

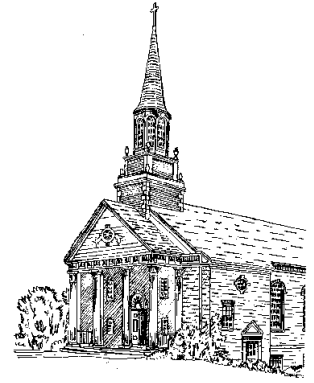
Central Congregational Church

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”

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you to Everyone who made the Capital Campaign Celebration and Appreciation Dinner such a fun time. And special thanks to Pat Vondal for her excellent presentation on her visual history of CCC.

Thank you to the House Committee for getting us shoveled out!

Deadline for the April Beacon newsletter is Monday, March 20 with a mailing/emailing date of March 29.

Savory Day 3/19/23

Our next Savory Day will be held THIS SUNDAY, March 19, during Coffee Hour. Chef Jeremy Williams will be offering two tasty options: Chicken Stew and Guinness Beef Stew. Thank you for supporting SAM (CCC's Social Action and Missions Ministry) through your purchase of these "Ready-to-Heat-and-Eat" meals! Contact Lynn Horton if you have any questions!

Lynn@terpsoft.com (978) 256-8524

KiSeLo: We invite all women of the church to join us for our gathering on **Wednesday, March 22** at 1 pm for dessert, coffee, and tea served by our hostesses. After a brief business meeting, we will be welcoming Anna Kesablyan, a banker, assistant Vice President and financial wellness coach for Worker's Credit Union in Chelmsford. She will be speaking to issues of financial management and wellness for women. This promises to be an informative presentation. We encourage you to bring a non-perishable food item for Open Pantry – March's suggestion is canned fruit. If you have any questions, please contact Deb Lyons (978-930-6830).

Crafters Sale: On **Sunday, March 26**, The Crafters will have a table with Spring and Easter crafts for sale at Coffee Hour. Please stop by and check it out.

CPR/AED training The AED/CPR Hands Only, Friends and Family workshop has been rescheduled to **Tuesday April 4** at 4:30. There is still room in the workshop. Contact Becky Wisniewski at 978-319-0503 or Alan Wisniewski at 978-328-4784 for more information.

Save the Date: April 2, 2023 (Palm Sunday) at 3:00 pm for the Easter Concert presented by the Chancel and Bell Choirs. Our music director, Tudor Bota is conducting the choirs and soloists Silvia Botha, soprano; Joe Chapman, trumpet; and Philip Lima, baritone in music for a holy week celebration. From hosannas for Palm Sunday through an intense but beautiful Stabat Mater to the triumphal music of Easter, you will be immersed in the sounds of classical, gospel, and contemporary music to sooth the soul. Invite all your friends; let's fill the church with joy as we celebrate. There will be a free will offering, and the concert is followed by a reception.

The Music Committee needs your help to produce this concert. We need:

Baked goods for the reception

Ushers to take up the free will offering

Greeters to direct people from the back entrance to the Sanctuary

Some strong Roadies to help the bell choir with their equipment

If you can volunteer with any of these tasks, please contact Beth Jarok 978-256-0764 or email jaro1@verizon.net

KIDS' CLUB

Kids in grades Prek-4 are invited to join us for fellowship, fun, and pizza on **Wednesday, March 29** at 5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall. We will collect \$5 per child at the door. Friends are always welcome! Parents are invited to stay with PreK and Kindergarten children. For 1st through 4th grade children, parents can stay or can drop off. We hope to see you there!! Please contact Samantha Shields, dakster33@gmail.com, with any questions. Please sign-up for Kids Club using the link below. <https://bit.ly/41RT249>

An Old Fashioned Zoom Bible Study - Thursdays at 11 am

Join us as we continue our study of the Book of Acts. No prior Bible knowledge is required.

Time: Jan 26, 2023, 11:00 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88329140184?pwd=eWs0REFodkhoOGp6M3A2ZEdPc0ZGdz09>

Meeting ID: 883 2914 0184

Passcode: Bible

Monday Movie Discussion: 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. Contact Lynn Horton for the Zoom link, if you have questions, or if you have difficulty accessing the movies!

Monday, 3/27 – "Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris" (2022) In 1950s London, a widowed cleaning lady falls madly in love with a couture Dior dress, deciding she must have one of her own. After working to raise the funds to pursue her dream, she embarks on an adventure to Paris that will change not only her own outlook on life, but the lives of all who meet and get to know the warmhearted "Mrs. 'Arris."

Stewardship Update

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.

Our theme for this year's Stewardship Campaign is "Because of you, our church changes lives."

The chair of the Stewardship Committee, Sherman Horton, gave a message during this past Sunday's service and we would encourage anyone who did not attend or watch live to please go to YouTube and watch the recording:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZ22usLVC3c>. The Stewardship message starts at 22:20 and lasts a just 7 minutes.

The Stewardship appeal letters with pledge cards have been mailed out! If you are on the church's postal mailing list, you should be receiving one. If you are not, we would encourage you to visit the church web site at <https://www.cccchelmsford.org/stewardship/>. There you will find a PDF version of the appeal letter and a form you can use to submit your pledge online. It would also be helpful to consider providing the church office with your mailing address if you are interested in receiving this type of communication from the church.

We encourage everyone to start pledging OR to increase their last-years' pledge. We would also ask that all pledge cards and commitments be submitted before Sunday, March 26th. This will assist us in preparing the budget for our next fiscal year ahead of the church's annual meeting, where it will be approved by the congregation.

If you have any questions, please reach out to anyone on the committee or email Sherm at sherm@terpsoft.com.

Thank you for your consideration and God Bless,
CCC Stewardship Committee

Sherman Horton, Becky Wisniewski, Cynthia Dorman, Lindsay Moore, Mark Timmins and Dick Papenfuss

Sunday Worship!

Please join us at 10:00 am for worship. Pastor Rich will be leading the service. Our services will be livestreamed as usual. Here are the links:

[Facebook Live.](#) [YouTube Live.](#)

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed! Please sign up on the Coffee Hour board in Fellowship Hall or text me at 978-319-2574 or email at kelhargett@yahoo.com. Another option is to donate finger foods, such as cheese, crackers, fruit or baked goods and I will serve on that day for them.

Many thanks, Kelly Hargett

Do You Need a Ride to Church? Transportation to Sunday services and other church events is available. **Please call the Church Office at 978-256-5931 before noon on Saturday.** A church deacon will contact you and make the arrangements to drive you to the church.

Our Social Action and Missions Committee is spotlighting One Great Hour of Sharing for the month of March

The United Church of Christ continues to work to care for others and not give up! The theme this year is based on Galatians 6:9-10:

Let's not allow ourselves to get weary in doing good. At the right time, we will harvest a good crop if we don't give up or quit. Right now, therefore, every time we get the chance, let us work for the benefit of all...

Paul wrote these words to us to assure us that God's Spirit is working in us to care for others and not to get tired of giving and helping others.

Wildfires, earthquakes, hurricanes, and flooding have devastated communities in the United States and worldwide, making families and communities in need of food, clothing and housing. The UCC churches with local and global partners continue to provide assistance to those in need.

Thank you for giving and sharing your love and caring for others!

Linn Flint
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