
Central Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

Chelmsford, Massachusetts

An Open and Affirming Congregation

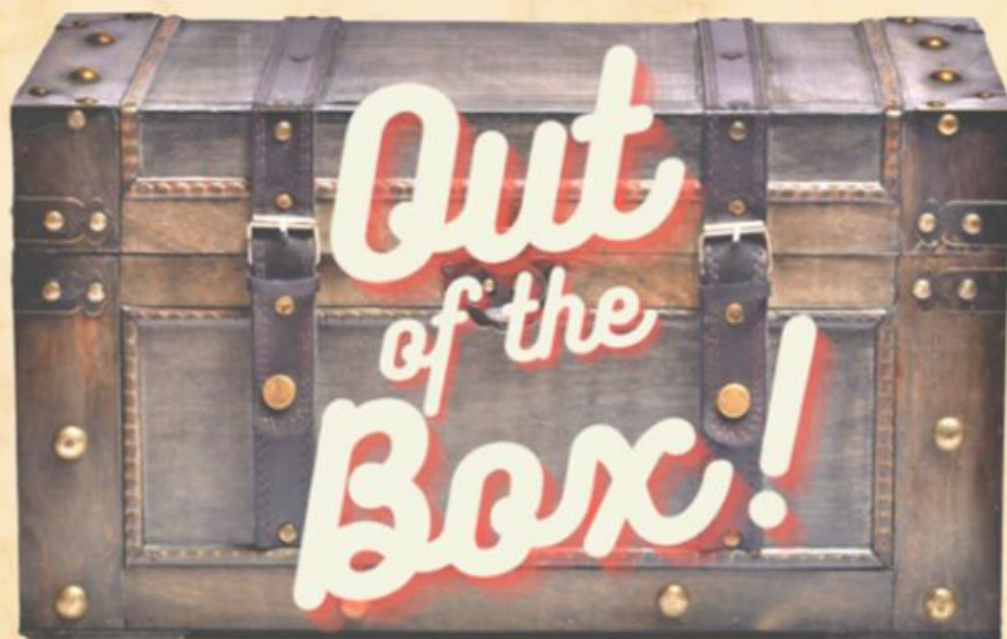
"A Community of Faith, Hope, and Love, Growing through Worship and Service"

Sunday, July 20, 2025

Out of the Box! Worship

10 o'clock a.m.

Open only at the risk of turning the ordinary into the extraordinary! If you dare to open, you will find an order of worship. Today is a participatory worship service - please feel free to join in as you are able. When everyone is ready, we'll Take Worship ...



*You are invited to Stand

Bold Text: you are invited to speak together

GATHER

Prelude

"Deep River" arr. by Keveren
"Thy Will" arr. by Hayes

Tudor Bota, Music Director

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Lee Atherton, Lynn Horton

Invitation to Explore

Worshiper #1, #2, #3, #4

We Gather Together

Worshiper #5, #6, #7

*Opening Hymn

"Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty"

Descant

4. Ho - ly, God Al - might - y!

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore thee;
3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark-ness hide thee,
4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Thy works praise thee in earth and sky and sea;
Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee;
cast - ing down their gold-en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
though the sin-ful hu-man eye thy glo - ry may not see;
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea;

God most ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!
ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y,
cher-u-bim and ser-a-phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y;

WORDS: Reginald Heber, 1826, alt.

NICAEA

Every year
the lilies
are so perfect
I can hardly believe
their lapped light crowding
the black,
mid-summer ponds,
nobody could count all of them –
the muskrats swimming
among the pads and the grasses
can reach out
their muscular arms and touch
only so many, they are that
rife and wild.
But what in this world
is perfect?
I bend closer and see
how this one is clearly lopsided –
and that one wears an orange blight –
and this one is a glossy cheek
half nibbled away –
and that one is a slumped purse
full of its own
unstoppable decay.
Still, what I want in my life
is to be willing
to be dazzled –
to cast aside the weight of facts
and maybe even to float a little above this difficult world.
I want to believe I am looking
into the white fire of a great mystery.
I want to believe that the imperfections are nothing –
that the light is everything – that it is more than the sum
of each flawed blossom rising and fading. And I do.

***Passing the Peace**

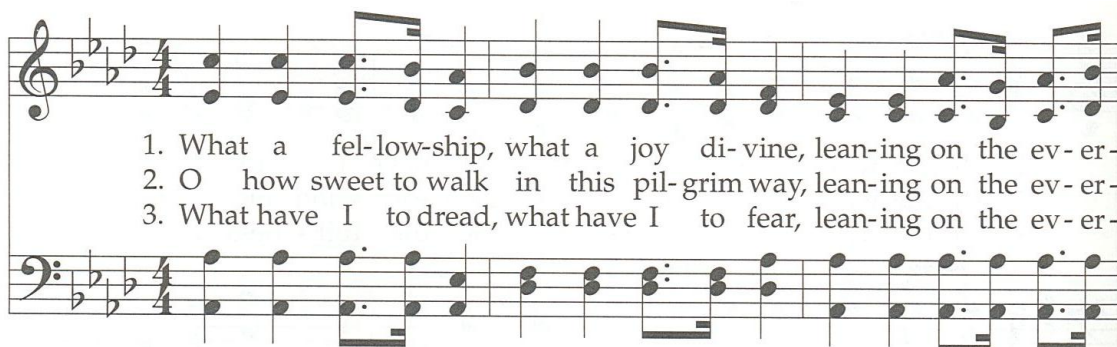
PROCLAIM

Reflection
Scripture Reading
Pastor's Message

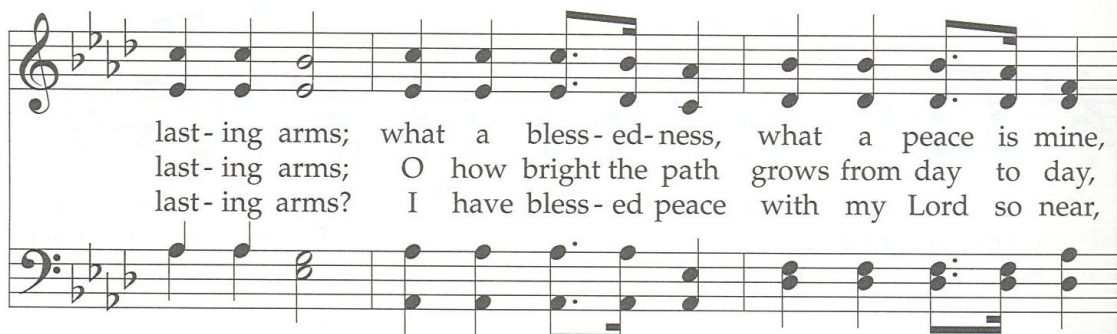
Romans 12:1-2 (The Message)

Worshiper #9, #10
Pastor Lee
Pastor Lee

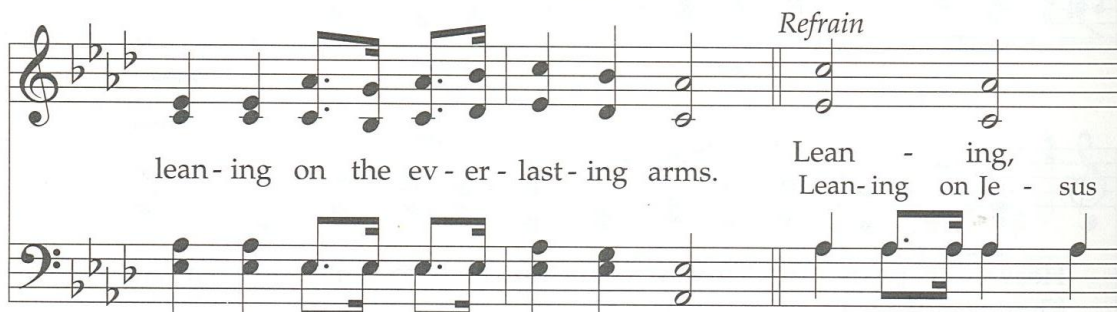
Leaning on the Everlasting Arms



1. What a fel-low-ship, what a joy di-vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-
 2. O how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-
 3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-

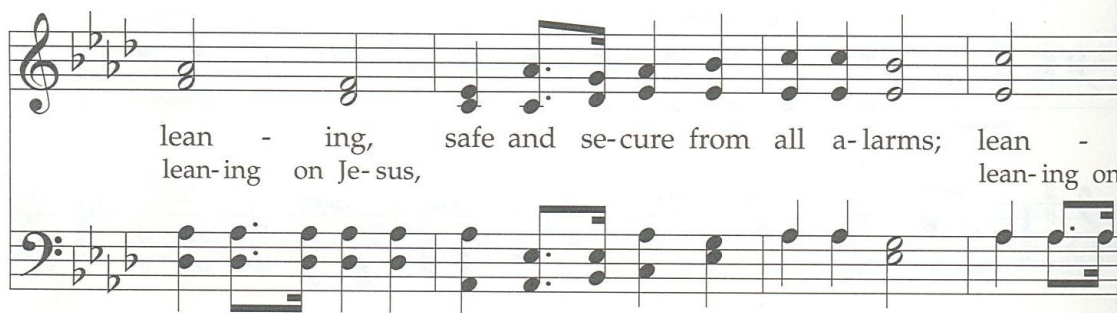


last-ing arms; what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine,
 last-ing arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day,
 last-ing arms? I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near,

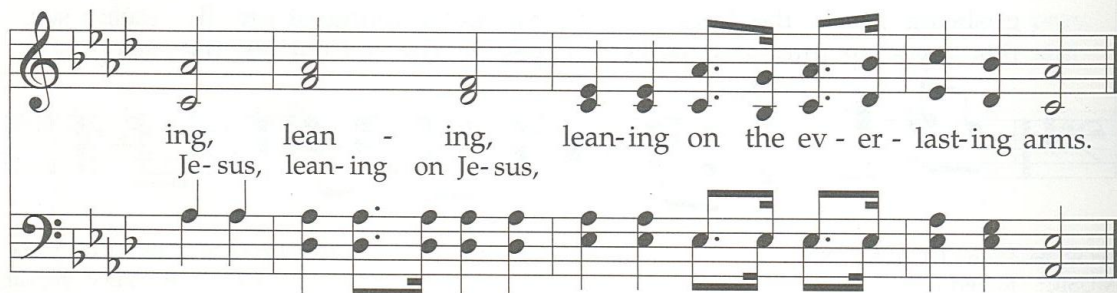


Refrain

lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms. Lean-ing, Lean-ing on Je-sus



lean-ing, safe and se-cure from all a-larms; lean-ing on
 lean-ing on Je-sus, lean-ing on



ing, lean-ing, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
 Je-sus, lean-ing on Je-sus,

Sharing the Silence
Sharing Ourselves
Moving as One & Musical Reflection

Worshiper #11
Worshiper #12, #13
Worshiper #14

Goddag! Goddag! From Humorous Bagatelles, Op 11 (Carl Nielsen)

DEDICATE

Invitation
Offertory

"The Old Rugged Cross"

Bennard William White, Soloist

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suff'ring and shame,
And I love that old cross where the Dearest and Best
For a world of lost sinners was slain.

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross,
Till my trophies at last I lay down;
I will cling to the old rugged cross,
And exchange it some day for a crown.

Oh, that old rugged cross, so despised by the world,
Has a wondrous attraction for me;
For the dear Lamb of God left His glory above,
To bear it to dark Calvary.

Circle Offerings and Joys and Concerns
Pastoral Prayer

Worshiper #15

BLESS

Hymn

"Yours is the Glory, Resurrected One!" (English v. 1-3)

next page

1 A toi la gloi - re, ô Res - sus - ci - té! A toi la vic - toi - re,
 1 Yours is the glo - ry, Res - ur - rect - ed One! End - less is the vic - tory
 2 See, it is Je - sus, Je - sus has ap - peared; do not doubt at all for
 3 Am I still fright - ened? One whom I a - dore, Je - sus, lives a - gain, gives

pour l'é - ter - ni - té! Bril - lant de lu - miè - re, l'ange est de - scen -
 you o'er death have won. An - gels clothed in ra - diance rolled the stone a -
 noth - ing you will fear. Let the church with glad - ness hymns of tri - umph
 peace for - ev - er - more. Je - sus is my vic - tory, life and strength and

du, il rou - le la pier - re du tom - beau vain - cu.
 way; con - quered is the grave in which your bod - y lay.
 sing; tell it with - out ceas - ing: Death has lost its sting.
 Head; Je - sus is my glo - ry, noth - ing shall I dread.

Refrain

A toi la gloi - re, ô Res - sus - ci - té!
 Yours is the glo - ry, Res - ur - rect - ed One!

Swiss pastor Edmond L. Budry may have drawn his inspiration

Tune: JUDAS MACCABEUS

A toi la vic - toi - re, pour l'é - ter - ni - té!
 End - less is the vic - tory you o'er death have won.

Benediction
Postlude
Boxing It Up

“Largo” by Rameau

Tudor
Worshiper #16, #17, #18

Please join us for fellowship after worship!

Announcements and Events – Sunday, July 20, 2025

Pastoral Search Committee Candidates


CCC members who are interested in volunteering to serve on the Pastoral Search Committee are invited to contact Lynn Horton, CCC Council Chair. A committee of 7-9 members will be formed from the pool of candidates. The search for a Settled Pastor will begin in the fall when the current Transition Team completes the Church Profile. The completed Profile will be shared with the congregation and approved by Council vote before being submitted to the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ (SNEUCC). The Conference will then post CCC's Profile on-line in a secure database that is accessible to ordained pastors who are seeking a full-time position.

The work of the CCC Pastoral Search Committee will include reading applications and resumes, contacting references, holding Zoom and in-person interviews, and regular meetings of the Search Committee. Previous CCC Search Committees and the current Transition Team have met weekly on Sundays. Please contact Lynn Horton if you have questions or wish to be added to the list of Search Committee candidates.

Thank you!


Lynn Horton, Lynn@terpsoft.com (978) 256-8524.

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! Next Movie: **July 28: "We Bought a Zoo"**



Nursery Care – We are currently looking for a Nursery Care Coordinator to start in September. Please speak with Jennifer Hart for more information: 5ofHarts@chris-jenn.net

Socks & T-Shirts for DEMM - Collecting Through July 28 - 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. 

The Six Principles & Six Steps to Kingian Nonviolence Workshop | Sat, July 26 | 9am – 12pm on Zoom - Facilitated by Shane Lee of the Nonviolence Institute, this workshop provides a framework for Dr. King's philosophy and practice of nonviolence. Pastor Lee will be participating in this 3-hour workshop. If you plan to participate, please let Pastor Lee know. **Registration deadline is July 23. Visit sneucc.org/events to register.**

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

Join Pastor Lee to reflect on our Sunday image, scripture, and message. Please drop in on **Tuesdays at 7:00 AM or 4:30 PM** on Zoom. Please let Pastor Lee know if you plan to attend. If you are not able to connect, please let us know. Meeting ID: 825 3465 4153 | Passcode: ShadPhoe



Reminder: The Town of Chelmsford continues their work in the church parking lot. The Worthen Street entrance will be blocked periodically until the work is complete. During the week, please enter from North Road and park away from construction and construction vehicles. Please use caution when walking in the parking lot.

A UCC Prayer and Recovery Effort for Texas Flooding Victims

Gracious God, We find ourselves in difficult times as we sit in solidarity with those affected by the significant flooding in Kerr County, Texas and beyond. We pray for the families that have lost a loved one, and those facing uncertainty as they await news about their loved ones, and we pray for those who have lost their homes and businesses. We ask that you provide us with strength as we grieve together, pray together, and rebuild together. We trust in your greatness that you will bring peace to all those affected by this storm. In Jesus name we pray. Amen. (Please visit the UCC website for additional information: <https://www.sneucc.org/postdetail/ucc-prayer-recovery-effort-for-texas-flooding-victims-19141960>)



Don Harbison's Pan Mass Challenge | Sat, Aug 2 & Sun, Aug 3 - PMC 2025 kicks off with Opening Ceremonies on Friday, August 1st. This event will be broadcast on WBZ usually starting at 7:00 p.m. The ride(s) start at dawn on Saturday, August 2 and August 3 for two day routes. A big THANK YOU! for all church members who have donated to my campaign. If you would like to do so, it's not too late. Please see the Tuesday announcements for a link to my PMC profile page and hit the donate button. And thank you, as always. – Don



Free Concerts! **Friday July 18 at 4:30 PM UMass Lowell** - Symphonic Band Camp Ensembles will be performing a concert for family and guests and **Saturday, July 19 at 1:00 PM UMass Lowell Symphonic Band Camp** end of Camp Concert for family and guests. Both Performances will be at the Moloney Performing Arts Center – Music Building 35 Wilder Street Lowell, MA. Free Parking is available at the Wilder St. faculty parking lot. **Lucas Hart** will be playing the Clarinet at these performances. Contact Jennifer Hart if you have any questions: 610-781-2074

CCC Community Yard Sale! Sat, August 16, 2025 | 9:00 am - 2:00 pm | Fellowship Hall (Rain or Shine event)
Individual Table fee \$30 - Or, donate the proceeds from your table to CCC and the fee is waived!

This is a run-your-own-table event. Set up is available from 6:00 - 8:00 pm on Friday, 8/15, or 7:30 - 9:00 am on Saturday, 8/16.

Volunteers are needed to organize and run a CCC food concession. Contact Lynn Horton.

Questions or to sign up for a table - Contact Lynn Horton <Lynn@terpsoft.com> or Deb Lyons <Deb@dandelyons.net>

Pastor's Note: Pastor Lee will be away for the next three Sundays, July 27, and then from August 3-16.

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.

Annual Backpack Attack

Now Through August 3

School Supplies to Provide:

1 new backpack (17" or larger)	1 12" ruler (with inches and centimeters)
3 spiral notebooks	1 metal scissors (kid sized)
3 folders	1 pack markers or colored pencils
1 pack of 10 pencils	2 or 3 glue sticks or 1 bottle of glue
1 pencil sharpener	1 pack of 24 crayons
2 or more black pens	Optional: 1 science calculator for high school students
1 pink style or 6 cap erasers	



Please return the supplies to **Lillian Beean** before or after the worship service on Sundays or drop them off at the church office when it's open.

Checks can be made out to the church and can be given to me or sent to the church office. Please write "Backpack" on the memo line of the check.

For more information about The Wish Project Backpack Attack project, visit thewishproject.org/backpack-attack. Please contact Lillian with any questions: lbeean@verizon.net