



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 7

July/August 2026

COMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE

50/50 Challenge

Now through August 1

Pub Theology

Saturday, July 25 | 6:30 PM

CCC Indoor Community Yard Sale

Saturday, August 1 | 9:00 am – 2:00 PM

Backpack Attack

Now through August 2

SNEUCC Annual Meeting

Sept 25-27 | DCU Center, Worcester

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, July 13 & 27 & August 10 & 31

7:00 PM | on Zoom

TABLE OF CONTENTS

COMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE.....	1
FROM THE PASTOR’S OFFICE.....	3
OFFICE UPDATE	4
Beacon Articles.....	4
Summer Office Hours	4
Pastor Lee’s Summer Office Hours.....	4
FOR YOUR CALENDAR.....	4
The Carsons’ Moving Sale to Benefit CCC	4
50/50 Congregation Challenge.....	4
Social Action and Mission (SAM) – St. Paul’s Kitchen Meals	5
Join Pastor Lee for this Exciting SNEUCC Event!	5
 Calling All Youth: Empower, Connect, and Lead! 	6
CCC Indoor Community Yard Sale!.....	7
Where in the World is Flat Jesus?	7
CCC Movie Group	8
Backpack Attack	9
SkillSprout America Summer Academy – Hosted at CCC.....	10
Listening For The Word: Lectio Divina On Sunday Mornings.....	11
UPDATES	11
Coming Soon: Our Next Worship Series: “Beguiled By Beauty”	11
From The Sunday School Coordinator	12
Prayer Ministry	13
Ginnie Hall Meal Ministry.....	13
Rental Spaces Available At CCC.....	13
Council Corner	13
WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US!	15

FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE

Dear Friends,

If I am being completely honest, stepping away from the daily rhythms of ministry and church life is hard for me. I love the work I do! I love the people I minister with and to – all of you! I am so fulfilled in this journey with Central Congregational Church. But recently, I took some time for a vacation, a true step back, and it reminded me of a vital truth we all too often forget: **Self-care isn't selfish; it's sacred.**

We live in a culture that wears burnout like a badge of honor. We push ourselves to the brink, thinking that our constant busyness proves our worth. But what does God say about this?

From the very beginning, God built rest into the fabric of creation. In Genesis, after creating the universe, God *rested* on the seventh day—not because He was exhausted, but to set a holy pattern for us. God commands us to keep the Sabbath, reminding us that the world will keep spinning even when we pause. Our worth is found in who we are as God's children, not in how much we produce.

What Did Jesus Do?

If anyone had a reason to work 24/7, it was Jesus. The physical and spiritual demands on Him were immense. Yet, the Gospels show us a beautiful pattern of retreat. **Jesus withdrew from the noise:** *"But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed."* (Luke 5:16) **He rested after hard work:** After intense periods of ministry, Jesus told His disciples, *"Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."* (Mark 6:31)

Jesus knew that to pour out, He had to be filled up. He routinely stepped away from the crowds and even His closest friends to reconnect with Abba.

When we neglect our own well-being, we aren't giving the world our best; we are giving them what's left. When we intentionally practice self-care and rest, we allow God to restore our souls. We return as more patient parents, more present friends, more compassionate neighbors, and truer versions of the people God created us to be.

So, I want to invite you to do the same this summer. Take a day off. Turn off the phone notifications. Better still, leave your phone on your nightstand for the day. Go for that long walk, read that book, or just sit in the quiet. Give yourself permission to step away, even when it feels hard. Trust that God can handle the things you leave behind for a moment.



Where is Flat Jesus Going?

Speaking of stepping away and summer adventures...don't forget to take **Flat Jesus** with you!

Whether you are traveling across the globe, going on a family camping trip, or just relaxing in your own backyard, we want to see where Jesus is hanging out with you this summer. Snap a photo with your Flat Jesus and send it to the church office, or tag us on social media using our church hashtag #CCCFlatJesus. Let's stay connected and remind each other that wherever we go to rest, God is right there with us!

Blessings and Much Peace,

With peace and blessings,

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

Rev. Lee M. Atherton

P.S. If you would like to be friends with Pastor Lee on Facebook, you can find her here: <https://www.facebook.com/c00lrev/>

OFFICE UPDATE

BEACON ARTICLES

The next submission deadline is **Monday, August 23** for the September edition.

Margie Dissinger

Interim Office Administrator

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Starting July 1 through August 15, the summer office hours are: Tuesday & Thursdays 9 am – 1 pm.

PASTOR LEE'S SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Lee will be in the office Sundays, 8:15 am – 1:30 pm; Tuesdays, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm from July 1 through August 15.

She is also available by appointment.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR

THE CARSONS' MOVING SALE TO BENEFIT CCC

John and Linda Carson are downsizing and have generously offered many items for sale to benefit CCC!

Visit this website to see the available pieces, including file cabinets, tools, and a hide-a-bed.

<https://www.terpsrv.net/carsonmovingsale/>

All donation proceeds go to CCC!

The special website will be open through the month of July, or sooner if all items are gone.

Contact Lynn Horton if you have questions.

Lynn@terpsoft.com

50/50 CONGREGATION CHALLENGE

At the Annual Meeting several concerns were raised about our inability to fund raises for our staff. None of us liked the idea of not giving raises but the finances were not there.

The Sunday after the Annual Meeting, I was approached by a member of our congregation also concerned about the pay issue, and who also had a potential solution.

The offer of a 50/50 challenge was made to the congregation to raise the \$1918 needed to fund the raises at 2%. If the congregation could raise \$958, the member would match that number to raise the entire amount. This is a tremendously generous offer that I am sure we can meet.

If you want to participate in this challenge, you can put a check in the offering plate marked "Challenge", put cash in one of the offering envelopes marked the same way or mail a contribution to the church office.

Our church staff will be very grateful for this thoughtful attempt to show our appreciation for all the work they do to keep the church running smoothly.

Dick Papenfuss

Treasurer

SOCIAL ACTION AND MISSION (SAM) – ST. PAUL’S KITCHEN MEALS

SAM will be serving a meal for the St. Paul’s Kitchen at Eliot Church in Lowell on Monday August 31st. Our summer meal consists of chicken salad sandwiches that SAM members prepare. SAM will be looking for donations of fruit for fruit salad and brownies to round out the meals, so please watch for the sign-up sheets. Volunteers to prep and serve will also be welcome.

Julie Carney

JOIN PASTOR LEE FOR THIS EXCITING SNEUCC EVENT!

U.S. Senator the Rev. Dr. Raphael G. Warnock, known as a prophetic voice at the intersection of faith and justice, will be the keynote speaker and Sunday preacher at the Southern New England Conference's 7th Annual Meeting in September.

"We are honored to welcome Senator Raphael Warnock, whose ministry and public leadership remind us that faith must be lived both in the pulpit and in the public square," said Executive Conference Minister and President the Rev. Darrell Goodwin. "Having heard him preach and shared time with him and his family, I know his voice carries both conviction and compassion. At a moment when the Church is called to reclaim its witness, he helps us remember what truly binds us together: love, justice, and a moral courage rooted in the Gospel."

Since 2005, Rev. Dr. Warnock has served as the Senior Pastor of the Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia - spiritual home of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He became the first African American elected to the United States Senate from the state of Georgia in 2021, and is a prominent voice advocating for expanded healthcare access, voting rights, and criminal justice reform.

"Senator Warnock speaks with a prophetic voice of truth in defending our Democracy and looking out for the rights of all citizens, particularly regarding issues surrounding voting rights," said Rev. Amy A. Bruch, SNEUCC Moderator and pastor of Chapel Street Congregational Church in Lincoln, RI. "His excellent leadership and great oratory gifts will be something we can all celebrate when we gather to hear his words to the SNEUCC Annual Meeting! Please join us...and invite your neighbors!"

Board Chair Persephone Hall, a member of Liberty Christian International in Hartford, CT, added: "The daily events we witness in our world today are troubling... from our local politics to national and global events, I feel shaken on all sides. Hearing Senator Raphael Warnock speak to the Southern New England Conference will be the fresh wind we need to lift us and push us forward to face the challenges ahead!"

[The 7th Annual Meeting](#), with the theme *The Ties That Bind*, is being held **Sept. 25 - 27** at the DCU Center in Worcester and online, with some events being held at other Worcester venues. Warnock is scheduled to give the keynote address at 4 PM on Saturday, Sept. 26, and to preach at worship at 10 AM on Sunday. Both of those events will be held at the DCU Center. The worship service will be open to all, and will be livestreamed, with churches encouraged to incorporate the livestream into their own worship settings that Sunday.

CALLING ALL YOUTH: EMPOWER, CONNECT, AND LEAD!




Hey Parents! Looking for a meaningful, high-energy experience that will inspire your middle or high schooler, build lifelong friendships, and help them find their voice?

We have some incredibly exciting news! The Southern New England Conference (SNEUCC) 7th Annual Meeting is happening this fall, and it features an entire track of powerful, dynamic Youth Programming designed specifically for the next generation of changemakers.




Here is everything you need to know to get your youth plugged in!

Why Your Youth Needs to Be There:

This isn't just another church meeting—it's a weekend-long youth summit filled with faith, fun, and purpose.

-  Historic Keynote Speaker: Your young person will get to hear directly from Rev. Dr. Raphael G. Warnock (U.S. Senator and Senior Pastor of the Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta)! He is a legendary, prophetic voice at the intersection of faith and social justice. His message is guaranteed to spark passion and inspire.
-  Deep Connections: They will meet, bond, and share experiences with other middle and high school youth from all over Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island.
-  Real Conversations & Leadership: This year's theme is "The Ties That Bind." Youth will dive into thoughtful discussions, explore spirituality, and talk about the kind of lives and values they want to build.

The Quick Details:

-  **17** When: Friday, September 25 – Sunday, September 27, 2026
-  Where: DCU Center, Worcester, MA
-  Registration & More Info: [Click Here for Full Details & Sign Up](#)

Parent FAQ:

"Does my youth have to sit through boring business meetings?"

Nope! While the adults are voting and doing conference business, the youth will have their own dedicated space, dedicated leadership, and specialized schedule full of interactive programming, games, and discussions.

"Can visitors attend?"


Yes! Anyone is welcome. You don't have to be an official church delegate to experience the inspiration. You can register your youth for the whole weekend, or check out options to attend specific days (like Saturday's massive keynote event).

Next Steps:

Spaces for youth tracks at these regional events can fill up fast, and we want our community well-represented!

1. Talk to your youth about this awesome opportunity.
2. Head over to sneucc.org to check out the full schedule and lock in your registration.

3. Got questions? Reach out to our youth leadership team or contact the event organizers listed on the site.

Let's help our youth build deep roots and big wings! 

A Challenge From Pastor Lee

If at least 50% of our youth get involved in this event, Pastor Lee will.....

With peace and blessings,



Rev. Lee M. Atherton

CCC INDOOR COMMUNITY YARD SALE!

Saturday, August 1, 2026

9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Fellowship Hall (Rain or Shine event)

Individual Table fee \$30

Or, donate the proceeds from your table to CCC and the fee is waived!

This is a run-your-own-table event. Set up is available from 6:00 - 8:00 pm on Friday, 7/31, or 7:30 - 9:00 am on Saturday, 8/1.

Volunteers are needed to help run a CCC food concession. Contact Lillian Bean.

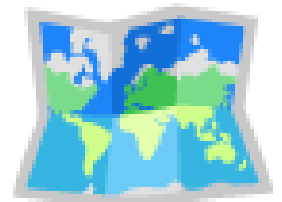
Questions or to sign up for a table - Contact Lynn Horton <Lynn@terpsoft.com> or Deb Lyons <Deb@dandelyons.net>



WHERE IN THE WORLD IS FLAT JESUS?

This summer, our church family is going on a journey, and we aren't going alone! We are kicking off our 2nd annual **Flat Jesus** adventure, and we want *you* to take him along for the ride.

Inspired by the classic "Flat Stanley" project, Flat Jesus is a fun, visual reminder that no matter where we go—whether it's an exotic beach vacation, a summer camp, or just a trip to the local grocery store—Jesus is always with us.



How to Participate:

1. **Pick up your Flat Jesus:** Grab a printed Flat Jesus at church or download and print one from our website [HERE](#).
2. **Color him in:** Give him some color, decorate him, and make him your own! (Pro tip: Laminate him or tape him to a popsicle stick to make him travel-ready).

3. **Take him everywhere:** Keep him in your pocket, purse, or car. When you reach your destination—or just find a cool spot in town—pull him out for a photo.

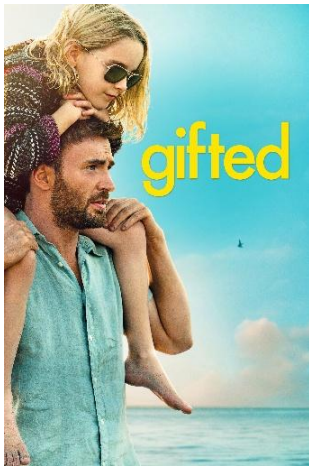


4. **Send us your pictures!** Share the Adventure! We want to see where Jesus is traveling with our congregation this summer. Email your photos to pastor-Lee@cccchelmsford.org or text them to 508-308-7116 (be sure to include your mom or dad when sending!)

Don't forget: If you post your photos on social media, tag the church by using the hashtag #CCCFlatJesus. We will be sharing your photos in our weekly announcements, on our social media pages, and on a special "Flat Jesus Travel Map" in Fellowship Hall. Let's see how many miles we can cover together! Wherever your steps take you this season, may you remember that you never walk alone. Happy travels!

CCC MOVIE GROUP

Mondays | July 13 & 27 AND Aug 10 & 31 | 7:00 PM | Zoom

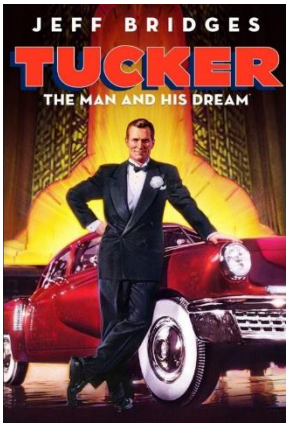


Monday, 7/13 – “Gifted” (2017) In St. Petersburg, Florida, spirited seven-year-old Mary Adler (Mckenna Grace), a mathematical genius, lives with her uncle and de facto guardian, Frank (Chris Evans). Her best friend is her 43-year-old neighbor, Roberta Taylor (Octavia Spencer). Frank, a former philosophy professor and now boat mechanic, feels strongly that Mary should attend a normal elementary school so she can have a normal childhood. In first grade, Mary shows remarkable mathematical talent, which impresses her teacher, Ms. Stevenson (Jenny Slate). Mary’s exceptional abilities draw the attention of her grandmother, Evelyn (Lindsay Duncan), sparking a custody battle over her future. Balancing themes of family, childhood, and the pressure of prodigy-level talent, the film blends heartfelt drama with gentle humor.

Monday, 7/27 – “The Long, Hot Summer” (1958) An American drama film starring Paul Newman, Joanne Woodward, Anthony Franciosa, Orson Welles, Lee Remick, and Angela Lansbury. The plot follows the conflicts of the Varner family after ambitious drifter Ben Quick (Newman) arrives in their small Mississippi town. Will Varner (Welles), the patriarch, has doubts about his son, Jody (Franciosa) and sees Ben as a better choice to inherit his position. Will tries to push Ben and his daughter Clara (Woodward) into marriage. The film was directed by Martin Ritt, with a screenplay by Irving Ravetch and Harriet Frank Jr., based in part on three works by William Faulkner: the 1931 novella "Spotted Horses", the 1939 short story "Barn Burning" and the 1940 novel “The Hamlet.” The title is taken from The Hamlet, as Book Three is called "The Long Summer". Some characters, as well as tone, were inspired by Tennessee Williams' 1955 play, “Cat on a Hot Tin Roof”, a film adaptation of which – also starring Newman – was released 5 months later.

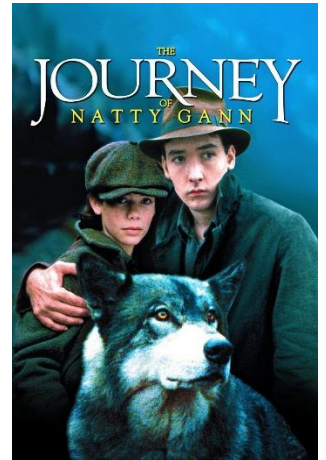


August Movie Group



Monday, 8/10 – “Tucker: The Man and His Dream” (1988) An American biographical comedy-drama film directed by Francis Ford Coppola, starring Jeff Bridges as inventor Preston Tucker. The film recounts Tucker's story and his attempt to produce and market the Tucker 48, "the car of tomorrow", which was met with scandal between the Big Three automobile manufacturers and accusations of stock fraud from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Joan Allen, Martin Landau, Elias Koteas, Frederic Forrest, and Christian Slater appear in supporting roles. Although only 50 Tucker 48s were ever produced, 46 of them remained roadworthy and in use as of 1988. All of Tucker's innovations— aerodynamic styling, padded dash, pop-out windows, seatbelts, fuel injection, and disc brakes— were gradually adopted by larger automakers and are found in nearly all modern cars today.

Monday, 8/31 (note date) – “The Journey of Natty Gann” (1985) In 1935, teenage tomboy Natty Gann lives in Chicago with her unemployed widowed father, Sol. After being out of work because of the Great Depression, Sol applies for work as a lumberjack in Washington State. However, to take the job, he must leave on almost no notice on a company bus. Unable to find Natty before departing, he leaves her a letter promising to send her the fare to join him as soon as he has earned it. Meanwhile, he makes arrangements with Connie, the shallow and insensitive innkeeper of their rooming-house, so Natty can stay on under Connie's temporary supervision. After overhearing Connie reporting her as an abandoned child, Natty runs away to find her father on her own, embarking on a cross-country journey riding the rails along with other penniless travelers and hobos. Along the way she saves a wolf from a dog fighting ring. In return the animal, whom she calls Wolf, becomes her friend and protector in her attempt to return to her father. With Meredith Salenger as Natty Gann, Ray Wise as Sol Gann, Lainie Kazan as Connie, Scatman Crothers as Sherman, John Cusack as Harry, and Jed the Wolfdog as Wolf.



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!

BACKPACK ATTACK

KiSeLo will be collecting school supplies now through August 2. We will be working through The Wish Project again this year, which will provide backpacks with supplies to needy children in Lowell and Lawrence. If you would prefer not to provide supplies, a donation of \$50 is suggested or whatever amount you are able to donate. If you would like to provide supplies but again don't want to do the shopping, let me know and I can shop for you. You can also provide some of the supplies from the list and I will fill in the rest. You can return the supplies to me before or after Sunday church services or drop them off at the church office when it's open.



Checks can be made out to the church and can be given to me or sent to the church office. For more information about The Wish Project Backpack Attack project, visit thewishproject.org/backpack-attack

Thanks in advance, *Lillian Beean* (lbeean@verizon.net)

Please provide the following:

- 1 new Backpack (17" or larger)
- 3 Spiral Notebooks
- 3 Folders
- 1 pack of 10 #2 Pencils
- 1 Pencil Sharpener
- 2 or more Black Pens
- 1 Pink style or 6 Cap Erasers
- 1 12" Ruler (with inches and centimeters)
- 1 pair of Metal Scissors (kid sized)
- 1 pack of 12 Markers or Colored Pencils
- 2 or 3 Glue Sticks or 1 Bottle of Glue
- 1 pack of 24 Crayons
- Optional: 1 Science Calculator for high school students



SKILLSPROUT AMERICA SUMMER ACADEMY – HOSTED AT CCC

Central Congregational Church is proud to host SkillSprout America Summer Academy this July and August. Founded by a Chelmsford resident, this premium enrichment program serves children ages 7–10 and runs Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, July 6 through August 21, 2026.

The program's proprietary 3M Framework teaches Mathematics through Olympiad-style problem-solving, Money through financial literacy and entrepreneurship simulations, and Mind through leadership, self-discipline, and anti-bullying character development. Non-contact Taekwondo and Yoga round out each day in a fully supervised, indoor, climate-controlled environment.

Families choose 3-day or 5-day weekly enrollment. Space is intentionally limited to maintain a 1:8-1:10 staff-to-camper ratio.

Enroll now at www.SkillSproutAmerica.com or call (617) 599-5534.

Plant Courage. Water Curiosity. Harvest Confidence.



A poster for SkillSprout America. At the top is a logo with a plant growing from a book. Below it, the text reads "SKILLSPROUT AMERICA" and "Plant Courage, Water Curiosity, Harvest Confidence." There are three main sections: "Mathematics: Logic & Problem-Solving" with a puzzle piece icon, "Money: Financial Literacy, Entrepreneurship & Budgeting" with a lightbulb icon, and "Mind: Leadership, Self Discipline, Self Awareness & Anti-Bullying" with a brain icon. At the bottom, there is a photo of five children running in a field. The footer contains the text "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", and the website "www.SkillSproutAmerica.com" with a QR code.

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

COMING SOON: OUR NEXT WORSHIP SERIES: “BEGUILED BY BEAUTY”

We live in a deeply distracted, hyper-stimulated, and often fractured world. When we watch the news or look at our social media feeds, it can feel like we are constantly confronted with heavy and overwhelming things. How do we hold onto our faith, protect our hearts, and cultivate deep compassion in times like these?

An early 6th-century theologian once described God as being “**beguiled by beauty.**” The idea is breathtaking: our Creator was so utterly lured and captivated by a longing for beauty that God set in motion a universe of immense diversity, goodness, and love.

Beginning on July 19, we are beginning a transformative 6-week worship series called “**Beguiled by Beauty: Cultivating a Life of Contemplation and Compassion.**”

This series is based on the book by theologian Dr. Wendy Farley, who reminds us that we were made for Divine Goodness. True beauty is not about the worldly standards of being “pretty” or perfect. Instead, beauty is the essence of *sacred worth* infused by God into every single being and creation.

When we learn to see the world through this lens, everything changes. Recognizing beauty becomes a threshold to the divine, a wellspring of joy, and—most importantly—the very root of compassion and justice.

To bring this theme to life, Pastor Lee hopes to craft a fully immersive, sensory-rich experience. You can look forward to:

- **Enriching Visuals:** Thoughtfully designed sacred spaces that mirror the diverse beauty of the created order.
- **Soulful Music:** Moving theme songs and intentional soundscapes designed to quiet our busy minds.
- **Contemplative Practices:** Guided moments during worship to help us slow down, watch our minds, guard our hearts, and practice quiet meditation.

Join the Journey

This worship time is an invitation to experience. It is a chance to move from feeling an exhausting obligation to "do right," to discovering a deep, joyful desire for all of God's creation to "be right"—whole, healed, and beloved. Whether you are feeling spiritually "just right," weary, longing for a deeper prayer life, or seeking the spiritual fuel needed to keep working for justice in our world, you are invited to come, rest in Divine Goodness, and let yourself be beguiled by the beauty of God.

See you in worship!



Want to Dive Deeper?

We highly encourage you to read along with us! Dr. Wendy Farley's book, *Beguiled by Beauty: Cultivating a Life of Contemplation and Compassion*, is available online. Let Pastor Lee know if you're reading it, and we can have some conversation – a formal book discussion group, or just casual chats.

FROM THE SUNDAY SCHOOL COORDINATOR

Creating Faith-filled Disciples Centered in God's Love

What a wonderful June we have had! Youth Sunday was amazing and I hope that you have enjoyed the services on Prayer. Prayer beads can be made with pony-beads and a pipe cleaners(chenille) the model we used was a large bead at the top, 7 small beads, a large bead, a medium bead, a large bead and a charm or you could make a cross out of the pipe cleaner.

You can use a bead of a different color to break out the point if you would like. It is the 7 small beads that were used in the prayers talked about during worship.



We have a wonderful group of young families here at Central Congregational Church. You have an opportunity to get to know these families by spending some time with them in Sunday School. You can help the children and youth of these families explore the wonderful stories of the Bible and learn to live as Jesus taught his disciples to live. Come be part of our program at CCC. If you only want to commit to once a month that would help. Talk to me about how you can help this program and these wonderful families. Many hands make light work and without many hands the few hands get tired.

Please reach out to me at jennifer.hart@CCCChelmsford.org or call/text 610-781-2074.

Training and all the help you want will be given to you free of charge!

CORI background checks need to be completed so please volunteer NOW!!!

The Safe Church Policy is always followed in our Sunday School and Youth Program!

Sunday school classes are over, but there is so much you can do to develop your family's faith. Take Flat Jesus on an adventure! God is everywhere! Will Flat Jesus go on the DEMM trip? How about a family hike? A road trip?

We saw some youth with great passion and talent on Youth Sunday. It can be shared anytime of the year, not just on Youth Sunday.

Do you have musical talent you would like to share? Please let us know.

Do you have a poem or other writing you want to share?

How about a Liturgical dance?

Jesus thought outside of the box, let's do the same!

Welcome Back Sunday is September 13, 2026, it is also Faith Formation Sunday!

Backpack Blessings will happen during the Children's Moment, Sunday School will start up again with the Spark House Curriculum for PreK - 4th grade children and youth. The church will have a Welcome Back Picnic and share our many summer adventures. See you then! Travel Safe!!

Jennifer Hart

PRAYER MINISTRY

"Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you." — 1 Peter 5:7

At CCC, our Prayer Ministry is a quiet and faithful presence, lifting up the needs of our church family each day. If you are facing illness, uncertainty, grief, or simply need strength or guidance, we invite you to share your prayer request. Each request is received in confidence and prayed over by a dedicated team who considers it a privilege to stand with you in prayer. To submit a request for yourself or a loved one, please contact Marcia Cassidy at marciacassidy@comcast.net.



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 June 10, 2026, meeting:

- Treasurer Dick Papenfuss reported that as of May 31 we are 91% of the way through our fiscal year. Total pledge income is \$10,000 under budget at 88%. Unpledged income is at 86% after a strong May. Our total income year-to-date is below budget at 88%. Total expenditures are at 82%. Dick continues to anticipate a surplus at the fiscal year's end to apply to the 2026-2027 budget. We are hoping for a good June of pledging to pull up the total income figure. Income items above expectation year-to-date:

steeple lighting and payments from the professional building next door for the use of the CCC parking lot, including snow plowing, and storm water discharge fees. The church also received a generous gift from a recent baptism. Electricity and gas expenses continue to be higher than expected. National Grid has transferred the overpayment credit from 9 Worthen to the main building. The insurance commercial package estimate came in exceptionally high for next year. Trustee John Carson will contact the current carrier to negotiate the fee and will also explore alternative insurance carriers.

- The Christian Education Committee and Jennifer Hart, Sunday School Coordinator, have decided to postpone Make A Difference Week to the summer of 2027.
- A Matching Gift Challenge was unanimously approved by the members of Council. Dick Papenfuss, Church Treasurer, described the offer made by an anonymous member of CCC to match funds donated by congregants, with a goal of raising sufficient funds to provide salary increases to the church staff.
- The Nominating Committee presented an additional name to slate of committee nominees that was approved by church membership at Annual Meeting on May 17, 2026. Cynthia Dorman will serve a new 3-year term on the Sanctuary Committee. The Council unanimously approved this nomination.
- The members of Council also voted to elect Lucas Hart as a delegate to the 7th Annual Meeting of the Southern New England Conference of the United Church of Christ (SNEUCC) being held in Worcester on September 25-27, 2026. Lucas will join CCC delegates Deb Lyons and Dory Toppan, as well as Pastor Lee Atherton, in representing Central Congregational Church.
- The CCC 150th Celebration time capsule will be closed and dedicated on June 14, the date of the all-church picnic.
- The Deacons and Pastor Lee will organize and host a Juneteenth prayer space in the Sanctuary on Friday, June 19, in observation of the anniversary of emancipation of the African Americans from slavery. The open sanctuary event will be publicized in the weekly announcements as well as on the CCC website and Facebook page. The Communications Committee will create a flyer and posters.
- Bakery Day on May 31 raised \$80 for Social Action and Mission (SAM). Baker Jeremy Williams will be back at CCC in the fall, dates to be determined; a percentage of sales will again be donated to SAM.
- Note – There is no Council meeting held in the month of July.

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, August 12, 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 M. 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
Sunday School Coordinator:	Jennifer Hart	610-781-2074	jennifer.hart@cccchelmsford.org
Custodian:	Juarez Gomes		
Church Address:	One Worthen Street	Chelmsford, MA	01824
Church Phone:	978-256-5931		
Church e-mail:	Office.admin@cccchelmsford.org		
Church Website:	cccchelmsford.org		
Conference Website:	www.sneucc.org		

The Beacon Newsletter is prepared by and for the membership of Central Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, in Chelmsford, Massachusetts. It is published monthly except for August and is distributed to members and friends of Central Congregational Church. This issue was emailed/mailed June 29, 2026.