



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, Sept 27, 2026

SNEUCC Annual Meeting Worship

10 o'clock a.m.



SNEUCC
(Southern New England Conference, United Church of Christ)

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

Opening Rev. S. Brae Adams (she/hers), United Congregational Church Worcester

Welcome Rev. Darrell Goodwin (he/him), Executive Conference Minister

Call to Worship Rev. S. Brae Adams (she/hers), United Congregational Church Worcester

One: We gather here as one, the body of Christ brought to life in us.

Many: Together, we honor our past, the ancestors who set us on the path, the legacy of faith that they created for us, the grace of God that has brought us to this place.

One: We gather here from places far and near, in person and online

Many: Together, we thank God for breathing new life into our community, for the provision that has been given us in this time and in this place, for the bond made stronger.

One: We gather here to look towards the future.

Many: Together, we hold fast to the movement of the Holy Spirit and trust in the promise that is ahead.

ALL: Let us rejoice in the gifts of what has been, what is, and the promise that is to come.

Opening Prayer followed by Lord's Prayer

Rev. Toni DiPina, (she/they), Retired UCC/ABC -Northbridge, MA

Rev. Dr. Julie Cedrone (she/hers), First Congregational Church of Auburn

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.

***Opening Hymn** *"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"* LaQuentin Jenkins

1. What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

2. O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms. [Refrain]
3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms. [Refrain]

Scriptures Kimberly Donaldson (she/hers), Dixwell Ave Congregational Church, New Haven
Christopher Cole (he/they), First Congregational Church Watertown

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12, NRSVUE

Isaiah 40:28-31, modified from NRSVUE

Choral Anthem *"Total Praise"* Annual Meeting Conference Choir, Directed by Amanda Hanzlik

Intro of Guest Preacher	Rev. Cathlin Baker (she/her), First Congregational Church West Tisbury
Sermon	The Honorable Rev. Dr. Raphael Warnock
Musical Reflection	
Offering	Rev. Ruth Edens, Dir. of Philanthropy
Offertory Music	<i>"Wilderness Song"</i> Sing Praise Youth Group
Blessing of Offering	Rev. Ruth Edens (she/her), Dir. of Philanthropy
Children's Message	Rev. Dr. Chris Davies (she/her), Executive Minister for Programs
Call to Baptism	Rev. S. Brae Adams (she/hers), United Congregational Church Worcester
Charge to Parents & Gathered Community	Rev. Dr. Chris Davies (she/her), Executive Minister for Programs
Act of Baptism	Rev. Darrell Goodwin (he/him), Executive Conference Minister (and Dad)
Blessing over the Child	
Hymn - "Take Me to the Water"	

1 Take me to the wa - ter. Take me to the wa -
 2 I love Je - sus. I love Je -
 3 He's my Sav - ior. He's my Sav -
 4 Glo - ry hal-le - lu - jah. Glo - ry hal-le - lu -

6
 ter. Take me to the wa - ter to be bap - tized.
 sus. I love Je - sus, yes, I do.
 ior. He's my Sav - ior, yes, he is.
 jah. Glo - ry hal-le - lu - jah to be bap - tized.

Blessing of the Children/Youth	Rev. Julie Cedrone (she/her), First Congregational Church Auburn Devin Shmueli (he/him), Minister for Youth and Young Adults
Prayer of Blessing	Rev. Julie Cedrone (she/her), First Congregational Church Auburn Rev. Darrell Goodwin (he/him), Executive Conference Minister Leora (she/hers) First Congregational Church Auburn

Closing Hymn:

"O Happy Day"

LaQuentin Jenkins

Oh happy day (Oh happy day)
Oh happy day (Oh happy day)
When Jesus washed
Oh when he washed
When Jesus washed
He washed the sins away

Oh happy day (Oh happy day)
Oh happy day (Oh happy day)

He taught me how to watch
Fight and pray
Fight and pray
And live rejoicing
Ev'ry day
Ev'ry day

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Raphael Warnock

Invitation to 2027 Annual Meeting Rev. Darrell Goodwin (he/him), Executive Conference Minister
Rev. Liz Garrigan-Byerly (she/her), Executive Minister for Area Conf. Ministers
Rev. Dr. Chris Davies (she/her), Executive Minister for Programs



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): Jean Montgomery & Dick O'Neil

Head Usher John Lefebvre

Livestream Operator Service livestreamed from the SNEUCC Annual Meeting

Liturgist:

Deacon of the Day: Scott Dorman

Nursery Coordinator Hunter Lyons

Coffee Hour Host:

Flowers Donated by Val King in memory of Faith, Glenn and Betty.

Many thanks to all who enrich our morning together.



"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!

Announcements and Events – Sunday, September 27, 2026

Great News!!

Last Sunday, September 20, the church had a pastoral candidate for worship, followed by a congregational meeting. The Pastoral Search Committee was very happy to announce that Reverend Jennifer Macy was unanimously voted to be Central Congregational Church's next pastor. The church is excited to have her join the staff in early January, 2027.

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

Bakery Day – TODAY, September 27!

Baker Jeremy Williams of 'The Do Good Kitchen' will be at Coffee Hour with his mouth-watering selection of baked goods, including macaroons, various flavors of scones, and the popular "brumbles"! 10% of the bake sale proceeds will be donated to the Social Action and Missions Committee (SAM).

Celebrate Our Custodians – October 4, 2026

Join us next Sunday, October 4th for a potluck luncheon and a chance to let Juaréz and Beth know how valuable they have been to us.

The House Committee will provide sandwich fixings and a cake. The congregation is asked to bring any other items such as chips, appetizers and side dishes.

We are also asking for monetary donations to give Juaréz and Beth as a parting gift. You may put a check in the offering plate, please put on the memo line "Custodian gift".

Mary Horne

Social Action and Mission Committee – Recycling News



Good News! – Recent advances in technology mean that we can now recycle all those coffee cups we've long been told not to put in our recycling bins because of their interior plastic lining. **Social Action and Mission has invited Rebecca Gore of the Chelmsford Recycling Committee to visit us in Fellowship Hall after our service on October 11th.** Rebecca will provide information and answer questions on what can and cannot be put in the recycle bins. The town's recycling efforts

are constantly evolving and often subject to confusion on the part of residents. So plan to stop by for a chat with her for this chance to learn about what more we can all be doing to recycle and reduce the waste stream.

Coffee Hour Fellowship at CCC fosters connections, spiritual growth, in a spirit of warmth, conversation, shared purpose encourages one another and grow together in faith and friendship. We are inviting members to sign up to donate food items such as cheese, fruit, vegetables, & baked goods. Volunteers are also warmly welcomed to greet and serve coffee during Fellowship. We invite you to sign up to donate items using the sheet in the Fellowship Hall, or by emailing coffeehourteam@cccchelmsford.org.

The coffee hour team will make the coffee and help with washing dishes weekly. Thank you for supporting this important time of community and connection!

Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study this fall is a 6-week no homework study called "Loving God and Others: The Heart of True Faith". This group will meet on Sunday evenings by Zoom starting on Sunday, Sept. 27 at 7:00 pm. Women purchase their own workbook, which can be ordered through Amazon - Amazon.com : loving god and others the heart of true faith. Please contact Margie Dissinger at margie228@gmail.com if you have any questions or want to be on the list of participants receiving the Zoom link.

Sun, Sept. 27	Worship	10:00 AM	Sanctuary
	Women's Bible Study	7:00 PM	Zoom
Mon, Sept 28	Movie Group	7:00 PM	Zoom
Tues, Sept.29	Knitters & Crocheters	10:30 AM	Parlor
	Lunch Bunch	11:45 AM	Room 202
	SonLight Band	7:30 PM	Sanctuary
Thurs, Oct 1	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:45 PM	Room 312
	Choir Rehearsal	6:45 PM	Sanctuary
	Enneagram Study	7:00 PM	Zoom
Sat, Oct 3	Women's Retreat	7:30 AM	The Sanctuary at Woodville

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.