



THE BEACON

CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

*A worshiping, praying, learning,
caring, outreaching community*

CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation

VOLUME 69 NUMBER 05

May 2024

Upcoming Events

Annual Meeting and Potluck

Sunday, May 19 | 11:30 AM | Fellowship Hall

ChristCare

Mondays | May 6 & 20 | 7:00 PM

CCC Movie Group

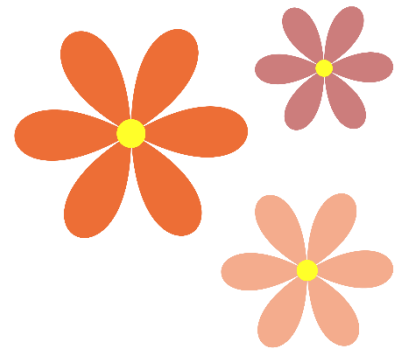
Mondays | May 13 & 27 | 7:00 PM via Zoom

KiSeLo Luncheon

Wednesday, May 22 | 12:30 PM

Lunch Bunch

Tuesdays | 11:45 AM | Room 202



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KNIGHT LINES

Dear Friends in Christ,

As much as it will be profoundly bittersweet, I'm really looking forward to the service on Sunday, May 12. There's so much I hope to be able to share. Given my occasional moments of not being able to keep my emotions in check, I'd like to start my reflections here.

Thank you for welcoming me into the church eight years ago and for all your words of encouragement and support you gave me right away. I was nervous about coming to CCC for two main reasons. One is, I knew Pastor John Zachry before arriving, and I've always experienced him as a wonderful pastor and someone who's extremely kind, wise, and intelligent! I also knew how beloved John was and is by the congregation. Who you follow in any job is crucial for getting off to a good start. While I tell stories in my sermons, such as the one about going through a car wash while leaving my car in drive, Pastor John quotes Kierkegaard, Gibran, and Rumi. I was also nervous because CCC was already a fantastic church before I showed up! At my previous churches I introduced folks to such things as mission trips, small group ministry, hands on face-to-face ministry opportunities, and more, things that Central was already doing and doing well! I wondered if I could bring anything new to the table. All this is to say that your affirmation and your desire to do Christ's work together has meant the world to me.

I've never enjoyed a period of ministry more than I have these past eight years. Thank you!!! We've made some fun, meaningful, and precious memories together: Drive-In Church, campfires and discussions in the park, book clubs, An Evening of Love Songs, the Blessing of the Animals, and more!

Thank you for supporting us through my health struggles. You've been absolutely amazing! As much as it's been very hard and sad to withdraw from pastoral ministry, it's even harder to think about leaving my family – not growing old with Alisa (my sons say I've already achieved this goal, at least on my end), and not being there for Maddie, Ben, and Sam. To know that you'll be there to support and love them on this journey eases the pain. Thank you!!

I'm so grateful that God called me into the pastoral ministry and that you called me to be your pastor. I thank God and I thank all of you!

With profound gratitude and a deep, deep love,

Rich

P.S. One thinks about a number of things at the stage of life I'm in. Some of these things are meaningful and some are quite silly. Here's a silly one:

How will people refer to me years from now? I hope it won't be, "*He was the minister who died while he was here.*" I'd like to suggest some alternatives ... *(continued next page)*

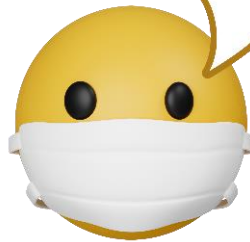
"He was that devastatingly handsome minister!"

"He was the minister who had such a beautiful, kind-hearted, intelligent wife!"

"He was the pastor who loved to lead songs on his guitar."



"He was the minister who was here during the COVID pandemic."



"He was the minister who absolutely loved being our pastor!"

"He was the pastor who loved to teach us about the Bible."

"He once preached ten straight weeks from the Book of Revelation, and we didn't fire him!"

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

WARRANT FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING

of Central Congregational Church in Chelmsford, United Church of Christ

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

The Annual Meeting of the Central Congregational Church in Chelmsford, United Church of Christ, will be held on **Sunday, May 19, 2024, at 11:30 a.m.** in Fellowship Hall to act upon the following articles:

- Article 1 To elect a Moderator.
- Article 2 To celebrate the events of the past year.
- Article 3 To act upon the recommendations of the Nominating Committee to elect the officers of the church.
- Article 4 To receive the reports of all committees.
- Article 5 To approve the budget for the fiscal year 2024 – 2025.
- Article 6 To transact any other business that may lawfully come before the meeting.

(signed)
Val King
Clerk

ANNUAL MEETING AND POTLUCK

Sunday, May 19 | 11:30 AM | Fellowship Hall

The church's annual meeting will take place on Sunday, May 19, at 11:30 AM in Fellowship Hall immediately following the church service.

Again, we will have a potluck and celebrate the church year while we conduct church business. Everyone is welcome to attend although only members can vote on the articles in the warrant. We encourage everyone to attend as your attendance and votes help determine how things are done in the church.

Nursery care will be provided along with an activity table for older children. The church will provide drinks.

Any questions, contact Dick Papenfuss at dickandkarenp@verizon.net or 603-577-1497.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

~Dick

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

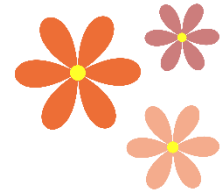
June Beacon Article Deadline

The June edition of The Beacon will be published on June 4. If you have information to share, please submit it to Peggy by **Tuesday, May 28**. Thank you.

Church Office Closure

The church office will be closed on Friday, May 24, reopening on Tuesday, May 28.

CHRISTCARE



Mondays | May 6 & 20 | 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 ChristCare. The Monday evening 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.

The Monday group will meet on May 6 and 20. Please contact Deb Lyons for specific meeting information. We will be reading and discussing, "Help, Thanks, Wow," by Anne Lamott.

Contact Glenn Dissinger for information about the Sunday morning group.

KiSeLo – KINDNESS, SERVICE, LOVE

Wednesday, May 22 | 12:30 PM | Princeton Station, N. Chelmsford



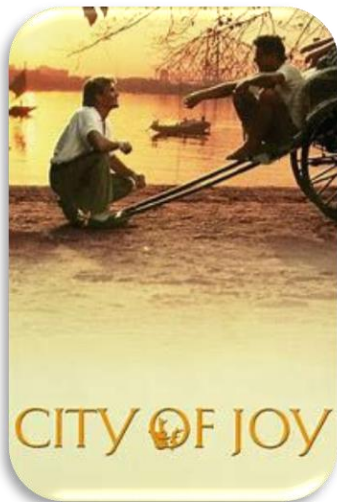
We invite all women of the church to join us for our "end-of-the-year" May Luncheon on May 22. We will meet at 12:30 p.m. at Princeton Station in North Chelmsford.

If you would like to attend and haven't yet signed up, please contact Mary Harrison 978-256-2634. If you have any questions, you can also contact Karen Papenfuss: 603-577-1497. Hope to see you there!

MAY MOVIE GROUP

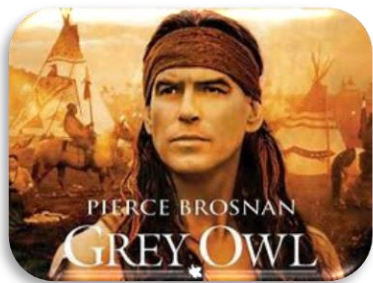
Mondays | May 13 & 27 | 7:00 PM | Zoom

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!



Monday, 5/13 – “City of Joy” (1992) Hazari Pal is a rural farmer who moves to Calcutta with his wife Kamla and three children in search of a better life. The Pals do not get off to a good start: they are cheated out of their rent money and thrown out on the streets, and it is difficult for Hazari (actor Om Puri) to find a job to support them. However, the determined family refuses to give up and eventually finds its place in the poverty-stricken city. Meanwhile, at the other end of Calcutta, Max Lowe, (Patrick Swayze) a Houston surgeon distraught after the loss of a young patient, has arrived in India in search of spiritual enlightenment. However, he encounters misfortune as soon as he arrives. After being tricked by a young prostitute, he is roughed up by thugs and left bleeding in the street without his documents and valuable possessions. Hazari comes to Max's aid and takes the injured doctor to the "City of Joy," a slum area populated with lepers and poor people that becomes the Pals' new home and the American's home-

away-from-home. Max spends a lot of time in the neighborhood, but he does not want to become too involved with the residents because he is afraid of becoming emotionally attached to them. However, he is soon coaxed into helping his new-found friends by a strong-willed Irish woman, Joy Bethel, (Pauline Collins) who opened and runs the City of Joy clinic. Eventually, Max begins to fit in with his fellow slum-dwellers and become more optimistic. There are many around him whose lives are much worse, but they look on each day with a hope that gives new strength to the depressed doctor.



Monday, 5/27 – “Grey Owl” (1999) is a biopic directed by Richard Attenborough and starring Pierce Brosnan in the role of real-life British schoolboy turned Native American trapper "Grey Owl", Archibald Belaney (1888–1938), and Annie Galipeau as his wife Anahareo, with brief appearances by Graham Greene and others. Archibald Belaney (Brosnan) grows up fascinated with Native American culture—so much so that in the early 1900s he leaves the United Kingdom for Canada, where he reinvents himself as trapper

Archie Grey Owl and pretends to be a First Nations native. Eventually, Belaney becomes an environmentalist after renouncing trapping and hunting. Director Richard Attenborough said in an interview that he and his brother, noted presenter and naturalist David Attenborough, had attended "Grey Owl's" De Montfort Hall lecture in 1936, depicted in the film, and been influenced by his advocacy of conservation. The musical group Northern Cree Singers is featured in the soundtrack. Canadian naturalist and canoe tripper Hap Wilson taught Pierce Brosnan how to throw an axe and paddle a canoe for his role.

UPDATES

EMBRACING EVERY SEASON

The Journey of Faith and Community

Rev. Lee Atherton

I have always been drawn to Native American blankets. The eye-catching colors and intricately woven patterns always leave me awe-struck. And to be wrapped up in one? Oh, so very lovely!

Weaving held a place of profound significance in ancient Native American cultures and was celebrated for its practicality and beauty. Many forms of the art are still being practiced today, bringing tribal communities together and preserving traditional culture. For First Nations people, for example, a blanket holds deep meaning as every pattern and design created has symbolic significance. Woven blankets were often given as cherished gifts for special occasions and important ceremonies, and were part of traditions linked to culture, birth, life, and death.

Much as the threads of a blanket are tightly woven to create intricate beauty and protection from the cold, so too are we tightly woven as members of Central Congregational Church and the family of God. As we journey through life together, we are reminded of the strength found in unity and the profound peace that comes from walking in faith.



Our community has been and continues to be marked by moments of joy, periods of reflection, and opportunities for growth. In these times, we are called to remember the core of our beliefs—the love of God; the leadership of our resurrected Lord Jesus Christ, and the guidance of the Holy Spirit. These principles guide us not only in times of abundance but also in times of challenge.

As we journey together through the seasons of the life of the church, our path is illuminated by faith, guided by the enduring love of our community, and enriched by the leadership that shepherds us forward. Change, while a constant companion on our spiritual journey, brings with it opportunities for renewal and growth.

We stand at a significant moment in the life of our congregation as we embrace a change in our pastoral leadership. This transition is a testament to the dynamic and evolving nature of our faith community. It invites us to reflect on the journey we have shared with Pastor Rich— whose guidance has been a beacon of light and love, and to look forward with hope and anticipation to the path that lies ahead.

As change is in our midst, we are reminded of the beautiful tapestry of life that we weave together in Christ's name. This change offers us a unique opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to the core values that unite us: love, compassion, and a shared vision for our community's future. It is a time to celebrate the legacy of leadership that has nurtured this congregation for over 148 years and to open our hearts to new perspectives, new inspirations, and new voices.

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In this season of transition, let us hold fast to the bonds of community that define us. Let us approach this change with open hearts and minds, ready to support and uplift one another as we continue to grow in faith and love. Together, we will navigate this new horizon, strengthened by the knowledge that, in every change, there lies the promise of God's unwavering presence and guidance.

As we embark on this journey of change, let us do so with the assurance that our congregation will remain a beacon of hope, love, and unity, guided by the light of Christ and the shared purpose that binds us together.

In faith and fellowship,

*~Pastor Lee
(and Shadow)*

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN BUILDING COMMITTEE

- Cabinet drawers and doors under the pass-through have been painted.
- Panels covering the grease trap and pipes on the back door side and on the sides protruding into the kitchen as well as the cooktop mechanisms have been installed and painted. An estimate and decision on bringing electricity to the new island are in progress. Then construction of the island can begin.
- After installation of the island, the quartz countertops will be installed on the island, both pass through areas and two other small areas near the sinks. Our kitchen project is close to completion.
- The new Fellowship Hall ceiling tiles have been installed and the smoke alarms have been reconnected.

~Christine Williams, chair; Val King, secretary, Jim Clark, Shirley Zachry and Kenny Pantuso



ALL-CHURCH CAMPFIRE

All are welcome to the first all-church campfire of 2024 on Sunday, June 9 at 6:30 PM!

We hope to see YOU there!



REMEMBRANCE FUND

The Capital Campaign budget is committed and possibly exceeds the funding needed to finish the kitchen and, most especially, repaving of the parking lot. Many have been noticing additional items that need refurbishing or could improve our facilities, such as:

1. new carpet on the ramp to the back door from Fellowship Hall
2. room darkening shades for Fellowship Hall
3. granite curbing to replace the disintegrating asphalt berms in the parking lot at the sides of the park and playground.

Items such as these and others must remain on a “wish list” until we have the money to pay for them.

CCC established the Remembrance Fund to pay for special projects beyond what Trustees can cover from the quarterly interest earned from the Endowment Fund. Emergencies such as repairing the elevator, cracks in the boiler, failure of the solar system inverter at 9 Worthen, flooding and a sink hole in the parking lot.... are depleting those earnings.

Both principal and earnings of the Remembrance Fund may be used by the Trustees for worthwhile projects upon approval by the Council if over \$5,000. Donations to this fund are often made in honor of a loved one who has passed away, but they do not have to be for that purpose. The donation need only specify Remembrance Fund. Examples of past fund expenditures include the solar panels, railings for the steps at 9 Worthen, cleaning and tuning of the bells.

Please keep your project suggestions coming and remember the Remembrance Fund!

MUSIC COMMITTEE

All children are welcome to participate in singing "Peace I'll Leave with You" (Mozart) on Children's Sunday (June 9). Tudor meets with Junior Choir every Sunday immediately after the service for 10-15 minutes. You can get a copy of the music then.

Please come join in! In addition, Tudor will send a recording via email to practice with. Let's make a joyful noise on Children's Sunday!!

SOCIAL ACTION AND MISSIONS COMMITTEE

SAM is focusing on two outstanding local service agencies this month: The Lowell Community Health Center and Alternative House.

Lowell Community Health Center

The Lowell Community Health Center has been serving the communities of Greater Lowell for more than 50 years. They provide equitable access to high quality, affordable health care for people of all ages — regardless of their ability to pay. Their team members speak 28 different languages, and at least 40 staff are trained medical interpreters.

Located in downtown Lowell, LCHC provides comprehensive primary and pediatric care services, in addition the Metta Center, Dental Care Center, Eye Care Center, Behavioral Health Services, Pharmacy, and more. Their mission is to deliver exceptional care that improves the health of the patients they serve through prevention, treatment, and education. Lowell CHC services also reach beyond the exam room. They offer school-based health centers, Teen BLOCK youth programs, and outreach and health education in the community.

Alternative House

Alternative House has provided comprehensive domestic violence services in the Greater Lowell area since 1978. The agency provides not only emergency shelter and 24-hour crisis hotline services but access to temporary safe housing, transitional/permanent housing, legal advocacy, supervised visitation services, community/housing advocacy, support groups, youth, and teen programming, as well as daily access to case management, safety planning, and support around goal setting, financial empowerment, and job/educational placement.

The agency was founded by a group of women who took part in the “Battered Women’s Movement” of the 70’s – a movement to bring awareness, and an end, to violence against women. This group of women paved the way for the agency to provide services to thousands of survivors of domestic violence.

SAM strongly supports the work done by the Lowell Community Health Center and Alternative House.

- <https://www.lchealth.org/about/who-we-are/>
- <https://www.alternative-house.org/about>

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

May Concludes Stewardship!

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.

The Stewardship Committee has exciting news to share! Our campaign is ending and we are thrilled to tell the members and friends of CCC how your stewardship will help CCC “Imagine Together” what can become in the next year! The campaign results are as follows:

- We received 101 pledges vs. 103 last year!
- 53 pledges increased, which is over 52%!
- We gained 7 new pledges!
- Our pledges for the 2024-2025 fiscal year totaled \$270,404 vs. \$255,168 last year, or an increase of \$15,236!!

We strongly believe that our theme for this year's Stewardship Campaign, "**Imagine Together**," helped the congregation envision a stronger and brighter future for CCC. We sincerely thank everyone who pledged, whether you were able to increase your pledge, keep it the same or had to decrease it slightly. We are truly thankful for all pledges.

If you haven't pledged, there is still time! Please reach out to any member of the Stewardship Committee for a pledge card. If you prefer to give online, please visit <https://www.cccchelmsford.org/stewardship>.

Thank you and God Bless.

*CCC Stewardship Committee,
Cynthia Dorman, Becky Wisniewski, Sherm Horton, Lindsay Moore, Mark Timmins and Dick Papenfuss*



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

We are happy for the green and the sunlight.

- We had a fantastic Palm Sunday Walk followed by our youth taking part in the beautiful Holy Week services of Maundy Thursday and Good Friday.
- There was a great youth turn out for our Easter Egg hunt run by CE and the Middle School students. Kids of many ages enjoyed the hunt and there is some debate over who had more fun- the kids hiding the eggs or the ones finding them.
- On April 28th we had our Sunday School Spring Hike at Great Brook Farm and participated in Make-A-Difference Sunday. Our spring hike tradition is one of the bright spots to come out of the COVID years that were spent doing outdoor Sunday School.
- Looking ahead, we have our focus on Youth Sunday on **June 9**.

FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL COORDINATOR

This month, Sunday School classes continue their preparation for our **June 9th Youth Sunday** with the Theme, *Living the Love and Justice of Jesus*. The students will develop and write the different parts of the service with the help of the wonderful teachers. If you would like to be part of this wonderful group of children's introduction to Jesus, please volunteer to be a substitute teacher or team up with one of our wonderful teachers.

We had a wonderful Spring Hike on April 28 at Great Brook Farm!

Congratulations to our confirmands who will be confirmed on **May 5**, they all worked hard this year and everyone should be proud of their work.

Student numbers and offerings have gone down; as I understand, that is what happens in the spring, but we would still love to see our young people at church on Sunday mornings!

*~Jennifer Hart
Nursery and Sunday School Coordinator*

CRADLES TO CRAYONS



Lucas Hart, member of the Holy Cows and Project 351 Ambassador for Dracut, has completed his clothing drive with 20 large bags. These were added to 406 other ambassadors and alumni collections from 487 service sites in 279 cities and towns! Thank you for everything you did!

DON HARBISON'S 2024 PAN-MASS CHALLENGE



This year will be different. I registered to ride with Jenna's husband Mike. Together we'll knock out the short 84 miles from Wellesley to Bourne on August 3rd. For 2024 my goal is to raise \$15,000 for Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

100% of your donation goes straight to Dana-Farber.

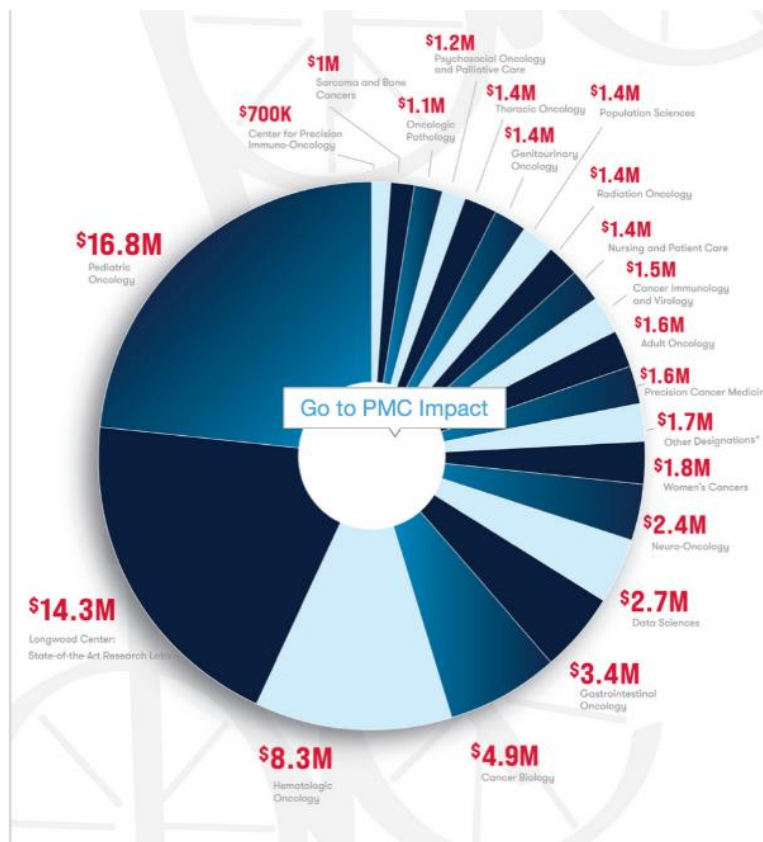
I'm riding in honor of Kit, Jenna, Pastor Rich, Cindy Kunkel, and Ted Buswick among many others who have been affected by cancer. Thanks to the very strong support of the congregation last year, together we raised \$12,675, our contribution to the grand total of \$72M gifted in 2023.

If you decide to sponsor my ride, and for all the other details including my longer statement regarding 'Why I PMC,' please click [here](#).



THANK YOU!

~Don Harbison



PRAYER MINISTRY



On April 13 a longtime member of CCC passed away, **Daphne “Dee” Freeman**. Dee loved CCC and participated in many ministries for over 50 years. She was a long-time member of the choir, a former Deacon, and a member of several committees. She was co-founder of the Benevolent Beaders and a member of the KiSeLo Women’s Group. Dee was also a co-founder of the CCC Prayer Ministry with Ginnie Hall and me.

When it first began it was called the Prayer Chain. If you were part of it, your name was on a list and your job was to relay a prayer request to the next person on the list. If you didn’t, the chain was broken and the prayer request was not received by the rest of the group. This group is now called the Prayer Ministry and there is no longer a fear of breaking the chain, thanks to email. Dee was faithful in her prayer life. When a request was sent out she always responded by thanking me. Here are a few of her responses:



“I will always keep my prayers going for all who request them, and even those who do not.”

“I believe in prayers and am willing to offer my hope and faith for anyone who feels it would help their cause. I believe the Lord does hear our concerns for others, and if we are willing to ask Him for help I really believe he will listen to us. Perhaps our prayers are not always answered the way we want, but God has a plan.”

Receiving these messages was a comfort and I knew she would be fervently praying. Her words are true - God *does* have a plan. God *does* listen. Let us be a link between you and God. Tell us you’re your prayer requests by contacting me at wperry39@comcast.net. I will make sure the Prayer Ministry receives the message.

I will miss Dee and knowing she is praying. But I also know she is still with us, praying from a different place. She would always end her emails with the same closing: "Blessings to you." Receiving her blessing always made me smile. Thank you, Dee, for your devotion to prayer and to the Prayer Ministry.

~Wendy Perry

MEMORIAL SERVICE AND COLLATION FOR DAPHNE FREEMAN

We will hold a collation in honor and memory of our dear Daphne “Dee” Freeman following the 10:00 am funeral service on **Saturday, May 11**.

Donations are requested - Finger sandwiches, cheese and crackers (including gluten-free options), veggies and dip, fruit, and desserts. Set up, kitchen, and serving helpers are needed as well. Thank you very much making this a special time to be together as we remember Dee.

Kindly contact Lynn Horton if you can help with food or other tasks on May 11. Thank you very much! Lynn@terpsoft.com | (978) 256-8524

CALLING ALL GRADUATES!

Is a member of your immediate family graduating from high school, college, or a graduate program? Graduation Sunday is Sunday, June 2. All high school seniors are invited to the service for a celebration of their achievement. Graduates from college and graduate school programs will also be recognized in the June 2 bulletin and June Beacon newsletter.

Please let the church office know the names of all graduates, the school from which they are graduating, and, if possible, their post-graduation plans. Kindly contact Peggy in the office or Lynn Horton as soon as possible, and **no later than May 21, 2024**. Thank you!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Thank You and Opportunities

It is the goal of the Nominating Committee to connect individuals with the role or roles within the church where they can best feel the satisfaction of serving. Often this is through committee work, and CCC is blessed with many committees! Thank you to each person who has said “yes” to the opportunity to serve on a committee or in the position of a church officer! Many of you are long-time CCC volunteers, and your years of service are invaluable to the stability and smooth operation of our church. To everyone who is newer to the church committees, thank you for being the source of fresh ideas, new perspectives, and an enthusiastic infusion of energy!

The work of our committees ensures the success of Central Congregational Church, within and beyond our walls. A special thank you to those who are completing their term of service in 2024; your dedication is recognized and greatly appreciated! Despite our best efforts, there remain vacancies on the slate of nominees. There are openings on the House, Communications, Sanctuary, Technology, Nominating, and Members-at-Large committees. There is also a delegate to the Southern New England Conference of United Church of Christ (SNEUCC) position available.

Committees with open positions welcome new members at any time throughout the year! Please contact a member of Nominating if you would like more information about these opportunities. We would be delighted to help you find a committee to match your skills, availability, and interests. You meet some great people at CCC through shared committee work! Give it a try!

Your Nominating Committee,

Lynn Horton, Deb Lyons, Elizabeth Hartigan, Dory Toppan



SPRINGTIME MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAYS

April 21 and 28

CCC members joined together to Make A Difference in our community this Spring! The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Clean Up was held on Sunday, April 21. CCC volunteers Sandy and John Lamplough, Lisa Gibson, Kevin Papenfuss, and Lynn Horton collected more than five garbage bags full of trash and litter between the Route 110 ballfield parking lot and Golden Cove Road.



On Sunday, April 28, MADD volunteers Steve and Trey Hartigan helped to open the Community Garden at Sunny Meadow Farm for the season. The vegetables grown in these garden plots, formerly maintained by CCC, continue to be exclusively donated to the food pantry. Community Gardener Lee Williams served as organizer for the day and sent this thank you message:

*“Thank you to Trey and Steve for their hard work in the Community Garden’s Food Pantry plot!
They shoveled and raked a nice layer of compost over all of the planting beds, then covered them with a mulch layer of hay.
The beds are now in great shape and ready for planting.
We enjoyed their cheerful company on a beautiful spring afternoon, and we greatly appreciate their help. Thank you for making a difference!”*

~Lee Williams, on behalf of the Sunny Meadow Community Gardeners



Thank you to Pastor Rich for starting the wonderful Make A Difference Day tradition at CCC eight years ago!

COUNCIL CORNER

A Monthly Update on the Activity of the CCC Council

News from the April 10, 2024, meeting:

- Rev. Lee Atherton has been with us at CCC for over a month now. Pastor Lee is impressed by the strong lay leadership and dedicated congregational involvement at CCC!
- We are 75% of the way through the fiscal year! Budgeted income and expenses continue to stay in balance, with Total Income at 77% of budget and Total Expenses at 80%, year-to-date. Unfortunately, a part that is needed for the solar panels has been on back-order, so we are currently using “grid” power; this has caused our electricity expense to go well over budget. Pledged giving is on target at 76%, and Unpledged giving is now at 64% of budget.
- The Capital Campaign Building Committee reported that the projects in the kitchen continue to progress. A center island and quartz counter tops are pending. Use of each sink is very specific, and restrictions must be followed. Please be attentive to the signs posted at each sink! In Fellowship Hall, the decision has been made to install room-darkening window shades in a white color. The next project of the Campaign improvements will be the parking lot. Sue Sarafinas, Assistant Treasurer/Income, reported that 77% of pledges and donations to the Capital Campaign have been received to date.
- The Trustees and Council diligently considered a request to use CCC facilities on a regular weekly basis by an African Pentecostal Church which is outgrowing their worship and meeting space in Lowell. Members of CCC attended the church’s service in their current location, and multiple meetings were held with the church’s leaders. It was decided that unfortunately our space and schedule is not a match for the needs of this church. The geographic distance for its growing membership along with their lengthy services and need for office space are incompatible with our schedule and use of the CCC facilities. The offer to provide short-term use of CCC was declined by the pastor of the African congregation.
- The Communications Committee proposed adding a QR code to our CCC website, print materials, and live broadcast of services and events for the purpose of facilitating donations to CCC. (i.e. Concert free-will offerings.) Pastor Lee shared that her home church recently adopted this fundraising method, and it has been successful. Council voted in favor of allowing the Communications Committee to pursue this initiative.
- The Stewardship Committee and Treasurer Dick Papenfuss are working on this year’s campaign. As a reminder, all pledges are confidential and are seen only by the Treasurer and Income Treasurer.

(continued next page)

- The Warrant for the Annual Meeting on May 19 was approved by Council. It was also voted to hold a potluck meal this year at our Annual Meeting, keeping in mind that we will not have full use of the kitchen for preparing food.

Excerpts from the CCC Constitution – Article VII - Council

The Council shall be the executive body of this church. It shall be composed of the Ordained Minister(s), two members of the Board of Trustees elected by that Board, Clerk, Moderator, two Deacons elected by the Diaconate, Treasurer, three Members-at-Large, and one member from each of the following committees, elected by that committee: Christian Education, Communications, Finance, House, John R. Carson Memorial Park, Music, Nominating, Pastor/Parish Relations, Sanctuary, Social Action and Missions, Stewardship, and Technology. The Council shall be the policy-making body and shall be responsible for directing and coordinating all affairs, activities, responsibilities, and interests of the Church.

The next Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 7:30 pm, via Zoom. Anyone from CCC is welcome to attend! Contact Lynn Horton if you would like the Zoom link information. Lynn@terpsoft.com (978) 256-8524





Central Congregational Church UCC

United Church of Christ
1 Worthen Street, Chelmsford, MA 01824
An Open & Affirming Congregation

"A Community of Faith, Hope, and Love, Growing through Worship and Service"

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US!

Worship is on Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Richard B. Knight		
Pastor Pro Tem:	Rev. Lee Atherton	508-308-7116	lee@coachrev.com
Director of Music:	Tudor Bota	978-772-3173	tudorbota@gmail.com
Office Administrator:	Peggy Kelly	978-256-5931	office.admin@cccchelmsford.org
Nursery & Sun School Coord.:	Jennifer Hart	610-781-2074	5ofharts@chrisjenn.net
Custodian:	Juarez Gomes		
Church Location:	One Worthen Street	Chelmsford, MA 01824	
Church Mailing Address:	PO Box 339	Chelmsford, MA 01824-0339	
Church Phone:	978-256-5931	Church e-mail:	office.admin@cccchelmsford.org
Church Fax:	978-250-3565	Church Website:	www.cccchelmsford.org
Conference Website:	www.sneucc.org		

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