



THE BEACON

CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

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

CENTRAL CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH in CHELMSFORD

United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation

VOLUME 71 NUMBER 4

April 2026

COMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Maundy Thursday Seder

Thursday, Apr 2 | 6:30 PM | Fellowship Hall

Good Friday Service

Friday, Apr 3 | 6:30 PM | Sanctuary

Prayer for Vigil Participants

Saturday, Apr 4 | 5:45 PM | Zoom

Easter Vigil

Sat. Apr 4 – Sun. Apr 5 | 6:00 PM – 6:00 AM
Sanctuary & at Home

Easter Sunday Services

Apr 5 | 6:15 AM | Sunrise Service in Carson Park
Apr 5 | 10:00 AM | Easter Service in the Sanctuary

KiSeLo (Kindness, Service, Love)

Wednesday, April 22
1:00 PM | Fellowship Hall

Make A Difference Sunday

Sunday, April 26
Hygiene Kit Assembly
Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Cleanup
Community Garden Cleanup
Bakery Day to Benefit SAM

CCC 150th Celebrations

Saturday, April 25 | 3:00 PM | Fellowship Hall
Sunday, April 26 | 11:30 AM | Fellowship Hall

Pub Theology

Saturday, April 25 | 7:00 PM | 110 Grill, Chelmsford
Free childcare | 6:30-8:30 PM | Room 202

Fellowship Event – Campfire in Carson Park

Saturday, May 2
5:30 PM | Carson Park

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

CCC Movie Group

Mondays, April 13 & 27
7:00 PM | on Zoom

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FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE

The Third Day in an Uncertain World

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." — John 1:5

Dear Church Family,

As I write this, we are standing on the threshold. We have walked the long, dusty road of Lent, and the shadow of the Cross looms large. In our world, too, the shadows seem particularly long. Between the headlines of conflict abroad and the unrest within our own borders, it is easy to feel as though we are stuck in a perpetual Good Friday—a season of grief, uncertainty, and waiting.

But we are an **Easter people**.

Easter is not a bypass around suffering; it is the answer to it. When the women went to the tomb on that first Sunday, they weren't expecting a miracle; they were carrying spices to tend to a victim of state violence and injustice. They showed up in the darkness because love demanded it.

Those women were the first to learn that a risen Christ cannot be found in a graveyard; He is out in the world, ahead of us. If the tomb is empty it means he is already out in the world, and if we want to find him, we must look where He is—in the places of pain and struggle, and in the hearts of the weary.

Just as those women carried spices to the tomb, we too are called to carry the fragrance of hope into our own neighborhoods. We sing our Hallelujahs; we celebrate the Risen Christ with joy and loud voices. But our true calling is to carry those Hallelujahs far beyond our own hearts and our own church doors.

Hope, then, is not merely a feeling; it is a practice. As we celebrate our Risen Lord, we move from the pews into a hurting world with practical, redemptive love. Here is how we can respond together

- **Cultivate the "Micro-Peace":** We may not be able to settle global wars today, but we can de-escalate the "wars" in our own circles. In a country divided, choose a radical, Christ-like curiosity over contempt. Listen to a neighbor you disagree with.
- **Practical Generosity:** Conflict always creates refugees and hunger. Let us provide direct relief to those displaced by war.
- **The Ministry of Presence:** Many in our community are grieving or anxious. Be the "hands" that drop off a meal or the "feet" that walk a mile with a friend who is struggling.
- **Steadfast Prayer:** Do not underestimate the power of a praying church. We pray not to change God's mind, but to let God change our hearts so we can see where God is already moving.

Spring is proof that God can bring life out of frozen ground. This April, look for the "green blades" rising. Every act of kindness, every stand for justice, and every prayer for peace is a sign of the Resurrection at work in us. Christ is risen. Let us rise with Him.

Grace and Peace,



Rev. Lee Atherton

OFFICE UPDATE

BEACON ARTICLES

The next submission deadline is **Friday, April 24** for the May edition.

Margie Dissinger

Interim Office Administrator

THE ANNUAL REPORT

Reports for the 2025-2026 Annual Report are due by **Friday, April 17**.

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

SOCIAL ACTION AND MISSION (SAM) – CHURCH WORLD SERVICE HYGIENE KITS

On Sunday, April 26, SAM is partnering with the Christian Education Committee to have our Sunday School children assemble hygiene kits for Make a Difference Day. These kits are a mission of Church World Services (CWS), which in turn is a partner with United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries. The kits support people in need who are coping with the aftermath of natural disasters, such as hurricanes, wildfires, and floods, primarily in the United States. Occasionally, CWS partners with overseas organizations to provide hygiene kits in response to conflict.

The kits will include nine specific items, including soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, etc. to be packaged in resealable plastic bags. These items are ordered from CWS in bulk, and our role is to package and return the assembled kits to CWS. Our purchase of the items offsets the costs to CWS and includes an additional donation for their costs to ship the kits to recipients.

Our CCC children will play an active role in assembling the kits after church service on Make a Difference Day. This hands-on service project is a meaningful way for our youngest members to live out our faith, learning compassion, generosity, and the power of helping others in tangible ways. These hygiene kits may seem simple, but they provide dignity, comfort, and care to people who need it most.

PUB THEOLOGY

Join us for Pub Theology on April 25th at 7:00 PM at the 110 Grill. This is an open table for open minds, a chance to swap stories, share thoughts, and connect in a real way over good food and drink. Bring your friends, bring your questions, and let's explore what it means to truly connect in our wonderfully complex world. Free childcare is available from 6:30-8:30 PM in Room 202.

APRIL IS STILL STEWARDSHIP MONTH! – STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Stewardship is what we do to manage something that has been placed under our responsibility. Stewardship includes wise management of our treasure, time, and talents so that we can use these things in service of the Lord for the benefit of others.

The Stewardship campaign for 2026-2027 kicked off on March 8th and Stewardship letters and pledge cards were mailed on March 10th. If you did not receive one, please contact the church office. Hold onto your bright orange pledge card to turn in on April 12th, which is Stewardship Sunday.

As you know, the theme for this year's Stewardship Campaign is "There Our Hearts Will Be." Stewardship is the idea that where your treasure is, your heart will also be there. Our heart is CCC and what we love about it - the use of its beautiful facilities for gathering and worship, its people, and ministry and mission spreading God's love. Pledging through the annual Stewardship campaign funds not only what we love at CCC, but the necessary church operations that allow us to gather each Sunday.

During the Stewardship Moments, the Committee addressed challenges CCC is facing this year, with the loss of significant pledge income, as well as rising operational costs, we are asking everyone who is able, to increase their pledge by \$7 per week or \$364 per year. We also shared some statistics about pledging - the average pledge is \$2,550 and the mean pledge is \$1,850 (half of the pledges are above and half of the pledges are below). Last year we received 107 pledges for just over \$271,000, which was 93% of our target or \$5,000 short. This restricts funding for CE and Music Committees, as well as staff increases.

Think of all of the times our hearts were at CCC this past year as well as the upcoming 150th Anniversary celebration! With your generosity we can ensure that we continue to place our hearts in God's hands.

We ask that you give prayerful consideration to increasing your pledge and bring your pledge card to worship on April 12th.

Thank you for your consideration and God Bless,

CCC Stewardship Committee,

Cynthia Dorman, Becky Wisniewski, Wim Nijenberg, Stephen Hartigan, Sandra Lamplough, and Dick Papenfuss

“BAKERY DAY” RETURNS ON APRIL 26!

We are happy to announce the return of “Bakery Day” on Sunday, April 26 as part of Make A Difference Day! Baker Jeremy Williams of ‘The Do Good Kitchen’ will be at Coffee Hour with his mouth-watering selection of baked goods, including macaroons, various flavors of scones, and the popular “brumbles”!

10% of the bake sale proceeds will be donated to the Social Action and Missions Committee (SAM).

If you remember this bake sale from Covid times you know how delicious Jeremy's bakery goods are, and if you are new to Bakery Day you are in for a treat!

Contact Lynn Horton if you have questions.

USED COMPUTER ARMOIRE DESK WANTED

The computer armoire desk that is currently in the finance office has fallen apart! If you have a used computer desk/armoire that you would offer to the church, please contact Margie Dissinger (margie228@gmail.com).

HEAR YE! HEAR YE! JOIN OUR 2-DAY FAMILY-FRIENDLY CELEBRATION FOR ALL AGES IN HONOR OF CCC'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY!

April 25, Saturday afternoon from 3:00-5:30 in Fellowship Hall -

Enjoy a theatrical reenactment of our church's founding featuring members of CCC youth groups, our choir, and the congregation!

Plus: the CCC 150th Planning committee invites you to:

- Engage in Interactive activities, enjoy multi-media displays, presentations, and music
- Participate in packing a CCC time capsule, sample delicious desserts... and other surprises

April 26, Sunday 10:00 AM for a special church service followed by celebration in Fellowship Hall

Please save these dates....We want everyone to come and have fun as we celebrate the life of our wonderful church together! Question?: See Val King or Pat Vondal

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY SUNDAY, APRIL 26

Please plan to join in the fun and effort of making a difference in our community on Sunday, April 26! New this year is a service project in collaboration with the CCC Social Action and Ministry (SAM) Committee – assembling hygiene kits. Please see the SAM article for more details! We will also have our two traditional service projects - Litter Clean Up on the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail and preparing the Sunny Meadow Community Garden for a new planting season.

Details: **Rail Trail Clean Up** - Meet at the Route 110 ball fields parking lot (end of Fletcher Street) at 1:00 PM. Bring gloves and wear good walking shoes. Trash bags and “grabbers” will be provided. **Community Garden Clean Up** - Meet at Sunny Meadow Farm, Walter Lewis Community Garden near 158 Robin Hill Road at 1:30 PM. Bring gardening gloves and trowels for weeding. Larger tools (spades and rakes) will be provided. Spring season tasks include weeding and spreading newspaper or cardboard for ground cover.

Volunteers are needed for each of these service projects! Thank you for participating! Contact Lynn Horton if you have questions! Lynn@terpsoft.com (978) 256-8524

HAPPY SPRING FROM YOUR CE COMMITTEE!

We are hosting an ice cream sundae coffee hour on Sunday, April 12th. Please join us! We will be hosting a Make A Difference Day project on Sunday, April 26th, and our Sunday school spring hike will be Sunday, May 3rd. *Kristin Strobel*

NOMINATING COMMITTEE – BUILDING CCC'S FUTURE ON OUR STRONG HISTORY, ONE COMMITTEE AT A TIME!

2026 marks the 150th Anniversary of the incorporation of Central Congregational Church in Chelmsford. We have grown, evolved, and achieved many goals in a century and a half! Central to all things we do at CCC is our faith in God and Jesus Christ and our desire to do God's work in the world. We follow the teachings of Jesus and help those in need. We build fellowship connections and life-long friendships. Our church is a steady community in all times. It takes the investment of time, talent, and tenacity to keep the church going, year after year. Much of the success and strength of CCC over the years has been due to our committee-based organizational structure. It is the involvement of all of us in the congregation that ensures CCC will continue to be a vibrant church far into the future!

The Nominating Committee is tasked with helping to grow a strong, engaged, enthusiastic congregation through the effective and rewarding church committee participation of as many individuals as possible. Serving on a committee is a benefit to both CCC and yourself! The church keeps running smoothly and expanding our ability to help others when the various committees are filled, and you get to share your time and talents while getting connected to a small, cohesive group of great CCC people! What task or role at CCC is waiting for you? What committee would benefit from your energy and abilities? If you are handy with maintenance and repairs, you would enjoy joining the House Committee and working on projects around the church and 9 Worthen! If your passion is music but you don't currently participate in one of the church choirs, you could participate in the oversight of the musical activities at CCC by joining the Music Committee. Do you enjoy planning social activities and helping to welcome visitors and new members? Members At Large is the committee that helps the congregation have fun and get to know each other better! Do you value faith formation in our children and youth? The Christian Education Committee plans all Sunday School programming and activities. Do you have experience with social media and PR? Join the Communications Committee and help share what we are doing at CCC with the wider public! Welcome the congregation to worship each Sunday and beautify the Sanctuary with flowers and holiday decorations as a member of the Sanctuary Committee!

What skills would you like to learn and put to good use? Try something new! There is no safer place to expand your capabilities than at CCC where everyone is ready to support you! Your Nominating Committee members work diligently to match CCC volunteers with open committee positions. You may not even realize the hidden talents you have until you join a CCC committee! Each spring at Annual Meeting we vote to approve a slate of officers and committee members for the new church year. Now is the time for us to ask – **have you considered serving on a CCC committee?** We have many areas to suit your interests and skill sets! Consider your options by talking to us or sending an e-mail. We are here to help you grow in your commitment to CCC and in the joy of working side by side with fellow members of the CCC church family! Together we can ensure that the future of CCC is just as successful and historic as the first 150 years!

~Lynn Horton, on behalf of Your Nominating Committee,

Deb Lyons, Elizabeth Hartigan, Dory Toppan, and Lynn Horton, chair, Lynn@terpsoft.com

KiSeLo – KINDNESS, SERVICE, LOVE

Wednesday, April 22 | 1:00 PM | Fellowship Hall



The snow has melted, the birds are singing, and spring is in the air! It is hard to believe that the KiSeLo year is almost over. We have had a great year with outings to the Whistler House in October, and the Barrett-Byam House in March. Unfortunately, winter got in the way and we had to cancel our outing to the Butterfly Place.

April 22 will be our last official meeting for the year, with our end of year banquet being held the last Wednesday in May. More information is to come, so be on the lookout in your Sunday Bulletins and the Tuesday announcements.

April's program will be a travelogue. Come join us and travel vicariously through our guest speaker's adventures. Our Open Pantry donation for April is canned vegetables and/or canned fruit. Any other non-perishable food is always welcome.

Song of Solomon 2:11-12 "See! The winter is past; the rains are over and gone. Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come, the cooing of doves is heard in our land."

Happy Spring!
Karen Banakos



MAKE A DIFFERENCE WEEK MEETING

Come one, Come all - who want to be part of Make a Difference Week this summer!

We are having a meeting on April 12 in room 202 after the morning service. Grab an ice cream sundae from CE in Fellowship Hall and join us at the table.

I am looking for: service ideas, volunteers, a theme for the week and Friday activities.

Unlike past years, we will have a program for children PreK through 2nd grade.

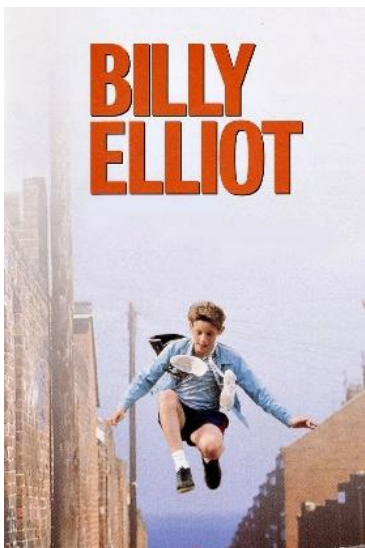
3rd through 8th grade will do some projects off campus. The program will be from 9 am to 4 pm the week of August 24-28. Contact Jennifer Hart (jennifer.hart@cccchelmsford.org) for more information.

CCC MOVIE GROUP

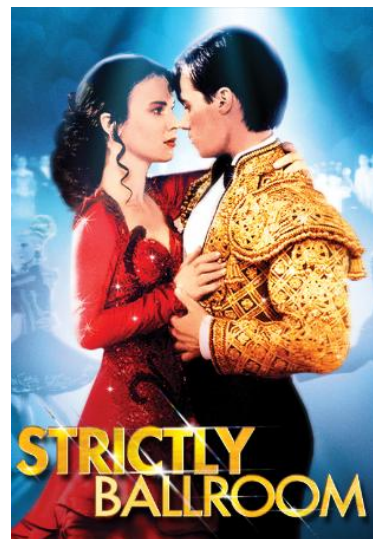
Mondays | April 13 & 27 | 7:00 PM | Zoom

April Movie Group

Monday, 4/13 – “Billy Elliot” (2000) The life of 11-year-old Billy Elliot, a coal miner's son in Northern England, is forever changed one day when he stumbles upon a ballet class during his weekly boxing lesson. Billy (Jamie Bell) turns out to be a born dancer, demonstrating the kind of raw talent seldom seen by the class's exacting instructor, Mrs. Wilkinson (Julie Walters). With a tart tongue and a never-ending stream of cigarettes in her hand, Mrs. Wilkinson's zest for teaching is revived when she sees Billy's potential. The film is set in County Durham in North East England during the 1984–1985 miners' strike in the Margaret Thatcher era. Billy lives with his widowed father, Jackie, (Gary Lewis), and older brother, Tony, (Jamie Draven), both coal miners out on strike. His paternal grandmother (Jean Heywood) lives with them; she has Alzheimer's disease and had once aspired to be a professional dancer. “Billy Elliot” continues to resonate with audiences and critics alike in the 21st century. Its themes of identity, expression, and possibility remain relevant, as the film challenges machismo and celebrates self-expression with quiet, powerful grace.



Monday, 4/27 – “Strictly Ballroom” (1992) The film follows a rebellious Australian ballroom dancer whose unconventional moves risk his career, leading him to form an unexpected partnership with an amateur dancer. Together, they challenge tradition in pursuit of passion and authenticity. Writer/Director Baz Luhrmann's exuberant debut blends satire, romance, and dazzling choreography, earning praise for its humor, heart, and visual flair. The film version of “Strictly Ballroom” was developed from an original short play of the same name. It drew on Luhrmann's own life experience—he had studied ballroom dancing as a child and his mother worked as a ballroom dance teacher in his teens. “Strictly Ballroom” is frequently referenced on the American TV program *Dancing with the Stars*, as well as influencing the name of the original UK version *Strictly Come Dancing*.



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!

SKILLSPROUT AMERICA

A summer learning program for 7 to 10-year-olds will be held at our church from July 6 through August 21. It will run Monday through Friday from 9 am to 5 pm. Called SkillSprout America, kids will learn skills in logic and problem solving, financial literacy, entrepreneurship, budgeting, leadership, self-discipline, self-awareness and anti-bullying. For more information, contact Jignesh Shah at 201/744-4216, email skillsproutamerica@gmail.com or see their website www.SkillSproutAmerica.com



SKILLSPROUT AMERICA

Plant Courage, Water Curiosity,
Harvest Confidence.

-  **Mathematics:
Logic & Problem-Solving**
-  **Money: Financial Literacy,
Entrepreneurship & Budgeting**
-  **Mind: Leadership, Self
Discipline, Self Awareness
& Anti-Bullying**



Ages 7-10 | Mon-Fri 9AM-5PM | July 6-Aug 21, 2026
Central Congregational Church, 1 Worthen St, Chelmsford, MA
Jignesh Shah | 201-744-4216 | skillsproutamerica@gmail.com
www.SkillSproutAmerica.com



LISTENING FOR THE WORD: LECTIO DIVINA ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

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

What if we slowed down long enough to listen—really listen—to the scripture for the day?

Each Sunday at 8:45 a.m., a small group gathers for Lectio Divina, an ancient and gentle practice of praying with scripture. Together, we read the day's passage slowly, listen for a word or phrase that catches our attention, and share what we're hearing and wondering—without debate, pressure, or the need to have the "right" answer.

Week after week, these quiet moments have led to unexpected ah-ha moments: a familiar passage sounding new, a phrase speaking directly to something happening in our lives, a deeper sense that God is still speaking in the midst of our everyday stories.

You don't need any experience, preparation, or biblical expertise—just a willingness to pause and be present. Come for one week or make it part of your rhythm. Whether you're seeking depth, calm, or fresh insight before worship, you are warmly invited.

Join us Sundays at 8:45 a.m. and see what the Word might have to say—just for you.

Pastor Lee

UPDATES

FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL COORDINATOR

Creating Faith-filled Disciples Centered in God's Love

This is the Mission of the Christian Education Committee at Central Congregational Church, what is the best way to do that? How can we give children an experience that they want to talk to their friends about? How do we prepare the children and youth to live out God's Love for everyone?

Jesus welcomed the children and taught the adults; we teach the children and welcome adults. Someone has it wrong and I don't think it was Jesus. ~ Marian Plant

Make A Difference Week! August 24 - 28 - 9am to 4 pm

- *Come to a planning meeting on Sunday April 12. Grab some ice cream after the service and join me in room 202, the library.*
- School Calendars and a late Labor Day will give parents in Chelmsford an unexpected extra week of summer vacation and we would like to help out!
- CE is working on running a Make a Difference Week, but we need everyone's help.
- Our High School students are excited about this chance to help 3rd through 8th graders make a difference across Chelmsford and surrounding towns.

I need service ideas, and people to help make sure we have enough adults to keep all children safe.

I hope that you are part of the Intergenerational Puzzle project happening during coffee hour during Lent, it will be a beautiful creation of our CCC family.

The Holy Week Walk in Fellowship Hall during coffee hour on March 22 was enjoyed by all. Our children and youth worked very hard learning about this important time in the Christian year. Hopefully you sat at the table with the children and talked about the experience.

The Next DEMM Mission Trip is being planned - Do you want to go? How about supporting the teams that go help people have warmer homes? There will be a meeting on Sunday, April 12 at 7 PM in 9 Worthen.

PRAYER MINISTRY

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” – Romans 12:12

Life brings beautiful moments—and hard ones. Sometimes we know exactly how to pray. Sometimes we don’t have the words. That’s why the CCC Prayer Ministry is here for you.

You don’t have to carry your burdens alone. Prayer is one of the ways we carry one another through seasons of joy and seasons of struggle. If you are facing illness, grief, uncertainty, or simply need strength for the days ahead, we would be honored to stand with you in prayer. When you share a prayer request, it is treated with complete confidentiality and lifted faithfully to God by our team of 20 prayer partners. It is handled with care, compassion, and respect.

To share a request for yourself or someone you love, please contact Marcia Cassidy at marciacassidy@comcast.net.

It is truly a privilege to pray for you.



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. The Ginnie Hall Meal Ministry is a service of KiSeLo.

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 March 11, 2026, meeting:

- Assistant Treasurer Margie Dissinger reported that as of February 28 we are 2/3rds of the way through our fiscal year. Total pledge income is just below target at 64%. Unpledged income is at 57%. Our total income year-to-date is very close to the expected figure at 65%. Total expenditures are at 64%, so we continue to be in a good financial position. Expenses related to snow removal are over budget (272%) due to the heavy snowfalls this winter. We will receive money from the dental practice next door that will help offset this expense.
- The Gift Card Ministry named in Pastor Rich's memory was discussed. It may be safer and more efficient to distribute the Market Basket gift cards through the police department or a food pantry. The Diaconate will determine if the funds that support this ministry could have a wider benefit to people in need through monetary donations to a food pantry, or other methods of food assistance distribution. The ministry will continue to be named in honor and memory of Reverend Dr. Richard B. Knight.
- The members of Council approved Alisa Knight's request to ask individuals from CCC to participate in a field study for her Spiritual Director Certification Program.
- Screening dates for Maddie Knight's film "Trailed" were approved for March 20, 21, 22, and 27. Maddie wrote, directed, filmed, and acted in her debut film. Some scene settings and actors will be recognized from CCC!
- Council approved a summertime fundraising event; the CCC Indoor Yard Sale will be held in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, August 1, 2026. Participants will pay a fee to rent tables. Last year the yard sale raised \$876 for the church.
- Council approved the warrant for Annual Meeting on 5/17/2026:

Warrant for the Annual Meeting on May 17, 2026

of Central Congregational Church in Chelmsford, United Church of Christ

To the Members and Friends of Central Congregational Church in Chelmsford:

The Annual Meeting of the Central Congregational Church in Chelmsford, United Church of Christ, will be held on Sunday, May 17, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall to act upon the following articles:

Article 1 To elect a Moderator.

Article 2 To celebrate the events of the past year.

Article 3 To act upon the recommendations of the Nominating Committee to elect the officers of the church.

Article 4 To receive the reports of all committees.

Article 5 To approve the budget for the fiscal year 2026 – 2027.

Article 6 To transact any other business that may lawfully come before the meeting.

(signed) Valerie King, Clerk

- **Annual Reports are due Friday, April 17, 2026.** Please submit committee, officer, and group reports to Margie for inclusion in the 2025-2026 Annual Report no later than April 17.
- Jeremy Williams has offered to hold a bake sale in April. He will be selling his delicious "Do Good Kitchen" baked items. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to SAM.
- Council granted Vivian Hussey permission to post flyers in the church about the Renaissance Club's book publishing fundraiser. Vivian belongs to this club in Lowell and she is a contributor to the book.

- Joe Chapman presented a PowerPoint review of the work accomplished by the Safe Church Task Force to date. Joe, chair of the task force, summarized their activities over the past few months developing a sex offenders policy for our church. The task force has carefully utilized various resources to inform the development of a policy with correct terminology, legal advice, CCC current policy, and UCC recommendations. The team is still working on various aspects of policy development with concentration on church liability, safety, practicality and maintaining our identity and value of being a welcoming congregation.
- Wim Nijenberg reported that the newly established Coffee Hour team needs more members to set up Fellowship Hall and prepare the coffee on Sundays, plus other Coffee Hour tasks. A team of at least eight members will allow sub-teams of two people to rotate their duties each month, with each sub-team taking one Sunday. Members of the congregation are needed to serve as Coffee Hour hosts! Hosts provide the food and serve as greeters throughout the coffee hour. Contact Wim Nijenberg or Kelly Hargett to volunteer in either capacity. Thank you!
- The CCC 150th Anniversary celebration will be held on April 25 and 26. Participants are requested to perform in a short historical skit and to lend wardrobe costumes and other items. Contact Val King or Pat Vondal.

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, April 8, 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 (978) 256-8524.

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US!

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

Interim Pastor:	Rev. Lee Atherton	508-308-7116	pastor-lee@cccchelmsford.org
Director of Music:	Tudor Bota	978-772-3173	tudorbota@gmail.com
Interim Office Administrator:	Margie Dissinger	978-256-5931	office.admin@cccchelmsford.org
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