



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

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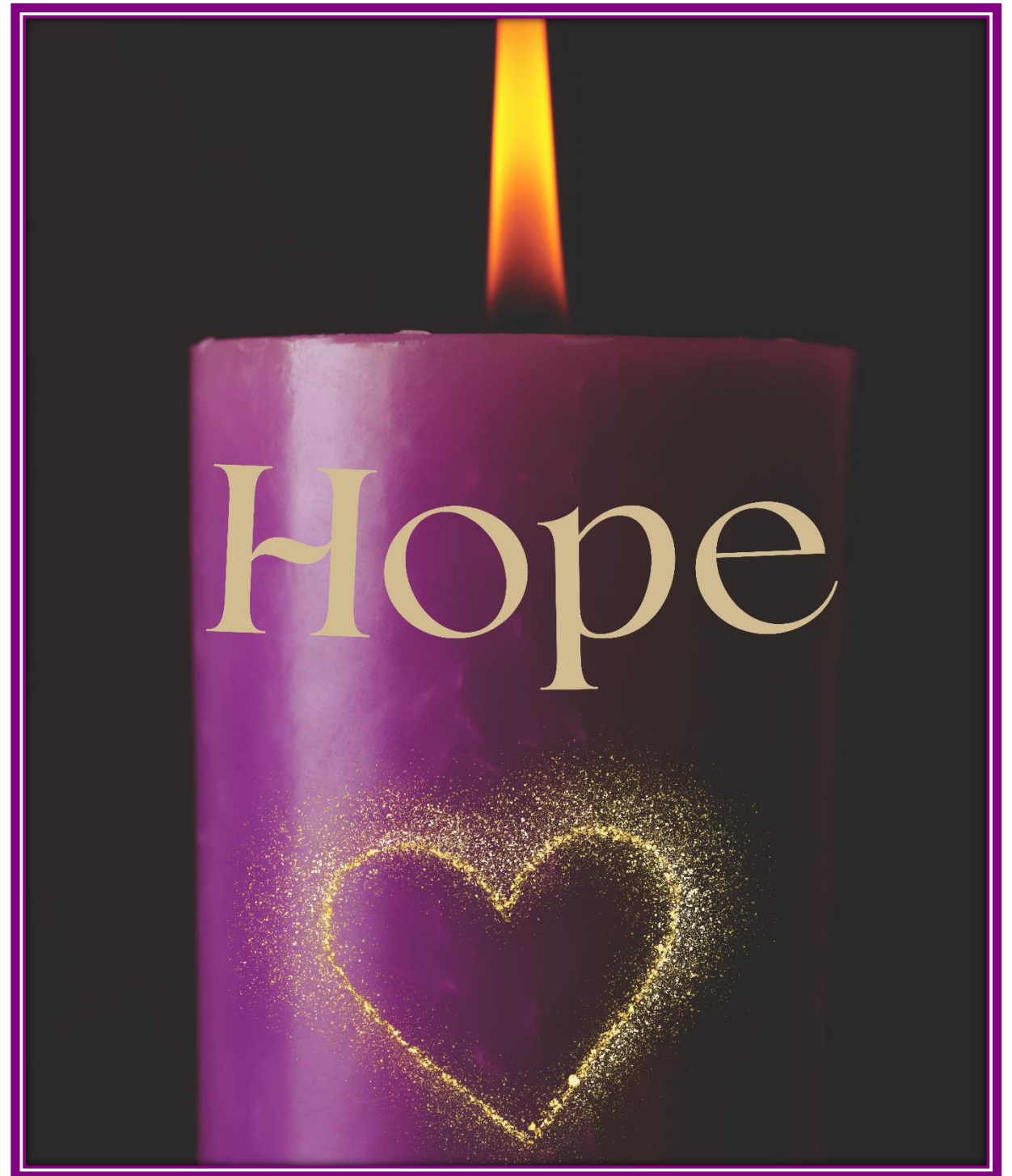
Transition Team Contact Information

Feel free to contact a team member anytime with thoughts, questions, or concerns.

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Hymn of Response: "We Have Heard the Distant Bells"

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of six systems of music with lyrics underneath. Chords are indicated above the staff lines. The lyrics are: "We have heard the dis-tant bells ring out 'Christ is com-ing'. One day there will be no pain, sor-row or in-jus-tice. Rays of light, a glimpse of dawn, while the night still lin-gers. We have heard the an-gels tell: God is on his way. Je-sus will re-turn a-gain, wi-ping tears a-way. Earth it groans to be re-born, help us watch and pray. We've seen first-fruits, signs of life, burst-ing through the dark-ness. Now we sing la-men-ting songs, while the chords are bro-ken, Clothe us in the ways of Christ, rea-dy for his com-ing. In a world of fear and strife, hope is here to stay. join the mar-tyrs in 'How long?', how long must we wait? wor-ship-ping through dai-ly life, has-ten-ing the day, How long, un-til you come to reign? How long, un-til you come a-gain. when you come to reign."



Welcome to Central Congregational Church!

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

Good morning and welcome to Sunday morning worship! We are glad you are here to worship together! Please join in Fellowship Hall after the service for food and fellowship and the Advent Festival!

Children

- ☺ Children are always welcome in our services of worship.
- ☺ "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](#).

Greeter(s):

Advent Poem Reader

Don Desfosse

Liturgist:

Arlene Belleville

Nursery Care Coordinator:

Kelsey Hartigan

Coffee Hour Host(s):

Christian Education Committee

Many thanks to all who enrich our morning together.

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS | SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2024



Today! Advent Festival | Sun, Dec 1 | after worship - Please join us on Sunday, December 1 after worship for this year's Advent Festival. This is a fun tradition at CCC where we will sing carols, enjoy music, and create crafts and Advent wreaths to take home. There will also be a potluck. There is a signup sheet available at Coffee Hour and a digital signup (see the weekly e-announcements for the link). Cost is \$2 per person/\$8 for the whole family.

Today! Lunch with Lee | Sun, Dec 1 | After Worship | The Java Room – All are welcome to enjoy time together to chat. There's no set topic or agenda – just come as you are, with whatever is on your mind.

We CAN Make a Difference Food Tree | Dec 1- Jan 5 | Fellowship Hall – Please join our church family in this special holiday tradition as we once again create a Christmas tree displaying the Christmas spirit and demonstrating that we “CAN” make a difference against hunger. Donations of canned and boxed foods (nothing expired or in glass jars) will be delivered to the Open Pantry of Treater Lowell. The tree is set up in Fellowship Hall. Your donations are welcome from December 1 – January 5. Please see Samantha Shields if you have any questions.



Poinsettia Sale! Sundays | Dec 8 & 15 – The Sanctuary Committee is selling poinsettias for Christmas. There will be a table set up in Fellowship Hall to purchase plants. The cost is \$15. If you are not able to be in church on those Sundays, please call/email Elizabeth Hartigan: 978-866-7664 | hartigans@gmail.com.

Secret Santa 2024 – The Secret Santa on-line sign up link is live and ready for use:



<https://www.ccchelmsford.org/secret-santa/>

Members of SAM will be available to help with in person sign ups on **December 1** during coffee hour. Gift collection will be on December 8 and 15. That is the last day to bring the labeled wrapped gifts.

Gratefully, Your Social Action & Missions Committee with Cindy Bruetsch, Julie Carney, Wendy Piacenza

Your (Unofficial) Guide to Advent booklet – Advent is December 1-23. To help you prepare for this special season, there is a free, family-friendly guide from the United Church of Canada. The link to this special download can be found in the Tuesday e-announcements or contact Peggy in the church office: office.admin@cccchelmsford.org | 978-256-5931.



Volunteers are needed to assist in the nursery with our Nursery Coordinator, Kelsey Hartigan. Signup by speaking with Kelsey, adding your name to the signup sheet outside of the nursery, or our online signup by scanning the QR code. Thank you!

ChristCare | Mondays, Dec 2 & 16 | 7:00 PM via Zoom – For more information and the Zoom link, please speak with Deb Lyons

Social Action and Missions Committee (SAM) - SAM has spruced up our bulletin board in Fellowship Hall. We encourage everyone to check it out for information on various initiatives and our schedule for the year.

Fair Thank You!! My heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to everyone at CCC who contributed to the success of our 2024 Holiday Fair! You are all awesome!! More details and words of thanks will be sent in the December issue of the Beacon Newsletter!

Also, congratulations to Dory Toppan who held the winning ticket to the “Pay Down Your Pledge” 50/50 raffle! *Your Fair Chair, Lynn Horton*



Christmas Tree Sales – Sales will begin at noon on November 29. Please sign up for a time slot! **There are 3 Ways to sign-up:**

- Sign-up online on SignUp:** <https://signup.com/go/OXPNNbK>
 - Review the options listed and choose the spot(s) you like
 - Sign up! It's easy – you will NOT need to register an account or keep a password on SignUp.

- Sign-up in Fellowship Hall:** a sign-up poster in Fellowship Hall on Sundays starting Nov. 3 or

- Speak with Glenn or Margie Dissinger** (or email margie228@gmail.com)

Please check your calendars now and plan to sign up for a couple of shifts to sell trees! As you all know, this is a major fundraiser for the church and we need everyone to help to make this a successful one! Watch your weekly emails for information and updates. More information can be found in the [November Beacon Newsletter](#). ~Glenn & Margie Dissinger, Co-chairs

Advent Contemplative Meditations - Pastor Lee will be recording contemplative meditations that will be posted in the Facebook group. We will let you know when they are available.

This Week at CCC

Sun, Dec 1	11:15 AM	Advent Festival	Fellowship Hall
	11:15 AM	Junior Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	11:30 AM	Choir Christmas Concert Rehearsal	Sanctuary
Mon, Dec 2	1:00 PM	Lunch With Lee	The Java Room
	7:00 PM	Trustees Meeting	Room 202
	Tues, Dec 3	11:45 AM	Lunch Bunch
	7:00 PM	Social Action and Missions Committee	Room 302
	7:30 PM	Sonlight Band Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	Wed, Dec 4	7:15 PM	Christian Education Committee
Thurs, Dec 5	6:45 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	8:15 PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal	Room 312

Offertory *“King Jesus is His Name”* Chancel Choir

Run and tell everybody you see that Bethlehem has a little baby
Born in a stable late one night underneath a sky so starry bright
The star made a night to shine like the day and the shepherds came to bring Him praise
Wise men brought Him beautiful gifts they brought gold, myrrh, and frankincense

What did they call that little bitty baby King Jesus is His name
Well, what did the heavenly host proclaim King Jesus is His name
Well, tell me who would've thought this tiny lad, Would hold all power in His hands
Tell me, what did they call Him King Jesus is His name

Well, the people came from all around they knelt in awe of this King they found
The manger held such a holy sight this gift from heaven would bring them life
Life forever in a heavenly place for every nation, color, every creed and race
This little baby's gonna change the world in the hearts of men, women, boys, and girls

What did they call that little bitty baby King Jesus is His name
What did the heavenly host proclaim King Jesus is His name
Well, tell me, who would've thought this tiny lad would hold all power in His hands
Tell me, what did they call Him King Jesus is His name, King Jesus is His name

Well, the people came from all around they knelt in awe of this King they found
The manger held such a holy sight the manger held eternal life

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Hymn Lyrics

Opening Hymn *“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”*

Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home; all is safely gathered in, ere we the winter storms begin; God, our Maker, does provide for our wants to be supplied; come to God’s own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

All the blessings of the field, all the stores the gardens yield, all the fruits in full supply, ripened ‘neath the summer sky, all that spring with bounteous hand scatters o’er the smiling land, all the liberal autumn pours from its rich o’er flowing stores.

These to thee, our God we owe, source whence all our blessings flow; and for these our souls shall raise grateful vows and solemn praise. Come, then, thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home; come to God’s own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

Hymn *“Come, Thou Mighty King”*

Come, thou almighty King, help us thy name to sing; help us to praise: one God, all glorious, o’er all victorious, come, and reign over us, ancient of days.

Come, thou incarnate Word, gird on thy mighty sword; our prayer attend: come, and thy people bless, and give thy word success; Spirit of holiness, on us descend.

Come, holy Comforter, thy sacred witness bear in this glad hour! Thou who almighty art, now rule in every heart, and ne’er from us depart, Spirit of power.

To thee, great One in Three, eternal praises be hence ever more! Thy sovereign majesty may we in glory see, and to eternity love and adore.

Closing Hymn *“For the Fruit of All Creation”*

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God; for good gifts to every nation, thanks be to God; for the plowing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping, future needs in earth’s safe-keeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God’s will is done; in the help we give our neighbor, God’s will is done; in our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing, in the harvests we are sharing, God’s will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God; for the good we all inherit, thanks be to God; for the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us, most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.