



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

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<b>Church Website:</b>	www.cccchelmsford.org	
<b>U.C.C. Website</b> (United Church of Christ)	ucc.org	



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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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**Sunday, January 21, 2024**

**10:00 o'clock a.m.**

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<b>Preludes</b>	<i>“You Are My Hiding Place”</i>	by Ledner, arr. Hayes
	<i>“Lamb of God”</i>	by Paris, arr. Hayes

<b>Welcome and Announcements</b>	Pastor Rich Knight
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<b>Call to Worship</b>	Beth Jarok
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Leader: It is good to give thanks to you, O God!

**People:** It is good to sing praises to your name, O Most High;

Leader: To declare your steadfast love in the morning,

**People:** And your faithfulness by night.

Leader: You, O Lord, are exalted for ever and ever.

**People:** It is good to sing praise to you, O God!

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

<b>*Opening Hymn</b>	<i>“Come, Thou Almighty King”</i>	#27
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### **Unison Opening Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer** *(seated)*

Gracious and Holy God, we come to You because You have first come to us. We know You because You have revealed yourself, to Abraham and Sarah, Moses and the Prophets, and most beautifully in Jesus of Nazareth. Give us in this morning hour of worship, a new sense of your Spirit breathing through us. Lift our hearts with the wings of song, heal our souls with your grace and forgiveness, enliven our minds with the words of scripture, and enable us to dedicate our strength, our substance, and our service to your work in the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ 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**      “*From All That Dwells Below the Skies*”      #49

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

Leader:      The Peace of the Lord be with you.  
People:      And also with you.

**A Message for Children of All Ages**

**Introduction to the Offering**      Beth

**Offertory Anthem**    “*The Potter’s Hand*”      by Darlene Szczech  
Chancel Choir

Beautiful Lord, wonderful Savior, I know for sure all of my days are held in your hand, crafted into your perfect plan. You gently call me into your presence, guiding me by your Holy Spirit. Teach me, dear Lord, to live all of my life through your eyes. I’m captured by your Holy calling. Set me apart, I know you’re drawing me to yourself. Lead me, Lord, I pray.

**Chorus:** Take me, mold me, use me, fill me. I give my life to the Potter’s hand. Call me, guide me lead me, walk beside me. I give my life to the Potter’s hand, the Potter’s hand.

You gently call me into your presence, guiding me by your Holy Spirit. Teach me, dear Lord, to live all of my life through your eyes. I’m captured by your Holy calling. Set me apart, I know you’re drawing me to yourself. Lead me, Lord, I pray, I pray.  
[Chorus]

**Doxology**      “*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*”      #46

<i>Traditional Lyrics:</i>	<i>Alternative Lyrics:</i>
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.	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**      “*O Jesus, I Have Promised*”      #612

**Pastoral Prayer**      Pastor Rich

**The Holy Scriptures**    1 Corinthians 1:1-17      Pastor Rich  
*Pew Bible p. 926 or see insert*

**Sermon**      “Down with Paul! Up with Apollos!”      Pastor Rich

\***Closing Hymn**      “*God, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing*”      #439

\***Benediction and Threefold Amen**      Marcia

**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.



*"It is your job to protect the unity of your church. Unity in the church is so important that the New Testament gives more attention to it than to either heaven or hell. God deeply desires that we experience oneness and harmony with each other. Unity is the soul of fellowship. Destroy it, and you rip the heart out of Christ's body. It is the essence, the core, of how God intends for us to experience life together in his church."*

- Rick Warren





## Holy Scripture: 1 Corinthians 1:1-17

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Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,

To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, by whom you were called into the partnership of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

## Welcome to Central Congregational Church!

*No matter who you are, or where you are on your spiritual journey, you're welcome here!*

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### Children

- ☺ Children leave for Sunday School following the Children's Message.
- ☺ Children are always welcome in our services of worship and "Busy Bags" for kids are available in the lobby.

**Deacons are available during Sunday services.** Reach out to any of them with questions or concerns. You can spot them wearing a [blue name tag](#).

**Greeters:** Jody and Alan Cross-Hansen

**Liturgist:** Beth Jarok

**Nursery Care:** Jennifer Hart

**Altar Flowers:** Today's arrangement has been donated by Judith Barnes *in memory of her father, Harland J. Barnes, whose birthday would have been today.*

**Steeple Lighting:** The Steeple is lit this week by Curt and Donna Bates: *"In loving memory of my mother, Barbara E. Bates"*

**Coffee Hour Host(s):** The Music Committee

*If you would like to sign up to be a greeter, host coffee hour, and/or to donate an altar flower arrangement, please see the sign ups in Fellowship Hall or our online signup. Please see the weekly e-news for the links.*

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

## EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS | SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2024



**St. Paul's Soup Kitchen** – A signup sheet for St. Paul's Kitchen is posted in Fellowship Hall. We need to provide 12 Shepherd's pies for **Monday, January 29**.



**Coffee Hour Hosting Opportunities** – Crackers, cheese, and baked good are welcome! Kelly will prepare the coffee each Sunday. A sign-up sheet is posted in Fellowship Hall where you can choose a Sunday to host our Coffee Hour. If you have questions, please contact Kelly Hargett: [kelhargett@yahoo.com](mailto:kelhargett@yahoo.com) | 978-319-2574. **NEW!** We now have an **online signup option!** The link can be found in the weekly e-news.

**Calling all Scouts!** Sun, Feb 11 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](mailto:gwen.bottomley@gmail.com). Positions available include; ushers, readers, front and back door greeters, and offering ushers. Thanks!

It takes a village ...



**please sign up to help in the church nursery!**

A sign-up sheet is posted outside of the nursery. If you have questions, please contact Jennifer Hart: [5ofHarts@chris-jenn.net](mailto:5ofHarts@chris-jenn.net)



**Updated Church Directory** – If you would like to receive an updated church directory, please contact Peggy. We can email it, mail it, or set aside a copy in the church office for you. [office.admin@cccchelmsford.org](mailto:office.admin@cccchelmsford.org) | 9798-256-5931

## FOR YOUR CALENDAR



**Mon, January 22: ChristCare | 7:00 PM | via Zoom**

We are women of different ages, employment status, marital status, etc., but with faith in common. We make a safe space for questions, joys, concerns, and support. Please contact Deb Lyons if you would like to join: [dlyons@dandelyons.net](mailto:dlyons@dandelyons.net)



**Wed, January 24: KiSeLo (Kindness, Service, Love) | 1:00 PM | Fellowship Hall**

All women of the church are invited to the monthly KiSeLo meeting. Our meeting will begin with dessert served by our hostesses, Margie Dissinger and Karen Papenfuss. Our program will be *"What We Need to Know"* led by Shirley Zachry. All of us at times need information that isn't always easy to quickly put our hands on important information.



**Kids' Club: Wednesday, January 24 | 6:00 PM | Fellowship Hall** – Kids' Club is back and ready for fun! Kids in grades Prek-4 are invited to join us for fellowship, fun, and pizza! We will collect \$5 per child at the door. Friends are always welcome! Parents are invited to stay with PreK and Kindergarten children. For 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> grade children, parents can stay or drop off.

- Please contact Samantha Shields [Samantha.Shields@cccchelmsford.org](mailto:Samantha.Shields@cccchelmsford.org), with any questions.
- Please sign-up using this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050545A4A82EA2FF2-47015259-kids>

**Spring Easter Concert** - Tudor Bota is already planning our spring Easter concert, to be held on Palm Sunday, March 24 at 3:00 PM. Tudor and the choir invite you to sing with us! We need more voices - any part. Rehearsals begin, **Sunday, January 28 at 11:30 AM** in the sanctuary. The Children's Choir meets Sundays at 11:15 AM.

## ONGOING



**Lunch Bunch | Tuesdays | 12:00 PM | Room 202** – Bring your lunch for fun and fellowship!



**Thursday Bible Study | 11:00 AM via Zoom** – We are currently studying highlights of the Torah. Please see the weekly e-announcements for the Zoom link or contact the church office.