



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 6

June 2026

COMING EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Graduation Sunday

Sunday, June 7 | 10:00 AM Service

Lunch with Lee

Sunday, June 7 | 12:00 PM | Java Room

All Church Picnic & Picture

Sunday, June 14 | 11:30 AM | Carson Park
Ceremony for the 150th Anniversary Time Capsule

Make A Difference Week

August 24-28, 2026

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, June 8 & 22
7:00 PM | on Zoom

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FROM THE PASTOR'S OFFICE

Dear Friends,

On Sunday, May 17th, we gathered for our Annual Meeting. It was a wonderful time of reflection, celebration, stewardship, and community. I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who made the day possible and continue to pour their hearts into the life and ministry of our church.

A few special notes of gratitude:

- Lynn Horton, Deb Lyons, Dory Toppan and Elizabeth Hartigan for their hard work in curating a slate of nominations.
- Dick Papenfuss for guiding us through the numbers and bringing us a balanced budget.
- Val King for her dedicated service over many years as our Clerk. We are so deeply grateful for your faithfulness!
- Peter White for keeping us on track and moderating the meeting with grace.
- Our Setup, Cleanup, and Baking Teams, who made our space welcoming and provided those delicious goodies.

While we are incredibly blessed to have a balanced budget this year, we also want to be honest: achieving it wasn't as easy as it has been in the past. Like many communities, we are facing challenging financial and cultural times.

But "challenging" does not mean impossible. As I look at the history of the wider Church, and the history of our own congregation, we have always found our strength when we lean into God and each other.

This brings to mind the beautiful words of Galatians 6:9: *"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."*

We aren't giving up. We are just getting started on the next chapter.

To face these times together, we don't need a miracle—we just need each other. If you are wondering how you can help anchor our church in the coming months, here are a few simple but powerful ways to dive in:

- Pledge to Presence: The easiest way to strengthen our church is simply to be here. Your presence in the pews, your voice in the hymns, and your smile in the coffee hour bring life to this building.
- Invite a Friend: Think of one person this month who might need a community of grace, and invite them to join you for a Sunday service.
- Share Your Unique Gifts: Dick, Val, Lynn, Deb, Dory, Elizabeth, and Peter used their specific gifts to bless us this month. What are yours? Whether it's helping with tech, gardening, teaching, or visiting our shut-ins, we have a place for you.
- Commit to Prayer: Pray for our leadership, our budget, and our vision.

As we step into this new church year, let's carry the spirit of the classic hymn, *"Great Is Thy Faithfulness."* The lyrics remind us: *"Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside."* Thank you for being a part of this family. Together, through God's grace, we will navigate the challenges and celebrate the victories ahead.

With peace and blessings,



Rev. Lee M. Atherton

OFFICE UPDATE

BEACON ARTICLES

The next submission deadline is **Tuesday, June 23** for the July/August edition. There will not be a separate August Beacon, so please include any August events in the July/August edition.

Margie Dissinger
Interim Office Administrator

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

CELEBRATING BAPTISM

On Sunday, May 10 the church celebrated the baptism of Joaquin Castrillon Piacenza. Joaquin was born on November 16, 2025 in Cambridge, MA. He is the son of Alexa “Lexi” Angela Piacenza and Daniel Castrillon Reyes, and the grandson of Wendy Piacenza.



OUR 2026 GRADUATES



High School



Lindsey Desfosse, daughter of Betsey and Don Desfosse, is graduating with High Honors from Andover High School. In the fall, Lindsey will be going to Penn State and Majoring in Hospitality Management.

Arthur Hargett, son of Kelly and Will Hargett, is graduating from Nashoba Valley Technical High School where he focused on Carpentry. He will be starting a full time job after graduation at Hancock Builders as an apprentice carpenter.



William Matteson is graduating from Tyngsboro High School in June 2026 with honors. Will has enjoyed cross country and track this year and will be moving on to college at Syracuse University to study Sports Analytics. William is the son of Wendy Matteson.

Grace Riley is graduating from Pelham High School and will be continuing her education at St. Joseph's College of Maine in Standish, Maine. Grace is the granddaughter of Karen and George Banakos.



Joshua Levine, grandson of Karen and George Banakos, is graduating from Stoneham High School and will be continuing his education at Bentley University in Waltham, Massachusetts.

Joseph Walsh graduated from Nashoba Valley Technical High School in the Plumbing and Heating program. He begins work at KJ Plumbing and Heating on Monday, June 1st. Joseph is the youngest son of Jennie and Joe Walsh.



College



Sam Bruetsch graduated from Simmons University with Bachelor of Arts in Arts Administration & Art History with honors. Sam is the son of Cynthia and Jim Bruetsch.

Emma Casper Hartigan, daughter of Elizabeth and Steve Hartigan, graduated from George Mason University with a BA in Criminology. She lives in Falls Church, VA and is the General Manager of KidStrong Springfield, Virginia.



Alex McGuigan received his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Theatre Arts from the Salem State University in Salem, MA, with a major in Directing on May 15, 2026. Alex is currently traveling the States for a month. After that he'll be working in the food industry while pursuing opportunities in Directing and Stage Management. Alex is the son of Amy Provencal.

Ella Morin, daughter of Sarah & Peter Morin, graduated from the University of Vermont School of Agriculture and Life Science with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nutrition and Food Services. Post grad plans - continue her search for a job in her food services field and continue to grow her own gluten free small business, "Baked GF by Ella."

Ella has always been an avid baker and cook, and 4 years ago was diagnosed with celiac disease. This was a devastating diagnosis to deal with. Over the years she started developing gluten-free recipes so she could enjoy cooking and baking again. Others loved her creations so much she decided to start selling them at The Country Creamery, which has grown into a successful small business for her that she will be expanding this year, providing gluten-free and celiac-safe pastry items to all who suffer from the same disease.





Madison Shufrin graduated summa cum laude from North Carolina State University. Her degree is in Molecular and Cellular Biology with a minor in Psychology. She has accepted a position as Clinical Research Coordinator in the Genetics and Prevention Group at Dana Farber Cancer Institute in Boston. Madison is the granddaughter of Linda and John Carson.

Joshua Timmins, son of Virginia and Mark Timmins, graduated summa cum laude from Northeastern University College of Science with a Bachelor of Science in Behavioral Neuroscience. At Northeastern, he was also a member of the award-winning Nor'easters a capella group. In the coming months, he plans to find opportunities to travel and volunteer before investigating graduate school or future employment.



Jonathan Walsh received an Associate in Science degree in Fire Protection and Safety Technology from Middlesex Community College on May 21, 2026. Jonathan is currently working for PrideStar EMS as a registered EMT. He hopes to work in a Fire Department in the near future. He is also looking into obtaining a nursing degree. Jonathan is the middle son of Jennie and Joe Walsh.

Graduate

Brennan Cassidy graduated with his Masters of Business Administration (MBA) from University of Massachusetts Lowell, while working full-time as a Senior Sales Operations Manager at AthenaHealth. Brennan is the son of Mike and Marcia Cassidy and brother of DJ Cassidy.



Central Congregational Church offers joyous congratulations to our graduates and their families.

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

SAM will be serving two meals for the St. Paul’s Kitchen at Eliot Church in Lowell this summer; Monday June 29 and Monday August 31st. Our summer meals consist 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.

SAM will also be making our final donations to local non-profits and missions in June. If you have not already done so, please read the SAM report in the Annual Report for a synopsis of SAM activities and expenditures over the past fiscal year. Again, we are thankful for CCC's continuing support for mission outreach.

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.

CE COMMITTEE – ALL CHURCH PICTURE & PICNIC

Church Picture

Come one, come all! On Sunday, June 14th, immediately following the worship service, we will be taking a church picture on the front steps of the church. Please make your way to the front steps after worship and find your picture-perfect spot!

Youth Sunday & All Church Picnic

It's hard to believe but our Sunday School year is quickly coming to a close and with that comes Youth Sunday, the day when kids run the service. Our theme this year is "Rooted in Becoming". In lieu of coffee hour we will be having our annual picnic immediately following the service and church picture on **Sunday, June 14th**.

Please use the sign-up sheet at Coffee Hour to sign-up in person or follow the link below to the electronic sign-up sheet. The cost is \$2 per person or \$8 per family. The CE committee will provide the main meal of hot dogs, hamburgers, and veggie burgers but we are asking others to sign-up and bring a favorite side dish or a dessert to share. Please remember to bring your camping chairs and picnic blankets. We hope to see you there! If you have any questions please email Samantha Shields at Samantha.Shields@cccchelmsford.org.

[Sign-up link](#)

- CE Committee

2026 ALL CHURCH PICNIC VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP

CE will be hosting the Annual All Church Picnic on Sunday, June 14th, and we need your help! We are looking for some volunteers to help us before, during, and after the picnic. Please see the link below for the volunteer sign-up sheet. We are looking for volunteers to help with: Set-up During the picnic (grilling and keeping food stocked) Games Clean-up after the picnic [CLICK HERE TO VOLUNTEER](#).

150TH CHURCH ANNIVERSARY TIME CAPSULE – JUNE 14

As part of the church's 150th Anniversary celebration the 150th committee has planned for a time capsule. Various church members have given suggestions for items that should be included in the time capsule.

At the church picnic on June 14 there will be a short ceremony where those suggested items will be put into the time capsule. Come find out what will be included to be opened up at the church's 175th Anniversary in the year 2051!

SUMMER WORSHIP

June 14 will be here before you know it, and with that comes the end of our program year. Worship, gatherings and groups, meetings and more will continue, but not at the pace of the last 10 months. We have a chance to slow down, to rest, renew, and rejuvenate.

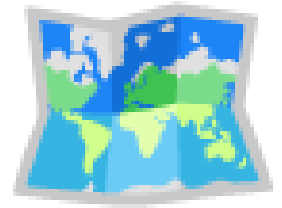
Using resources from Worship Design Studio, and others across the web, our summer worship themes will include "Open and Affirming," "Prayer," "Sticky Worship," and "Purveyor of Awe." Hope we'll see you often. Kids of all ages are always welcome.

And if you're not in town, we hope you'll visit a church near you. We love to hear what others are up to, so bring your "Oh that's cool!" ideas home with you, along with a bulletin.


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 on Children's Sunday (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, mention the church within your post. To do this type @Central Congregational Church (or @ccc_chelmsford on Instagram) in the body/caption of the post. In the case of photos, "tag" the church by using the tag feature when uploading a photo.

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!

HOUSE COMMITTEE

We're ready for summer. The riding mower has been repaired. Snow blower has been serviced and put up for the season. The dehumidifier pump has been repaired. The fire system monitor reports intermittent failure, but Jim Clark has called the company, and the system is in fact working. Irrigation will be turned on June 4th, and the AC units have been installed. Defibrillator battery was checked and is fine. We're continuing to put covers on chair and table legs as we see the need. The Boy Scouts cleaned our long tables with supervision by Scott Dorman. The elevator is to be inspected on May 28th. MapCon has been updated by Bryan Norman with a list of vendors. Rodent control by Bill Clarke is successful. The Eagle Scout plaque has been cut down to size and rehung.

Bryan Norman has given us an estimate of \$500 for materials to make repairs to the 9 Worthen front porch decking, which will be done this summer. Also on the agenda for the summer is caulking the spaces between granite curbing, repairing cracked and missing vinyl siding near the rear entry, repairing the falling paint from the ceiling at the entry near the furnace room, and filling in cracks in the parking lot.

CCC MOVIE GROUP

Mondays | June 8 & 22 | 7:00 PM | Zoom

June Movie Group



Monday, 6/8 – “Museum Hours (2012) In the Kunsthistorisches Art Museum in Vienna, Johann is a security guard who finds a special quiet magic there. One day, a Canadian woman arrives to visit the city, and the two strike up a friendship through their appreciation of art. The grand museum becomes a mysterious crossroads that sparks explorations of their lives, the city, and the ways in which works of art reflect and shape the world. With Robert Sommer as the genial museum guard, and Mary Margaret O'Hara as Anne, the enigmatic visitor. Like great works of art, ordinary people possess incredible rich experiences to share, if we just pay attention to them.

Monday, 6/22 – “Shadowlands” (1993) In the 1950s, the reserved, middle-aged bachelor C. S. "Jack" Lewis (Anthony Hopkins) is an Oxford University academic at Magdalen College and author of *The Chronicles of Narnia* series of children's books. He meets the married American poet Joy Davidman Gresham (Debra Winger) and her young son Douglas (Joseph Mazzello) on their visit to England, not yet knowing the circumstances of Gresham's troubled marriage. What begins as a formal meeting of two very different minds slowly develops into a feeling of connection and love. Lewis finds his quiet life with his brother Warren "Warnie" (Edward Hardwicke) disrupted by the outspoken Joy, whose uninhibited behavior sharply contrasts with the rigid sensibilities of the male-dominated university. Each provides the other with new ways of viewing the world, and unexpected challenges of life test their Christian faith.

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!



FELLOWSHIP FOR ALL AGES AT CCC

Rooted in Becoming: Community Events

May 2 – Well, our campfire in Carson Park got rained out, but as I understand it, we had a group of about 6 for games in Fellowship Hall.

I heard you at the Annual Meeting asked for more Fellowship events, specifically adults and family activities.

I am willing to help put these events on the calendar, but let me know what you are looking for and maybe host something. I can help put articles in the Beacon, I can make sure the space needed is reserved. I love church community events!

Do we want to try to get a campfire on the calendar for June? It is time to get it there.

If the Campfire is not your thing, what is?

Let's make something happen so we have more to celebrate at our 175th anniversary!

Blessings,

Jennifer Hart

MAKE A DIFFERENCE WEEK! AUGUST 24-28 9AM-4PM

We have a great week planned for Youth 3rd grade through 8th grade.

- An afternoon at Chelmsford Crossing playing Bingo
- An afternoon at Summer Place playing Rummikub
- A morning at Chelmsford Land Conservation Trust property or maybe the Community Garden
- Making Birthday kits and special bags for children for Lowell Open Pantry
- Making treats for dogs and toys for cats and dogs for the Lowell Humane Society
- Making cards for church members and residents at the assisted living centers

We will have projects for children of volunteers who are younger than 3rd grade, Like:

- Helping put together snacks
 - Basket bites
 - Butterfly bags
 - Burning bush cups
 - Kindness cookies
- And STEAM activities
 - A Kindness chain reaction
 - Burning bush without burning
 - Caterpillar to butterfly
 - Gratitude gardens
- They will also help with any of the above projects that are done at the church

Right now I know that I have:

- 1 High school student that will be there all day, everyday
- 2 High School students who can do afternoons every day
- Myself and Sam Shields who will be there all day, everyday
- Shirley Zachry and Julie Carney who will help with snacks, this job can be done by noon

- Pastor Lee will be around as she can be, but we do keep her busy with her regular responsibilities

Required:

- At least 5 High school students
- Two adults at the church all day
- 1 adult for every 4 children and youth required
- Four adults with the youth when they go out in the community

[On-Line Sign-up](#)

Your Help is needed! Can only do it in the morning or afternoon? Only one day? Any help would be appreciated.

We will have a gathering in June to make sure we are all on the same page, please watch for the date and help.

Thank you!

Jennifer Hart

jennifer.hart@cccchelmsford.org

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.

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

We have a wonderful group of young families here at Central Congregational Church and as June approaches they get very, very busy. 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.

Please reach out to me at jennifer.hart@CCCChelmsford.org, or call/text 610-781-207.4

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!

I am excited about our Youth Sunday Service on June 14th. We have a youth playing a duet with Tudor Bota during the Offering, a youth playing the Amens at the end of the service and although I am not sure how it will go the Youth Band will be playing the Prelude and Postlude this year. They always surprise me with the skills they build in and out of the church setting.

The Picnic after church is for everyone!!! Please join us and get to know your CCC Community.

Although there is no Sunday School on June 14th or after, children, youth and their families are always welcome to be part of the service. 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? We can find a place for it. We have many dancers in

our midst, might you be willing to share your talents with us on a Sunday morning? Jesus thought outside of the box, let's do the same!

Hope to see you all in the relaxed summer feel of church.

Jennifer Hart

PRAYER MINISTRY

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

Some seasons of life feel steady. Others ask more of us than we expected. In every season, prayer becomes a way of placing what we carry into God’s hands, whether it’s a deep need, a quiet plea, or a simple moment of gratitude. At CCC, our Prayer Ministry holds these moments with care. Each request is shared in confidence and lifted up by a team committed to praying faithfully and consistently. If you are walking through something right now—big or small—we would be honored to pray with you. To share a request, please contact Marcia Cassidy at marciacassidy@comcast.net. Whatever this season holds, you are not walking through it alone.



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 May 13, 2026, meeting:

- Treasurer Dick Papenfuss reported that as of April 30 we are 83% of the way through our fiscal year. Total pledge income is just under target at 81%. Unpledged income is at 75%. Our total income year-to-date is below budget at 79%. Total expenditures are at 76%. Several categories of income are greater than expected - Sanctuary flowers, use of the Sanctuary for weddings/baptisms, and unpledged gifts.

Significant expenditures that have exceeded budget include snowplowing, insurance, and utilities. We hope to finish the fiscal year with a surplus to apply to the 2026-2027 budget.

- The Christian Education Committee and Jennifer Hart, Sunday School Coordinator, are still seeking adult volunteers to help with Make A Difference Week during the week of August 24-28. This will allow us to accept more youth to the program as we maintain our Safe Church policy of adult to youth ratios.
- Dick Papenfuss presented the proposed 2026-2027 church budget for Council approval prior to Annual Meeting. The council voted unanimously in favor of the budget. The membership of the church will vote on the budget on May 17 at the Annual Meeting following worship. Thank you to the Stewardship Committee for running a very successful Stewardship campaign, and thank you to everyone who has pledged for 2026-2027!
- Additional sources of revenue must be found if we are going to balance our church budget in the years to come. Rental fees from outside groups, new fundraisers, and increased membership will all help to ensure a solid financial future for CCC.
- The Nominating Committee presented the draft slate of nominees to all committees and the church officers. The Council voted unanimously to accept the slate as presented. The slate is also an agenda item for church membership to vote upon at Annual Meeting.
- The Trustees shared their reports of the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Audit. Both Assistant Treasurers, Margie Dissinger and Sue Sarafinas, complete their work thoroughly and with great attention to detail. The audit reports may be found in the Trustees' section of the Annual Report.
- The church's 150th Celebration on April 25 and 26 was well-received by the congregation. The event on Saturday, April 25 was also attended by several former members of CCC who made the journey back to Chelmsford for the occasion. Congregants are invited to donate items of significance for a time capsule, which will be dedicated on June 14th. If you have a 2025 penny, please give it to Val King for the capsule!
- The Annual Meeting of CCC, and potluck lunch, will be held on Sunday, May 17, following worship.
- Bakery Day on April 26 raised \$50 for Social Action and Mission. (SAM) Jeremy Williams will be back at CCC during coffee hour on May 31; a percentage of sales will again be donated to SAM.

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, June 10, 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
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		

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