



***“A Community of Faith, Hope, and Love,  
Growing through Worship and Service”***

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## Central Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

*An Open and Affirming Congregation*

Ministers: The Congregation

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Richard B. Knight

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. John A. Zachry

Director of Music/Organist: Tudor Bota

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September 17, 2023

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10:00 o'clock a.m.

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<b>Preludes</b>	<i>“You Are My Hiding Place”</i>	Ledner, arr. Hayes
	<i>“Lamb of God”</i>	Paris, arr. Hayes
<b>Welcome and Announcements</b>		Pastor Rich Knight
<b>Call to Worship</b>	(Based on Mark 4:35-41)	Tim O'Brien

Liturgist: In the midst of life's storms, God is there.

**People:** What have we to fear?

Liturgist: In the darkness and terror, God is with us.

**People:** Of whom shall we be afraid?

Liturgist: Rise up, people of God, for you are safe and you are loved.

**People:** Thanks be to our God!

**ALL:** With heart, soul, mind, and strength, let us worship God!

**\*Opening Hymn** *“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”* #16

### **Opening Prayer** *(seated)*

Mighty God, who speaks a word of peace to calm our troubled sea; Caring God, who nudges us away from fear and toward faith; Ever-present God, who fills us with awe but also raises many questions without easy answers; Open our eyes to see you in our boat – today, strengthen our hearts for the challenges that lie ahead, open our ears this hour to hear the word you speak. This we pray, in the name of him who taught us to pray . . .

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our*

*debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us, not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.*

**\*Hymn of Praise**                      *"Thou Art Worthy "*                      #114

**\*Passing of the Peace of Christ**

Pastor:        The Peace of the Lord be with you.

People:        Also with you.

**A Time for Children of All Ages**                      Pastor Rich

**Introduction to the Offering**                      Tim

**Offertory Anthem**        *"If with All Your Hearts"*                      by Mendelssohn, arr. Sherman  
Chancel Choir

"If with all your hearts you truly seek me, you shall ever surely find me," thus saith our God. (repeat)

Oh! that I knew where I might find him, that I might even come before his presence!

(repeat)

Come before his presence! Oh, that I knew where I might find him!

"If with all your hearts you truly seek me, you shall ever surely find me," thus saith our God.

"You shall ever surely find me," thus saith our God.

**Doxology**                      *"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"*                      #46

*Traditional Lyrics:*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him all creatures here below; Praise him above ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Alternative Lyrics:*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Praise God above ye heavenly host: Creator, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*Prayer of Dedication**                      Pastor Rich

**Hymn**                      *"Be Still My Soul"* (v. 1, 2)                      #566

**Pastoral Prayer**

**The Holy Scriptures**        Mark 4:35-41                      Pew Bibles p. 816

**The Morning Message**    "What to Do (and What Not to Do)  
With the Miracle Stories"                      Pastor Rich

**\*Closing Hymn**                      *"It is Well with My Soul"*                      #561

**\*Benediction and Threefold Amen**

**Postlude:**                      *"Allegro"*                      Marchaux

*You may stay and enjoy the postlude, or you may feel free to leave quietly.*

\*Please rise in body and/or spirit.

**Congregational Meeting**

The warrant for this meeting in on the back of the bulletin insert. The meeting will start at



## WARRANT FOR A SPECIAL MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

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

A Special Meeting of the Central Congregational Church in Chelmsford, United Church of Christ, will be held on Sunday, September 17, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary to act upon the following articles:

**Article 1:** To amend the Lewis Memorial Christian Education Fund as follows:

- a. Remove the requirement that withdrawal can only be made from the Total Return of the Fund,
- b. Remove the requirement that any withdrawal must be matched dollar for dollar from the regular church budget, and
- c. Add the requirement that a maximum amount of \$5,000 may be used each Fiscal Year to hire a trained person or persons (other than the Senior Pastor) to lead young people in Christian Education in Central Congregational Church.

**Article 2:** To transact any other business that may lawfully come before the meeting.

Signed,

*Val King*

Clerk



## Welcome to Central Congregational Church!

**Special Meeting** - There will be a special meeting today at the conclusion of the worship service. Please see this bulletin for the Warrant for a Special Meeting. The meeting will be held in the sanctuary.

### Children

- ✝ Sunday School and nursery care have resumed.
- ✝ Children are always welcome in our services of worship.
- ✝ “Busy Bags” for kids are available in the lobby.

**Today’s Greeters:** Joe, Carolyn, Lily, Alyssa, and Connor Chapman

*Please consider being a greeter to welcome folks to church. Sign up on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall during coffee hour. Thank you.*

**Today’s Nursey Care Volunteer:** Jean Montgomery

*Please sign up to be a nursery care volunteer. We would love to have a volunteer each Sunday. Stop by the nursery after church, talk with Jennifer Hart at Coffee Hour, or call, email, text her.*

**Today’s Altar Flowers:** In appreciation of Betsy White for her service to the Music Ministry of our Church from the CCC Music Committee.

*Altar arrangements can be donated in honor or in memory of someone special. If you’d like donate an arrangement, please sign-up on the board in Fellowship Hall or contact Peggy in the church office. Thank you.*

**Many thanks to those who enrich our morning together.**

## EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS | SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

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Thank you to all who have signed up to volunteer in the nursery, helping us follow our Safe Church Policy. The following Sundays still need a volunteer:

October 15, October 29, November 12, November 19, December 3, December 24, December 31

The sign up for January - June will be coming out in November. You are an amazing Congregation and I thank you for your support of our young families.

~Jennifer Hart, Nursery Coordinator/SS Coordinator

**Preparation for Next Sunday's Sermon** - Pastor Rich will begin a series of messages next Sunday entitled, "One Good News, Four Distinct Views." We'll look at the unique perspective of each of the four gospels, starting next Sunday with Matthew's Gospel. A suggestion: *please try to read Matthew chapters 1-7 this week.*

**Liturgists Needed for Weekly Services.** Please contact: Lynn Horton: Lynn@terpsoft.com | 978-256-8524



**Coffee Hour Signups** - A signup sheet is posted on the coffee hour bulletin board for your convenience. All members are encouraged to sign up for one Sunday.

### Music: Singers, Juniors, and Bell Ringers

**Junior Choir** - Make a joyful noise this fall! Be a junior choir member.

The music committee wants to form a junior choir this fall for young people grades 1-8 who love to sing. Rehearsals will be Sundays at 11:15 - 11:45 AM with Tudor Bota, our music director. Members will be singing in the Christmas concert in December and in church at times.

**Chancel Choir** - Join the Chancel Choir for the chance to use your singing voice with others to make a joyful noise in four-part harmony. Although we are serious about our music, we have a lot of fun. Rehearsals are Thursday evenings from 6:45-8:00 PM. Anyone grade 9 until infinity is welcome to come. You do not have to know how to read music. Just be prepared for the infusion of joy that happens when you sing with others.

**Bell Choir** - When you see those shiny brass bells, aren't you tempted to pick one up and give it a shake? The Bell Choir would love you to give in to that temptation and come to a rehearsal to give it a try. Bell ringing is a team effort. Reading music is a good skill to have when playing bells. Rehearsals are Thursdays at 8:00 PM.

## FOR YOUR CALENDAR

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### TODAY - September 17 | Special Church Meeting | 11:00 AM | Sanctuary

A special meeting to act upon Article 1 (amending the Lewis Memorial Christian Education Fund) and Article 2 (transact any other business that may lawfully come before the meeting). See Bulletin for the full warrant.

### TODAY - September 17 | Campfire Discussion | Carson Park | 6:00 PM

Join Pastor Rich fireside for 'A Refresher Course on Prayer - the challenges, purpose, and various ways to pray'

**September 22 | Kids' Club | 5:30 PM | Fellowship Hall** - Kids PreK-4<sup>th</sup> grade are invited for fellowship, fun, and pizza. We collect \$5 per child. Friends are welcome. Please contact Samantha Shields with questions: [Samantha.Shields@cccchelmsford.org](mailto:Samantha.Shields@cccchelmsford.org) Signup online: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050545A4A82EA2FF2-44325687-kids>

### September 24 | Confirmation Class Orientation | Room 302 | 11:15 AM

Confirmation Class provides a wonderful opportunity for a young person to explore, question, learn, and practice the Christian faith. This year's class will be for 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> graders. Older students are also welcome.

**KiSeLo (Kindness, Service, Love)** - All women are invited to join us on Wed, Sept. 27 at 12:30 PM for our monthly meeting and annual potluck luncheon in Fellowship Hall. Contact: Karen Papenfuss - Dickandkarenp@verizon.net | 603-577-1497

**ChristCare** - A small group of people who meet regularly to support one another in their faith journey. For more information contact: Deb Lyons - deb@dandelyons.net | 978-930-6830

### ONGOING

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**Tuesday Lunch Bunch** - Bring your lunch for fun and fellowship! Tuesdays at 12:00 PM in Room 202

**\*\*Please note: The Thursday Hybrid Bible Study will not meet on September 21.\*\***  
The study will resume on September 28.