery Days held to date have raised **\$520**, and the baked goods portion of the Holiday Fair in November brought in **\$495**, for a total of **\$1015** to benefit CCC Social Action and Missions! We are very grateful to Chef/Baker Jeremy Williams for his generous support **and** for his culinary expertise!

Our next "Bakery Day" is **Saturday, May 22 with an order deadline of Thursday, 5/20/21.**

MAY MENU

Chicken Stew \$15 (\$5 donated to SAM) 1 QT container: Roast chicken, potatoes, carrots, peas.

New Pastry Menu Item! "Smackerals" \$2 each (\$1 donated to SAM): Rugelach-style pastry bites! Flaky pie crust bites, choice of filling: Nutella OR Date.

See the complete **Dessert/Baked Goods menu** available <http://www.thedogoodkitchen.com>

Pick up will at 11 am in the CCC parking lot on Saturday, 5/22/21. Home delivery is also available! Ask Lynn Horton about special delivery arrangements! Place your order for Baked Pastries and/or Savory Pies directly with Jeremy: [<thedogoodkitchen@gmail.com>](mailto:thedogoodkitchen@gmail.com) Payment is due upon delivery. Please share this opportunity with local friends and family!! Questions? Contact Lynn Horton [<Lynn@terpsoft.com>](mailto:Lynn@terpsoft.com) or Jeremy Williams [<thedogoodkitchen@gmail.com>](mailto:thedogoodkitchen@gmail.com)

MAY DINING TO DONATE

Our monthly restaurant fundraising events continue to be successful, and we thank everyone who has participated! In April, our Tavern in the Square event raised \$95.92!

The first **Monday** of the month is **May 3**, and the selected restaurant is **Moe's Southwest Tavern**, located at Drum Hill Plaza. **20%** of all food purchased **will be donated to CCC**. Take out or dine in, 11:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Please use the flyer and identify Central Congregational Church when placing your order.

Next month – Monday, June 7 - TBD

If you have questions, contact Lynn Horton Lynn@terpsoft.com (978) 256-8524



Chimney Work during April Vacation Week



LINER GOING IN!



CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation
One Worthen Street
PO Box 339
Chelmsford, MA 01824-0339

May 2021

**CCC Annual Meeting
Sunday, May 16 at 11 a.m.**

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)	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		
Church Location:	One Worthen Street, Chelmsford, MA		
Church Mailing Address:	PO Box 339, Chelmsford, MA 01824-0339		
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Church Fax:	978-250-3565	Church Web site:	www.cccchelmsford.org
		Conference Web site:	www.sneucc.org

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