

Dear younger me, it's not your fault. You were never meant to carry this beyond the cross.  
Dear younger me, you are holy. You are righteous. You are one of the redeemed,  
Set apart a brand new heart - You are free indeed

Every mountain every valley thru each heartache you will see every moment brings you closer  
To who you were meant to be.

Dear younger me, dear younger me,

You are holy. You are righteous. You are one of the redeemed.

Set apart a brand new heart, you are free indeed (3x)

**\*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**

## SENDING FORTH

**\*Sending Hymn**                      “Open My Eyes, That I May See”

#586

### \*Commissioning and Benediction

Pastor Lee

**\*Three-Fold Amen**

## Postlude

## Sonlight Band



**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, August 10, 2025**

**10 o'clock a.m.**

*By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. Hebrews 11:3*

Faith is the assurance  
of things hoped for,  
the conviction  
of things not seen.

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

<b>Prelude</b>	“Great Are You Lord” by One Sonic Society	Sonlight Band
<b>Welcome and Announcements</b>		Lynn Horton
<b>Ringling the Bell</b>		
<b>Poem</b>	“How Readest Thou?” (author Unknown	Rev. Lee Atherton
<b>*Opening Hymn</b>	“Great is Thy Faithfulness”	#86
<b>Call to Worship</b>	Karen Papenfuss, Liturgist	
Come, people of faith—not with certainty, but with hope. Not with answers, but with trust.		
<b>By faith, we gather. By faith, we listen. By faith, we seek the presence of the Holy.</b>		
God calls us forward—not always knowing where the road leads, but trusting the One who goes before us.		
<b>Let us worship God, who gives us the courage to journey, and the grace to listen along the way.</b>		
<b>Calling Upon God and The Lord’s Prayer</b>		Karen
Holy and Faithful God, You call us into the unknown—not with a map, but with a promise.		
Not with certainty, but with trust. As we gather in this sacred space, quiet our minds and open our hearts. Help us to listen—not just with our ears, but with our whole being. Tune us to the still, small voice that speaks through scripture, silence, and Spirit.		
May this be a place where your Word is not only read, but received—where faith takes root in mystery, and hope lights the path ahead. We come not because we have all the answers, but because we are willing to be transformed. Meet us in this moment, God of the journey. Speak, and we will listen. Even as we pray as Jesus taught us 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.”		
<b>Sharing Christ’s Peace</b>		Pastor Lee
The peace of Christ be with you all.		
<b>And also with you.</b>		

PROCLAIMING

Children’s Message		Pastor Lee
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.		
Prayer for Illumination		Pastor Lee

Scripture Lesson	Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16	Pew Bible p. 977
Response	This is the Word of God for the people of God.	
	Thanks be to God.	
Message		Pastor Lee
*Hymn	“Be Still My Soul”	#566

Joys and Concerns  
Prayers of the People

RESPONDING IN FAITH AND ACTION

Call to Transformation		Pastor Lee
God of the oppressed, we confess that it’s sometimes easier to ignore those in need than it is to help them. We confess that we sometimes ask ourselves, “what will it cost us?” “what will others think?”—rather than remembering your call to care for our neighbors, whether we think they “deserve it” or not. Forgive us. Help us repent of our embarrassment at those in need, and turn instead toward empathy and compassion. We pray this in the name of your son, who teaches us how to love all of our neighbors. Amen.		
Prayer of Transformation	God of the unseen and unknown, we confess that we often live by what we can measure, prove, and control. We resist slowing down long enough to truly listen—to scripture, to silence, to your Spirit. Forgive our hurried minds and distracted hearts. Open us again to the mystery of faith, that we may walk by trust, not sight, and grow in the practice of sacred attention. Amen.	
Assurance of Grace		Pastor Lee
Invitation to Generosity		Karen
Offertory	“Dear Younger Me” by Mercy Me	Sonlight Band
Dear younger me, Where do I start? If I could tell you everything that I have learned so far Then you could be one step ahead of all the painful memories still running thru my head. I wonder how much different things would be? Dear younger me		
Dear younger me, I cannot decide. Do I give some speech about how to get the most out of your life or do I go deep and try to change The choices that you'll make cuz they're choices that made me? Even though I love this crazy life, sometimes I wish it was a smoother ride. Dear younger me, dear younger me, of I knew then what I know now, condemnation would've had no power. My joy my pain would've never been my worth.		
If I knew then what I know now, would've not been hard to figure out. What I would've changed if I had heard		

Continued on back



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

<b>Pastor Pro Tem</b>	Rev. Lee Atherton	508-308-7116	Pastor-Lee@cccchelmsford.org
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<b>Church Address</b>	1 Worthen Street, Chelmsford, MA 01824		
<b>U.C.C. Website</b>	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):** Glenn & Margie Dissinger

**Liturgist:** Karen Papenfuss

**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, August 10, 2025



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

**CCC Community Yard Sale | Sat, Aug 16 | 9 AM – 2 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>

**Committee Chair Person Training | Tues, Aug 19 | 6:00 PM | Room 302** - Training for all Chairpersons will be held on Tues, Aug. 19 from 6-8 PM in Room 302. All committee and group leaders are encouraged to join as we dig into what it means to be a Christian leader here at Central Congregational Church. Meet Pastor Lee in room 302 for some practical learning, laughter, and role-playing.



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

**Contemplative Gathering | Sundays | 8:45 – 9:30 AM | Room 302** - Beginning Sunday, August 24 you're invited to join Pastor Lee from 8:45 to 9:30 a.m. for a weekly contemplative gathering in Room 302. Each week we'll gently engage in either Visio or Lectio Divina, followed by brief conversation and silence. Whether you're brand new to these practices or have years of experience, come as you are. No preparation needed—just a willingness to be present. Let this be a time of sacred listening, gentle reflection, and quiet renewal before worship begins.

**KiSeLo Ice Cream Social | Wed, Aug 27 | 1:00 PM | Fellowship Hall** - Women of all ages are invited to join us for our annual ice-cream social on Wednesday, August 27, at 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Come for the ice cream, come for the fellowship, and come to make new friends. For more information or questions about KiSeLo, text or call Karen Banakos: 603)686-2026.

**Adult Education Classes | Tuesdays | 7:00 PM | Room 302 & Zoom** – ‘Simplicity’ with Jody Cross Hansen. ***STARTS TUES, SEPT 9 FOR 8 WEEKS-*** Do you find yourself feeling stressed a great deal of the time, or overwhelmed? Too much on your plate and too much to process? Not feeling in control of your own life or feeling like your daily life is reflecting your values and aspirations for your day? Come and brainstorm how we can begin to simplify. What can we begin to let go of (versus what can I take up next)? Come discuss the values and theology of simplicity.

Books provided. No tests or papers!

If interested, please contact Jody Cross-Hansen: jody.crosshansen@gmail.com Or at 978 256 1249

**This Week at CCC**

Mon, Aug 11	CCC Movie Group	7:00 PM	On Zoom
Tues, Aug 12	Lunch Bunch	11:45 AM	Room 202
Tues, Aug 12	CE Committee	7:15 PM	Room 202
Wed, Aug 13	Council Meeting	7:30 PM	On Zoom
Fri, Aug 15	Yard Sale Set Up	6:00 PM	Fellowship Hall
Sat, Aug 16	Yard Sale	9:00 AM– 2:00 PM	Fellowship Hall

HYMN LYRICS

Opening Hymn

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father, there is no shadow of turning with thee; thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not; as thou hast been thou forever will be.

Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning, new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided – Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above, join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide; strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! [Refrain]

Hymn

“Be Still, My Soul”

Be still, my soul: for God is on your side; bear patiently the cross grief or pain. Trust in your God, your savior and your guide, who through all changes faithful will remain. Be still, my soul: your best, your heavenly friend through thorny ways leads to a peaceful end.

Be still, my soul: for God will undertake to guide the future surely as the past. Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake; all now mysterious shall be bright at last. Be still my soul: the waves and winds still know the voice that calmed them in this world below.

Be still, my soul: the hour is hastening on when we shall dwell with God forevermore, when disappointment, grief, and fear are gone, sorrow forgot, love’s purest joys restored. Be still my soul: when change and tears are past, all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Sending Hymn

“Open My Eyes, That I May See”

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou that shall unclasp and set me free. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear; and while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God thy will to se. Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere; open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share. Silently I wait for thee, ready, my God thy will to see. Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!