

Central Congregational Church

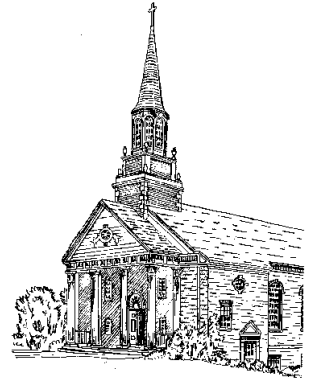
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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Rev. Dr. Richard B. Knight, Pastor
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Rev. Dr. John A. Zachry, Pastor Emeritus



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

Tuesday, November 30, 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

Christmas Tree Arrival

Our Christmas tree order has left Nova Scotia, Monday at 4:00 PM. This means our trees will arrive between 9:30 and 10:00 AM Wednesday morning. We need as many of you as possible to come help unload the trees and get them drilled and set up on the stand. Use the online sign up on the church website to sign up to sell. Now that we know we will have trees, we need to get the sales slots filled. Friday, Saturday and Sunday are currently vacant and need to be filled. This will be an important week end to get back on track.
Dick Papenfuss

Here's What's Happening!

Worship this Sunday with Holy Communion 10:00 am

This Sunday is the Second Sunday of Advent, the season of the church year that prepares us for Christmas. We'll light the Candle of Peace! It's also a service of holy communion. You may bring your own bread and juice or use the pre-filled cup that we'll provide. We ask that folks mask up for the service to make things as safe as possible. *However, if you find yourself having trouble breathing, please pull your mask down to get some air, or step out into the narthex, downstairs or outside for a breather.* Our services will continue to be livestreamed. Here are the links: [Facebook Live](#). [YouTube Live](#).

Our Church Nursery will re-open this Sunday!

We're pleased to re-open our nursery during worship this Sunday! Our new Nursery Coordinator is Jennifer Hart. Jennifer comes with quite a bit of experience working with young children, and she's a mother of three of her own! A sign-up sheet will be posted outside the nursery for volunteers to serve with Jennifer on Sunday mornings.

Help Needed with Live Streaming!

We are looking for one or two more people to help with live streaming. We'd like to set up a

rotation and also have a couple folks available as alternates in case somebody gets sick. If you are interested, please contact Joe Chapman at joe.chapman@cccchelmsford.org

Outdoor Sunday School

If you've not registered your child for Sunday School please do so at: <https://forms.gle/71i3k5KNKB5WCfgr8>. As always if you have any questions, please email me at carolyn.chapman@cccchelmsford.org

Revelation Wrap-Up - this Thursday at 10 am

On Thur. Dec. 2 we'll be wrapping up our study of the Book of Revelation. We'll discuss major themes and watch a short video that shows the island of Patmos and John's beloved city of Ephesus. You're most welcome to jump in with us! We're meeting online via Zoom and in-person in Rm 202 at the church.

Join Zoom Meeting - Thur. Dec. 2, 10 am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89099939637?pwd=SE50UzlrVjlHeGRtVGliTzI3dlg4Zz09>

Meeting ID: 890 9993 9637

Passcode: Bible

Child Sponsorship Program In North Chelmsford

The Congregational Church of North Chelmsford is holding a program Dec. 3-5 for folks who'd like to learn more about sponsoring a child through Compassion International. Over the past 30+ years, I (Pastor Rich) have sponsored several children through Compassion International and have found it incredibly meaningful and rewarding. They make a difference in children's lives all over the world. This experiential program, entitled "The Compassion Journey: Kevin's Story," is designed to introduce the challenges of extreme poverty and how Compassion intervenes. It's not a 3-day event. You simply sign up for a time slot during one of those days. For more information, go to: <https://journey.compassion.com/events/259>

Poinsettia Sale

The Sanctuary Committee is selling poinsettias to beautify the sanctuary for Christmas. There will be a table set up in Fellowship Hall on Sundays, December 5 and 12 to sign up to purchase one. The cost this year is again \$12.00. If you are unable to make it to church on those Sundays, you may contact Elizabeth Hartigan at 978-649-2427 or at hartigans@gmail.com to place your order and provide your dedication. There will be 25 poinsettias available for sale. *Dick Papenfuss for the Sanctuary Committee*

This Year's Christmas Concert is Sun Dec. 12!

You are cordially invited to this year's Christmas concert entitled, "A *Christmas Blessing*," on Sunday, December 12 at 3:00 p.m. The program features soloists Philip Lima, baritone, Karl Orvik, violinist, our Handbell and Sanctuary Choirs, and Tudor Bota, pianist and music director. Masks are required. The concert will include a freewill offering and a light reception following the concert in Fellowship Hall.

Secret Santa Update 2021

The online sign up is ready on the church website under "Make A Difference."

<https://www.cccchelmsford.org/secret-santa/>

As of November 28, there is only one gift left to claim. Because of your generosity, 30 local children will have wonderful surprises Christmas morning. Thank you in advance for bringing your labeled wrapped gift to church by Sunday December 12. Please see any SAM member with questions or our church website. *Sincerely, Your Social Action Committee with Cindy Bruetsch*

Also on the Calendar:

Confirmation Classes - Sun. Dec. 5 & 19 following worship

Advent and Christmas Services

Sunday, Dec. 5	Advent II, The Candle of Peace, Holy Communion
Sunday, Dec. 12	Advent III, The Candle of Joy, Christmas Concert – 3 pm
Sunday, Dec. 19	Advent IV, The Candle of Love, Children’s Christmas Pageant
Friday, Dec. 24	Christmas Eve 5:00 pm Family Candlelight Service, 35-40 min. 7:00 pm Traditional Candlelight Service, 45-50 min. 11:00 pm Traditional Candlelight Service, 45-50 min.
Sunday, Dec. 26	The First Sunday of Christmastide

Stay well. Stay safe. Stay connected.

Linn Flint
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Office Hours: Monday thru Friday from 9 am to 1 pm