



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

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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.



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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"

Ministers: The Congregation

Interim Pastor: Rev. Lee Atherton

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. John A. Zachry

Director of Music/Organist: Tudor Bota

Sunday, April 19, 2026	Third Sunday of Easter	10 o'clock a.m.
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Celebrating Milestones & Breaking Bread Together

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.

Order of the Service of Worship

WE GATHER

Prelude "You Are My All in All", "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" arr. Hayes Tudor Bota
Welcome and Announcements Lynn Horton
Ringling the Bell

THRESHOLD MOMENT

Song "Sanctuary"
Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true.
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.
Reflecting Rev. Lee Atherton

Song "Sanctuary"
Call to Worship (inspired by Psalm 116) Wim Nijenberg

One: We call upon the name of the Holy One who hears our cry and responds to our prayer. What shall we return to the Holy One for all the blessings we receive?

Many: We will call upon the name of the Holy One for as long as we live.

One: The Holy One has been our Companion in suffering and our Comforter in anguish. What shall we return to the Holy One for their presence among us?

Many: We will serve the Holy One and be companions and comforters for God's people.

One: The Holy One has given a new covenant of salvation, redemption, and restoration for the world. What shall we return to the Holy One for the gift of covenantal love?

Many: We will declare the goodness of God with praise and thanksgiving. Hallelujah! Bless the name of the Holy One!

***Hymn** "Now Thank We All Our God" #715 Blue

Prayer of Invocation and the Lord's Prayer Wim
Living God, you are the fire that burns within us. You open our hearts to your presence, revealed in word and song, in hospitality and friendship, in sacrament and presence. Open our minds again so that we may recognize you when you meet us in unexpected moments. Let us encounter you in every phase and movement of worship that we might know you and love you more than before we gathered. And, may that love burn brightly like the sun cutting through the gloom of the storm to inspire us to go on with renewed hope and spirit, and now we pray as we are taught, "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."

Passing the Peace Pastor Lee
The love and peace of Christ be with you!
And also with you!

WE PROCLAIM

First Scripture Luke 24:13-35 Pew Bible p. 860
Children's Message Jennifer Hart

Sending Song
Go now in peace, go now in peace, may the love of God surround you
Everywhere, everywhere you may go.

Second Scripture Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Pew Bible p. 885

Sermon Pastor Lee

WE RESPOND

***Hymn** "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" #73 Blue

Pastoral Search Moment Dory Toppan

Joys and Concerns Pastor Lee

Invitation to the Offering Wim

Offertory "The Potter's Hand" Darlene Zschech Chancel Choir

Beautiful Lord, wonder Savior, I know for sure all of my days are held in your hand, crafted into your perfect plan. You gently call me into your presence, guiding me by your Holy Spirit. Teach me, dear Lord, to live all of my life through your eyes. I'm captured by your Holy calling. Set me apart, I know you're drawing me to yourself. Lead me, Lord, I pray. Take me, mold me, use me, fill me. I give my life to the Potter's hand. Call me, guide me, lead me, walk beside me. I give my life to the Potter's hand, the Potter's hand. You gently call me into your presence, guiding me by your Holy Spirit. Teach me, dear Lord, to live all of my life through your eyes. I'm captured by your Holy calling. Set me apart, I know you're drawing me to yourself. Lead me, Lord, I pray, I pray. Take me, mold me, use me, fill me. I give my life to the Potter's hand, Call me, guide me, lead me, walk beside me. I give my life to the Potter's hand.

***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.

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Closing Hymn** "God Be with You Till We Meet Again" #434 Blue

Blessing and Benediction

Three-Fold Amen

Postlude "Adagio" by Bach Tudor

Budget Meeting

There will be a budget meeting on Monday, May 4 at 7:30 PM on Zoom. Any one can attend. If you would like to participate, please let Dick Papenfuss know so, we can get the budget materials to you and send you the Zoom link. *Dick Papenfuss, Treasurer*

Articles for the May Beacon newsletter are due on Monday, April 27.

Women's Retreat

Come and join women from CCC on Sept 25-27, 2026 at Grotonwood, Groton, MA for a retreat. Cost ~\$250-\$300 depending on meals. The retreat includes two night lodging, music nature walks, laughter and Christian fellowship! For more information call Val King, 978-846-1120.

Skillsprout America Summer Program

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

THIS WEEK AT CCC

Sun, Apr 19	Worship	10:00 AM	Sanctuary
Tues, Apr 21	Knitters & Crocheters	10:30 AM	Parlor
	Lunch Bunch	11:45 AM	Room 202
	150 th Anniversary Committee Meeting	6:00 PM	Rm 202
	House Committee Meeting	7:30 PM	Zoom
	SonLight Band	7:30 PM	Sanctuary
Wed, Apr 22	KiSeLo	1:00 PM	Fellowship Hall
	Pastoral Search	5:30 PM	Room 202
	Diaconate Meeting	7:00 PM	Zoom
Thurs, Apr 23	Chancel Choir	6:45 PM	Sanctuary
Sat. Apr 25	CCC 150 th Anniversary Celebration	3:00 PM	Fellowship Hall
	Pub Theology Child Care	6:30 PM	Room 202
	Pub Theology	7:00 PM	110 Grill

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.



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 us 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):	Sue Sarafinas
Head Usher	John Lefebvre
Livestream Operator	Vivian Hussey
Liturgist:	Wim Nijenberg
Deacon of the Day:	Margie Dissinger
Coffee Hour Hosts:	Ana Reatiga & Wim Nijenberg
Flowers	Donated by James Clark in memory of his wife, Valerie

Many thanks to all who enrich our morning together.

Announcements and Events – Sunday, April 19, 2026

Guest Welcome

This morning, we welcome Christopher Jenkins to our worship service. Christopher serves on the Board of Directors of the Northeast Association of the Southern New England Conference, United Church of Christ (SNEUCC).

A Season of Shared Prayer

This year, the Association Board of Directors has launched a weekly prayer calendar, inviting our sister churches to lift up one another and our affiliated ministries in prayer on designated Sundays. Whenever possible, a board member visits a congregation on their specific Sunday to offer brief greetings and share in the spirit of fellowship. We are grateful to have Christopher join us today to bring greetings from the Association and to lead us in a moment of prayer during our prayer time.

Our Commitment to the Wider Church

In support of this initiative, CCC will also hold these specific churches and entities in our collective prayers. You will find the designated ministries listed in the bulletin each week. We invite you to keep them in your hearts and prayers throughout the week as we strengthen the bonds of our faith community.

Ramps for Neighbors



Ramps for Neighbors (RfN) is a joint ministry of All Saints Episcopal Church and Central Congregational Church in Chelmsford. This ministry builds wheelchair ramps at the homes of those with mobility challenges (at no cost to the homeowner). RfN has been in operation since 2023 and, so far, we've helped eight families access their homes more easily.

The next Ramps for Neighbors meeting will be at All Saints on **Sunday, April 19** at 11:30am in the meeting room below the sanctuary. At the meeting we'll discuss plans for our next

ramp build as well as other potential ramp builds this year. If you've helped on projects in the past, or you haven't been involved yet but are curious, come hear what's planned and ask any questions you may have.

Let's keep building! *Dave Kuzara and Bryan Norman*

KiSeLo

Ladies of CCC – come join us on Wednesday, April 22, at 1:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Deb Lyons will be sharing her travelogue from her trip to China. If you travel vicariously through other people's journeys, (like me) then come and visit China! Our Open Pantry donation is canned fruit and/or vegetables or any other non-perishable food. Any questions or comments, text me, Karen Banakos, at (603) 686-2026 Hope to see you there!

“Bakery Day” Returns On Sunday, 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.

Make A Difference Sunday

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

150th Anniversary Celebration – You Are Part of Our Church History!

The 150th Church Anniversary team needs your help and pictures! We have two separate needs of church related pictures for our celebration on Saturday, April 25.

First, we are creating an interactive timeline that depicts our church family and our numerous activities - worship services, youth groups, committees, mission trips and more. Please bring copies of pictures that you have on April 25 and help populate our timeline together. We especially need pictures from the last 15 years. If it is an original picture, please include your name on the back so we can return when done. If you cannot attend our celebration, please reach out to me directly and I will ensure your picture(s) are included.

Second, we will be making a digital slideshow of pictures with the support of Emmett Lyons. The slideshow will be played at the April 25 celebration. We would love to include pictures of all our church family over the years. Candid pictures are especially welcomed - perhaps a special friend at coffee hour, volunteers at a Holiday Fair, or families at church picnic. Please email me pictures or drop off original pictures (with name) in the church office by April 15. Original pictures will be scanned and returned to you. Thanks, Bonnie McGrath - email thebend2@comcast.net

Please stop by the table in Fellowship Hall to sign up to attend on Saturday, April 25!

Urgent: Help Needed

We are now three weeks from having to put together the budget for next year and we still do not have a volunteer to lead the Christmas tree sale. This is our biggest fund raiser of our fiscal year. It has been a part of our community efforts for around 37 years. Yes, it does take some time and effort, but there is plenty of help available from previous leaders and participants.

If we cannot get this position filled by May 4, we cannot include the \$8000 expected to be raised in the church budget for next year. As I mentioned several weeks ago during the Stewardship moment, this adds to the money that needs to be raised from the Stewardship Campaign. It definitely means we will need an increase of \$7.00/week from all of our 104 pledge units. It also means we may not be able to have a balanced budget to start the next fiscal year.

Please consider volunteering to fill this important position in the life of the church.

Dick Papenfuss, Treasurer

Announcements continue on the back

HYMN LYRICS

Hymn

“Now Thank We All Our God”

Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices,
who, from our mothers' arms, has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us full of grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills in this world in the next.

All praise and thanks to God the Father and our Mother,
to Christ and to the One, who binds us to each other,
the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore,
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

Hymn

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

There’s a wideness in God’s mercy like the wideness of the sea;
there’s a kindness in God’s justice, which is more than liberty.

There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good!
There is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.

For the love of God is broader than the measure of our mind;
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more simple, we should rest upon God’s word;
and our lives would be illumined by the presence of our Lord.

Closing Hymn

“God Be with You Till We Meet Again”

God be with you till we meet again; loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd’s care enfold you: God be with you till we meet again.

Refrain:

Till we meet till we meet, till we meet at Jesus’ feet;
till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.

God be with you till we meet again; unseen wings, protecting, hide you,
daily manna still provide you: God be with you till we meet again! *[Refrain]*

God be with you till we meet again; when life’s perils thick confound you,
put unfailing arms around you: God be with you till we meet again. *[Refrain]*

God be with you till we meet again; keep love’s banner floating o’er you,
smite death’s threatening wave before you; God be with you till we meet again. *[Refrain]*