

Pastoral Prayer

Invitation to Offering

Finley McCarthy, Grades 3-4

O Lord, we bring our gifts to you today. We bring our gifts of money to help our neighbors and to support this church.

And we also offer to you the gifts of our time, our energy, our service, and our love.

We will now receive the morning offering.

Offertory

"Abide With Me!" William H. Monk/John H. Gower
Lucas Hart and Tudor Bota

***Doxology**

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" Traditional Lyrics: #46
Feel free to sing any version of the Doxology that is familiar to you.

Alternative Lyrics:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host: Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***Prayer of Dedication**

Holy Cows

Loving God-
You have called us to be the Light of the World and to provide hope where there is darkness.
Bless these gifts so that we can use them to do Your work. We are Your hands and feet. Let us share our gifts, money and talents, with all our neighbors who are in need. Amen

SENDING FORTH

***🎵 Sending Song**

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

#2 Blue

*** Benediction**

God Squad

***Three-Fold Amen**

Kai Pulliam

🎹 Postlude

"Come Thou Font of Every Blessing"

Youth Band

Central Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

Chelmsford, Massachusetts

An Open and Affirming Congregation

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

Sunday, June 14, 2026

Youth Sunday | 3rd Sunday After Pentecost

10 o'clock a.m.

"All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability." Acts 2:4



Rooted in Becoming


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.


☺☺☺ Immediately after worship we will take an all-church picture ☺☺☺
on the church front steps (weather permitting). Please join us!

GATHERING

 **Prelude** "This is the Day" Youth Band

 **Welcome and Announcements** God Squad

 **Ringing the Bell** Ben Albon

 **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.

Bringing in the Light Gavin Shields & PreK-K
Reflecting Kristin Strobel & Grades 3,4

Verses About Love

Matthew 11:28	Isaiah 41:10	Joh 3:16-17
Romans 8:38-39	John 15:12	John 13:35
Mark 12:29-31	Galatians 5:22	Psalms 23

Song "Sanctuary"

 **Call to Worship** Holy Cows

Reader 1: Oh Lord, you have brought us together, in this world of your creation, given us dominion and charged us with stewardship.

Reader 2: We see the awesomeness of the world in Thanksgiving Forest and East Boston Camps. We care for it when on the rail trail and in Sunny Meadow. We have joy in it when we find the hidden Easter eggs.

All: It is here where we put down our roots.

Reader 1: Your son has shown us how to become a community based on hope.

Reader 2: We create that community by feeding our neighbors who need food, by connecting with neighbors who need a jump start, by singing to our neighbors, and by seeing our neighbors through your eyes.

All: It is here that we grow.


Reader 1: You have sent the Holy Spirit to guide us, to fill our lives with faith and trust in your plan.

Reader 2: We follow your plan when we gather each Sunday, to hear the stories of your glory and grace, to share the stories of our everyday lives and to continue the story of this old church.

All: It is here that we become what you have envisioned.


Lord, we trust in your plan. You have watched us grow from our first breath of your air, to our daily steps upon your earth, from our first day in Sunday

School, to the day we teach Sunday School, from our first service in 1876 to today. We sometimes struggle to follow your story, but you have given us hope by sharing a glimpse of what is ahead, your kingdom, here on earth filled with your children, all grown up, us.

* **Hymn** "In the Bulb There Is a Flower" vs 1 & 2 #638 Blue

 **Prayer of Invocation and The Lord's Prayer** DeClan Shields, PreK-4th Grade


Today, we ask you to be with us here on this Youth Sunday. May what we do today be pleasing to you. May what we say and share bring all present here today closer to you, O God of Love! Be with us as we pray together the prayer Jesus taught His disciples to 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 of the Peace** Grades 1-2

The peace of Christ be with you all.
And also with you.


WE PROCLAIM

 **Message** All Children and Youth of CCC

 **Song** "Seed Song" by Tom Hunter See Insert

 **Prayer of Forgiveness** Holy Cows

 Gracious God -

 You have provided us with so many roots in our life to anchor us and help us to grow - family, church family, mentors, friends, Sunday School, Bible Studies and much more. Sometimes in our day-to-day activities we lose focus on these roots and just continue in our self-centered ways. But your unlimited grace always draws us back to You. With the Holy Spirit we can be a better version of ourselves, loving You and loving our neighbors.

 Let us make our confession, first in silent prayer.

Assurance of God's Grace God Squad

Life can feel like a backpack overloaded with commitments—school, family, faith, and the pressure to perform. It's easy to feel overwhelmed and struggle to find time for God. But God's presence is like noise-cancelling headphones, blocking out the chaos and helping you find calm and balance. God's grace gives you the strength to be accountable to yourself and others, and the freedom to grow into who you're meant to be. You are loved. You are forgiven. You are becoming.

Joys and Concerns Pastor Lee

Continued on back →



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

Interim Pastor	Rev. Lee Atherton	508-308-7116	Pastor-Lee@cccchelmsford.org
Director of Music	Tudor Bota	978-772-3173	tudorbota@gmail.com
Interim Office Admin	Margie Dissinger	978-256-5931	office.admin@cccchelmsford.org
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Council President	Lynn Horton	978-256-8524	lynn@terpsoft.com
Church Phone & Email	978-256-5931	office.admin@cccchelmsford.org	
Church Address	1 Worthen Street, Chelmsford, MA 01824		
U.C.C. Website	ucc.org (United Church of Christ)		

Pastoral Search Committee:

- Martha Chenault
- Glenn Dissinger
- Sue Houde
- John Lamplough
- Emmett Lyons
- April McCarthy
- Barbara Reilly
- Dorinda Toppan, Chairperson

We declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation, welcoming into the full life and ministry of the church persons of every race, culture, age, gender identity and gender expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, marital status, education, and economic status. We especially and intentionally welcome all who have known the pain of exclusion or discrimination in the church and society.



Scan the QR code to give your offering electronically and support our ministry.
Thank you for your generosity!



Welcome to Central Congregational Church!

No matter who you are, or where you are on your spiritual journey, you're welcome here!

Good morning and welcome to Sunday morning worship!

We are glad you are here to worship together! Please join 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):** PreK -K class
- Head Usher** Sue Sarafinas
- Livestream Operator** Vivian Hussey
- Liturgist:** CCC Youth
- Deacon of the Day:** Merri Robison
- Coffee Hour Hosts:** CE Picnic
- Flowers** Donated by Judith Barnes in memory of her grandmother, Jennie Jacobson Wilbur.

Many thanks to all who enrich our morning together.

Announcements and Events – Sunday, June 14, 2026

Our Commitment to the Wider Church

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

2026 All Church Picnic – TODAY Sunday, June 14

The annual church picnic is a celebration of the church year, with fun, food, and fellowship for all. We will be providing the burgers and hot dogs, please be sure to note if you need gluten-free buns - vegetarian or vegan food options, as well as we will have watermelon, condiments, drinks, and paper products. We hope that you will join us and bring your favorite lawn game and a side dish or dessert to share. The games and fun are for all those young at heart who wish to join in! Please remember to bring your favorite camping chairs or picnic blanket as well. The cost is \$2 per person and \$8 per family. We look forward to spending this time with all of you!

150th Anniversary Time Capsule

While enjoying your picnic, there will be a short ceremony to show what is being put into the Time Capsule. Give your attention to Bonnie McGrath and Deb Lyons and their helpers as it is shown what and why things are being put into this Time Capsule. Our hope is that the Time Capsule will be opened up at the 175th Anniversary in the year 2051! Will you be around to reminisce about the items? You can also sign the covenant at this time if you didn't sign it last Sunday.

Join Us In Prayer - Worship Series

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. — Philippians 4:6

Prayer can sometimes feel like an abstract idea. *When do we pray? Where? How? And honestly... why do we do it?*

Jesus himself had a rich prayer life. From public blessings to quiet, private moments on a mountain or in a garden, praying was his ultimate way of staying deeply connected. He even gave his disciples a template for how to relate to God. Yet for many of us, it can still be hard to know where to start.

Throughout history, cultures and religions across the globe have turned to tangible objects to help ground their spiritual lives. Next Sunday will be the first of several Sundays throughout the summer that we will focus on prayer.

Together, we will explore the ancient, cross-traditional use of prayer beads as a physical, meaningful way to connect with the Holy and with each other.

In our first week, we will focus on the power of centering ourselves in God's presence. Grounded by the words of Philippians, we'll explore what it means to truly "let our requests be made known to God."

Whether you have a lifelong prayer practice or you're just dipping your toes in, there is a place (and a bead) for you here. Come find a tangible practice to carry you through all your days.

Juneteenth Observance

On Friday, June 19, CCC will be open from 4-7 pm to observe and celebrate the emancipation of enslaved African Americans. Pastor Lee and the Deacons are looking for volunteers to help during this observance. Volunteers will help to guide members and guests to the sanctuary for a time of silent prayer and remembrance as they come and go during this time. Watch the Tuesday Announcements for a sign-up link.

THIS WEEK AT CCC

Sun, June 14	Worship	10:00 AM	Sanctuary
	All Church Picture	11:30 AM	Front Steps
	CE Picnic & Time Capsule Ceremony	11:45 AM	Carson Park
Mon, June 15	ChristCare	7:00 PM	Zoom
Tues, June 16	Knitters & Crocheters	10:30 AM	Parlor
	Lunch Bunch	11:45 AM	Room 202
	SonLight Band	7:30 PM	Sanctuary
	House Committee	7:30 PM	Room 302
Wed, June 17	Pastoral Search	5:30 PM	Room 202
Fri, June 19	Juneteenth Observance	4-7 PM	Sanctuary

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 the Bulb There Is a Flower”

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, and apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise; butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there’s a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There’s a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there’s a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Hymn

“Seed Song”

A lot of trees start from seeds so small you gotta look close you can’t see ‘em at all.
It’s hard to believe trees grow so tall from seeds that start so small.

Well the sun comes up and the rain comes down and the seeds get planted in the fertile
ground If you listen real close you can hear the sound of the tree starting to grow.

A lot of children start from seeds so small you gotta look close you can’t see ‘em at all.
It’s hard to believe children grow so tall from seeds that start so small.

Well the sun comes up and the rain comes down and the seeds get planted in the fertile
ground If you listen real close you can hear the sound of the children starting to grow.

A lot of ideas start from seeds so small you gotta look close or you can’t see ‘em at all.
It’s hard to believe ideas grow so tall from seeds that start so small.

Well the sun comes up and the rain comes down and the seeds get planted in the fertile
ground If you listen real close you can hear the sound of the idea starting to grow.

A lot of faith starts from seeds so small you gotta look close or you can’t see ‘em at all.
It’s hard to believe faith grow so tall from seeds that start so small.

Well the sun comes up and the rain comes down and the seeds get planted in the fertile
ground If you listen real close you can hear the sound of faith starting to grow.

Closing Hymn

“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive our fear and doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother, all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the happy chorus; stars of morning, take your part;
love divine is reigning o’er us, binding those of tender heart.
Ever singing, move we onward, victors in the midst of strife,
joyful music leads us sunward in the triumph song of life.