

Come build a church with human frailty. Come build a church of flesh and blood.  
Jesus shall be its sure foundation. It shall be built by the hand of God.

Let us see the tongues of fire, let us hear the great wind roar, let us know the awe and wonder, that we've only glimpsed before. Let us feel the strength of passion, which can make us laugh and weep. Let us know this great awakening. For so long we've been asleep.

Let us know the love unceasing, which alone can loose the bounds. Reaching out across the chasms, bringing walls of hatred down. Let us taste the sweet communion, where the circle never ends. Hold us in the sweet connection, turning strangers into friends. *Refrain*

Guide our feet in peaceful pathways. Teach us peace of heart and mind; peace with God and all God's children; till we leave our wars behind. Surely joy will come and find us like a breeze that cools the night; like the rain upon the desert; like a candle's gentle light. *Refrain*

**\*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** "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" #433 Blue

**Blessing and Benediction**

**Three-Fold Amen**

**Postlude** "Largo" by Rameau Tudor



---

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, May 10, 2026

Sixth Sunday of Easter

10 o'clock a.m.

---



**Love Knows No Borders**

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 "Deep River" arr. Keveren, "Thy Will" arr. Hayes Tudor Bota
Welcome and Announcements Glenn Dissinger
Reading of the Warrant Glenn Dissinger for Val King, Clerk
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 Deb Lyons

Let us gather within the covenant of Love
which connects us to God and to one another.
Let us gather to remember promises—
God's promises to us and our promises to God.
Let us gather to remember that God's covenant extends first to the stranger and the refugee—
We remember that to welcome them is to welcome God.
Let us gather to worship God,
We worship as renewal, as restoration, as response and as challenge. Amen.

\*Hymn "In Christ There Is No East or West" #687 Blue

Prayer of Invocation and the Lord's Prayer Deb

Holy God, over and over, in the stories of our faith, we read of those who had to flee their
homes— Abraham, Ruth, Moses, and even Jesus. Your love always went with them. Over and
over, in the stories of our faith, we are challenged to welcome the stranger and to see your face
in them. Your love always goes with us. Remind us in this time of worship that your love never
stops at a wall or a border crossing. Your love calls us to connection and community because love
knows no borders. Keep us ever mindful of the words and actions of your son, who never
created any borders in his ministry, and in whose name we pray, "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

Joaquin Castrillon Piacenza

The Sacrament of Baptism

United Church of Christ Statement of Faith (adapted by Robert V. Moss and further adapted for use
with young children.)

We believe in God. We believe in Jesus. We believe in the Holy Spirit.

God is always creating the world, and creates people in God's image. God shows us the way to
right living. God loves all people and wants us to live without sin.

Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, who lived and died for us conquered sin and death so that we
would be forgiven and have eternal life.

God sends the Holy Spirit, creating and renewing Jesus' church, binding in covenant all of God's
faithful people.

God calls us into the church to accept the cost and joy of following Jesus, to be of service to the
whole human family, to share Jesus' story with all the world, to resist evil, to share in Christ's
baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

God promises to forgive us, give us grace, and help us be courageous when we work hard for
justice and peace. God promises that the Holy Spirit will be with us all the time. God promises us
eternal life.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto God. Amen.

Introduction and Singing "I Was There to Hear Your Borneing Cry" #75 Blue

Scripture John 14: 15-21 Pew Bible p. 877
Sermon Pastor Lee

WE RESPOND

Joys and Concerns Pastor Lee

Pastoral Prayer Pastor Lee

Invitation to the Offering Deb

Offertory "Come Build a Church" by Medema Chancel Choir

God of Creation, Maker of all things. We gather in this place to pray. We do invite you come now
among us; come build your church today.

Refrain: Come build a church with soul and spirit, come build a church of flesh and bone.
We need no tower rising skyward; no house of wood, or glass, or stone.



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

<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 Admin</b>	Margie Dissinger	978-256-5931	office.admin@cccchelmsford.org
<b>Sunday School Coord.</b>	Jennifer Hart	610-781-2074	jennifer.hart@cccchelmsford.org
<b>Custodian</b>	Juarez Gomes	978-957-5075	
<b>Council President</b>	Lynn Horton	978-256-8524	lynn@terpsoft.com
<b>Church Phone &amp; Email</b>	978-256-5931	office.admin@cccchelmsford.org	
<b>Church Address</b>	1 Worthen Street, Chelmsford, MA 01824		
<b>U.C.C. Website</b>	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 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):** KiSeLo Officers
- Head Usher** Sue Sarafinas
- Livestream Operator** Vivian Hussey
- Liturgist:** Deb Lyons
- Deacon of the Day:** Lillian Beean
- Coffee Hour Hosts:** Men's ChristCare Group
- Flowers** Donated by KiSeLo in celebration of mothers who love, care, and guide, including those who have filled the role when it mattered the most.

***Many thanks to all who enrich our morning together.***

## Announcements and Events – Sunday, May 10, 2026

### Annual Meeting of Central Congregational Church in Chelmsford, UCC Sunday, May 17, 2026, after Worship

All members and friends of Central Congregational Church are invited to attend the Annual Meeting of the church, to be held in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, May 17, 2026, immediately after the worship service. Please reserve that date on your calendars.

We will again have a family potluck to enjoy during the meeting as we conduct our annual business meeting. Please bring a main dish or dessert to share. The dishes can be placed in the church kitchen before worship. Beverages will be provided.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Lynn Horton  
Council President [Lynn@terpsoft.com](mailto:Lynn@terpsoft.com)

### 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

### Our Commitment to the Wider Church

In support of the Association Board of Directors initiative, CCC will also hold these specific churches and entities in our collective prayers. This week we pray for the First Congregational Church in Billerica, UCC. We invite you to keep them in your hearts and prayers throughout the week as we strengthen the bonds of our faith community.

### Calling All Graduates

Is a member of your immediate family graduating from high school, college, or a graduate program? Graduation Sunday is Sunday, June 7. All high school seniors are invited to the service for a celebration of their achievement. Graduates from college and graduate school programs will also be recognized in the June 7 bulletin and June Beacon newsletter. Please let the church office know the names of all graduates, the school from which they are graduating, and, if possible, their post-graduation plans. Kindly contact Margie Dissinger ([office.admin@cccchelmsford.org](mailto:office.admin@cccchelmsford.org)) or Lynn Horton ([Lynn@terpsoft.com](mailto:Lynn@terpsoft.com)) as soon as possible, and no later than May 20, 2026. Thank you!

### 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.

### SNEUCC Super Saturday

The Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ (SNEUCC) is hosting Super Saturday in a different format this year:

Super Saturday Comes to You! - Northeast Association

Bound by Story, Sent in Hope: Learning from What's Working

May 17, 2:00 PM

Central Congregational Church of Newburyport UCC, MA

Stories bind us together—and they also send us forward. We'll share stories of thriving and innovative ministries from across the Conference, highlighting common threads of faithfulness, courage, and creativity.

[Please use this link](#) to find out more information and register for the event if you are interested. This event is free to attend due to our proportional giving to the SNEUCC.

### Skillsprout America Summer Academy — Now Enrolling!

A premium enrichment program for children ages 7–10 is coming to our church this summer. July 6 – August 21, 2026 | Mon–Fri 9AM–5PM | Math, Money & Leadership curriculum | 3 or 5 days/week options. Enroll at [www.SkillsproutAmerica.com](http://www.SkillsproutAmerica.com) or call (617) 599-5534."

### THIS WEEK AT CCC

<b>Sun, May 10</b>	Worship	10:00 AM	Sanctuary
<b>Mon, May 11</b>	Movie Group	7:00 PM	Zoom
<b>Tues, May 12</b>	Knitters & Crocheters	10:30 AM	Parlor
	Lunch Bunch	11:45 AM	Room 202
	SonLight Band	7:30 PM	Sanctuary
<b>Wed, May 13</b>	Pastoral Search	5:30 PM	Room 202
	Council Meeting	7:30 PM	Zoom
<b>Thurs, May 14</b>	Chancel Choir	6:45 PM	Sanctuary
<b>Sat, May 16</b>	Confirmation Dinner & rehearsal	6:00 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

---

### Hymn

### “In Christ There Is No East or West”

---

In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north,  
but one community of love throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts ev'rywhere their high communion find;  
his service is the golden cord close binding humankind.

Join hands, disciples of the faith, whate'er your race may be;  
all children of the living God are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west in him meet south and north;  
all loving hearts are one in him throughout the whole wide earth.

### Hymn

### “I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry”

---

I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you  
were baptized, to see your life unfold.

I was there when your were but a child, with a faith to suit you well; in a blaze of light you  
wandered off to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the word I was there to cheer you on; you were raised to  
praise the living God, to whom you now belong.

If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make  
your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young, I'll be there to guide you through  
the night, complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes, I'll be there as I have always  
been with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you  
were baptized, to see your life unfold.

### Closing Hymn

### “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

---

Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love:  
the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.

When we are called to part, it gives us inward pain;  
but we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.