

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

VOLUME 66 NUMBER 11

DECEMBER 2021



“A Christmas Blessing”

Central Congregational Church, UCC

Presents a Christmas Concert

Featuring Philip Lima, Baritone

Karl Orvik, Violinist

Handbells and Choir

Tudor Bota, Pianist & Director

Sunday, December 12, 2021

3:00 PM

All are invited. Masks required.

Freewill Offering

Light reception after concert.



Central Congregational Church, UCC
1 Worthen Street, Chelmsford, MA
978-256-5931

Knight Lines *Advent is for New Beginnings*

It's now clear to us all that there won't be a sudden end to Covid 19. We're going to come out of this slowly and tentatively. But slow and steady generally wins the race. If you're feeling like you're ready to venture out again, Advent is the perfect time to do it. On the liturgical calendar, Advent is actually the start of a new church year. So it's a great time to make a new start. In addition to our Sunday morning services for the Four Sundays of Advent, we'll restart some great CCC traditions, such as our Christmas Concert on Sun. Dec. 12 and the Christmas Pageant on Sun. Dec. 19. On Christmas Eve, we'll once again offer three services – 5:00 pm, 7:00 pm, and 10:00 pm. This format should provide ample seating and spacing throughout the sanctuary. I hope to see many of you this Advent and Christmas!



Let's Talk

I'm having shoulder surgery for a torn rotator cuff on Dec. 29. I'm told this will put me out of commission for 2-3 weeks. So, if you've been wanting to talk, let's get together soon! I've been meeting with folks in the church parlor. It's larger than my office and has windows to crack for circulation. So please contact me if you'd like to chat.

*Serving the Prince of Peace with You,
Pastor Rich*

Greetings CCC Family and Friends,

My name is Jennifer Hart and I will be the Nursery Coordinator on Sunday Mornings starting December 5. I live in Dracut and started attending your services when you had Drive-in Church and have continued to enjoy your services on Facebook, usually in the parking lot while my son is enjoying your Sunday School Program.

My husband married his high school sweetheart in 1992. We have three boys, Cj, he is 24 years old and lives in Washington State, were I am from; John, he is 19 years old and live with us and works at an iron works shop in Rowley; and Lucas, he is 12 years old and has been enjoying your Holy Cows group since the spring of 2020.

I have a degree in Elementary Education and taught in an elementary school in St. Louis, Missouri. When we moved to Wernersville Pennsylvania, where our youngest was born, I was a tutor for middle school and high school students. I have worked in other church nursery schools, taught Sunday School, worked as staff at overnight camps and day camps and directed both.

I would love your help in playing with and reading to the children of CCC. I would like to have a Volunteer for each Sunday and there are Sunday's that I will need someone to take my place in the Nursery as I will be away. You can find a signup sheet outside of the Nursery. I know I will not be available on these Sundays: December 26, January 2, February 20 and 27. There may be a couple other Sunday's that I will need to pick up Lucas from a Scout Outing, but I don't have the dates confirmed right now.

*Blessed Be,
Jennifer Hart*

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

CONFIRMATION CLASS BEGINS SUN. DEC. 5

This year's class will be made up of 8th and 9th graders. We'll hold our first classes **Sundays, Dec. 5 & 19** following worship. For more information, contact Pastor Rich. The classes are led by Pastor Rich and Bonnie McGrath. Bonnie will lead the classes in January during Pastor Rich's recovery from shoulder surgery.

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*

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>

KiSeLo – Kindness, Service, Love

We invite all women of the church to join us on **Wednesday, December 15** for our monthly meeting. *Our meetings are not the same without you!* Come to Fellowship Hall at 1:00 p.m. and be treated to a delicious dessert and coffee or tea served by Shirley Zachry and Carol Engel. The program for the afternoon will be a Christmas ornament swap. Please bring an ornament to trade. It may be one that you bought for the occasion, one that has hung on your tree, or one that you created yourself. Please bring coffee, tea, cocoa, or any non-perishable food items for donation to the Open Pantry. If you have any questions, please contact me at 978-930-6830. *Deb Lyons, President*

DECEMBER MOVIE GROUP "WATCH PARTIES"

The CCC Movie Group is open to all! We will be watching the December movies together! **Join the Zoom at 6:30 pm on Monday 12/13 and/or 12/27.** Group discussion will follow each movie; this is optional.

Monday, 12/13 – It Happened on 5th Avenue (1947)

Hobo Aloysius T. McKeever (actor Victor Moore) has made a career out of breaking into mansions and living like a king while the owners are away. His solo act starts to include others who are homeless due to the housing shortage following WWII. Eventually there are eight living in the 5th Avenue mansion of the second richest man in the world, Michael J. O'Connor (actor Charles Ruggles), who is wintering in the South. Soon the millionaire himself pretends to be in need of a home – at the insistence of his lovely young daughter (Mary, played by Ann Harding) who has fallen for one of the squatters, Army veteran Jim Bullock. (Actor Don DeFore, also remembered as 'Mr. B' from "Hazel.") Also included in the film, actor Alan Hale, Jr. in a non-goofy role that is light-years from "Gilligan's Island." "It Happened on 5th Avenue" is a sweet and whimsical film perfect for the holiday season.



Monday, 12/27 – White Christmas (1954)

Sisters Betty and Judy Haynes misunderstand the motives of Bob Wallace and Phil Davis when they arrange a special variety show at the struggling Vermont ski lodge of their old wartime commander, General Waverly. (Played by Rosemary Clooney, Vera-Ellen, Bing Crosby, Danny Kaye and Dean Jagger, respectively.)

Fun Fact #1: Despite not being able to read or write music, and being incapable of composing in any key but F#, Irving Berlin knew from the moment he completed the song 'White Christmas' that he had written an enduring standard.

Fun Fact #2: Donald O'Connor was to have partnered Bing Crosby, but O'Connor broke his leg and had to be replaced by Danny Kaye for the comic side-kicking.

Fun Fact #3: Paramount introduced VistaVision to the public at Radio City Music Hall on October 14, 1954, with its first film shot in the process, "White Christmas."

(Information for movie descriptions found on IMDB web site.)



CALLING ALL SCOUTS!

Sunday, January 30th is Scout Sunday and we need your help. Any Scout BSA, Cub Scout, Girl Scout, Brownie, or Daisy interested in being part of the church service, please contact Gwen Bottomley at gwen.bottomley@gmail.com. Positions available include: ushers, readers, front and back door greeters, and offering ushers.

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

CCC COMMITTEES AT WORK

YOUR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE WISHES YOU

A MEANINGFUL ADVENT SEASON THIS YEAR.

The Church youth have had a busy fall. We have remained outdoors as weather has permitted which has allowed us to take advantage of this glorious fall and God's creation. We have focused on learning more about the Bible; how it continues to speak to us today as well as how it is organized and how to find the verses we are discussing.

We had a successful Make a Difference Day with many children staying after Church to create cards, dog treats and play toys for the Humane Society of Lowell, and picking up trash along the bike path, and cleaning and winterizing the garden. Thank you to all who participated! Special thank you to Ms. Carolyn Chapman who, as our CE Chair, conducted a beautiful Bible Sunday ceremony where our Preschool and Fourth Grade students were presented with Bibles from the Church.

Along with Pastor Rich, Ms. Carolyn also helped to organize all that was necessary for our First Communicants to make bread together at Worthen on a Saturday afternoon. While their bread was baking, Pastor Rich met with the First Communicants – our 4th and 5th graders – to help them understand the significance of Communion in our Faith. It was a beautiful and meaningful weekend for those children and their families.

This November we also continued our Covid tradition of taking a Sunday School hike. We went to Thanksgiving Forest in Chelmsford to see what we could learn from the animals we see there:

“But ask the beasts, and they will teach you; the birds of the heavens, and they will tell you; or the bushes of the earth, and they will teach you; and the fish of the sea will declare to you. Who among all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this?” Job 12: 7-9.

On Sunday, November 28, we celebrated the Advent Festival with crafts, carols, and candles. On December 19, the youth will be retelling the Nativity during the service. We are wishing you all a meaningful season of Advent and a Merry Christmas.



Sunday, December 19 at 10 a.m. during worship

THE HOUSE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN WORKING HARD!

Our Committee includes Julie Carney, Jim Clark, Bill Clarke, Scott Dorman, Mary Horne, Tim O'Brien, and John Wellman. We all contribute in different ways according to our skill sets, and we sure have been working hard the last few months.

The House Committee continues to address issues in both the main church and 9 Worthen Street. New granite stairs and rails have replaced the broken wooden stairs at the entrance to 9 Worthen. A new sill has been added to the rear entrance door. We will also plan work needed on the chimney and roof as there is a split between the roof and the chimney, which is crumbling down.

Squirrels built a nest under a few solar panels, intertwining with the mesh on the bottom side of the panels. We're working to get Sunbug out to assess the damage to the panels and replace if needed. Two diseased trees on the Carson Park side of the house were giving the squirrels access to the roof, and those trees have been taken down. Additionally, the septic vent on 9 Worthen has been fixed.

Milltown Plumbing did the annual work on the boiler in the main church, and it is working fine. Insulation was laid down in the attic above the parlor. A water leak around the septic vent was noted at the time the insulation was installed; it has been decided that professional repair is needed. So roofers will address both the main church and 9 Worthen. Juaréz has stripped and waxed the floors in the kitchen and Fellowship Hall. We're aware of a problem with the new freezer, and we will call the vendor after the Thanksgiving holiday weekend. Until then we'll just keep chipping ice out of it.

The House Committee joins with Trustees in the Property Condition Assessment that is ongoing as part of the first stage of the Needs Assessment by the Capital Campaign Committee.

Seasonal work for both mowers and the snowblower has been completed. We feel that the Committee can address snow removal this winter. Of course, if anyone cares to join us we would greatly appreciate it.

There have been a lot of leaks in bathrooms that are fixed nearly immediately. Recycling is done biweekly, and Open Pantry donations are taken in weekly. Especially during the holidays, we ask that people donate generously to The Open Pantry.

As always, if you see anything that needs attention from the Committee, please let Linn in the church office know or contact Mary Horne at 978-729-5632 or marywh54@gmail.com

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

News from the November 10, 2021 meeting:

- Pledged giving increased significantly in October and is now “on target” for the year-to-date at 33% of budget. Non-pledged offerings increased slightly during the month but are \$3,251 behind budget and last year’s numbers. Drive-In church attendees boosted unpledged giving in 2020. This budget line item may be reviewed and adjusted in January if holiday worship attendance does not increase the non-pledged offerings. We received the second of four quarterly SREC (Solar Renewable Energy Credits) income checks, this one being the biggest of the year as it includes the summertime solar energy generation.

- The Trustees presented proposed amendments to sections of the three CCC documents: Constitution, OPM (Organizational Practices Manual), and the Policies and Procedures Manual. Highlights include:
 - Constitution, Article X - Property and Finance, paragraph 3: Amend the amount of money that may be expended from the Remembrance Fund by the Trustees, without necessitating a Council vote, from \$1000 to \$5000. Remove the designation of the Remembrance Fund as a Trust Fund, thus allowing the earnings and principal of the Remembrance Fund to be expended. **Proposed changes approved by Council, to be brought to the Church membership for a vote at Annual Meeting.**
 - OPM - John R. Carson Memorial Park Committee: Revise wording of Section 5a - Funding - to correctly denote that funding to the Park shall include an annual allotment from the Total Return of the Endowment Fund. **Approved by Council.**
 - OPM - Music Committee: Add a new Section 4 q. to designate the Music Committee as the overseers of the Music Special Account. Re-letter the subsequent items in Section 4 accordingly. **Approved by Council.**
 - OPM - Board of Trustees: Revise Section 4 a. to align with the proposed amendments to the Constitution (above). **Approved by Council.**
 - OPM - Treasurer: Clarify designations of several accounts in Section 3 - Special Accounts. **Approved by Council.**
 - Policies and Procedures Manual - Policy 4. Trust Funds: Revise wording in each Trust Fund to reflect practice of using the Total Return of each Fund as available money for expenditure, following appropriate CCC guidelines. **Approved by Council.**
 - Policies and Procedures Manual - Policy 4. Trust Funds: Remove the designation of "Trust Fund" from the Lewis Memorial Scholarship Fund and the Carson Memorial Park Trust Fund. **Proposed changes approved by Council, to be brought to the Church membership for a vote at Annual Meeting.**
- Members of the Capital Needs Assessment Committee have visited several CCC committees and groups to seek input and ideas on potential projects. The Committee will work to gather cost estimates for the many proposals that have been received to date and present these findings to the church membership. A church-wide "ranking" of the proposed projects will be an upcoming step in the process.
- 9 Worthen Street steps and storage updates: The granite steps have been installed and look great! The railings have yet to be installed. Several people have worked to clean up and organize the spaces on all four levels of 9 Worthen. Much progress has been made!
- The Annual Holiday Fair and Christmas Tree fundraisers are coming soon, as is the SAM (Social Action and Mission) Secret Santa Gift Program.
- Reminder - All committees and individuals who plan to use CCC meeting spaces are requested to contact Linn Flint, Office Administrator, before scheduling any meeting to check on room availability. If you are planning a Zoom meeting, please let Linn know so that it will be printed in the Sunday bulletin's calendar. Thank you!

The next Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 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.

CHURCHES SHOULD INFORM MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSAL CHARITABLE TAX DEDUCTION FOR 2021

Late last year, Congress extended and expanded the universal charitable tax deduction that became law as part of the CARES Act. This deduction now allows individual taxpayers to deduct up to \$300 and couples filing jointly and married to deduct up to \$600 in charitable contributions made in 2021. For many people, this restores the deduction for charitable contributions they benefitted from prior to the 2017 Tax Cut and Jobs Act (TCJA).

To qualify, charitable donations must be: 1) in cash, not property (a "cash" donation includes money contributed by cash, check, credit card, electronic funds transfer, or payroll deduction), and 2) given to a 501(c)(3)

nonprofit, charitable organization, such as a religious organization like your local church, the SNEUCC, and/or the national setting of the UCC.

Importantly, this universal deduction is used to calculate one's Adjusted Gross Income (AGI), so taxpayers **don't have to itemize** their deduction on Schedule A to claim it. Instead, taxpayers can simply enter their qualifying amount on line 10b on page 1 of their Form 1040, then deduct it from their gross income. There is no requirement that taxpayers provide any documentation for their contributions with their tax returns. However, the IRS does require that taxpayers keep a written record of the cash contributions. For cash donations under \$250, donors can use a bank record or other documentation that substantiates the payment. For cash donations above \$250, the donor must have a document or timely receipt from the charity, for example, the church.

Because of the TCJA, it is estimated that approximately 90% of Americans now choose to take the standard deduction instead of itemizing, and thereby are unable to deduct their charitable contributions. While tax deductibility is generally not the primary reason why people make charitable contributions and/or how much they give, it can be a consideration.

Item #3 in the *Taxpayer Bill of Rights* states, "Taxpayers have the right to pay only the amount of tax legally due..." With this extension and expansion of the universal charitable deduction, individuals filing a tax return for 2021 have a right to claim up to \$300 (\$600 for a couple filing married and joint) in charitable contributions they make, including those made to the church, and thus reduce their taxable income.

I urge our churches to inform their members and friends of this tax change so that they can avail themselves of it when they file their 2021 tax return. Although there is legislation pending to both expand and extend this universal charitable deduction, its future is unclear. Hence, this may be the last year it is available.

David Cleaver-Bartholomew

From Your Social Action and Missions Committee



Secret Santa 2021 is well underway. The program had an early online start this year thanks to the efforts of Bryan Norman, Joe Chapman and Sherm Horton.

The link is under "Make a Difference" on the CCC website. 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.

Our Ellen Kunkel provided wonderful information about the start of the program in 1989 by Carol Cleven, her close friend:

Carol Cleven was an active member of CCC and a long-standing SAM member, right up until she died. (I used to drive Carol to SAM meetings in her later years.) Carol knew the Chelmsford High School nurse, who had developed and orchestrated the Secret Santa program for several years. So, Carol adapted/adopted the program for CCC! She was a mover and a shaker, for certain. She served on the School Committee for many years and was the State Representative for Chelmsford & Carlisle for at least 2 terms, with many friends "on both sides of the aisle," as they say. Carol died in March 2015. This year will be the 32nd year of CCC's Santa campaign. I worked on many of her campaigns.

Thank you, Ellen, Carol, and our generous church family, for brightening Christmas for 30 local families.

Sincerely, Your SAM committee with Cindy Bruetsch

LOST AND FOUND ITEMS

If you or your child is missing a clothing item, you may wish to look in the "coat room" at the back of Fellowship Hall. Several jackets, sweatshirts, and other garments have been lingering on the coat rack. Unclaimed items will be donated to the Lowell Wish Project in early January. *Thank you! Lynn Horton*

Ministries in Our Church

CHRIST CARE

The Monday evening ChristCare group will be meeting via Zoom on **Monday, December 6 at 7:00 p.m.** We will be discussing chapter two of Liturgy of the Ordinary. At our last meeting, we read chapter one and enjoyed a wonderful discussion of waking up and baptism. Who knows what we will learn from one another this time? Without a doubt, we will be warmed by our time together. Please contact Deb Lyons with any questions or to get the Zoom link to join the group. *Deb Lyons*

PRAYER MINISTRY

The Prayer Ministry was started many years ago by a small group of women who believed that group prayer could bring comfort, healing, and strength to those in the congregation. When it first began it was called the Prayer Chain. There was a list of people who were part of the “chain” and the requests were made to the first person on the list who would call the next person on the list and so forth. One of the people at the top of the list (for many reasons) was Ginnie Hall. The other was Dee Freeman. After all these years Ginnie has decided to pass the torch to me, and although she continues to be a vital part of the prayer ministry, she has chosen to step aside as the person at the top. Let me just say that no one can write a prayer like Ginnie. It is heartfelt and divinely inspired. If Ginnie has written a prayer for you, you are familiar with her eloquence and her strong faith. Ginnie’s written prayer requests will be greatly missed by those of us in the Prayer Ministry. But we know that her love and support for each member of CCC is always available and she will continue to be a blessing to us all!

Every day I read from a prayer booklet I subscribe to called “Upper Room.” The daily readings help me pray for others and give me a focus for the day. Recently I read one titled “Please Pray For Me.” The author told about a time she went into the bank and the teller was complaining of leg trouble. Right then and there, they prayed together for relief from pain. The author included the following prayer at the end of the reading:

“Our Father in heaven, thank you for the privilege of prayer. May we never miss an opportunity to pray for others. Amen.” *Leigh Sayers*

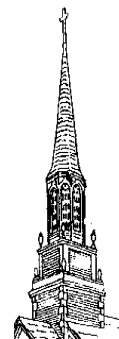
The CCC Prayer Ministry does not want to miss an opportunity to pray for those who ask. If you wish to be a part of the Prayer Ministry or have prayer requests for yourself or others, please contact: Wendy Perry, wperry39@comcast.net or Daphne Freeman, uklady446@yahoo.com *Wendy Perry*

STEEPLE LIGHTING

We light Our Steeple on December 12 for Karen and George Banakos who are celebrating their 49th anniversary. They were married at CCC!

We light Our Steeple on December 19 with Happy Birthday wishes to Julie and on December 26 with Happy Birthday wishes to Cameron from Jean Montgomery.

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

We would like to thank the CCC congregation and Prayer Ministry for your thoughts, prayers, and cards at this difficult time of our dear sister Helena’s passing. We appreciate and give thanks for the caring expressions, concern, and support you have provided during her battle with cancer.

Peace be with you. Dirk and Renee Zwart

MILESTONES

Our longtime friend, Fred Tustin, passed away on November 10. He was 94 years old, a gentleman with a kind heart and a 63-year marriage to his beloved Kelly. We hold Kelly and the family in our prayers.

On Sunday, November 21, we baptized Brooke Paige Cotto. Brooke is the first child of Allison Jaynes-Cotto and Phillip Cotto. She was born on August 26, 2021. Brooke is the granddaughter of Jean McGillick.

WE WELCOMED NEW MEMBERS ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Carol Grezeszak currently lives in Chelmsford, but will be moving to Pennsylvania. She is retired and enjoys reading about history, traveling, and being creative. She attended CCC in 1960 for several years, but then moved away. Carol says that CCC is a Family Church with an excellent Pastor, loving attention to children of all ages, lots of activities, devotion to helping and caring for others. A KiSeLo member said to Carol, "It's what we do!"

Donna Todd learned about CCC from Jean Montgomery. She finds CCC to be a community of like-minded Christian people. In her retirement, Donna enjoys biking, walking, and attending the Thursday morning Bible study.

Ben Wilkes joined CCC last March, but not before the congregation. He searched for an "Open and Affirming" church. Ben loves the tradition mixed with good work in the world. He is a second year student at the Boston University School of Theology and is beginning the "discernment" process in preparation for ordination in the UCC.

CCC HOLIDAY FAIR 2021 WONDERFULLY FAMILIAR, AND YET DELIGHTFULLY DIFFERENT!

One thing to be said for the on-going Covid-19 pandemic, it challenges us to think in creative new ways! In 2020 we held a scaled-back version of the Central Congregational Church Holiday Fair – completely outdoors! Hurray! We learned that was possible! This year we held a hybrid version of the Fair, with the Books Tables outdoors, the Crafts, Plants, and Bake Sale Tables indoors in Fellowship Hall, and the Silent Auction both on the Stage and on-line! It was cheering to see the festive holiday table covers back in place, and the table signs hanging from the ceiling. Once again it looked like a real CCC Holiday Fair! Many thanks to our Table Chairpersons, Deb Lyons (Books), Karen Papenfuss (Crafts), Dory Toppan (Baked Goods), and Helen Glinos, Carol Engel and Pat Vondal (Plants) for their leadership and optimism!

The Silent Auction had a record 65 items available for bidding! Marcia Cassidy and your Fair Chair were glad to be back on the Stage this year, (it is perilous to display glass and pottery items on slanted tables in the parking lot!) The awesome on-line feature of the Silent Auction was made possible by Sherm Horton and his technical wizardry. Thank you to all the generous donors and eager bidders for making the Silent Auction a huge success!

What can I say about the spectacular Shirley Zachry? She came to me and said, "I'm thinking of offering coffee and homemade breakfast treats at the Fair in the morning," and so the Breakfast Café was born! Shirley prepared and baked each delicious muffin, cinnamon roll, and doughnut, and I think we'd all agree that this is an addition to the Fair that we NEED again next year! Thank you, Shirley, and your kitchen crew, and thanks to Jessie Buchanan for taking care of café order slips and payments.

Our guest vendors offered an array of interesting options and were a welcome addition to the Fair as well! Many thanks to our returning sellers Anne Washington (Anne's Hands Earrings & Gifts), Becky Wisniewski (Rebecca Harriet Jewelry), Dick Papenfuss (Pappy's Pens), and Jeremy Williams (The Do Good Kitchen), and to our newest vendors Paul and Barbara Sampson (Wooden It Be Nice Woodworking and homemade soaps), Keith Moore (Keith's Leather Goods), and Susan Clinkenbeard (Susan's Vintage Books and What Nots). These vendors brought a fresh excitement to Fellowship Hall, and we invite them to join us again next year!

Our CCC youth volunteered over the four days before, during, and after the Fair! The Holy Cows set up Fellowship Hall on Thursday night, and the God Squad moved tables, boxes of books, and worked outdoors all of Saturday. Thank you for your energy and friendly help whenever you were asked to do a task! Many thanks to their tireless adult leaders as well!

So many hands, hearts and minds worked together to make the 2021 CCC Holiday Fair possible, and my sincere thanks and immeasurable gratitude go to all of the CCC members and friends who participated. Thank you to the entire congregation for your prayers and encouragement, your donations and your purchases. I extend

an extra word of thanks to the following individuals and families who especially helped by sharing their time, treasure, and talents:

Becky and Bennett Acheson, Arlene Belleville, Monique Billingsley, Tudor Bota, Don Brigham, Cindy Bruetsch, Cynthia Bryant, Jessie Buchanan, Therese Burdo, Judy Buswick, Julie Carney, John & Linda Carson, Marcia Cassidy, Linda Catalano, Carolyn and Lily Chapman, Susan Clinkenbeard, Jody Cross-Hansen, Margie Dissinger, The Dorman Family, Shirley Eaton, Carol Engel, Linn Flint, Tonya Frenette, Kathy & Mark Gaphardt, Helen, Jim and Stephen Glinos, Ginnie Hall, The Hargett Family, Jen and Lucas Hart, The Hartigan Family, Hayley & Sherman Horton, The Houde Family, Jay Hungate, Beth Jarok, Gale Kenyon, Mrs. Kinne, Val King, Pastor Rich, Alisa and Maddie Knight, Ellen & Bruce Kunkel, Heather Landheim, Barbara Lea, Kathy Lueck, Deb, Elmer and Hunter Lyons, Christine McNamara, Jean Montgomery, Keith Moore, Doris Moore, The Naish Family, Hannelore Nalesnik, Karen & Dick Papenfuss, Ray Peterson, Wendy Piacenza, Judy Saba, Paul & Barbara Sampson, Sue Sarafinas, Samantha Shields, Lora Strobel, Karin Theodoros, Virginia Timmins, Dory Toppan, Jackie Urban, Janine Viarella, Pat Vondal, Anne Washington, Jeremy Williams, Rebecca Wisniewski, Shirley and John Zachry. (Apologies to anyone I failed to mention by name.)

A special note of gratitude to dear Daphne Freeman and the beloved late Nancy Parker Clark - we miss the "Jewelry Ladies" and we will always remember the special talents of Nancy and Dee in assessing, cleaning, pricing and displaying the pieces for sale at the Jewelry Table each year. Perhaps will have a return of this popular offering at a future Fair, no doubt led by the CCC friends of Nancy and Dee who learned so much by working with these two special ladies.

And in case you were wondering, in addition to the fun and fellowship made possible by the Fair, we also raised over \$4300 for the annual church budget! *Thank you, CCC Family! Lynn Horton, Your Fair Chair*

"Pay Down Your Pledge" 50/50 Raffle Results

Congratulations to Ray Peterson, winner of this year's raffle! \$100 will be credited to Ray's 2021-2022 Stewardship Pledge, and \$100 goes to the Holiday Fair! Thanks to each person who purchased a ticket! *Lynn Horton*

FUNDRAISING

CHRISTMAS TREE SALE NEEDS YOUR HELP!

The trees are hopefully arriving on Wednesday, Dec. 1. We need volunteers to help virtually any day during December until we are sold out. You can sign up to help on the church website and pick the days you can help and the shifts you can cover. You can also call or email me to let me know what your schedule will allow you to do. I can be reached at dickandkarenp@verizon.net or at 603-577-1497.

The sales hours are Monday through Friday, 2:00 to 8:00 pm; Saturday, 10:00 am to 8:00 pm; and Sunday, 11:00 am to 8:00 pm. Please consider what you can do to help. The more help there is, the less anyone has to do. *Dick Papenfuss and April McCarthy*

DINING TO DONATE

It's "You Decide Dining in December!" This month we will shake things up a bit! You can choose the date and restaurant from the following:

1. The Cheesecake Factory
2. Red Lobster
3. Buffalo Wild Wings
4. McCormick and Schmick's
5. Cracker Barrel
6. P.F. Chang's



Contact Lynn Horton to purchase a \$50 gift card and \$10 from each card will be donated to CCC! Thank you for supporting this monthly fundraiser all through 2021! *Lynn Horton* Lynn@terpsoft.com 978-256-8524

A YEAR OF “BAKERY DAYS”

When it became apparent in November 2020 that our traditional gathering for Apple Pie Baking would not be possible due to Covid-19, a wonderful solution was found. Chef/Baker Jeremy Williams who grew up in CCC (son of Christine and Dale Williams) could prepare apple mini-pies for sale at the 2020 Holiday Fair! Jeremy, owner and baker at “The Do Good Kitchen” in Somerville, MA has a policy of incorporating charitable giving in his sales plan; as he says on his web site, *“The goal of our bakery is to aid the Somerville Homeless Coalition by selling homemade, tasty pastries as a way to help support folks during difficult times. To do a little bit of good.”*

For Central Congregational Church, Jeremy has donated the charitable portion of sales to the Social Action and Mission (SAM) Ministry. After the success of his bake sale at the Fair last year, (in the absence of a CCC Baked Goods Table Jeremy offered macaroons, tarts, hand pies, fruit brumbles, and other pastries in addition to the apple mini-pies) Jeremy offered to continue with similar opportunities to benefit SAM through monthly CCC “Bakery Days.” Savory options were added, with such ready-to-go meals as chicken stew, meatballs and sauce, cacio e pepe, beef stew, and a Valentine’s dinner. The total donation raised for SAM through the Bakery Days that have been held over the past thirteen months is **\$1730!** Thank you to Jeremy Williams for his generosity and excellent food, and thank you to the members of CCC who have supported this fundraiser and SAM!

Jeremy will be taking a break from the CCC Bakery Days in December and January. You may still place a special order directly with Jeremy from the offerings available on his Do Good Kitchen web site. <https://www.thedogoodkitchen.com/> Contact him to make arrangements. (You may need to travel to Somerville to pick up!) Jeremy Williams thedogoodkitchen@gmail.com

It has been my pleasure to brainstorm ideas with Jeremy and to serve as Bakery Day coordinator!

Lynn Horton



The turkey has been consumed. The pies have been devoured. You’ve had your post-Thanksgiving nap. NOW is the time to buckle-down and START SHOPPING!!!!

Christmas is coming – FAST. If you want to wrap up your holiday shopping quickly as well, use AmazonSmile to shop this season! If you have already been using AmazonSmile then Thank You! and remember to keep using the service when ordering online.

If you haven’t yet tried Amazon or AmazonSmile, please consider it. It is an easy way to shop AND generate a bit of extra donation income to the church! It also helps the church to let friends and family know that they too can designate CCC as their preferred charity using AmazonSmile! If you know ANYONE who uses Amazon (and you DO) let them know about AmazonSmile!

To use AmazonSmile simply shop at <https://smile.amazon.com/>. The AmazonSmile site is the SAME as amazon.com but with the added benefit of a portion of your purchase price going to charity! Be sure to designate Central Congregational Church of Chelmsford as your charity!

The church has done well with AmazonSmile this year. We have lots of repeat shoppers in our group! Let’s make this year the best ever – start shopping NOW!

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!



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

December 2021

Please join us for Advent and
Christmas Eve Services

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
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Nursery Coordinator	Jennifer Hart	610-781-2074	5ofHarts@chris-jenn.net
Custodian	Juarez Gomes		
Church Location:	One Worthen Street, Chelmsford, MA		
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