



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

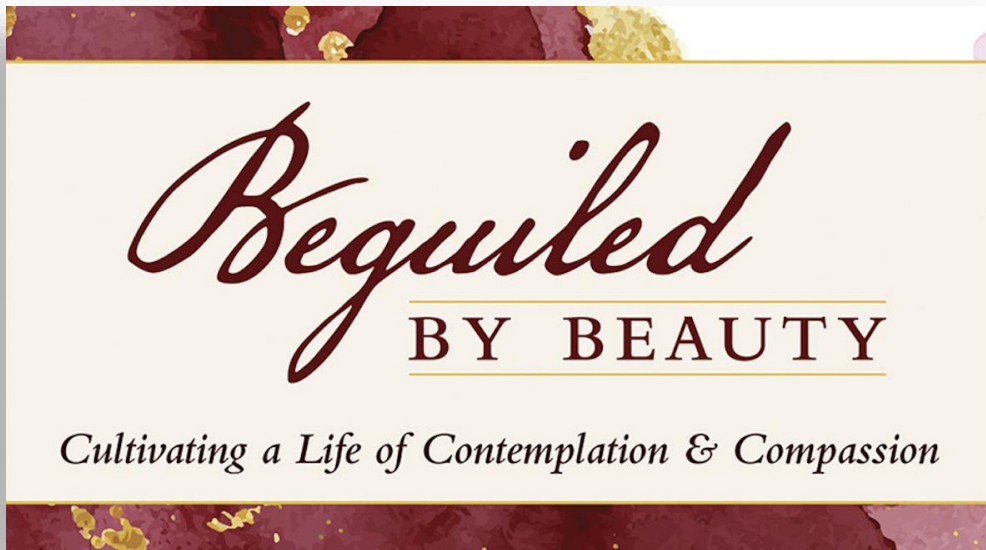
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. John A. Zachry

Director of Music/Organist: Tudor Bota

Sunday, July 26, 2026

Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

10 o'clock a.m.



"We Are Made for the Beloved"

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

Prelude	"Clair De Lune" by Debussy	Sam Hargett
Welcome and Announcements		Lynn Horton
Ring the Bell		Rev. Lee M. Atherton

Reflecting	Pastor Lee
Opening Prayer	Steve Hartigan

Divine Goodness, Holy One, pause us for this moment, bear us up in this time, hold us for eternity.

We open to your warming presence. We remember we came from you. We affirm all beings are your beloveds. And all the people say, "**Amen.**"

*Hymn of Beauty	"Jesu, Thy Boundless Love to Me "
	sung to the tune for "Faith of Our Fathers" #635 Blue

Jesu, thy boundless love to me no thought can reach, no tongue declare;
O knit my thankful heart to thee and reign without a rival there.
Thine wholly, thine alone, I am; be thou alone my constant flame.

O grant that nothing in my soul may dwell, but thy pure love alone!
O may thy love possess me whole, my joy, my treasure, and my crown.
Strange flames far from my soul remove, my every act, word, thought, be love.

O Love, how cheering is thy ray! All pain before thy presence flies!
Care, anguish, sorrow, melt away where'er thy healing beams arise.
O Jesu, nothing may I see, nothing hear, feel, or think, but thee!

In suffering be thy love my peace, in weakness be thy love my power;
and when the storms of life shall cease, Jesu, in that important hour,
in death as life be thou my guide, and save me, who for me hast died.

Passing the Peace	Pastor Lee
Peace be with you.	
And also with you.	

Searching for Beauty – A Time for Children	Pastor Lee
Sending Song	

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

Lectio Divina (Scripture)	Psalm 16:7-11 Read from the Inclusive Bible	Pew Bible p. 430
Sermo Divina (Sermon)		Pastor Lee

Musica Divina (the Music) & **Visio Divina** (Sacred image)

Yet again, sun comes
Beauty of warmth, reminder
Divine embrace

Joys and Concerns	Pastor Lee
Prayers of the People	Pastor Lee
Lord’s Prayer	

“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.”

Invitation to the Offering	Steve
Offertory	“Canon in D” by Pachelbel Sam
*Doxology	“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” #46-48 Blue <i>Feel free to sing the version of the lyrics that is familiar to you.</i>

Prayer of Dedication	Pastor Lee
An Act of Beauty	Steve
*Closing Hymn	“Now Thank We All Our God” #715 Blue
Blessing and Benediction	Pastor Lee
Three-Fold Amen	
Postlude	“Sonata in B ^b Major, Movement I” by Mozart Sam

Matthew 13 Ponderings – reflection by Maren Tirabassi

God’s realm is like a mustard seed,
yeast, hidden treasure, fish net, and,
most of all – in all our lives and our churches –
a pearl, a thing of joy formed around an irritating bit of sand
covered with unexpected beauty.

Let this be the day to cherish, every irritation
covered with hope and caring.

But mostly, to find new parables in ...
a tire wrench, a soccer ball, a patch of wildflowers,
a single slice of shared pizza, and all the easily missed

startling holy intersections
we find new and old in every day.





"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
Sunday School Coord.	Jennifer Hart	610-781-2074	jennifer.hart@cccchelmsford.org
Custodian	Juarez Gomes	978-957-5075	
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): Jennifer Delikat

Head Usher Curtis Bates

Livestream Operator Vivian Hussey

Liturgist: Steve Hartigan

Deacon of the Day: Lindsay Moore

Coffee Hour Hosts: Lynn Horton: Lemonade & cookies

Many thanks to all who enrich our morning together.

Announcements and Events – Sunday, July 26, 2026

We welcome Sam Hargett as our guest pianist today.

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 Church in Ipswich, UCC. We invite you to keep them in your hearts and prayers throughout the week as we strengthen the bonds of our faith community.

Update: 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 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 \$959, the member would match that number to raise the entire amount. This is a tremendously generous offer and one that the congregation has met and exceeded.

The monies given above the \$959 will go towards seeing if a 3% raise can be given.

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. Thank you for being a generous congregation.

Dick Papenfuss

Treasurer

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 staff the CCC's yard sale tables.

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

DEMM Socks & T-shirts Collecting Through July 31

Socks and T-Shirts for DownEast Maine Mission - There will be a collection box in the Narthex throughout July for donations of new athletic socks and gently used T-shirts. The DownEast Maine Mission group donates these to migrant workers in the area of Maine where they go for their mission trip. Please contact Sue Sarafinas if you need additional information. Monetary donations for meals and construction supplies would be greatly appreciated.

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

Sun, July 26	Worship	10:00 AM	Sanctuary
Mon, July 27	Movie Group	7:00 PM	Zoom
Tues, July 28	Knitters & Crocheters	10:30 AM	Parlor
	Lunch Bunch	11:45 AM	Room 202
	SonLight Band	7:30 PM	Sanctuary
Wed, July 29	Pastoral Search	5:30 PM	Room 202
Fri, July 31	Yard Sale Setup	6:00 PM	Fellowship Hall
Sat, Aug 1	Yard Sale Setup	7:30 AM	Fellowship Hall
	Indoor Yard Sale	9:00 AM	Fellowship Hall

Pastor Lee's Summer Office Hours, July 1 – August 15: Sundays, 8:15–1:30; Tuesdays, 9:00–3:00. She is also available by appointment.

Summer Office Hours

Starting July 1 through August 15, the office is open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 am – 1 pm.



DRAWN IN!

Living the Creative Life with God

A day long retreat with Pastor Lee Atherton
October 3, 2026

Slow down. Breathe deeply. Reconnect.

Join us for a day of reflection, creativity, laughter, and spiritual renewal at the beautiful Sanctuary at Woodville. Together we'll explore how God draws us into deeper relationships—with ourselves, with one another, with creation, and with the Sacred.

Creative spiritual practices
Reflection and conversation
Time in nature
Prayer and quiet
Lunch and fellowship

No artistic ability or previous retreat experience is needed—just bring an open heart. All women are welcome.

**For More
Information:**



The cost of the 1-day retreat is \$125 which includes meal, snacks, coffee/drinks and all supplies.
Scan QR Code for more details.

HYMN LYRICS

Hymn of Beauty

“Jesu, Thy Boundless Love to Me”

sung to the tune for “Faith of Our Fathers”

Jesu, thy boundless love to me no thought can reach, no tongue declare;
O knit my thankful heart to thee and reign without a rival there.
Thine wholly, thine alone, I am; be thou alone my constant flame.

O grant that nothing in my soul may dwell, but thy pure love alone!
O may thy love possess me whole, my joy, my treasure, and my crown.
Strange flames far from my soul remove, my every act, word, thought, be love.

O Love, how cheering is thy ray! All pain before thy presence flies!
Care, anguish, sorrow, melt away where'er thy healing beams arise.
O Jesu, nothing may I see, nothing hear, feel, or think, but thee!

In suffering be thy love my peace, in weakness be thy love my power;
and when the storms of life shall cease, Jesu, in that important hour,
in death as life be thou my guide, and save me, who for me hast died.

Closing Hymn

“Now Thank We All Our God”

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

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

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