



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

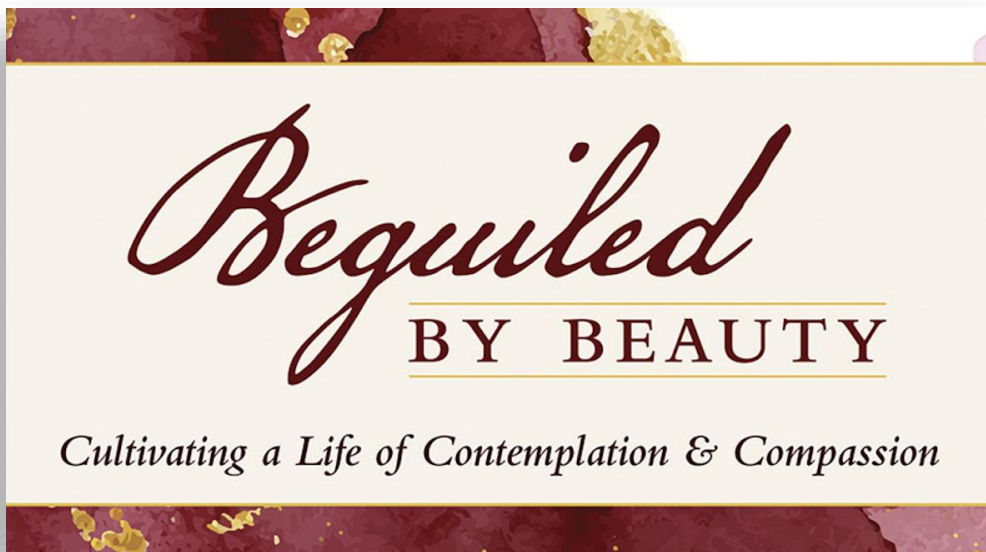
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Dr. John A. Zachry

Director of Music/Organist: Tudor Bota

Sunday, August 16, 2026

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

10 o'clock a.m.



"The Beauty of a World Without a 'Why'"

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	“Thy Will”, “I Sing Praises” arr. Hayes	Tudor Bota
Welcome and Announcements		Lynn Horton
Reflecting		Rev. Lee M. Atherton
Ringling the Bell		

Opening Prayer	Mary Horne
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Divine Goodness, Holy One, pause us for this moment, bear us up in this time, hold us for eternity. We tune our spirits to truth. We begin to let go of expectations. We allow all beings the fullness of their own beauty. And all the people say, **“Amen.”**

*Hymn of Beauty	“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty ”	#503 Red
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Passing the Peace
Peace be with you.
And also with you.

Lectio Divina (Scripture)	Song of Songs 4:1-7 (Inclusive Bible)	Pew Bible p. 545
Sermo Divina (Sermon)		Pastor Lee

Musica Divina (the Music) & **Visio Divina** (Sacred image)
At first glance, doubtful
Gazing more deeply we see
Every visage, Dear

Pastoral Search Moment	Dory Toppan
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Joys and Concerns
Prayers of the People

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	Mary
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Offertory

“Be Thou My Vision” arr. DeFord

Elizabeth Hartigan

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true word I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise Thou mine inheritance, now and always
Thou and Thou only first in my heart High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art

High King of heaven, my victory won May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall Still be my vision, O ruler of all
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall Still be my vision, O ruler of all

***Doxology**

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

#46-48 Blue

Feel free to sing the version of the lyrics that is familiar to you.

Prayer of Dedication**An Act of Beauty**

Mary

***Closing Hymn**

“Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

#542 Blue

Blessing and Benediction**Three-Fold Amen****Postlude**

“Andante” by Marchaux

Tudor



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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
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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): Jennifer Delikat

Head Usher Ray Peterson

Livestream Operator Vivian Hussey

Liturgist: Mary Horne

Deacon of the Day: Wendy Perry

Coffee Hour Host: Sandy Lamplough: Lemonade & cookies

Many thanks to all who enrich our morning together.

Announcements and Events – Sunday, August 16, 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 Parish Church, Congregational in Manchester-by-the Sea. We invite you to keep them in your hearts and prayers throughout the week as we strengthen the bonds of our faith community.

Fall Worship Planning -Which of these Fall Faith Exploration Ideas Piques Your Interest?

Exploring the Enneagram: A Christian Perspective or **Where Is God When the World Feels Uncertain?**

See the Tuesday announcements for details. Let Pastor Lee know your choice by emailing pastor-lee@CCCChelmsford.org, text or call her at 508-308-7116, or schedule a time to chat.

Beacon Articles

Articles for the September edition of the Beacon are due by Monday, August 24.

Donations needed for St. Paul's Kitchen meal on August 31.

There will be a sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall for donations of fruit and brownies to be delivered to the church on Sunday, August 30. Please contact Julie Carney (carneyjulianne@gmail.com) or Diane Blair (diane.blair@comcast.net) with any questions or to sign-up for a donation.

Sun, August 16	Worship	10:00 AM	Sanctuary
Mon, Aug 17	Christ Care	7:00 PM	Zoom
Tues, Aug 18	Knitters & Crocheters	10:30 AM	Parlor
	Lunch Bunch	11:45 AM	Room 202
	House Meeting	7:30 PM	Room 202
	SonLight Band	7:30 PM	Sanctuary
Wed, Aug 19	Pastoral Search	5:30 PM	Room 202
Sat, Aug 22	Pub Theology	6:30 PM	110 Grill

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.



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 lunch, snacks, coffee/drinks and all supplies.
Scan QR Code for more details.

HYMN LYRICS

Hymn of Beauty

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

Open now thy gates of beauty, Zion, let me enter there
There my soul in joyful duty, Waits for him who answers prayer.
O how blessed is this place, Filled with solace, light, and grace!

Gracious God, I come before thee, Come thou also unto me;
Where we find thee and adore thee, There a heaven on earth must be.
To my heart O enter thou, Let it be thy temple now.

Closing Hymn

“Jesus, Lover of My Soul”

Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll, while the tempest still is high;
hide me, O my Savior, hide, till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide, O receive my soul at last!

Other refuge have I none; hangs my helpless soul on thee;
leave, ah! leave me not alone, still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed, all my help from thee I bring;
cover my defenseless head with the shadow of thy wing.

Plenteous grace with thee is found, grace to cover all my sin;
let the healing streams abound, make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art; freely let me take of thee;
spring thou up within my heart, rise to all eternity.