



# THE BEACON

CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

*A worshiping, praying, learning,  
caring, outreaching community*

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## CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH in CHELMSFORD

United Church of Christ

*An Open and Affirming Congregation*

VOLUME 71 NUMBER 1

January 2026

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### UPCOMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE

#### **Lunch with Lee**

Sunday, January 4

11:30 AM | Java Room, 14 Littleton Rd, Chelmsford

#### **Frankin-Sense and Nonsense**

Saturday, January 10

5:30 PM | Fellowship Hall

#### **CCC Movie Group**

Mondays, January 12 & 26

7:00 PM | on Zoom

#### **Confirmand Pizza Party & Project**

Saturday, January 24

5:30-7:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

#### **Pub Theology**

Saturday, January 24

7:00 PM – 110 Grill, 116 Chelmsford St, Chelmsford

#### **KiSeLo (Kindness, Service, Love)**

Wednesday, January 28

1:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

#### **Lectio Divina Contemplative Gatherings**

Sundays

8:45 AM | Room 302

#### **Crocheters & Knitters**

Tuesdays

10:30 AM | Parlor

#### **Lunch Bunch**

Tuesdays

11:45 AM | Room 202

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

UPCOMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE .....	1
<b>FROM THE PASTOR’S OFFICE.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>OFFICE UPDATE .....</b>	<b>4</b>
Beacon Articles .....	4
Pastor Lee’s Office Hours .....	4
<b>FOR YOUR CALENDAR.....</b>	<b>4</b>
The Gospel According To Pixar: Exploring Faith Through Film .....	4
Social Action and Mission (SAM).....	5
Join Me For Lunch With Lee!.....	6
Valentine’s dinner dance 2026.....	6
CCC Movie Group .....	7
KISELO - Kindness, Service, Love .....	8
Rooted in Becoming .....	8
“A Thoughtful Beginning: Talking About What Matters Most” Or “Wait! I’m Not Ready” .....	9
Lectio Divina: Quiet Scripture, Deep Peace .....	9
HOLY CANS, BATMAN! .....	10
Pub Theology.....	10
Welcoming Our Confirmands ✨ .....	11
<b>UPDATES .....</b>	<b>11</b>
Capital Campaign Building Committee .....	11
Christmas Tree Fundraiser update .....	12
Prayer Ministry .....	12
Ginnie Hall Meal Ministry.....	12
From the Sunday School Coordinator .....	13
Rental Spaces available at CCC.....	14
Council Corner .....	14
<b>WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US! .....</b>	<b>16</b>

# FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE

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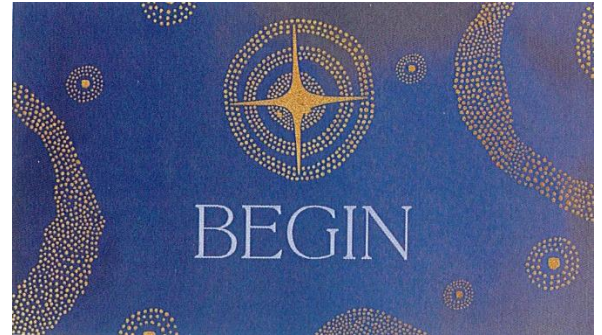
## Epiphany Sunday: Following the Light into a New Year

On Sunday, January 4, we will gather for Epiphany Sunday, a day that invites us to reflect on how God's light continues to guide us—often in ways that are quiet, surprising, and deeply personal.

Epiphany tells the story of the Wise Ones who followed a star into the unknown, trusting a light they did not fully understand. Their journey reminds us that faith does not begin with having all the answers. It begins with paying attention—learning to notice where Christ's light is already shining in ordinary places, and allowing that light to change the direction of our lives.

During worship, we will reflect on what it means to “go home by another road,” and we will take part in a meaningful Epiphany practice: receiving a guiding star word for the year ahead.

Star words are offered as a spiritual companion for the year—a single word such as *hope*, *courage*, *compassion*, *trust*, or *belonging*. These words are not predictions or expectations, but gentle invitations. They serve as reminders of how God's light may be calling us to walk, love, and live more fully in the months to come.



Everyone will receive a star word to carry with them into 2026 during worship.

If you are unable to be with us in person on January 4 but would still like to receive a star word, please reach out to the church office, and we will make sure a star word is mailed or delivered to you, so you can be part of this Epiphany practice wherever you are.

Whether you join us in the sanctuary or from afar, you are part of this journey. May the light of Christ guide your steps, open new roads before you, and lead you deeper into hope in the year ahead.

We look forward to sharing this Epiphany moment together.

With hope and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pastor Lee".

Rev. Lee Atherton

# OFFICE UPDATE

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## BEACON ARTICLES

The next submission deadline is **Monday, January 26** for the February edition.

*Margie Dissinger*

*Interim Office Administrator*

## PASTOR LEE'S OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Lee will be in the office Sundays, 8:15 – 1:00; Tuesdays, 9:00 – 2:00; and Wednesdays 9:00 – 12:00. She is also available by appointment.

# FOR YOUR CALENDAR

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## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO PIXAR: EXPLORING FAITH THROUGH FILM

Stories have a way of reaching us where lectures sometimes can't—through imagination, emotion, and wonder. Many of us have experienced that kind of storytelling through Pixar films, which speak not only to children, but to the deep places in adults as well.

This winter, I'm exploring the possibility of forming a small discussion group around the book **The Gospel According to Pixar**, written by **Todd Brewer** and **David Zahl**. The book looks at familiar Pixar movies through a theological lens, uncovering themes of grace, loss, hope, belonging, and redemption—often in surprising and deeply meaningful ways.

This would be a **movie exploration group**, where, together, we would watch selected Pixar films (either on our own or possibly together) and gather for conversation, reflection, and connection. No theological background required—just curiosity and a willingness to reflect on how faith shows up in unexpected places.

At this point, I'm simply **gauging interest**. If enough people would like to participate, a group will form, and we'll choose a **day and time that works best for most**.

If this sounds like something you'd enjoy, please **reach out to Pastor Lee** to let me know of your interest. Your response will help determine whether—and how—this group takes shape.

Sometimes wisdom arrives wrapped in animated stories. Let's see what light we might discover together.

— **Pastor Lee**

## SOCIAL ACTION AND MISSION (SAM)

### Focus on Housing Insecurity

SAM's January focus is on housing insecurity. On Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, Kirk Fulton, Executive Director of the Chelmsford Housing Authority (CHA) will speak at our morning service about their mission to provide affordable housing for vulnerable populations in Chelmsford. Central Congregational Church has been coordinating with the CHA for many years through their Secret Santa Program. We have been told that CCC is one of the biggest supporters of the program, as we typically provide gifts for 28 children, whose wish lists are collected and provided to us by the CHA.



*SAM Committee members: Erin McNally, Diane Blair, Cindy Bruetsch, Danielle Albon, Julie Carney, Dale Williams, Wendy Piacenza, and Rebecca Wisniewski (not shown) worked on checking in and sorting some of the 86 Secret Santa gifts into their intended family groups on December 14<sup>th</sup>.*

In addition to this mission with CHA, SAM supports several agencies in the Lowell Area that work to provide emergency shelter, short term affordable apartments, counseling and legal support, and free household goods to help people with transitioning into long-term housing. These include:

- Community Teamwork, Inc.
- Lowell Transitional Living Center
- House of Hope
- Project Kompass
- The Wish Project
- Habitat for Humanity

Thank you CCC for your continued generosity in enabling SAM to support these organizations through our mission funds!

## JOIN ME FOR LUNCH WITH LEE!

After worship on **January 4**, Pastor Lee (that's me!) will be heading to the **Java Room**, 14 Littleton Rd, Chelmsford, for an informal lunch, and I would love for you to join me.

This is a simple, come-as-you-are gathering—an easy way to connect, ask questions, share stories, and spend time together beyond Sunday morning.

Everyone is welcome. Hope to see you there!

## VALENTINE'S DINNER DANCE 2026



Join Us for the 2026 Open Your Hearts Valentine's Dinner & Dance!

The Open Pantry of Greater Lowell, a long-standing community organization dedicated to relieving hunger and providing vital food assistance to individuals and families in our region, is excited to announce its 2026 Open Your Hearts Dinner & Dance! The Open Pantry has been serving the Greater Lowell community since 1981, helping neighbors access nutritious food and essential support with dignity and care.

**Date: February 14, 2026**

**Time: 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM**

Location: Central Congregational Church,  
1 Worthen St, Chelmsford, MA

This special Valentine's Day fundraiser is open to everyone—singles, couples, families, and friends—and will feature:

A delicious dinner, music and dancing, raffle prizes, a silent auction, a chance to support a meaningful cause!

All proceeds help support The Open Pantry's mission to relieve hunger and strengthen food security in our community. Your participation not only promises a fun and festive evening, but also directly contributes to feeding neighbors in need throughout Greater Lowell.



Save the date and open your heart this Valentine's Day!

Whether you attend the event, contribute to the auction, or make a donation, your support makes a meaningful difference.

## CCC MOVIE GROUP

Mondays | January 12 & 26 | 7:00 PM | Zoom

### January Movie Group



**Monday, 1/12 – “Sully” (2016)** Also known as “Sully: Miracle on the Hudson”, “Sully” is an American biographical drama film directed by Clint Eastwood and written by Todd Komarnicki, based on the 2009 autobiography *Highest Duty* by Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger and Jeffrey Zaslow. Tom Hanks stars as Sullenberger, with Aaron Eckhart as Jeffrey Skiles, and co-stars Laura Linney, Anna Gunn, Autumn Reeser, Holt McCallany, and Jamey Sheridan. The film follows Sullenberger's January 15, 2009, emergency landing of US Airways Flight 1549 on the Hudson River, in which all 155 passengers and crew survived, and the subsequent publicity and investigation. Vince Lombardi, not the football coach but the captain of the first ferry to reach the downed plane, appears as himself. During the four days of Hudson River filming Lombardi ad-libbed his own lines. David Letterman appears via archive footage from the night he interviewed the real crew of Flight 1549 who

are digitally swapped with their film counterparts. Katie Couric also appears as herself. Movie detail: Director Clint Eastwood chose to film the escape onto the life raft without rehearsal to authentically capture the physical difficulty of the situation.

**Monday, 1/26 – “His Girl Friday” (1940)** A classic American screwball comedy film directed by Howard Hawks, starring Cary Grant and Rosalind Russell and featuring Ralph Bellamy and Gene Lockhart. The movie’s plot centers on a newspaper editor named Walter Burns who is about to lose his ace reporter and ex-wife, Hildy Johnson, newly engaged to another man. Burns suggests they cover one more story together, getting themselves entangled in the case of murderer Earl Williams as Burns desperately tries to win back his wife. The screenplay was adapted from the 1928 play *The Front Page* by Ben Hecht and Charles MacArthur. This was the second time the play had been adapted for the screen, the first occasion being the 1931 film which kept the original title “The Front Page.” The script for “His Girl Friday” was written by Charles Lederer, with the biggest alteration to the source material being the change of Hildy Johnson's gender, an idea introduced by Hawks. Production of the film was often delayed because the frequent improvisation and numerous ensemble scenes required



many retakes. Hawks encouraged his actors to be aggressive and spontaneous. “His Girl Friday” has been noted for its surprises, comedy, and rapid, overlapping dialogue. Hawks was determined to break the record for the fastest film dialogue, at the time held by “The Front Page.” He used a sound mixer on the set to increase the speed of dialogue and held a showing of the two films next to each other to prove how fast his film was.

**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.**

**Contact Lynn Horton for the Zoom link, if you have questions, or if you have difficulty accessing the movies!**

## KiSeLo – KINDNESS, SERVICE, LOVE

Wednesday, January 28 | 1:00 PM | Fellowship Hall



As we enter the new year, let's look back at the 2025-2026 season. In September we opened the season with our annual pot luck. Several of the KiSeLo members visited the Whistler house in October. Chrissy Hungate came to our November meeting and taught us how to make snowmen out of baby socks while others signed Christmas cards for the Troops. In December we had a Christmas party where we had a cookie exchange and watched a great movie. And now we find ourselves in the new year.

Our next meeting will be held on January 28<sup>th</sup> in the Fellowship Hall at 1:00PM. The President of the Chelmsford Historical Society, Lisa Grasso, will be our guest and talk about what the Historical Society does for our town.

As always, we make donations to the Open Pantry. For December, we were able to donate \$100 in Market Basket \$10 gift cards and \$41.00 cash for a total of \$141.00. Our donation for January is powdered milk.

All women of all ages are welcome to join us.

“And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:8

May your new year bring you peace, joy and good health.

Happy New Year!

Karen Banakos

## ROOTED IN BECOMING

Saturday, January 10 | 5:30 PM

***The Holiday Season is coming to a close - time to clean-up and out***

You're invited to our next *Rooted in Becoming* community event— *Frankin-Sense and Nonsense* —on Saturday, January 10 at 5:30 p.m. Bring any dessert to share (getting rid of Holiday sweets is fine.) Bring a gift to exchange (something you are done with or something you did not really enjoy or a gift that cost you no more than \$5) and bring a friend for an evening of food, laughter, and fellowship. If you would rather bring something Savory, appetizers are fine too. Just come and join us!

In February we will have a “Slurp and Slam” (Slurp - I need some volunteers to make and bring some soup and/or chili to share, and Slam as in a poetry Slam.) Please bring an original or a favorite poem to share with the group. All are welcome!

If you'd like to help plan this or future events, come see me or Pastor Lee—your ideas and energy help this ministry keep growing strong.

*Jennifer Hart*



## “A THOUGHTFUL BEGINNING: TALKING ABOUT WHAT MATTERS MOST” OR “WAIT! I’M NOT READY”

Beginning on Sunday, January 11, during worship, Pastor Lee will invite us into a meaningful—and surprisingly life-affirming—season of reflection. We’ll be spending time together gently exploring themes of dying, death, and grief—not in a way that is dark or overwhelming, but in a way that is honest, compassionate, and rooted in care for one another.

While these are not topics we usually bring up over coffee (or at all!), they are deeply human ones. Thinking ahead about our wishes can be one of the greatest gifts we give—to ourselves and to the people who love us. Following worship on January 11, everyone is invited to stay for a hands-on, supportive workshop designed to help you begin—or even complete—your funeral planning. This is not about making final arrangements in a rush or facing anything alone. It’s about clarity, peace of mind, and offering a loving gift to your family: the gift of knowing what matters most to you.

We’ll also introduce the Five Wishes framework, a thoughtful and accessible way to reflect on what we want for ourselves and for those who will care for us. During this first workshop, we’ll offer a brief overview of all five wishes and then take time to explore Wish #1 together. The remaining four wishes will be explored after worship on Sundays the 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, February 8<sup>th</sup>, & 15<sup>th</sup>. This allows us to take this journey at a gentle, manageable pace.

You don’t have to attend every Sunday. And if you prefer to talk with Pastor Lee privately, that is also an option.

If you’re thinking, *“This sounds important... but also like a lot,”* you’re not alone. That’s why we’re doing this together, with reassurance, curiosity, and even a bit of lightness. There’s no pressure to have all the answers. Just come as you are.

You may leave with paperwork started, questions answered, or simply a sense of relief that you’ve taken a first step. And you might be surprised to find that talking about these things doesn’t diminish life—it can deepen our gratitude for it.

Join us on January 11, and in the weeks that follow, as we make space for conversations that truly matter—held with care, hope, and compassion.

## LECTIO DIVINA: QUIET SCRIPTURE, DEEP PEACE

**Sundays | 8:45-9:30 AM | Room 302**

Before worship each Sunday, join us for a gentle time of prayerful Bible reading. In this simple practice, we read a short passage several times, listen for how God is speaking, and—only if you wish—share a few words with the group. Come as you are, come when you can. Coffee welcome, materials provided. *Call Pastor Lee for more information.*

## HOLY CANS, BATMAN!

You may have noticed something a little unexpected around church lately—**Pastor Lee collecting bottles and cans**. Yes, it's true! A secret superhero side hustle (though the title does raise questions). It *is*, however, a simple, joyful way to do some good. Those empty soda bottles, water bottles, and cans you might normally toss into the recycling bin are being gathered with purpose and hope.

Each returnable helps **reduce our carbon footprint**, keeps materials out of landfills, and supports a greener, more sustainable way of caring for God's creation. Being faithful stewards sometimes looks like big gestures—and sometimes it looks like rinsing a soda can.

Even better, the funds raised will go directly toward **training a life-saving service dog**—a companion who will offer stability, safety, and hope to someone living with PTSD or mental health challenges. It's a powerful reminder that small actions, when gathered together, can change lives.

So, save your redeemable bottles and cans, bring them to church, and know that your “empties” are doing double duty—**caring for the earth and helping save a life**. No cape required.

Questions? Want to drop off a stash? Just reach out to Pastor Lee.

Because sometimes the holiest things come with a deposit. ❤️

## PUB THEOLOGY

### Big Questions, Good Company – at a Pub to Boot!

What do you do with the big questions, the ones that don't have quick answers?

Questions about meaning.

Questions about trust.

Questions about how we make sense of the world and our place in it.

Pub Theology is a space for exactly those kinds of conversations. It's not a class, and it's not a debate. It's an open, welcoming gathering for thoughtful conversation in good company, over food and drink, in a relaxed pub setting.

This gathering is for anyone—people of all faith traditions, people who are spiritual-but-not-religious, people who are skeptical, curious, questioning, or simply interested in good conversation. You don't need to agree with anyone else. You don't need to believe anything in particular. You just need a willingness to listen, reflect, and share if you feel comfortable.

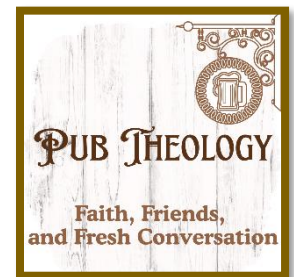
We'll explore big questions like:

- What helps us make meaning in our lives?
- What do we trust when things feel uncertain?
- What experiences have shaped the way we see the world?

There are no right answers. No pressure to speak. You can jump into the conversation or just listen in. Come as you are, bring your curiosity, and enjoy thoughtful dialogue in a space where questions are welcomed.

Join us at 110 Grill in Chelmsford on January 24th at 7pm. All are welcome.

— *Pastor Lee*



## WELCOMING OUR CONFIRMANDS ✨

This fall and winter, our Confirmands have been gathering, wondering, asking big questions, and beginning to shape their own faith stories—and we are delighted to celebrate them.

One of the gifts of our confirmation journey is the way it brings generations together. Our Confirmands have already begun meeting with their mentors, and those conversations—sometimes thoughtful, sometimes playful, often deeply meaningful—are helping create spaces of trust, curiosity, and mutual learning. These relationships remind us that faith is not something we inherit fully formed, but something we explore together, over time, with honesty and care.

As part of this exploration, the Confirmands will continue visiting different faith communities, learning how others understand God, community, and service in the world.

- **Saturday, January 17** – The group will visit **First Parish Unitarian Church**, broadening their understanding of Unitarian Universalist tradition and theology.
- **Saturday, January 24** – A **Confirmation Pizza Party and Project** will take place from **5:30–7:00 pm in Fellowship Hall**. This evening will combine food, fun, and hands-on engagement as the group works together on a shared project.
- **Sunday, January 25** – The Confirmands will visit **Christ Jubilee International Church**, experiencing worship in a different cultural and theological context.

These visits are not about comparison or judgment, but about curiosity—learning to listen, to ask thoughtful questions, and to notice where the sacred shows up in many forms.

Please keep our Confirmands and their mentors in your prayers as they continue this meaningful journey. And if you see them in the hallways or at coffee hour, feel free to offer a word of encouragement—you never know how much a simple “I’m glad you’re here” can mean.

We are grateful for these young people and the energy, insight, and hope they bring to our community. 🌱

## UPDATES

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### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN BUILDING COMMITTEE

Please submit any unpaid balances on your Capital Campaign pledges by December 31st. We need to finalize the Campaign's finances. We completed all of the projects on the list plus quite a few additional ones. Thank you for your support. We are proud of what we have accomplished to maintain and improve our church building and its facilities.

*Christine Williams, Valerie King, Jim Clark, Kenny Pantuso and Shirley Zachry*

## CHRISTMAS TREE FUNDRAISER UPDATE

The Christmas Tree Fundraiser would not have been possible without the help of many people. I would like to thank Linda Lis for the gorgeous bows she makes every year to sell with the wreaths. Thanks also to the following for helping to sell trees by providing people-power during shifts, many which were cold and windy: Don & Jennifer Delikat, Deb, Elmer & Hunter Lyons, Lindsay, Shaun & Colton Moore, Monique Billingsley & crew, Peter White, Judith Barnes, John Carson, David Beaton, Ed, Cindy & Brian Acheson, Julie Carney, Richard Tang-Kong & their son, Scott, Cynthia & Will Dorman, John & Sandy Lamplough, Wendy Perry, Dick & Kevin Papenfuss, John Lefebvre, The Horton family, Janie O'Brien, the Chapman family, the Viarella family, Dick O'Neil, Bill White, Bonnie & Gerry McGrath, Pat Vondal, Shaleena, Brian & Kai Pulliam, the Holy Cows, Troop 75, Amy & Alex McGuigan, Shirley Zachry, Joseph Dion, Josh Timmins, Nick Bottomley and Glenn Dissinger.



And I thank God for inspiring Bryan Boyle of Bryan Boyle Electric to have the desire to give back to the community by giving a very generous donation which allowed families to come and get a Christmas tree for free. Thank you all, and I apologize if I missed anyone.

Also, this is my last year serving as chair of this fundraiser and someone needs to step up to the position if this fundraiser is to continue.

*Margie Dissinger*

## PRAYER MINISTRY



Many believe that prayer can only happen in a church. Or that God only hears our prayers when we are in a place of worship or gathered with others. But prayer can happen anywhere. And it doesn't have to be formal. "Be still and know that I am God" is a simple prayer that I often repeat when feeling overwhelmed.

The CCC Prayer Ministry is a group of people who find hope, comfort and healing through prayer. Through prayer we communicate with God. While prayers aren't always answered in the way we would hope, we still believe that prayer brings us closer to God and our prayers are answered according to God's will. While we don't meet as a group, we are connected through email. Requests are made and each person in the Prayer Ministry is contacted. Our prayers are personal and simple. We hold in our hearts the names of those for whom prayers have been requested. We hope all feel the energy of our prayer lifting them up. Many have told us they do. If you have a request for prayer, for a person, pet or situation, please contact Marcia Cassidy [marciacassidy@comcast.net](mailto:marciacassidy@comcast.net).

*"With much prayer comes great grace from God"*

*Lailah Gifty Akita*

*Wendy Perry & Marcia Cassidy*

## GINNIE HALL MEAL MINISTRY

To request a meal, or to offer to make and deliver a meal, please contact Merri Robison, 978-937-5403 or [meredithrobison@comcast.net](mailto:meredithrobison@comcast.net). The Ginnie Hall Meal Ministry is a service of KiSeLo.

## FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL COORDINATOR

Oh the challenges of January! It is cold outside, although the days are getting longer it is hard to see the change and the Birth of Jesus is a done thing. But is it? Can't we bring the Hope, Love, Joy and Peace candles out into the world and keep them glowing with Christ Light? In the last church that my family attended in Washington there was a family who carried the candle from the Christmas Eve service out of church, into their car and got it home to light an awaiting candle at home. It was their way of remembering to continue the feelings of Advent and Christmas throughout their lives.

*Wasn't that pageant amazing this year! Only a few mic issues. The children did a great job with their parts. Thank you Sam and April for all your work making sure the children had the parts they wanted, tweaking the script, running rehearsals and directing. We have amazing adults in our Christian Education and Sunday School Program.*

*And that God Squad, these youth come up with ideas and with only a short amount of time they give us a great message. This year, Hope through the ages, proving that we have always found hope in so many situations, we need to keep looking for that HOPE.*

We have Sunday School Every Sunday in January! Please come join us.

*A note from the Bulletin Board: Chelmsford Children's Chorus Concert - Thursday January 15, 2026 at 6 pm - Center for the Arts Tickets are required so visit **Tickets:***

<https://www.chelmsfordchildrenschorus.org/calendar/winter-concert>

### **Pen Pals**

If you know of a child 4th grade or younger who would like a church pen-pal please let me know.

### **Looking for empty tissue boxes**

I am looking for Kleenex type boxes square or rectangle, you can flatten them so they are easier to store and transport to me.



*Jennifer Hart*

## RENTAL SPACES AVAILABLE AT CCC

CCC has a variety of spaces that are available to rent. Our facilities are perfect for music or dance recitals, hobby group meetings, classes, community group meetings, weddings, birthday parties, large family gatherings, and memorial services.

For-profit, non-profit, and member rates are available. More information may be found on our website: <https://www.cccchelmsford.org/about-us/renting-our-facilities/>. There is also an online Rental Inquiry Form on the website page.

Please contact the church office (office.admin@cccchelmsford.org or call 978-256-5931) for more information or [click here complete the online Rental Inquiry Form](#).

## COUNCIL CORNER

### ***A Monthly Update on the Activity of the CCC Council***

#### ***News from the December 10, 2025, meeting:***

- Treasurer Dick Papenfuss reported that as of November 30 we are 41% of the way through our fiscal year. Total pledge income year-to-date is right on target at 41%. Unpledged income is at 36%. Our total income as of November 30 is close to the expected figure at 39%. Total expenditures are at 37%, so we are in a good financial position. The Holiday Fair met the budgeted goal of raising \$6500, and the new Winter Craft Fair and Festival will bring in additional funds. The Christmas trees and wreaths are selling well. Additional fundraisers may be planned for 2026. Committee expenses and Office expenses are in control and under budget – thank you to everyone for using the copier responsibly. End of year donations should be made by December 31.
- On behalf of the Christian Education Committee, Chair Samantha Shield proposed increasing the scheduled hours of the Sunday School Coordinator position from 10 hours per week to 13 hours per week. Funding for this year will come partially from the CE account and partially from church funds, as approved by the Treasurer and the Trustees. The entire salary will be included in the 2026-2027 budget. The motion to accept the increase was approved unanimously.
- Bonnie McGrath, Safe Church Coordinator, presented the completed work of the Safe Church Task Force. The Safe Church Policy document for CCC has been completely revised and updated by the Task Force (Bonnie McGrath, Jennifer Delikat – Trustee and former Safe Church Advocate, Jennifer Hart – Sunday School Coordinator, and Lynn Horton – Council Chair) with input from the Trustees, the Christian Education Committee, and Pastor Lee Atherton. Bonnie highlighted the areas where the document has been made clearer and where the guidelines include vulnerable adults. Forms included in the document have been updated as well. The motion to accept the revised Safe Church Policy was passed unanimously. Bonnie emphasized that this document will be reviewed at least once a year to maintain its accuracy.
- The Greater Lowell Interfaith Leaders Alliance (GLILA) Whirling Dervish event on Friday, December 19, 2025, 6:00-9:00 pm will be held at CCC. GLIA will pay an agreed upon reduced rental fee for the use of Fellowship Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

- The Winter Craft Fair and Festival on December 6 was a great success. Many thanks to Sam Shields, Madison Lauricella, and Emmett Lyons for all their work to organize and run this new CCC fundraising event. The vendors who participated were very pleased and many expressed interest in returning next year. The corporate sponsorship did not happen due to a conflict on their end, but the company is still interested in partnering with CCC in the future. The outdoor festival near the Christmas trees stand with food and photos with Santa was also popular. Thank you to our Santa Claus, Glenn Dissinger. Total income figures from the Winter Fair should be available by the January Council meeting.
- The Social Action and Missions Committee has designated the Open Pantry as the organization that will receive this year's Christmas Eve offerings.
- The Christmas Concert on December 7 was attended by 175 in-person audience members and about 110 online viewers. Thank you to Tudor Bota, our Director of Music, and to all the performers for a beautiful concert! Thank you also to everyone who helped the Music Committee with the reception after the concert.
- CE Committee chair Sam Shields expressed appreciation to everyone who participated in the Advent Workshop on December 7 for their help and support.

***Excerpts from the CCC Constitution – Article VII - Council***

*The Council shall be the executive body of this church. It shall be composed of the Ordained Minister(s), two members of the Board of Trustees elected by that Board, Clerk, Moderator, two Deacons elected by the Diaconate, Treasurer, three Members-at-Large, and one member from each of the following committees, elected by that committee: Christian Education, Communications, Finance, House, John R. Carson Memorial Park, Music, Nominating, Pastor/Parish Relations, Sanctuary, Social Action and Missions, Stewardship, and Technology. The Council shall be the policy-making body and shall be responsible for directing and coordinating all affairs, activities, responsibilities, and interests of the Church.*

The next Council Meeting will be held on **Wednesday, January 14, 2026, at 7:30 pm**, via Zoom. Anyone from CCC is welcome to attend! Contact Lynn Horton if you would like the Zoom link information. [Lynn@terpsoft.com](mailto:Lynn@terpsoft.com) (978) 256-8524

# WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US!

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**Worship is on Sundays at 10:00 a.m.**

<b>Interim Pastor:</b>	Rev. Lee Atherton	508-308-7116	pastor-lee@cccchelmsford.org
<b>Director of Music:</b>	Tudor Bota	978-772-3173	tudorbota@gmail.com
<b>Interim Office Administrator:</b>	Margie Dissinger	978-256-5931	office.admin@cccchelmsford.org
<b>Sunday School Coordinator:</b>	Jennifer Hart	610-781-2074	jennifer.hart@cccchelmsford.org
<b>Custodian:</b>	Juarez Gomes		
<b>Church Address:</b>	One Worthen Street	Chelmsford, MA	01824
<b>Church Phone:</b>	978-256-5931		
<b>Church e-mail:</b>	Office.admin@cccchelmsford.org		
<b>Church Website:</b>	cccchelmsford.org		
<b>Conference Website:</b>	www.sneucc.org		

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