



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 6, 2026

Communion Sunday

10 o'clock a.m.



photo by Debby Hudson

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		Lillian Began
Reading of the Warrant		Elizabeth Hartigan
Ring the Bell and Centering for Worship		Rev. Lee M. Atherton
Call to Worship		Karen Banakos
Our God is an awesome God who breathed into emptiness and created all that is.		
With love and care, God shaped the world in all its diversity with mountains and valleys, rivers and deserts, and people of all colors and sizes.		
And threading through it all are beautiful dreams of justice, compassion, liberation, and peace.		
O God, creator of our past, our present, and our future, we thank you for the many blessings you bestow on us each moment.		
Be with us now. Draw near to us as we draw near to you.		
Lead us in paths of righteousness. Fill our hearts with compassion and a thirst for justice.		
Teach us to be co-creators, with You, of a world where all belong and share in the abundance you have given us.		
All: Praise be to God.		
*Opening Hymn	"Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"	#560 Blue
Opening Prayer		Karen
Passing the Peace		
The Peace of the Lord be with you.		
And also with you.		
Children's Message		Jennifer Hart
Sending Song		#437 Blue
Go now in peace, go now in peace, may the love of God surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go.		
Scripture	Romans 13:8-14	Pew Bible p. 923
Pastor: The Word of God for the people of God		
All: Thanks be to God		
Sermon		Pastor Lee
*Hymn	"O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee"	#602 Blue
Sharing Our Joys and Concerns		
A Prayer for Workers (Unison)		
Loving, Working God, on this Sunday we ask your special blessing on all people who labor, either for pay or as volunteers, in jobs or at school, in the workplace or at home, in the U.S. and around the world. We especially pray for your blessings on workers who do not have jobs		

and for those whose inadequate pay does not allow them to live the full life you intend for each of us. Creator God, help us to build a new world in the midst of the old. A world where all workers are valued. A world where those who clean houses are also able to buy houses to live in. A world where those who grow food can also afford to eat their fill. A world where those who serve and care for others are, themselves, also served and cared for. We pray for the coming of a world where all workers everywhere share in the abundance that you have given us. We ask these things knowing that you give us the courage and strength to live out our faith in the workplace and the marketplace, as well as in the sanctuary. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Pastor Lee

Invitation to the Offering

Karen

Offertory

“Pie Jesu” by Faure

Julie Carney

"Blessed Jesus, Lord, give them rest.

Blessed Jesus, Lord, give them eternal rest.”

***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

Pastor Lee

Celebrating the Last Supper

Communion Hymn

“The Wheat In Our Bread”

See Insert

Invitation to the Table

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.

The Great Thanksgiving

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

The Deacons will distribute the bread and the cup. When all are served, we will partake in unison.

Unison Prayer

Holy Provider, Grace made tangible, Love in motion, we have received your gifts with thanks in our hearts. Grateful for the labor that produced them, we promise we’ll never forget the justice we owe to all people who work, and work to repay them our debt.

***Closing Hymn**

“For All the Saints”

#637 Blue

Blessing and Benediction

Three-Fold Amen

Postlude

“Andante” by Marchaux

Tudor



"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): Glenn & Margie Dissinger

Head Usher John Lefebvre

Livestream Operator Vivian Hussey

Liturgist: Karen Banakos

Deacon of the Day: Margie Dissinger

Coffee Hour Host: Martha Chenault: Lemonade & cookies

Many thanks to all who enrich our morning together.

Announcements and Events – Sunday, September 6, 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 Forest Street Union Church In Methuen. We invite you to keep them in your hearts and prayers throughout the week as we strengthen the bonds of our faith community.

Bell & Chancel Choir

September begins the new program year with many groups starting up again. Both Bell Choir and Chancel Choir rehearsal start on Thursday this week. Please see the calendar for times. New members to both groups are welcome! Not sure you want to join? You may attend rehearsals to try it out.

New Fall Studies

Pastor Lee will be leading two new studies this fall.

1. A Study on the Book of Revelation – Wednesdays, 10:30-11:45 am in Room 202. Dates: Sept. 9 & 23, Oct. 7 & 21, Nov. 4 & 18.
2. Enneagram: A Christian Perspective – Thursdays, 7:00-8:30 pm by Zoom. Dates: Sept 17, Oct. 1, 15, 29, Nov. 12 & Dec 3.

Read the September Beacon for more details.

Welcome Sunday & Mini-Picnic – next Sunday, September 13

Blessing of the Backpacks will be included in the service next Sunday, so bring your school backpack or bag to the service. Following the service, the CE Committee is providing grilled hot dogs and lemonade, and they ask the congregation to bring other snacks or side dishes. Come join the fun!

Candidate Sunday & Congregational Meeting

Sunday, September 20, for the sermon and worship service led by the candidate, followed immediately by a Special Congregational Meeting to hear the report and the recommendation of the Pastoral Search Committee!

Information about the candidate remains confidential, but parishioners will have opportunities to meet the candidate in the few days prior to the worship service and congregational meeting. Shortly you will receive a letter by mail (not email) telling you the dates and times of these opportunities.

A note about the worship service on September 20: the church service will not be livestreamed, nor will the congregational meeting.

Celebrate Our Custodians – October 4, 2026

The House Committee has a bittersweet message for our church family. Our custodian, Juaréz Gomes, has let us know that he and his wife, Beth, will be retiring. Their last day with us will be September 30th.

Juaréz has been our custodian for 25 years, and we get Beth for free! He has done a phenomenal job, and inspectors have commented on the cleanliness of our church. We were truly blessed when we found him.

The church is planning a pot luck luncheon on October 4th, after church, to celebrate the lovely relationship we have had with Juaréz and Beth, and to show them our appreciation.

The House Committee will buy a card that will be in Fellowship Hall in September during coffee hour for everyone to sign and express their appreciation.

We are also asking for monetary donations to give Juaréz and Beth as a parting gift. You may give your donation to any House Committee member--Jim Clark, Bill Clarke, Geoff Bryant, Scott Dorman, Bryan Norman, Tim O' Brien, Mary Horne or put a check in the offering plate, please put on the memo line "Custodian gift".

Please mark October 4th on your calendar for a potluck luncheon and a chance to let Juaréz and Beth know how valuable they have been to us.

Mary Horne

Warrant for a Special Meeting on September 20, 2026

of Central Congregational Church in Chelmsford, United Church of Christ

To the Members and Friends of Central Congregational Church in Chelmsford:

A Special Meeting of the Central Congregational Church in Chelmsford, United Church of Christ, will be held on Sunday, September 20, 2026, at 11:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary immediately following the worship service to act upon the following article:

Article 1. To act upon the recommendation of the Pastoral Search Committee to call a candidate to be our Senior Pastor and to approve the terms of the call.

(signed)

Elizabeth Hartigan
Clerk

Sun, Sept. 6	Worship	10:00 AM	Sanctuary
	Lunch with Lee	12:00 PM	Java Room
Mon, Sept 7	OFFICE CLOSED – LABOR DAY		
Tues, Sept.8	Knitters & Crocheters	10:30 AM	Parlor
	Lunch Bunch	11:45 AM	Room 202
	SonLight Band	7:30 PM	Sanctuary
Wed, Sept. 9	Bible Study: The Book of Revelation	10:30 AM	Room 202
	Council Meeting	7:30 PM	Zoom
Thurs, Sept. 10	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:45 PM	Room 312
	Choir Rehearsal	6:45 PM	Sanctuary



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.

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.

HYMN LYRICS

Opening Hymn

“Leaning on the Everlasting Arms”

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.

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*

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*

Hymn

“O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee ”

O Master, let me walk with thee in lowly paths of service free;
tell me thy secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay, and guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me thy patience; still with thee in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in trust that triumphs over wrong.

In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's broadening way;
in peace that only thou canst give, with thee, O Master, let me live.

Communion Hymn

“The Wheat In Our Bread”

The wheat in our bread is a gift of the earth the product of soil, sun, and rain;
but labor was needed to make it a loaf, to bring it to table from grain.
And some workers planted and some workers tilled, some harvested long in the heat,
some took it by tons to the market to sell, some kneaded and baked it to eat.

The grape in our cup is a gift of the earth, the product of soil, rain, and shine;
but labor was need to make it a drink, to bring it to table from vine.
And some workers pruned and some gathered the fruit, some pressed it, some racked and refined;
some barreled and aged it and left it a while, to ripen its joy in due time.

Alive at this table, our host and our feast, good Jesus is ready to bless
the fruits of the earth we are privileged to share, the products of thresher and press.
And while we're all eating with thanks in our hearts, we promise we'll never forget
the justice we owe to all people who work, and work to repay them our debt.

Closing Hymn

“For All the Saints”

For all the saints, who from their labors rest, who thee by faith before the world confessed,
thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia, alleluia!

Thou wast their rock, their fortress, and their might; their strength and solace in the well-fought
fight;
thou, in the darkness drear, their one true Light. Alleluia, alleluia!

O blest communion, company divine! We live and struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one in thee, for all are thine. Alleluia, alleluia!

And when the strife is fierce, the conflict long, steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
and hearts are brave again, and arms are strong. Alleluia, alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Alleluia, alleluia!