



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

Table with 4 columns: Role, Name, Phone, Email. Includes Pastor Pro Tem, Director of Music, Office Administrator, Sunday School Coord., Nursery Coordinator, Custodian, Council President, Church Phone & Email, and U.C.C. Website.

Transition Team Contact Information

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

- List of transition team members: John Lamplough, Judith Barnes, Glenn Dissinger, Kelsey Hartigan, Shaleena Pulliam, Peter White.



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Central Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation

Sunday, January 12, 2025
The Baptism of Christ

10 o'clock a.m.
The Journey of Discipleship

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life" John 3:16

Welcome to Central Congregational Church, where no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome. If you are visiting us today, know that we are glad to have you. As we worship together, please note that a \* indicates a time to stand as you are able. Words in bold are to be spoken by the congregation.

GATHERING

Prelude "Lamb of God" arr. by Hayes Tudor Bota, Music Director
Welcome and Announcements
Ringing the Bell

\*Hymn "Gather Us In" #284
Call to Worship Dory Toppan, Liturgist

Pastor Lee: In the beginning water cradled us in the womb holding us in suspension until we burst forth in the waters of birth.

People: God's love flows through the water.
Dory Toppan: In the desert a small drop of water causes life to bloom. A tiny drop of water can quench our burning thirst for justice.

People: God's love flows through the water.
Amy Provencal: In the roots of our being water provides sustenance. Without water our lives would shrivel and wither.

People: God's love flows through the water.
Lynn Horton: In the times when we feel sullied and broken. We long to be reawakened by soaking in forgiving, transforming love.

People: God's love flows through the water.
Pastor Lee: All water is holy.

Dory: A sign that we have passed through troubles,

Amy: that we have been refreshed by a gift of life,

Lynn: sustained by a love poured over us.

People: God's love flows through the water

Pastor Lee: In the aftermath of water ...

**All voices randomly as a cacophony:**

**flowing, pouring, falling, dropping, gushing, spilling, surging, tumbling, showering...**

Pastor Lee: ... is the rainbow sign of God's continuing love at work within us and through us.

**People: God's love flows through the water**

**Opening Prayer and Blessing of the Water**

Dory

**The Lord's Prayer**

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**

"Water, River, Spirit, Grace"

#366

**Sharing Christ's Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

**Children's Message**

Pastor Lee

**Sending Hymn**

"Go Now In Peace"

#437

**Call to Confession**

Pastor Lee

**Prayer of Confession**

**Assurance of God's Grace**

**Sung Response**

"Angels We Have Heard On High" (refrain only)

#155

**HEARING AND RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture Lesson**

Psalm 25:16-21, Ephesians 4:1-8, John 13:1-17 Pew Bible pp. 436, 951, 876

**Response**

Here ends God's Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God**

**Pastor's Message**

Pastor Lee

**Hymn**

"I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry"

#75

**Affirmation of Faith in Unison** UCC Statement of Faith Adapted by Robert V. Moss (1976)

We believe in God, the Eternal Spirit, who is made known to us in Jesus our brother, and to whose deeds we testify:

God calls the worlds into being, creates humankind in the divine image, and sets before us the ways of life and death.

God seeks in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

God judges all humanity and all nations by that will of righteousness declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Lord,

God has come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the whole creation to its Creator.

God bestows upon us the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

God calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be servants in the service of the whole human family, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

God promises to all who trust in the gospel forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, the presence of the Holy Spirit in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in that kingdom which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God. Amen.

**Joys and Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**RESPONDING IN FAITH AND ACTION**

**Invitation to the Offering**

Dory

**Offertory**

"Down by the Riverside" arr. by Gibson

Chancel Choir

Gonna lay down my burden, down by the riverside, down by the riverside, down by the riverside

Gonna lay down my burden, down by the riverside, and study war no more

*Chorus:* I ain't gonna study war no more, I ain't gonna study war no more

Ain't gonna study war no more

I ain't gonna study war no more, I ain't gonna study war no more

I ain't gonna study war no more

**Doxology**

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

#46

**Prayer of Dedication**

**SENDING FORTH**

**\*Sending Hymn**

"Wade in the Water"

#371

**\*Commissioning and Benediction**

**\*Three-Fold Amen**

**Postlude**

"Maestoso" by Couperin

Tudor



## A Celebration of Star Words

During worship on Sunday, we each received a star with a word on it. This is a fairly new Epiphany practice in churches around the world. We know that the Magi followed a star, which ultimately led them to Jesus. Therefore, we, too, use all the resources we have available to us—including creative prayer practices and intention words for the new year—so we too move closer to Jesus.

Star words offer a tool to actively seek and reflect on God's presence among us, both in the moment and in hindsight. Having an intention word to consider allows us to see God in ways we may not have seen God before.

We believe that star words invite a new prayer rhythm of reflection and review that can be a powerful new way to connect with God.

We practice the spiritual task of receiving by allowing the star word to choose us, not us choose a word we like. It is not we who are in control in this moment. Instead, we trust that God is present, and we let go of our desire to cultivate or control.

During communion, you will be invited to select a star word. Consider this a guiding word for the year ahead. We invite you to remember your star word often, seeking the ways God might be moving through the meanings and definitions the word contains.

Please contact Pastor Lee or Peggy for your Star Word.

## 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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### 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.

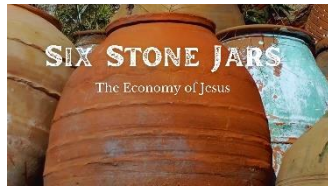
### Children

- ☺ 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](#).

<b>Greeter(s):</b>	The Naish Family
<b>Liturgist:</b>	Dory Toppan
<b>Acolyte:</b>	Colton Moore
<b>Nursery Care Coordinator:</b>	Kelsey Hartigan
<b>Coffee Hour Host(s):</b>	Erin McNally, Danielle Albon
<b>Sanctuary Flowers:</b>	Today's arrangement has been donated by the Pantuso Family in honor of Kenny's great grandmother, Lilla Jones.
<b>Steeple Light:</b>	The steeple is lit this week by Curt and Donna Bates in memory of their former neighbors, Hector and Shirley Parker.

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



**Six Stone Jars – Beginning January 19**, and for five weeks following, we will be exploring some of Jesus’ calls to justice. I pray that this series will ground us in the teachings of Jesus and offer us a clear vision of how we are called to be the church in this moment. May your stone jars be plenty full of “good stuff” and may we all share extravagantly the resources we have been given with those who need it most. If you have questions, please contact Pastor Lee.

**Join us in bringing ‘Six Stone Jares’ to life.** We need your creativity and passion! Pastor Lee is seeking crafters, sanctuary decorators, and children’s message leaders. Please see the January Beacon newsletter for additional details and speak with Pastor Lee if you feel called to contribute to the Six Stone Jars series.

**Baptismal Remembrance Video:** Ian Lynch at Waterville UCC has created a stunning video based on some of the liturgy. Thank you for creating and sharing this beautiful piece, Ian, and thank you for the permission for churches to download and use it! View here: <https://spaces.hightail.com/space/C1kxOhsH13>



**CCC Movie Group | Mon, Jan 13 & 27 | 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 movies!  
**Mon, Jan 13:** The Barefoot Contessa | **Mon, Jan 27:** Carousel



**ChristCare | Mon, Jan 20 | 7:00 PM via Zoom** - The Monday evening ChristCare group will meet via Zoom on January 20. We will be continuing our reading and discussion of Six New Gospels: New Testament Women Tell Their Stories. Please contact Deb Lyons ([deb@dandelyons.net](mailto:deb@dandelyons.net)) if you are interested in joining the group.



**KiSeLo (Kindness, Service, Love) | Wed, Jan, 22 | 1:00 PM | Fellowship Hall** – Join us as Pat Vondal, church historian, will be sharing stories of her time in Africa. Becky Wisniewski and Jennifer Hart will be the hostesses. Our open Pantry donation request is soup or any non-perishable food. **Questions, need information, or have comments about KiSeLo?** Text or call Karen Banakos at (603)686-2026.

**Unlocking the Door to Peaceful Endings Workshop | Sun, Jan 26 | 12:00 PM | Room 302** – Bring your lunch to this workshop designed to guide you through the process of discovering, documenting, and discussion your care wishes with those who matter most. Registration is required. Please see Pastor Lee and the January Beacon newsletter for more information.

**Open Pantry’s ‘Open Hearts Dinner & Dance’ | Fri, Feb 14 | 6:00 PM | Fellowship Hall**  
 Food, dance, raffle, and auction - Scan the QR code to purchase tickets or visit [ww.theopenpantry.org](http://ww.theopenpantry.org) | \$40 pp; \$225 table for 6; \$150 table for 4; \$15 Dance only (after 8PM)



**Transition Team Interviews:** The Transition Team is conducting interviews to hear your stories about CCC and wants to hear from as many people as possible. If you’re interested, please signup in Fellowship Hall or online (see the January Beacon and the link will be in Tues, Jan 14 e-announcements).

**Calling all Scouts – Sunday, Feb 9 is Scout Sunday and we need your help!** Any Scout, Cub Scout, Girl Scout, Brownie, or Daisy interested in being part of the church service, please contact Cynthia Dorman at [cbdorman@comcast.net](mailto:cbdorman@comcast.net). Positions available include; ushers, readers, front and back door greeters, and offering ushers. Thank you!



**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!



**Coffee Hour Hosting** – There is a signup sheet in Fellowship Hall where folks can sign up to host a Sunday Coffee Hour. Online signup is also available. See the weekly e-announcements for the link to all of our online signup forms.

**This Week at CCC**

<b>Tues, Jan 14</b>	11:45 AM	Lunch Bunch	Room 202
	7:30 PM	Sonlight Band Rehearsal	Sanctuary
<b>Thurs, Jan 16</b>	6:45 PM	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	Sanctuary
	8:15 PM	Bell Choir Rehearsal	Room 312

## HYMN LYRICS

### Opening Hymn “Gather Us In”

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Here in this place, the new light is streaming, shadows of doubt are vanished away. See in this space our fears and our dreamings, brought here to you in the light of this day.

We are the young - our lives are a mystery; we are the old, who yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of history, called to be light to the whole human race.

Here we receive new life in the waters; here we receive the bread of new birth; here you shall call your sons and your daughters, call us anew to be salt for the earth.

Not just in buildings, small and confining, not in some heaven, light years away, here in this place the new light is shining; now is God present, and now is the day.

### Hymn “Water, River, Spirit, Grace”

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Water, River, Spirit, Grace, sweep over me, sweep over me!

Re-carve the depths your fingers traced in sculpting me, in sculpting me, sculpting me

### Sending Hymn

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Go now in peace, go now in peace, may the love of God surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go.

### Sung Response “Angels We Have Heard on High” [Refrain only]

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Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

### Hymn “I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry”

I was there to hear your borning cry, I’ll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well; in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the world I was there to cheer you on; you were raised to praise the living God, to whom you now belong.

If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one, I’ll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young, I’ll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I’ve begun.

When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes, I’ll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry, I’ll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

### Sending Hymn “Wade in the Water”

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*Refrain:* Wade in the water, (children,) wade in the water, children, wade in the water, God’s a-going to trouble the water. O water.

See that host all dressed in white, God’s a-going to trouble the water; the leader looks like the Israelite, God’s a-going to trouble the water. *[Refrain]*

See that band all dressed in red, God’s a-going to trouble the water; looks like the band that Moses led, God’s a-going to trouble the water. *[Refrain]*

Look over yonder, what do you see? God’s a-going to trouble the water; the Holy Ghost a-coming on me, God’s a-going to trouble the water. *[Refrain]*

Look over yonder, what do you see? God’s a-going to trouble the water; the Holy Ghost a-coming on me, God’s a-going to trouble the water.



**Register now at our Early Bird Rates!**  
*(Early Bird Rates only available until January 15)*

Register Here:

<https://www.sneucc.org/eventdetail/18794786?month=3&year=2025&day=1&display=m>

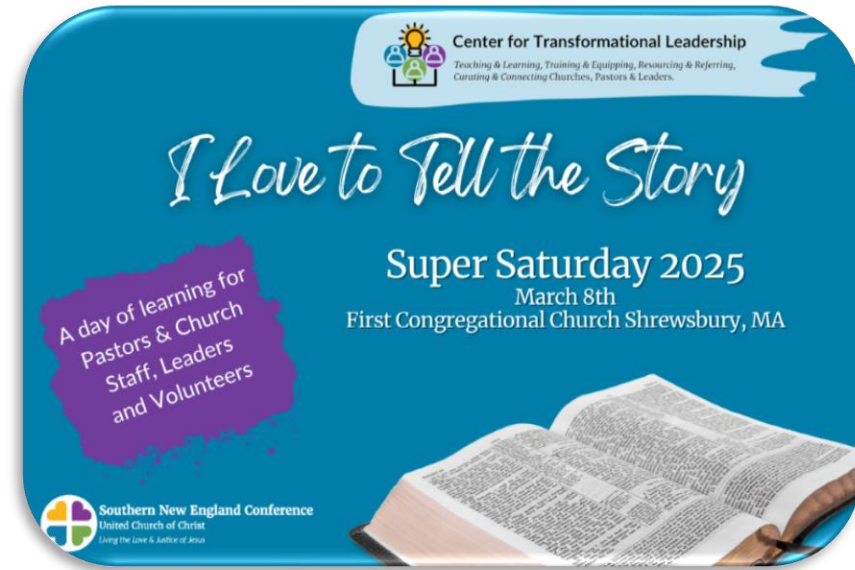
**Super Saturday 2025 offers:**

**Over 30 Workshop Topics\* & 7 Streams of Learning:**

- I Love to Tell the Story
- Stories of Innovation
- Intergenerational Ministries
- Stories of Justice & Witness
- Leadership Trainings-Finance & Investments
- Leadership Trainings-Human Resources & Staffing
- History, Governance & Structure

*\*Some workshops are exclusive to one location.*

*Find all things Super Saturday  
 by visiting our [event page](http://www.sneucc.org/events): [www.sneucc.org/events](http://www.sneucc.org/events)*



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