

Cover Artwork
The Rainbow Sheep

Contemplate the artwork on the front cover and consider these questions:

1. How does this picture remind you or not remind you of our congregation?
2. Where do you see yourself in this picture?
3. What feelings does the drawing evoke in you?

Pastor Lee would love to hear your thoughts. Send her an email at Pastor-Lee@CCCChelmsford.org

Join the Conversation – Tuesdays at 7:00 AM or 4:30 PM on Zoom

Beginning next June 24, Pastor Lee will have gathering times to reflect on our Sunday image, scripture, and message. Please drop in on **Tuesdays at 7:00 AM or 4:30 PM** on Zoom

Meeting ID: 825 3465 4153 | Passcode: ShadPhoe

If you are not able to join a Zoom conversation, please let us know.

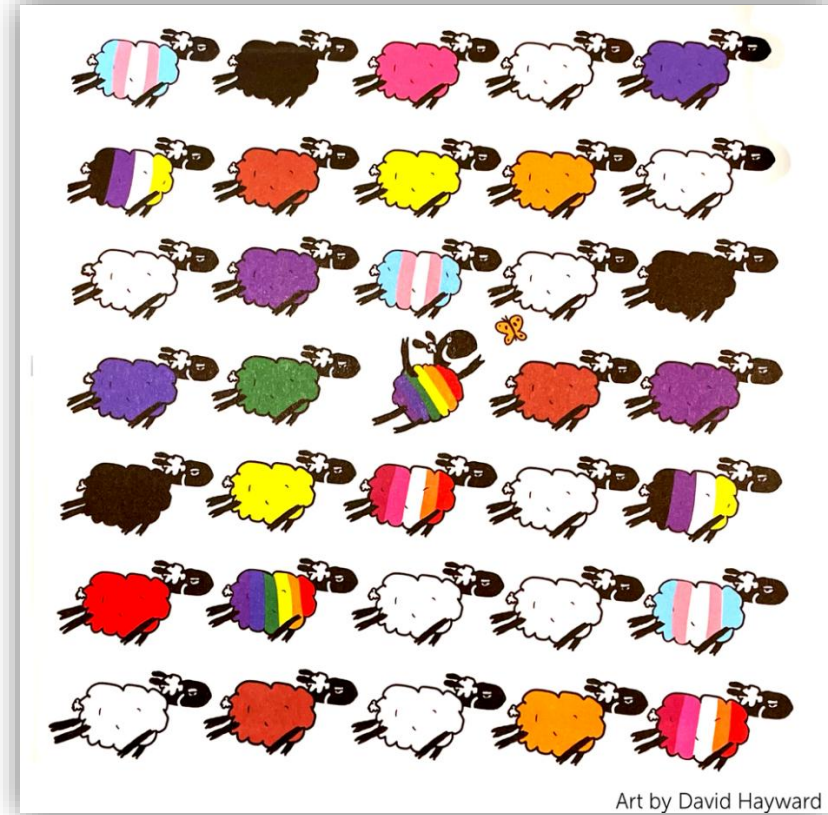
Central Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
Chelmsford, Massachusetts
An Open and Affirming Congregation
“A Community of Faith, Hope, and Love, Growing through Worship and Service”

Sunday, June 29, 2025

Open and Affirming Sunday

10 o'clock a.m.

That all may be one.



"The Rainbow Sheep"

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 an * indicates a time to stand as you are able. Sentences in **bold** are to be spoken by the congregation.

GATHERING

Prelude "Andante Cantabile," from Sonata K333, by Mozart Betsy White, Pianist

Welcome and Announcements Lynn Horton
Ring the Bell Deb Lyons

***Opening Hymn** "O for a World" #683
Call to Worship Madison Lauricella

Come, you who are weary and wounded, you who are radiant and rising—

We come as we are, beloved and becoming.

Come, you who have been told you're too much or not enough—

We come with our stories, our scars, and our strength.

Come, for you are sacred. You are seen. You are called.

We come to worship the One who made us in love and calls us to live in joy.

Prayer of Invocation and the Lord's Prayer Madison

Lord, thank You for creating a world full of diversity. Help us to love others genuinely and seek unity in our differences. When prejudice or division threatens, empower us to be peacemakers. Let your love break down barriers and bring us together as one family in Christ. Guide our actions and words to reflect Your inclusive grace, so all may know Your welcoming embrace. We pray together as Jesus taught, saying, **"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."**

Sharing Christ's Peace Madison
The peace of Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

Children's Message "The Rainbow Sheep," by David Hayward Jody Cross-Hansen

Sending Hymn "Go Now In Peace"
Go now in peace, go now in peace, may the love of God surround you everywhere,
everywhere you may go.

PROCLAIMING

Prayer for Illumination Mary Horne
Scripture Lesson Psalm 139:13-16; Acts 15:5-12 Pew Bible p. 503, 899 Mary
Response

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Message "We're ONA! Now What?" Deb Lyons

***Hymn** "Restless Weaver" #658
Joys and Concerns
Prayers of the People Alisa Knight

RESPONDING IN FAITH AND ACTION

Prayer for Transformation (Compiled by Pastor Lori Kelly Burns, Kenilworth UCC) Alisa
God, who made us in Your image, teach us to love ourselves as You love us. God, who made us in Your image, allow us to show that image to the world. God who made us in Your image, help us to see Your image in all those we meet. God, who made us in Your image, teach us to conserve and protect all Your creation. God, who made us in Your image, bless, protect, and keep us and all Your children safe.

Words of Grace Alisa

Invitation to Generosity Emmett Lyons

Offertory "Traumerei," from Scenes from Childhood, by Schumann Betsy

***Doxology** "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" Traditional Lyrics: #46
Feel free to sing the version of the lyrics that is familiar to you.

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.

***Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication** Emmett

SENDING FORTH

***Sending Hymn** "We Are Not Our Own" #689

***Commission and Benediction** Alisa

***Three-Fold Amen**
Postlude "Fugue in C," from Well-Tempered Clavier, Book II, by Bach Betsy



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

Pastor Pro Tem	Rev. Lee Atherton	508-308-7116	Pastor-Lee@cccchelmsford.org
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Church Address	1 Worthen Street, Chelmsford, MA 01824		
U.C.C. Website	ucc.org (United Church of Christ)		

Transition Team Contact Information

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

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We declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation, welcoming into the full life and ministry of the church persons of every race, culture, age, gender identity and gender expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, marital status, education, and economic status. We especially and intentionally welcome all who have known the pain of exclusion or discrimination in the church and society.



Scan the QR code to give your offering electronically and support our ministry. Thank you for your generosity!



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. This service of worship is being livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube. If you do not wish to be visible on the internet, please choose a seat in the balcony.

Children

- ☺ Children are always welcome in our services of worship.
- ☺ Our nursery is not staffed for the summer, but folks are welcome to use the space if needed.
- ☺ 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): Emmett Lyons and Madison Lauricella

Liturgist: Members of Our Open and Affirming Ministry


Worship Service Flowers: This week's arrangement is given by Jean Montgomery in memory of Laurie and loved ones who have passed.

Coffee Hour Hosts: The Deacons host "Lemonade & Cookies" during the summer months.

Many thanks to all who enrich our morning together.

Announcements and Events – Sunday, June 29, 2025

Downeast Maine Mission - An important part of the DEMM tradition is the sponsoring of meals. We are looking for some CCC folks to sponsor a few meals during our week in Maine. For \$50 you can sponsor breakfast, \$75 for lunch, or \$100 for dinner. We would also love to have people include a prayer so we can introduce them and read their prayer before we eat. Prayer writing assistance is available. Overall, there are 6 breakfasts, 5 lunches, and 6 dinners. Please speak with Kristin Strobel if you would like to sponsor a meal and a prayer. Thank you.


 **CCC Movie Group** - 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 (lynn@terpsoft.com) for the Zoom link, if you have questions, or if you have difficulty accessing the movies! Movie selections for July are: **July 14:** “Seven Years in Tibet” **July 28:** “We Bought a Zoo”



Nursery Care – We thank Kelsey Hartigan for being our Nursery Care Coordinator and wish her well as she moves on. We are currently looking for a replacement Nursery Care Coordinator to start in September.



Socks & T-Shirts for DEMM - Collecting Through July 28
Socks and T-Shirts for DownEast Maine Mission - There will be a collection box in the Narthex throughout July for donations of new athletic socks and gently used T-shirts. The DownEast Maine Mission group donates these to migrant workers in the area of Maine where they go for their mission trip. Please contact Julie Carney if you need additional information.

 **Pledge Envelopes** – If you requested pledge envelopes, you will find them in the narthex (lobby). Please take your envelopes today. Thank you.

Lunch Bunch – Meets on Tuesdays at 11:45 AM in Room 202. Bring your lunch and dine with friends!

June is LGBTQ+ Pride Month! This year, the ONA ministry team is celebrating Pride by providing the opportunity to add your personal pronouns to your name tags. Each Sunday in June there will be a table in Fellowship Hall during coffee hour where you can amend your name tag and add your pronouns. Another option is to scan this QR code with your phone and it will take you to an online form. Doing this helps make our church visibly inclusive and welcoming, especially for our LGBTQ+ community members.

CCC Name Tag Request Form



This Week at CCC

Tues, July 1	11:45 AM	Lunch Bunch	Room 202
	7:00 PM	Social Action & Missions Committee	Room 302

Pastor Lee’s Office Hours: Thursdays and by appointment.
Please contact Pastor Lee directly: pastor-lee@cccchelmsford.org | 508-308-7116

Summer Office Hours: The office will be open on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 8:30 – 1:30 from July 1 through August 15. Weekly announcements will be sent on Wednesday mornings and the bulletin email will continue to be delivered on Friday mornings.



Reminder: The Town of Chelmsford will be working in the church parking lot. The church entrance from Worthen Street will be blocked at various times over the next couple of weeks. During the week, please avoid parking next to construction vehicles and equipment

Hymn Lyrics

Opening Hymn

“O for a World”

O for a world where everyone respects each other’s ways, where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved, where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice that opens up to unity and gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise. Tell all who mourn; outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for God’s glorious reign of peace, where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.

Hymn

“Restless Weaver”

Restless Weaver, ever spinning, threads of justice and shalom; dreaming patterns of creation where all creatures find a home; gathering up life’s varied fibers – every texture, every hue: grant us your creative vision. With us weave your world anew.

Where earth’s fragile web is raveling help us mend each broken strand. Bless our urgent, bold endeavors cleansing water, air, and land. Through the Spirit’s inspiration – offering health where once was pain – strengthen us to be the stewards of your world knit whole again.

When our violent lust for power ends in lives abused and torn, from compassion’s sturdy fabric fashion hope and trust reborn. Where injustice rules as tyrant, give us courage, God, to dare live our dreams of transformation. Make our lives incarnate prayer.

Restless Weaver, still conceiving new life – now and yet to be – binding all your vast creation in one living tapestry: you have called us to be weavers. Let your love guide all we do. With Reign of Peace pattern, we will weave your world anew.

Sending Hymn

“We Are Not Our Own”

We are not are own. Earth forms us, human leaves on nature’s growing vine, fruit of many generations, seeds of life divine.

We are not alone. Earth names us: past and present, peoples near and far, family and friends and stranger show us who we are.

Through a human life God finds us; dying, living, love is fully known, and in bread and wine reminds us: we are not our own.

Therefor let us make thanksgiving, and with justice, willing and aware, give to earth, and all things living, liturgies of care.

And if love’s encounters lead us on a way uncertain and unknown, all the saints with prayer surround us: we are not alone.

Let us be a house of welcome, living stone upholding living stone, gladly showing all our neighbors we are not or own!