



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

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U.C.C. Website (United Church of Christ)	ucc.org	



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

Sunday, January 28, 2024

10:00 o'clock a.m.

Preludes *“Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord”* arr. Hayes
 “Come as You Are” arr. Hayes

Welcome and Announcements Pastor Rich Knight

Call to Worship Dory Toppan

Leader: We’ve gathered to worship, to sing, to pray, and hear God’s Word, because,

People: God’s love lasts forever!

Leader: Even when God seems far away, we know,

People: God’s love lasts forever!

Leader: Even when nothing is going right, and we’re ready to give up, we know,

People: God’s love lasts forever!

Leader: When we’re all alone and feel like no one loves us, we know,

People: God’s love lasts forever!

Leader: Let’s worship God together!

***Opening Hymn** *“We Sing Your Mighty Power, O God”* #64

Unison Opening Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer (*seated*)

Loving and Sustaining God, You call us to follow you in all things; to give up the things we cling to, and to give ourselves wholeheartedly to your purposes. We confess that we don’t always find this easy to do. We confess that it is often very difficult to let go of the things we love. But we also know that you never ask more of us than what is possible, and that you stand ready, at all times, to sustain us and provide everything that we need. Give us courage to faithfully follow your leading, even when we cannot see the outcome, even when the path you call us to seems impossible to comprehend. Help us to trust you in all things, to let go of everything that would stand in the way of wholehearted, loving obedience to you. In the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, 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** “O, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” #5

***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 Ben Pulaski

Introduction to the Offering Dory

Offertory Anthem “Wayfaring Stranger” arr. Shackley
Chancel Choir

I'm just a poor wayfaring stranger
Traveling through this world below
There is no sickness, no toil, no danger
In that bright land to which I go
I'm going there to see my father
And all my loved ones who've gone on

I'm just going over Jordan, I'm just going over home

I know dark clouds will gather 'round me
I know my way is hard and steep
But beauteous fields arise before me
Where God's redeemed, their vigils keep
I'm going there to see my mother
She said she'd meet me when I come

So I'm just going over Jordan, I'm just going over home
I'm just going over Jordan, I'm just going over home

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** “Lord, I Want to be a Christian” (women v. 2; men v. 3) #589

Pastoral Prayer

The Holy Scriptures Genesis 22:1-19 Pastor Rich
Pew Bible p. 15

Sermon “The Most Troubling Command in the Bible” Pastor Rich

***Closing Hymn** “Here I Am, Lord” #452

***Benediction and Threefold Amen**

Postlude: “Prelude in A” Marchaux
You may stay and enjoy the postlude, or you may feel free to leave quietly.

*Please rise in body and/or spirit.





Welcome to Central Congregational Church!

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

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: Sandy and John Lamplough

Liturgist: Dory Toppan

Nursery Care: Jennifer Hart

Altar Flowers:

Steeple Lighting: The Steeple is lit this week by Curt and Donna Bates:
"In memory of our dear friend, Robin Mullin"

Coffee Hour Host(s): Shaleena Pulliam

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. Links for the online signup forms can be found in the weekly e-news.

Many thanks to those who enrich our morning together.

Central Congregational
Church UCC

Planning Ahead



LENT, HOLY WEEK, EASTER

WED
Feb 14

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday Service | 7:00 PM | Sanctuary

THUR
Mar 28

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Maundy Thursday Service | 7:30 PM | Fellowship Hall

FRI
Mar 29

GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday Service | 7:30 PM | Fellowship Hall

SUN
Mar 31

RESURRECTION SUNDAY

Easter Service | 10:00 AM | Sanctuary

Lenten Book Club: Starts Feb 20 | Tuesdays @ 7pm via Zoom

"Searching for Sunday" by Rachel Held Evans.

Contact the church office for a book: office.admin@cccchelmsford.org

Women's Bible Study: Starts Feb 25 | Sundays @ 7:00 PM

"The Case for Easter" by Lee Strobel. Contact: Margie Dissinger: margie228@gmail.com

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

CCC Movie Group – Monday, January 29 | 7:00 PM via Zoom - 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. Please contact Lynn Horton for the Zoom link, if you have questions, or if you have difficulty accessing the movie! We will be discussing the 1954 movie, “Rear Window,” directed by Alfred Hitchcock and starring James Stewart, Grace Kelly, Wendell Corey, Thelma Ritter, and Raymond Burr.

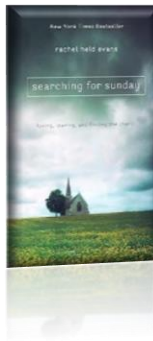
Ramps for Neighbors Ministry Presentation | Sunday, February 4 – The Social Action and Missions Committee is encouraging members of CCC to join with the Stone Soup Committee from All Saints Episcopal in a new ministry called “Ramps for Neighbors.” This program will build handicap ramps at the homes of people who are in need or disabled. Imagine not having access to your home? On Sunday, February 4 David Kuzara from All Saints will be at CCC to explain how we can join them in this Mission.

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. Positions available include; ushers, readers, front and back door greeters, and offering ushers. Thanks!

Ash Wednesday Service | Wednesday, February 14 | 7:00 PM

Lent is 40 days long, not counting Sundays, and it all starts on Ash Wednesday. Our service will be held at 7:00 pm. It’s a quiet and reflective service and concludes with the imposition of ashes for those who wish to receive them. And, it’s a wonderful way to move into Lent and deepening our walk with God.

Lenten Book Club - Starts February 20 | Tuesdays | 7:00 PM via Zoom



“**Searching for Sunday**” by Rachel Held Evans - Rachel Held Evans is one of Pastor Rich’s favorite writers. Her books are fun to read and very insightful, as she helps us craft a faith that uses our minds as well as our hearts. Searching for Sunday: loving, leaving, and finding the church. During Lent we’ll be discussing the book online Tuesdays at 7 PM, starting Feb. 20.

And here’s the best part – you don’t have to buy the book! The Deacons studied this book at their Fall retreat, and they’ve returned their copies so that more folks could enjoy it. You just have to contact the church office and reserve a copy. Then you can pick it up on Sunday or we’ll have someone deliver it to you.

For questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Rich, who will be leading the discussions.

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS | SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 2024



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 or you can sign up online (see the weekly e-announcements for the link) where you can choose a Sunday to host our Coffee Hour. If you have questions, please contact Kelly Hargett: kelhargett@yahoo.com | 978-319-2574.



Could you assist in the nursery? - A sign-up sheet is posted outside of the nursery. If you have questions, please contact Jennifer Hart: SofHarts@chris-jenn.net



CCC Ride Ministry – CCC Deacons are seeking both passengers who need a ride to CCC to attend worship service and special events AND additional drivers who can add their name to the roster of potential CCC chauffeurs.

- ▶ **If you would like to request a ride**, call the church office (978) 256-5931 and Peggy will notify the Diaconate. A Deacon will then contact you to make ride arrangements.
- ▶ **If you can serve as a Ride Ministry driver**, please contact Lynn Horton: lynn@terpsoft.com (978) 256-8524

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.