

Hymn

"All God's Children Got a Place in the Choir"

All God's creatures got a place in the choir
Some sing low and some sing higher
Some sing out loud on the telephone wire
Some just clap their hands or paws, or anything they've got now

Listen to the bass, it's the one on the bottom
Where the bullfrog croaks and the hippopotamus
Moans and groans with a big t'do
And the old cow just goes moo

Singing in the nighttime, singing in the day
When little duck quacks and he's on his way
And the otter hasn't got much to say
And the porcupine talks to himself

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, October 12, 2025

10 o'clock a.m.



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	“Adagio in G” by Bach	Tudor Bota, Music Director
Welcome and Announcements		Lynn Horton
Ringing the Bell		
Poem	“God’s Finger Painting” by Deborah Ann Belka	Rev. Lee Atherton
*Opening Hymn	“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come ”	#718 Blue
Call to Worship		Shaleena Pulliam, Liturgist
Child:	We come alive in our playing and learning and growing.	
Adult:	We live amid work and leisure, times of relaxation and busyness.	
Retired:	We live through former challenges and new enthusiasms.	
All:	We worship God in all our living.	
Child:	We grow by the love of family and friends.	
Adult:	We put down foundations here and shape our lives.	
Retired:	We hold the memories of the past and share possibilities for the future.	
All:	We worship God in all our living.	
Calling Upon God and The Lord’s Prayer		Shaleena
Open our eyes to your everyday-ness, Lord; the holiness that is found in the routine of life. May we find you in our daily conversations, around our typical meal tables, and in the everyday faces we love. May we discover your faithfulness, plain as day, in the everyday. Be with us in our worship this morning as we look back and look forward, as we sing and as we pray. Remembering all that Jesus taught us, we pray his words now 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.”		
Hymn	“All God’s Children Got a Place in the Choir”	Lyrics on backside
Sharing Christ’s Peace		Pastor Lee
The peace of Christ be with you all.		
And also with you.		
PROCLAIMING		

Message		Pastor Lee
Hymn	“Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory”	#705 Blue
Pastoral Search Moment	Dorinda Toppan, Pastoral Search Committee Chair	
Joys and Concerns		
Pastoral Prayer		
Prayer Response	“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” (sung twice)	
	Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place,	
	Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us power, send us grace.	

RESPONDING IN FAITH AND ACTION		
Call to Transformation		Pastor Lee
Prayer of Transformation		
Dear God, I know I have done things that are wrong, like not listening to my parents or being unkind. I am sorry for these things. Please forgive me and help me to be a better child, to love you more and to be good to others. Amen.		
Assurance of Grace		Pastor Lee
Invitation to Generosity		Shaleena
Offertory	“Come, Spirit, Come” by Mary Kay Beall	Chancel Choir
Come, Spirit, come. Come, like the wind on the water.		
Come, Spirit, come. Blow over my soul.		
Come, Spirit, come. Come like a flame in the darkness.		
Come, Spirit, come. Shine over my soul.		
Come, Spirit, come. Come, like a dove of the new day.		
Come, Spirit, come. Soar over my soul.		
Like the wind, like a flame, like a dove, Spirit Come.		
*Doxology	“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”	#46-48 Blue
<i>Feel free to sing the version of the lyrics that is familiar to you.</i>		
*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication		

SENDING FORTH		
*Sending Hymn	“Stand, Oh, Stand Firm”	
Stand. O stand firm; stand, O stand firm; stand. O stand firm and see what the Lord can do.		
*Blessing and Benediction		Pastor Lee
*Three-Fold Amen		
Postlude	“Allegro” by Purcell	Tudor



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

Interim Pastor	Rev. Lee Atherton	508-308-7116	Pastor-Lee@cccchelmsford.org
Director of Music	Tudor Bota	978-772-3173	tudorbota@gmail.com
Office Administrator	Peggy Kelly	978-256-5931	office.admin@cccchelmsford.org
Sunday School Coord.	Jennifer Hart	610-781-2074	Jennifer.hart@cccchelmsford.org
Custodian	Juarez Gomes	978-957-5075	
Council President	Lynn Horton	978-256-8524	lynn@terpsoft.com
Church Phone & Email	978-256-5931	office.admin@cccchelmsford.org	
Church Address	1 Worthen Street, Chelmsford, MA 01824		
U.C.C. Website	ucc.org (United Church of Christ)		

Pastoral Search Committee:

Martha Chenault
Glenn Dissinger
Sue Houde
John Lamplough
Emmett Lyons
April McCarthy
Barbara Reilly
Dorinda Toppan, Chairperson

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): Scott & Cynthia Dorman

Liturgist: Shaleena Pulliam

Deacon of the Day: Lillian Began

Worship Service Flowers: This week's flowers are given by Scott & Cynthia Dorman 'in honor and memory of our parents and grandparents.'

Coffee Hour Hosts: Kelly Hargett and Joseph Dion

Many thanks to all who enrich our morning together.

Announcements and Events – Sunday, October 12, 2025



TODAY! Blessing of the Animals – Sun, Oct 12 | 2:00 PM |Carson Park – All are welcome—whether you are a longtime member, a neighbor from the community, or simply someone who loves animals. Bring your dogs, cats, rabbits, hamsters, birds, turtles, or even a favorite stuffed animal. If your pet is shy or unable to travel, feel free to bring a photo or a special toy as a symbol of their presence.

Neighbors in Need Offering - Neighbors in Need is a special offering in October that supports the United Church of Christ to help with God’s mission of justice and compassion throughout the United States. All UCC congregations are called to take part in this ministry. One third of the NIN funds go to support the Council of American Indian Ministry (CAIM) and the other two thirds fund justice, advocacy and direct services and grants for those in need. We will be putting offering envelopes in the bulletin on the first two Sundays of October. You may also use the Social Action & Mission Committee envelopes in the pews or mail checks to the church office with a memo notation for Neighbors in Need throughout the month.



Nursery Care – We are currently looking for a Nursery Care Coordinator. Please speak with Jennifer Hart for more information: Jennifer.hart@cccchelmsford.org

The Open Pantry of Greater Lowell Seeks a Volunteer - Stop & Shop in Bedford is allowing Open Pantry to have a box to collect food at their store. We need someone to pick the food up once a week and bring it to the pantry. Wednesday morning or Thursday morning would be a really good time for us to get the food. If you can help, please call Rebecca Wisniewski at 978-319-0503. Thank you.



CCC Movie Group – Mon, Oct 13 & 27 | 7:00 PM | On 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 (lynn@terpsoft.com) for the Zoom link, if you have questions, or if you have difficulty accessing the movies! **Oct 13:** “The Sting” | **Oct 27:** “The Grapes of Wrath”. See details in the October Beacon newsletter.

Pub Theology | Tues, Oct 14 | 7:00 PM | 110 Grill, 116 Chelmsford St, Chelmsford – We’re launching our very first Pub Theology gathering—and you’re invited! We’ll meet at a local pub (location to be announced soon) for an evening of relaxed, open conversation about life, faith, current events, and the big (and small) questions that matter most. See the October Beacon newsletter for more information.



All-Church Campfire | Sat, Oct 18 | 6:00 PM | Carson Park - You can bring a picnic dinner if you would like. Be sure to bring a story to share around the campfire.



KiSeLo (Kindness, Service, Love) | Wed, Oct 22 | 12:30 PM | Fellowship Hall - We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 12:30 for a short business meeting. Our program committee has planned an exciting trip to the Whistler House and we will leave the church right after the business meeting. Due to limited paraking at the Whistler house, we will carpool. We should be on the road no later than 1:00 PM. The October Open Pantry donation is **canned stew** or any non-perishable food item.



Capital Campaign Celebration Dinner | Sat, Oct 25 | 6:00 PM | Fellowship Hall – We are holding an all-church dinner to celebrate the successful completion of our Capital Campaign building projects! It will be catered by Bianco’s and we need a head count and any dietary restrictions. Be aware that we are limited to a maximum of 200 guests. Please make your reservation by **October 14** by calling or emailing Peggy in the church office: 978-256-5931 or email: office.admin@cccchelmsford.org, on Sundays during coffee hour or by click the online sign-up found in the Tuesday Announcements. Please contact Christine Williams with any questions.

Make A Difference Day | Sun, Oct 26 – Rail Trail Clean Up at 1:00 PM | Community Garden Clean Up at 1:30 PM Please see the October Beacon newsletter and the Tuesday announcements for more details.



Music Notes - The Christmas Concert Choir has started in preparation of the December 7 concert. If you like to sing but don't want to commit to worship services every Sunday, here is your chance. Concert rehearsals are held after worship at 11:30 AM in the Sanctuary. If you want to sing with the **Chancel Choir on Sundays** just come to rehearsal on Thursday nights at 7:00 PM.

Junior choir meets at 11:15 AM on Sundays. Young people ages 6 - 13 are welcome to attend.



Jewelry Donations for CCC Holiday Fair - Beth, Merri, and Judith, the vintage jewelry table workers are seeking jewelry donations. As you clean out your jewelry box, please remember to donate unbroken treasures to us at coffee hour, or leave them in the church office **by Nov.16**. ~Beth Jarok



CCC Holiday Fair | Sat, Nov 22 - Join us for the Annual CCC Holiday Fair 2025 It’s not too early to plan for this major fundraiser! Your help is needed to make the event a success! Please see the October Beacon Newsletter for details.

THIS WEEK AT CCC

Mon, Oct 13	CCC Movie Group	7:00 PM	Zoom
Tues, Oct 14	Knitters & Crocheters	10:30 AM	Parlor
	Lunch Bunch	11:45 AM	Room 202
	Adult Education Class	7:00 PM	Room 202 & Zoom
	Sonlight Band Rehearsal	7:30 PM	Sanctuary
Wed, Oct 15	Crafters	10:00 AM	9 Worthen
	Pastoral Search Committee	7:00 PM	Room 302
Thurs, Oct 16	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:45 PM	Room 312
	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7:00 PM	Sanctuary
Sat, Oct 18	All-Church Campfire	6:00 PM	Carson Park

Pastor Lee’s Office Hours: Sundays, 8:15–1:00; Tuesdays, 9:00–2:00; Wednesdays 9:00–12:00. She is also available by appointment.

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 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 that liberal autumn pours from its rich o'erflowing stores,

These to thee, my 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

“Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory”

Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
he is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
he has loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword;
his truth is marching on.

Refrain: Glory, glory, hallelujah!
 Glory, glory, hallelujah!
 Glory, glory, hallelujah!
 His truth is marching on.

He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
he is sifting out all human hearts before his judgment seat;
O be swift, my soul, to answer him; be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on. *[Refrain]*

In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
with a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me;
as he died to make us holy, let us die to make all free,
while God is marching on. *[Refrain]*