



CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation

VOLUME 66 NUMBER 8

SEPTEMBER 2021

SEPTEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



Welcome Sunday!

Sunday, September 12th – Worship at 10 a.m.

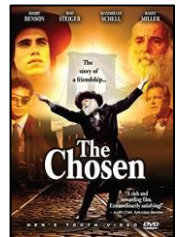
Holy Communion

A New Year of Sunday School begins!

Movie Group Discussions

Monday, 9/13 – Faith. Hope. Love

Monday, 9/27 – The Chosen



KiSeLo Dessert Potluck

Wednesday, September 22nd at 1:00 p.m.

All-Church Campfire

Sunday, September 19th at 6:00 p.m.



Capital Campaign Needs Assessment

Sunday, September 26 – In-person Meeting following worship

Wednesday, September 29 – Zoom Meeting

Knight Lines

I just had the “Best Sabbatical EVER!”

It was ten weeks of adventure, rest, play, reading, and reflection. Our trip out West was absolutely incredible! Hopefully many of you have seen the pictures I’ve posted on Facebook. I’ve never heard my sons say, “Wow!” so many times in their lives! At every park we went to we found ourselves saying, “I’ve never seen anything like that before!” Yellowstone, The Grand Tetons, Arches, Bryce Canyon, Zion, and the Grand Canyon are all amazing National Parks! It was a family adventure that we’ll all never forget!

I almost always have mixed feelings when beginning a sabbatical, since most professions do not have them. I tell myself that most people however get something called a “weekend,” and clergy don’t. But still I feel a little guilty. Sabbaticals provide a pastor time to catch up on some rest and reading and family time. I also did about every project I could think of around our townhouse. In fact, the only project left is organizing the attic – so it’s definitely time to get back to work!

Thank you again for the opportunity to take this sabbatical and to apply for the Lilly Grant. The grant money covered all our essential expenses – food, lodging, car rental, gas, and airfare. I basically only used our own money for souvenirs. My kids were shocked by the number of times I said, “Yes, I’ll buy that for you.” These were out of the ordinary experiences for them! The grant was truly a gift of grace.

It’s been so nice being back at the church. I hope things open up this Fall and folks feel comfortable in worship once again. Hope to see you each soon!

*Gratefully,
Pastor Rich*



Rich & Kids at Arches National Park



Rich & Alisa at the Grand Canyon

FALL SERMON SERIES – The Book of Revelation: A Crazy Book for Crazy Times

Late in the First Century, a disciple named John received a series of visions. Throughout this experience, an angel sent by God said to John, “Write these things down,” and he did. His writings became the most misused, seldom read, hard-to-understand, and craziest book in the entire Bible!

What you may not know is that John wrote during crazy times. The Roman Empire had generally given conquered peoples religious freedom. But in the late First Century, Nero and especially Domitian changed all that. Christians began to be persecuted, often violently. The Pax Romano, the Peace of Rome, was nowhere to be found. What they once depended upon was crumbling before their very eyes. Imagine how disconcerting and discouraging this would be for relatively new converts to Christianity. Believe it or not, John’s visions helped them. They were a message from God. We, too, live in crazy times. Perhaps it’s time to open up the last book of the Bible. We’ll start on Sun. Sept. 12 at 10:00 am.

The Thursday morning Bible Study will also be studying *Revelation* this fall, beginning on Thur. Sept. 9, at 11:00 am. You’re most welcome to jump in with us!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

WELCOME SUNDAY!

Sunday, September 12 marks the beginning of a new year in the life of our church. Come see old friends; Come make new ones! A new season of Sunday School begins!

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Children and youth are encouraged to bring their backpacks for a blessing on **Welcome Sunday, September 12th**. School is one of the areas of our lives where our faith is lived out. A blessing will help us to recall the many ways God uses us in our lives and remind us of the loving faith community that supports us wherever we are.



MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR RACHEL VONDAL – Saturday, September 18 at 1:00 p.m.

Rachel passed away last November. We are finally having a chance to remember her.

ALL-CHURCH CAMPFIRE IN CARSON PARK – Sunday, September 19 at 6:00 pm

Join us for a wonderful time of fellowship, singing, and s'mores!

MOVIE GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Monday, 9/13 – Faith. Hope. Love. (2021)

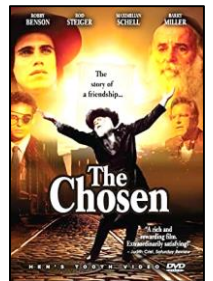
Six college students respond to an email from, what they believe to be, the well-known author Oscar Fielding. In so doing, they find themselves thrown together for a wintry weekend, in a cabin nestled in the Rocky Mountains, with the understanding they will be aiding Fielding by providing research for his latest book. In the process, these six strangers discover that a dialogue about love, relationships, faith, past struggles and conflicts leads them to uncover who they really are, and what they really believe.



Monday, 9/27 – The Chosen (1981)

In 1944, in Brooklyn, two Jewish kids become friends. One is from a very conservative family, and the other is more liberal. The issues of importance of tradition, parental expectations and the formation of Israel cause constant friction. Featuring Maximilian Schell as Professor David Malter, Rod Steiger as Reb Saunders, and Robby Benson as Danny Saunders.

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 are available from Lynn Horton. Contact Lynn Horton for the Zoom link, if you have questions, or if you have difficulty accessing the movies!



KISELO GATHERINGS RESUME

KiSeLo, the church women's group focused on Kindness, Service, and Love, will begin holding regular monthly meetings at 1:00 pm on **Wednesday, September 22**, after a long hiatus for COVID-19. Typical meetings include a dessert made and served by a team of hostesses, but this meeting will feature a dessert potluck, with members asked to bring a dessert to share. The hostesses will serve the treats from a buffet table.

The program will be catching up with old friends and possibly making new ones, with ice breaker questions to facilitate conversation! We hope that folks who haven't attended meetings before will join us. Bring a friend!
Deb Lyons, KiSeLo President

NEW MEMBER CLASSES FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Because of Covid we didn't hold classes for new members last year. If you're interested in joining or would simply like to learn more about CCC, please join us for these two classes, **Sunday, October 17 & 24** following worship. We'll be upstairs in Room 302 (which is a very large classroom). Please speak to Pastor Rich for more information

CCC COMMITTEES AT WORK

LOOKING FOR NEW CHOIR MEMBERS

The choirs will be starting up the first Thursday of September with detailed announcements to come. The senior choir welcomes new members and would love to have you join in! If you are new and would like to learn handbells, we are also looking for new members. We would also love to get the junior choir off to a good start this school year. There will be sign-up sheets on Welcome Sunday in Fellowship Hall for the Chancel Choir, Handbell Choir, and Junior Choir. Please consider joining!!

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN NEEDS ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

The Capital Campaign Needs Assessment Committee has been busy compiling a list of possible projects and would like to hear your suggestions for, and reactions to, project ideas. We are holding:

- an in-person meeting after the worship service on **Sunday, September 26** and
- a Zoom meeting on **Wednesday, September 29** at 7:30 pm. The Zoom link for the 29th is:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81262566146?pwd=REJmK0VGNXRtbkNhWmc4T3Zyd0svUT09>
Meeting ID: 812 6256 6146
Passcode: 733710

You also may contact Committee members directly: Chair Christine Williams (Trustees, cdbjwilliams@comcast.com), Secretary Mary Horne (House), Ginnie Hall (at large), Lynn Horton (Council President), Rich Knight (Pastor), Peter Morin (Diaconate)

CREATION CARE

At least 15 members of CCC helped to initiate the establishment of the new town "Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee" in various ways over the past year; either by adding their names to the petition to bring the Climate Resolution to Town Meeting; by adding their names to the Chelmsford Climate Action Team's webpage promoting the Resolution; or by voting to pass the Resolution at June Town Meeting. This is a great example of how individual persons can take action to "care for God's Creation".

Now the town is accepting applications for the new committee. Any resident who is concerned about climate change and wants to help make the world a cleaner, safer and healthier place for our children and grandchildren is encouraged to apply through the town website by September 15th. If you know of any like-minded residents, please pass this information along.

Meanwhile, check out the Creation Care group's new bulletin board at the top of the ramp in Fellowship Hall for other ideas on how to "care for God's Creation". *Julie Carney*

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

News from the August 11, 2021 meeting:

- Council does not hold a meeting in July. A focus of the August meeting is to "wrap up" the church's fiscal year which ended on June 30. Pledged giving and non-pledged offerings received in June were significantly below budget. However, several people have contacted Treasurer Dick Papenfuss about fulfilling their 2020-2021 pledges, and this will be very helpful.
- Committee spending for the year was minimal, and some other line item expenses were below budget. Several areas were over budget due to increased costs. The year ended with a budget deficit of \$1578. (Total income \$313,660; total expenses \$315,238.) A transfer from the Free Cash account will make up the difference, with additional monies going to Benevolences.
- The members of Council approved a "Carry Over Account Policy" written by Dick Papenfuss, church Treasurer, and proposed by the Trustees, to formalize the procedure for church budget surplus funds at the end of a fiscal year.
- A subcommittee of Trustees John Carson and Christine Williams, Church Treasurer Dick Papenfuss, and Council President Lynn Horton, with information gathered by Personnel Committee Chair Arlene

Belleville, proposed salary increases for Pastor Rich Knight, Office Administrator Linn Flint, Church Custodian Juarez Gomes, and Director of Music Tudor Bota, effective July 1, 2021. The Council unanimously approved the motion, which brings our church staff salaries into alignment with other local churches, and represents CCC's appreciation of these individuals who work so diligently for our church family.

- The COVID-19 subcommittee reported that mask-wearing will continue to be required within the church building, except when speaking at the pulpit or lectern in the Sanctuary, taking Communion, or when eating or drinking in Fellowship Hall. CDC and Massachusetts guidelines for indoor and outdoor gatherings will be followed at all times by both the congregation and the groups that use CCC facilities.
- Coffee Hour will resume on Welcome Sunday, September 12. Kelly Hargett will be in charge of Coffee Hour and will coordinate volunteers to host on Sundays.
- The Capital Needs Assessment Committee was established by Council at the May meeting to begin identifying the areas of the church that could be improved through funding raised by a Capital Campaign. The members of this committee are Christine Williams and Alan Wisniewski (Trustees); Lynn Horton (Council); Peter Morin (Diaconate); Mary Horne (House); Dick Papenfuss (Treasurer); Pastor Rich Knight; and Ginnie Hall (General Membership). All committees have been asked to submit suggestions for potential Capital Campaign projects. Congregational input will be sought in the fall.
- Pastor Rich will return to CCC from his sabbatical and vacation on Monday, August 16. He will resume preaching on August 22. Val King, Lillian Began and Lynn Horton have been very glad to work with our sabbatical interim preachers and pastors to our congregation, Rev. Vicki Keene, Susan Clinkenbeard, M.Div., and Kat Wilkes. Thank you to the Deacons, Linn Flint, and the many CCC individuals who have helped to make this summer of worship services and care of each other continue so smoothly.

The next Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at 7:30 pm, 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.

THE HOUSE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN BUSY THIS PAST SUMMER.

1. We've installed a heating cable on the roof of the Christian Education wing to help prevent ice dams and icicles from forming.
2. The stairs at the front entrance to 9 Worthen St. need to be replaced; they have been secured for now, and we're taking quotes on replacing them with granite stairs.
3. The wiring for the cross lighting was damaged by animals and was replaced.
4. The new freezer was found to be left open with ice frozen over the interior. The ice was chipped out. We hope that anyone who uses the freezer or refrigerator will make sure they're fully closed.
5. Timers for outdoor lights and the cross are periodically reset based upon changes in sunlight.
6. The carpets, rugs, and floor mats have been cleaned by Juaréz, and are ready for a new season.
7. Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are checked and replaced as needed.
8. The entrance drive was repaved and a new speed bump was cast in the exit drive.
9. Juaréz is mowing and edging as needed, and doing a great job.
10. The irrigation system is monitored to make sure it's functioning as needed.
11. The chimney in the main church building was rebuilt.
12. As always we make sure the recycling goes to Town Hall and food donations go to The Open Pantry. We're hoping that we will have more donations to The Open Pantry now that we'll all be returning to church.

As cooler weather approaches, we'll be turning our attention to making sure the church is ready for fall. The boiler will be inspected, air conditioners and dehumidifiers will be put back in storage, and storm windows will be pulled back down. Now that we can control the thermostats remotely we can maintain reasonable levels of heat. And, as always, Juaréz will keep our church and church school sparkling clean and sanitized!

The House Committee is participating in the Committee for Capital Needs Assessment.

Please contact me or the church office if you have any concerns or see any issues that need our attention. My contact information is (978) 729-5632 or marywh54@gmail.com. Thank you, Mary Horne

Ministries in Our Church

PRAYER MINISTRY

It is 2021, we are now about to face our new church year. This has always been an exciting time in the church – summer is over, it's September, families return! Please pray that families will be back to church. We will deal with the masks without complaining, and try not to forget about distancing, and unfortunately hugging and shaking hands is a no-no 😊. There will be times when we need to ask God to help us with what we need - sometimes it might be patience, with a bit of love and understanding thrown in, and other times compassion. God, through prayer, will guide you through these times. Our Pastor, Sunday School Teachers, and leaders of the church all need our prayers, it's a different world.

Speaking of a different world, our church folks have found a new norm. Thanks to our Technical group, the church service is livestreamed, and this is a true blessing.

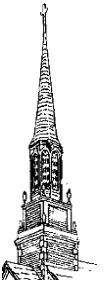
Prayer does work, believe in it, have Faith. If prayer is important in your life, you might wish to become a part of our Prayer Ministry or if you would like us to offer prayers for yourself or someone you know, please contact Dee Freeman, Ginnie Hall or Wendy Perry.

STEEPLE LIGHTING for SEPTEMBER

A Student's Prayer at the Beginning of the School Year

We give you praise, O God, for everything that is new and beautiful, for everything which holds promise and brings us joy. Bless us as we start this new year with our friends and teachers. Help us to make the most of every chance we have to start afresh. May we show love to one another and to all. In your name we pray, Amen. (Author Unknown)

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, and there are many weeks available. Please sign-up on the Sanctuary Committee bulletin board in Fellowship Hall or contact Linn Flint in the church office.



THANK YOU

Thank you for your generous contributions to the Backpack Attack! project. With your supplies and cash, we ended up with a total of 47 backpacks and 10 calculators, which was 2 more backpacks than last year. When I delivered them to the Wish Project, several boys helped unload my car and filled a big bin. Both the adults and teens expressed their many thanks to you! *Lillian Beean*



Thank you for your continued support of the Friends of Troop 74 Giant Yard Sale. We appreciate the use of the church and parking lot as well as the donations. We are also grateful to all of you that stopped by and bought treasures during the sale. The proceeds from this sale are used to purchase and maintain equipment and supplement the cost of camping trips and outings.

MILESTONES

Our sympathies are with Tink Nussbum and family. Tink's husband, William "Bill" Nussbum died on June 23, 2021.

Our dear friend, Laurie Montgomery-College, passed away on June 30th. We hold Rheanna Brown, Richard Brown, and Jean Montgomery and all of Laurie's family in our prayers. A memorial service was held on August 27 at CCC. Memorial donations in Laurie's name may be made to Central Congregational Church or to a local food bank of your choice.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE WEEK

Central Congregational Church, UCC

CCC's Third Annual Summertime "Make a Difference Week" from July 26-30, was a wonderful success! Many thanks to a great planning and leadership team (Carolyn Chapman, Becky Acheson, Lynn Horton, Samantha Shields, April McCarthy, and Pastor Rich), terrific volunteers (especially our teens!), our Bible verse poster-maker, Maddie Morin, Phil Stanway, our Community Garden guide, the awesome MADW kids, and all the members of the church who have supported this effort each year!

We love because God first loved us. 1 John 4:19



More MADW photos on the CCC Facebook page!

FUNDRAISING

SEPTEMBER BAKERY DAY - Sunday, September 19

The July and August "Bakery Days" raised \$140 for CCC, all of which is designated for SAM! (Social Action and Missions) We are very grateful to Chef/Baker Jeremy Williams for his generous support of SAM **and** for his culinary expertise!

Our next "Bakery Day" is **Sunday, September 19** with a pre-order deadline of **Thursday, 9/16/21**.

September Menu by pre-order is Chicken Stew \$15 (\$5 donated to SAM) 1 QT container: Roast chicken, potatoes, carrots, peas

Sunday Bake Sale! You may choose from a selection of baked goods on the day of the sale, or have your choice of any item by placing a pre-order (see the complete Dessert/Baked Goods menu at <http://www.thedogoodkitchen.com>)

Pre-order Pick up and the Bake Sale will be at 11 am in Fellowship Hall after the worship service on Sunday, 9/19/21. Home delivery is also available! Ask Lynn Horton about special delivery arrangements!

Place your order for Baked Pastries or Chicken Stew directly with Jeremy. Payment is due upon delivery. Please share this opportunity with local friends and family!! Questions? Contact Lynn Horton <Lynn@terpsoft.com> or Jeremy Williams <thedogoodkitchen@gmail.com>

SEPTEMBER DINING TO DONATE - 110 GRILL MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021 – 11:30 AM TO 9:00 PM

This Dining to Donate is available for dine-in or take-out. See the 110 Grill menu online at <https://www.110grill.com/chelmsford-ma> or visit the restaurant at 116 Chelmsford Street, Chelmsford. Reservations are recommended. Be sure to bring the flyer (on the last page) to ensure CCC will receive a 10% donation on your order! Donations apply to Eat-In Take Out (call in the order 978-256-2777) but not on-line orders.

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

Thank you for supporting CCC through these dining fundraisers! In July the Chili's event raised \$60!



We are happy to report that even through the summer and prolonged pandemic, our congregation has continued to utilize AmazonSmile when they shop! Using AmazonSmile supports CCC every time you buy on Amazon by donating a percentage of the purchase to the church!

Here are some recent numbers:

In the first 20 days of August, our supporters made 20 purchases! An average of one per day!

In July 2021, 102 purchases were made that supported CCC.

Over 48 unique Amazon accounts have made purchases! Is yours one of them?

And, the program has donated over \$875 to the church so far!

If you have been using AmazonSmile then Thank You! Keep using the service when making your purchases! If you haven't yet tried Amazon or AmazonSmile, please consider it. And let friends and family know that they can designate CCC as their preferred charity using AmazonSmile as well!

To use AmazonSmile simply check-out from the web site <https://smile.amazon.com/> and be sure to designate Central Congregational Church of Chelmsford as your charity!

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!



110 Grill

110 Cares

110 Grill will
donate

10%

of your food &
non-alcoholic
beverage
purchase

Visit us and support

Cause:

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Time:

Location:

110 Grill Chelmsford
116 Chelmsford Street - Chelmsford, MA 01824

Present this to your server

Dine-in and takeout. Does not apply to online ordering.

More info: www.110grill.com



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

September 2021

Welcome Sunday!

Sunday, September 12 at 10 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"

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		
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.sneucc.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 August 31, 2021.