



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

<b>Pastor</b>	Rev. Dr. Richard B. Knight	
<b>Pastor Pro Tem</b>	Rev. Lee Atherton lee@coachrev.com	508-308-7116
<b>Director of Music</b>	Tudor Bota tudorbota@gmail.com	978-772-3173
<b>Office Administrator</b>	Peggy Kelly office.admin@cccchelmsford.org	978-256-5931
<b>Sunday School Coordinator</b>	Jennifer Hart SofHarts@chris-jenn.net	610-781-2074
<b>Nursery Coordinator</b>	Catherine Boivin	
<b>Custodian</b>	Juarez Gomes	978-957-5075
<b>Council President</b>	Dick Papenfuss dickandkarenp@verizon.net	603-577-1497
<b>Church Phone:</b>	978-256-5931	
<b>Church E-mail</b>	office.admin@cccchelmsford.org	
<b>Church Website</b>	www.cccchelmsford.org	
<b>Church Address</b>	1 Worthen Street, Chelmsford, MA 01824	
<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, April 28, 2024**

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

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<b>Prelude</b>	<i>“Humble Thyself in the Sight of the Lord”</i>	arr. Hayes
	<i>“Come as You Are”</i>	arr. Hayes

**Welcome and Announcements**

Rev. Lee Atherton

**\*Call to Worship**

Meghan Naish

Leader: Here in this place of worship, with the congregation of the faithful,

**People:** We lay down our fears, to boldly sing God’s praise.

Leader: Here in the vineyard of the Lord, with our sisters and brothers in Christ,

**People:** Grandparents tell stories of faith to little ones on their laps.

Leader: Here where God waits to serve us at the Table:

**All:** We shall be so filled with love that we will run to serve others.

**\*Opening Hymn** *“O God of Vision”*

#288

**\*Unison Opening Prayer**

Holy God, we long for your peace, and trust in your promise. We hear your call to turn toward you, to change our lives and welcome you in. Meet us here and fill our minds with your wisdom and our hearts with your peace, that our worship together may open us to the challenge of your dream of wholeness for all. In the name of all that was, all that is, and all that is to come, we pray through Jesus Christ our Lord 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** *“Blessed Assurance”*

#543

**\*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**

Pastor Lee

**\*Unison Prayer for Forgiveness**

Mother of Compassion: called to be one body, we fragment ourselves into a million selfish pieces; your children of love, we insist on the right to despise our sisters and brothers; though your Perfect Love was broken for us, we are afraid to give of ourselves to the world. Abide in us, Vine Grower. Forgive our sins, so we may live boldly, love fearlessly, and proclaim unceasingly that Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior.

**Assurance of God’s Grace**

**Introduction to the Offering**

Meghan

**Offertory Anthem** “Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)”

by C. Tomlin and L. Giglio  
Chancel Choir

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!

My chains are gone, I’ve been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me,  
and like a flood, his mercy reigns; unending love, amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures;  
he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

My chains are gone, I’ve been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me,  
and like a flood, his mercy reigns; unending love, amazing grace.

My chains are gone, I’ve been set free. My God, my Savior has ransomed me,  
and like a flood, his mercy reigns; unending love, amazing grace.

**\*Doxology**

*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, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*Unison Prayer of Dedication**

Pastor Lee

From you comes every gift we need, every blessing we have. May we not hoard them for ourselves, but offer them back to you, that the poor might be fed, the lonely befriended, and the despairing be filled with hope. Bless these gifts and all our works. This we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

**Joys and Concerns**

Pastor Lee

**Pastoral Prayer**

Pastor Lee

**\*Hymn**

“Be Still, My Soul”

#566

**Scripture**

John 15:1-8 (The Message)

*I am the Real Vine and my Father is the Farmer. He cuts off every branch of me that doesn’t bear grapes. And every branch that is grape-bearing he prunes back so it will bear even more. You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken.*

*Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can’t bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can’t bear fruit unless you are joined with me.*

*I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you’re joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can’t produce a thing. Anyone who separates from me is deadwood, gathered up and thrown on the bonfire. But if you make yourselves at home with me and my words are at home in you, you can be sure that whatever you ask will be listened to and acted upon. This is how my Father shows who he is—when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples.*

**Sermon**

Pastor Lee

**\*Closing Hymn**

“God, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing”

#439

**Benediction and Threefold Amen**

Pastor Lee

**Postlude**

“Prelude in A”

Bach

*\*Please stand as able*



**All are invited to join Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall,  
hosted this week by the Stewardship Committee**



## Welcome to Central Congregational Church!

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

### Good morning!

Welcome to Sunday morning worship!

### Children

- ☺ There will be no Sunday School classes today. Instead, the children and teachers will be hiking at Great Brook Farm.
- ☺ Children are always welcome in our services of worship and "Busy Bags" for kids are available in the narthex (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](#).

**Liturgist:** Dory Toppan

**Nursery Care:** Catherine Boivin

**Sanctuary Flowers** Today's floral arrangement has been donated by Kristin Strobel in loving memory of her grandparents, the Harringtons.

**Coffee Hour Hosts:** The Stewardship Committee

*If you would like to sign up to be a greeter, host coffee hour, donate worship service flowers, and/or dedicate the steeple lighting, please see the sign ups in Fellowship Hall or our online signup. If you can help the nursery, please contact Jennifer Hart.*

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

## Celebration of Ministry

REV. DR. RICHARD B. KNIGHT, PASTOR

Together let's honor and celebrate

**Rev. Dr. Richard B. Knight, Pastor**

Central Congregational Church in Chelmsford, for his selfless service to our church over the past eight years and his 42 years of pastoral ministry.

Pastor Rich has served the Lord with gladness, tirelessly, faithfully, and with great compassion.

His involvement in the lives of the members and friends of Central Congregational Church has truly made a notable difference.

We hope you will join us on  
**Sunday, May 12, 2024 at 10 a.m.**  
for a special church service of recognition and gratitude.

Trustees  
Diaconate  
Council  
PPRC

## EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS | SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2024

**TODAY! Make A Difference Day!** Make A Difference Day volunteers will help to open the Community Garden at Sunny Meadow Farm. Meet at the garden at 1:00 PM; 168 Robin Hill Road, Chelmsford. Projects may include weeding garden beds, turning soil, spreading compost, cleaning pathways. Dress appropriate, including work gloves; tools will be provided.

**SonLight Band | Today! April 28 | 6:00 PM | Pilgrim Congregational Church, Nashua** - Come listen to the wonderful music of the SonLight Band this evening at Pilgrim Congregational Church, located at 4 Watson St, Nashua, NH. Doors will open at 5:30 PM for snacks and drinks. This is a free event. All are welcome!



**KiSeLo Luncheon | Wednesday, May 22** - If you are planning on attending the May 22 KiSeLo luncheon, please call Mary Harrison: 978-256-2634 \*\*



**ChristCare | Monday, April 29 | 7:00 PM via Zoom** - If you are looking for a way to form closer bonds with a small group within the church, who will walk alongside you on your faith journey, you are invited to join. The Monday group is currently made up of women, while the Sunday morning group consists of men. Nonbinary folks are encouraged to try the group that sounds more comfortable to them. Please contact Deb Lyons for specific meeting information [dlyons@dandelyons.net](mailto:dlyons@dandelyons.net)



**Kids Club | Friday, May 10 | 6:00 – 7:00 PM | Fellowship Hall** - Please come join us for fellowship, fun, games, and pizza. Open to all kids PreK-4th grade. Contact Samantha Shields with any questions, [Samantha.Shields@CCCchelmsford.org](mailto:Samantha.Shields@CCCchelmsford.org)

Cards & Notes of Encouragement for Pastor Rich



**Cards & Notes for Pastor Rich** - Cards and notes of encouragement for Pastor Rich can be dropped off at the church office, mailed to the church, or directly to Pastor Rich (and his family). Notes of encouragement are such a blessing! Loving words of support and encouragement are always appreciated by Pastor Rich and Alisa, too! Thank you, CCC family!!



**Don Harbison's 2024 Pan-Mass Challenge Campaign** - This year I will be riding with Jenna's husband Mike. My goal is to raise \$15,000 for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. **100% of your donation goes straight to Dana-Farber.** I'm riding in honor of Kit, Jenna, Pastor Rich, Cindy Kunkel, and Ted Buswick among many others who have been affected by cancer. If you decide to sponsor my ride, and for all the other details including my longer statement regarding 'Why I PMC,' <https://profile.pmc.org/dh0129> **THANK YOU!** ~Don Harbison



**Sunday School Coordinator, Jennifer Hart** is looking for someone who has a completed CORI and could cover her duties on **June 2**. If you can help, please contact Jennifer: [5ofHarts@chris-jenn.net](mailto:5ofHarts@chris-jenn.net)



**Coffee Hour Hosting Opportunities** - A sign-up sheet is posted in Fellowship Hall or you can access the online signup sheet by scanning the code to the left with your phone's camera. Please contact Kelly Hargett: [kelhargett@yahoo.com](mailto:kelhargett@yahoo.com); 978-319-2574 with any questions.

## ONGOING



**Tuesday Lunch Bunch | 11:45 AM in Room 202**  
Bring your lunch for fun and fellowship!



**Thursday Bible Study | 11:00 AM via Zoom.**  
We're studying The Letter of Paul to Titus. Led by Lynn Horton and Deb Lyons. All are welcome! Please see the Tuesday e-announcements for the Zoom link or contact Lynn Horton: [lynn@terpsoft.com](mailto:lynn@terpsoft.com).