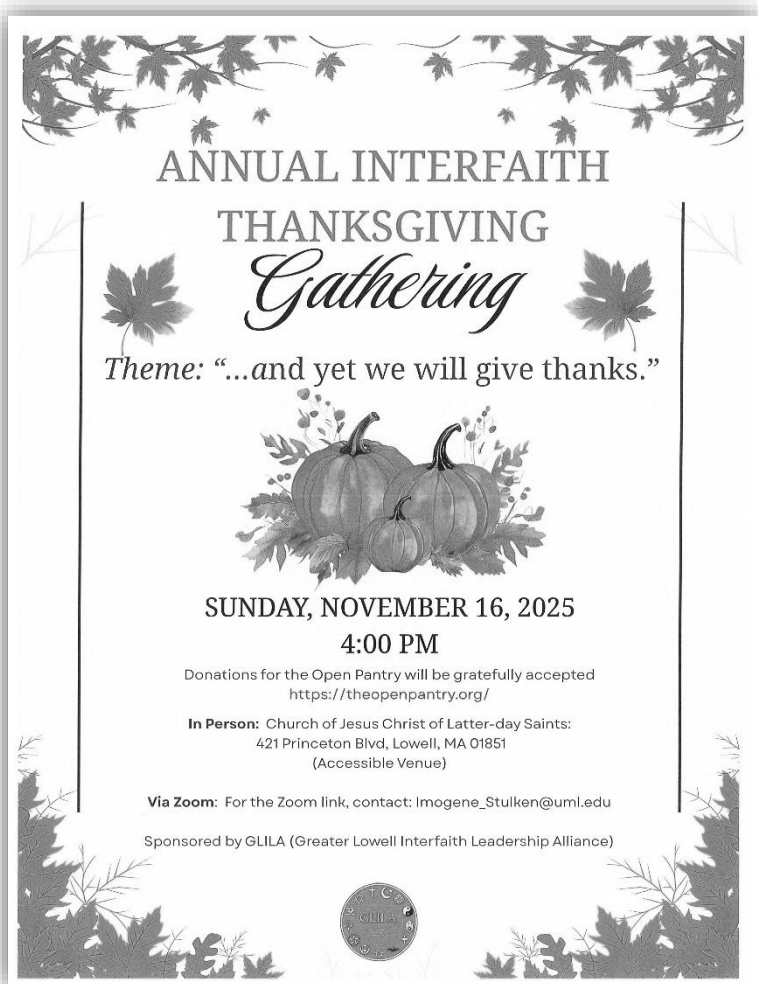


*Prayer of Dedication

SENDING FORTH

*Sending Hymn	"My Life Flows On"	#619 Blue
*Blessing and Benediction		Pastor Lee
*Three-Fold Amen		
Postlude	"Largo" by Rameau	Tudor

Join Pastor Lee and other faith leaders from the greater Lowell Community
for the Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Gathering



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, November 16, 2025

10 o'clock a.m.

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost



Welcome to Central Congregational Church, where no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are *REALLY!* 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	“Deep River” arr. Keveren “Thy Will” arr. by Hayes	Tudor Bota, Music Director
Welcome and Announcements		Lynn Horton
Ring the Bell		
Poem		
*Opening Hymn	“Gather Us In”	#284 Blue
Call to Worship		Christine Williams, Liturgist
This day! This day we will give thanks to God, who cradles us in the waters of baptism. This day! This day we dance to the fountain of life, drinking deeply of salvation's goodness. This day! This day we praise our God for every blessing; telling everyone of God's amazing grace in our lives and in our world. This day! This day we sing God's praises; testifying to all creation of our God. This day! This day our songs are filled with joy, for God is with us, this day and in all the days to come!		
Calling Upon God and the Lord’s Prayer		Christine
Gracious God, as autumn’s beauty deepens and the days grow shorter, we gather in the warmth of Your presence. You are the giver of every good gift, the breath that fills our lungs, the love that binds us together, and the hope that lights our path even when the world feels dim. Come, Holy Spirit, stir in us a spirit of gratitude and generosity. Open our eyes to see Your abundance, even where scarcity seems to reign. Open our ears to hear Your call in the cry of the hungry and the laughter of the blessed. Be with us now, O God, that our worship might be pleasing to You. In the name of Christ, who gathers us and sends us to love, we pray 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		Rev. Lee Atherton
The peace of Christ be with you all. And also with you.		

PROCLAIMING		
Sunday School Scripture		
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	Isaiah 65:17-25	Pew Bible p. 607
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 Blue

Joys and Concerns	
Prayers of the People	
Prayer Response	“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” (sung twice)
Holy God, you speak words of challenge and words of comfort through the scriptures. Send your Spirit to open our understanding to the word we need to hear this day, for the sake of Jesus Christ, your Living Word. Amen.	

RESPONDING IN FAITH AND ACTION	
Call to Transformation	Pastor Lee
Prayer of Transformation	
Gracious and loving God, we confess that the world around us overwhelms us. Headlines are full of wars, insurrections, suffering, earthquakes, famines, and death. It all shakes our faith and undermines our confidence in your promise. Lord, we believe; help our unbelief. Deliver us from speculation that distracts us from faithful living and loving service. Forgive us when we doubt your promises. Help us to always bear witness to your love and grace in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.	
Assurance of Grace	Pastor Lee

Invitation to Generosity	Christine
Offertory	“I Go to the Rock” arr. by Lloyd Carson Chancel Choir
I go to the Rock, I go to the Rock. I go to the Rock, I go to the Rock. I know, I know He's able. Where do I go when there's nobody else to turn to? Who do I talk to when no one wants to listen? Who do I lean on when there's no foundation stable?	
I go to the Rock. I know He's able. I go to the Rock. I go to the Rock of my Salvation. I go to the Stone that the builders rejected. I run to the mountain and the mountain stands by me. When the earth all around me is sinking sand, on Christ, the solid rock I stand. When I need a shelter, when I need a friend, I go to the Rock	
Where do I hide when the storms of life are threatening? Where do I run to when the winds of sorrow blow? Is there a refuge (a refuge) in the time of tribulation? Cause I go to the Rock. I know (I know) He's able. When the earth all around is a-sinking sand, on Christ, the solid rock I stand. When I need a shelter, when I need a friend, when the earth all around is sinking sand, on Christ the solid rock I stand.	
When I need a shelter, when I need a friend, I go to the Rock. I go to the.. I go to the Rock. I go to the Rock. I go to the Rock. I go to the Rock.	
*Doxology	“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” #46-48 Blue
Feel free to sing the version of the lyrics that is familiar to you.	

Continued on back



“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.
- ☺ 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): Dory Toppan and Ray Peterson

Liturgist: Christine Williams

Deacon of the Day: Lynn Horton

Coffee Hour Hosts: Ana Reatiga

Many thanks to all who enrich our morning together.

Announcements and Events – Sunday, November 16, 2025

Holy Cow Bake Sale - Today! There will be a bake sale during coffee hour. At their next meeting, the Holy Cows will be voting on how to allocate the proceeds from the bake sale.

 **Food Donations Needed** - With the impending loss of government-supported food sources, your help in meeting the need is greater than ever. Central Congregational Church collects and delivers non-perishable food donations to the Greater Lowell Food Pantry regularly. Please consider bringing canned goods and other non-perishable foods to CCC. You **can** help feed the hungry who live right in our community. Thank you!

 **Seeking Apple Pie Preppers** - We are delighted to announce the return of CCC-baked fresh apple pies to the 2025 Holiday Fair! We are seeking **6-10 pie crust dough preparers**, and, on **Friday, Nov. 21 at 9AM**, volunteers to gather in the new kitchen to peel and chop apples and bake the pies! Sign-up sheet available during Coffee Hour or contact Christine McNamara, Therese Burdo, or Lynn Horton Lynn@terpsoft.com.

 **KiSeLo | Wed, Nov 19 | 1:00 PM** – Due to Thanksgiving, KiSeLo will meet on November 19. All women of CCC are invited to join us in making Christmas crafts and writing messages in greeting cards for the troops. The Open Pantry donation is either **beef or chicken canned meat**. We are collecting new, unwrapped toys for Toys for Tots and they need to be brought in **no later than the 19th** as they will be delivered to the donation bin that day. Food donations and toys for the kids are needed this year more than ever and so I thank you for any help that you are able to give. Any questions, comments, or for more information, please see Karen Banakos or text her at (603)686-2026.

 **CCC Holiday Fair | Sat, Nov 22 | Fellowship Hall** - Join us for the Annual CCC Holiday Fair 2025!! Details can be found in the November edition of The Beacon Newsletter.
➤ **Note:** If you have been working on a craft for the church fair, please get it to Karen Papenfuss **by November 15**. Thank you.

 **Christmas Tree Sales** - Christmas trees are scheduled to be delivered on Mon, Nov 24. We will be looking for many people to help unload the truck. The stand will be set up on Fri, Nov 28 at 9 am, with sales beginning that day at 1 pm. Volunteers are needed. Please sign up on the poster in Fellowship Hall or speak with Glenn or Margie Dissinger.

 **Sunday School Needs Volunteers** – Nursery Coordinator, PreK-Kindergarten teacher, and people willing to substitute or be a floater are needed. Please see Jennifer Hart.

 **Advent & Christmas Small Group Gatherings** – As we journey through this holy season, we invite you to help our church family connect in meaningful ways. We’re forming small groups to meet at different days and times (in homes and at church) for Advent and Christmas — gatherings where we can share stories, reflect on scripture, and discover the sacred in our everyday lives. A simple leadership guide is provided, so anyone can host or facilitate. If you’re interested in leading or opening your home for a group, please reach out to Pastor Lee. Together, let’s make this a season of connection, reflection, and sacred wonder.



Lowell Transitional Living Center (LTLC) – The Social Action and Missions Committee (SAM) will be sponsoring LTLC for the month of November. LTLC, located on Middlesex Street in Lowell, is an emergency shelter that provides 24-hour staff support for unaccompanied adults experiencing homelessness. In addition to emergency shelter, LTLC provides meals, showers, clothing, personal hygiene items, and case management with referrals to community-based resources including medical and behavioral health services. Case managers work with clients to develop a housing plan to identify housing opportunities, employment placement, access to benefits and crisis intervention.



Pastor Rich Gift Card Ministry - One of the ways the congregation has directly helped individuals with food insecurity is through the giving of Market Basket gift cards. The gift cards are purchased through the Diaconate Good Samaritan Fund and more recently through the Pastor Rich Gift Card Ministry, which was established to honor his wish that any memorial gifts in excess of those needed to purchase the bench in his memory be used toward providing gift cards to persons in need. **Currently, the balance in the fund is only enough to last through December.** Without your continued donations, CCC will be unable to assist others through this vital ministry. Checks can be made payable to CCC, with “RK Gift Card Ministry” in the memo line and placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office.

THIS WEEK AT CCC

Tues, Nov 18	Knitters & Crocheters	10:30 AM	Parlor
	Lunch Bunch	11:45 AM	Room 202
	House Committee Meeting	7:00 PM	Room 202
	Sonlight Band Rehearsal	7:30 PM	Sanctuary
Wed, Nov 19	KiSeLo	1:00 PM	Fellowship Hall
	Diaconate Meeting	7:00 PM	Zoom
Thurs, Nov 20	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:45 PM	Room 312
	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7:00 PM	Sanctuary
	Holiday Fair Setup	6:00 PM	Fellowship Hall
Fri, Nov 21	Apple Pie Baking	9:00 AM	CCC Kitchen
	Holiday Fair Set Up	9:00 AM – 7:00 PM	Fellowship Hall
Sat, Nov 22	Holiday Fair	9:00 AM – 2:00 PM	Fellowship Hall

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

“Gather Us In”

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. Gather us in, the lost and forsaken; gather us in; our spirits inflame. Call to us now, and we shall awaken; we shall arise at the sound of your name.

We are the young – our lives are a mystery; we are the old, who yearn for your face. We have been sung throughout all of history, called to be light to the whole human race. Gather us in – the rich and the haughty; gather us in – the proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so lowly; give us the courage to enter the song.

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. Give us to drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat the bread that is you; nourish us well, and teach us to fashion lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

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. Gather us in and hold us forever; gather us in and make us your own; gather us in, all peoples together, fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

Hymn

“Be Still, My Soul”

Be still, my soul: for God is on your side; bear patiently the cross of 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 forever more, 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

“My Life Flows On”

My life flows on in endless song, above earth’s lamentation. I hear the clear, though far off hymn that hails a new creation.

[Refrain:] No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing. It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]

What though my joys and comforts die? I know my Savior liveth. What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the night he giveth. [Refrain]

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing! All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from singing? [Refrain]