



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, October 11, 2026

Access Sunday

10 o'clock a.m.



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 "Only Jesus" by Casting Crowns SonLight Band

Welcome and Announcements Lillian Beean

Ring the Bell and Centering for Worship Rev. Lee M. Atherton

Call to Worship Janet Paton

The Divine is our Shepherd. We have what we need. No one is forgotten. No one is left out. Each of us is known. Each of us is loved.

Created in love, We are one!

The world sometimes tells us there are things wrong with us, or that we need to be more like someone else. But God looks at us and sees beloved children. Our bodies, our minds, our spirits— each wonderfully and differently made, each precious in God's sight.

Created differently, We are one!

One body. Many parts. One song. Many voices. One Spirit. Many stories. Some of us are young, and some are old. Some of us move, think, learn, speak, or experience the world differently. And every one of us has something to offer. Every one of us belongs.

Created creatively, We are one!

We need one another. We learn from one another. We help one another. We laugh and cry, celebrate and struggle together. And when one of us needs help, we remember that needing one another is part of being human.

We belong to God. We belong to one another. Christ is among us, and grace is all around us.

Created in oneness, We are one!

***Opening Hymn** "Autumn Version of Morning Has Broken" by Maren

Morning has broken, like the first morning.
Geese have awoken, distant but heard.
Praise for the winging, praise for the morning,
Praise for life springing fresh from the Word.

Sweet is the autumn, golden before us
As the bright leaves fall, from the dark trees.
Praise for the beauty of the rich harvest,
Praise for God's whispers on the cool breeze.

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the evening.
Dawn sky and sunset — palette of play.
Praise with our rising, praise with our resting;
God's hope and blessing for every day.

Opening Prayer & the Lord's Prayer

Janet

Holy God, You made each of us with love. Each body, each mind, each story, each gift— different and wonderful. When the world makes us feel like we are not enough, remind us that you call us beloved. When we hurt, stay close to us. When others hurt, help us care for them. Help us see the gifts in one another, welcome our differences, and remember that everyone belongs. As we worship together, help us see Christ in one another and share your love with the world. It is in his name we pray as he taught us saying,

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.

Passing the Peace

The Peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Children's Message

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

Matthew 22:1-14

Pew Bible p. 803

Pastor: The Word of God for the people of God **All: Thanks be to God**

Sermon

Pastor Lee

*Hymn

"God Is Here!"

#280 Blue

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

One: Am G Many: Am G D.C.

Hear, oh hear_ our pray'r. Hear, oh hear_ our pray'r.

C Am7

More than we can ask, more than we can ask,

Dm7 G

more than we can ask or i - mag - ine.

Pastoral Prayer

One: Am G Many: Am G C

A - - men. A - - men.

Invitation to the Offering

Janet

Offertory

“Grant Us Thy Peace” by Mendelssohn

Chancel Choir

Grant us Thy peace, our gracious Lord, Thou Source of ev’ry blessing! Feeble and frail, we
trust Thy word, all things in Thee possessing, in Thee is our hope and safety

***Doxology**

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

#46-48 Blue

Prayer of Dedication

Pastor Lee

***Closing Hymn**

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

#464 Blue

Benediction

Three-fold Amen

Postlude

“Left it in the River” by Jamie McDonald SonLight Band

Benediction



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): Judith Barnes

Head Usher Sue Sarafinas

Livestream Operator Vivian Hussey

Liturgist: Janet Paton

Deacon of the Day: Karen Banakos

Nursery Coordinator Hunter Lyons

Coffee Hour Host:

Flowers Donated by Lynn Horton in celebration of Lillian Beean's special birthday today!

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
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Custodian	Jose Deleon		j.deleon0922@gmail.com
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)		

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, October 11, 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 Trinitarian Congregational (UCC) in North Andover. We invite you to keep them in your hearts and prayers throughout the week as we strengthen the bonds of our faith community.

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 TODAY, 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.

Open and Affirming – Guest Speaker

Please sign up in Fellowship Hall.

The Open and Affirming Ministry will be hosting a guest speaker on October 18th. It will be at 11:30 after coffee hour. There will be pizza and salad served for lunch, and childcare will be provided.

Dr. Casey Anne Brimmer(they/them) has been educating about allyship to LGBTQ+ communities for 20 years. They hold several degrees including a masters in Women’s and Gender Studies and a PhD in Social, Political, Ethical, and Cultural Thought, and have been teaching college courses on gender and sexuality for more than 10 years. Their passion is in creating and supporting affirming spaces for all marginalized people utilizing a framework that allows people to bring all parts of themselves into learning, work, educational, and faith communities. They are the founding co-host of the Affirming Practice Podcast with Pastor Bob Ierien to offer everyday actions listeners can pursue to be better allies to different marginalized communities.

Neighbors In Need – Advocating for Change

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a Special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States.

*Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children,
and walk in love, as Christ loved us. Ephesians 5: 1-2*

In the letter to the Ephesians, Paul encourages all of us to be like Christ and “walk in love”.

There is an inherent connection between the Gospel call to respond to the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the sick and homeless and also to the policy decisions that determine funding for issues such as school meal programs, standards for clean air, sentencing guidelines, and health care access for all. Advocacy is essential to participating in God’s mission in the world.

When we come together as a church to do the work of justice and advocacy, we are acting out of the hope that change in the world is possible. When you give to Neighbors in Need, you help build a just world for all!
Special Neighbors in Need offering envelopes will be available in Sunday bulletins and pew racks during the month of October. Donations may also be sent to the church office with a notation for Neighbors in Need.

Campfire & S'mores! – Sat. Oct. 17

All are invited! Join the fun in Carson Park on Saturday, Oct. 17 at 5:30 pm for a time of making S'mores, singing and sharing stories. S'more supplies will be provided, but people are invited to bring savory items also.

CCC History Display

Following church services on Sunday, October 25th – the 150th Anniversary Committee invites you to linger in Fellowship Hall to view a fascinating exhibit depicting CCC's amazing history! Covering key events between 1876 to 1960, the exhibit will include historic documents, early gifts to the church from the 1870s, photographs, illustrations, bulletin covers from WW II, and items commemorating the celebration of our "new church" on June 1, 1960.

Make A Difference Sunday – October 25

Join in the fun and effort of making a difference in our community on Sunday, October 25! Volunteers are needed for two service projects: **Rail Trail Clean Up** – Meet at the Route 110 ball fields parking lot (end of Fletcher Street) at 1:00 pm. Bring gloves and wear good walking shoes. Trash bags and "grabbers" will be provided. **Community Garden Clean Up** – Meet at Sunny Meadow Farm, Walter Lewis Community Garden, near 158 Robin Hill Road at 1:30 pm. Bring gardening gloves and trowels for weeding. Larger tools (spades and rakes) will be provided. Fall tasks include "closing the garden for the season." Invite your friends and neighbors to help alongside CCC volunteers! Volunteers of all ages are encouraged to participate in these CCC community service projects! Thank you for lending a hand! Contact Lynn Horton if you have questions! Lynn@terpsoft.com

Sun, Oct 11	Worship	10:00 AM	Sanctuary
	Concert Choir Rehearsal	11:30 AM	Sanctuary
	Women's Bible Study	7:00 PM	Zoom
Mon, Oct 12	Office Closed		
	Movie Group	7:00 PM	Zoom
Tues, Oct 13	Knitters & Crocheters	10:30 AM	Parlor
	Lunch Bunch	11:45 AM	Room 202
	SonLight Band	7:30 PM	Sanctuary
Wed, Oct 14	Council Meeting	7:30 PM	Zoom
Thurs, Oct 15	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30 PM	Room 312
	Choir Rehearsal	6:45 PM	Sanctuary
	Enneagram Study	7:00 PM	Zoom

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

“Autumn Version of Morning Has Broken”

Morning has broken, like the first morning.
Geese have awoken, distant but heard.
Praise for the winging, praise for the morning,
Praise for life springing fresh from the Word.

Sweet is the autumn, golden before us
As the bright leaves fall, from the dark trees.
Praise for the beauty of the rich harvest,
Praise for God’s whispers on the cool breeze.

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the evening.
Dawn sky and sunset — palette of play.
Praise with our rising, praise with our resting;
God’s hope and blessing for every day.

Hymn

“God Is Here”

God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, fount, and pulpit; here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,
Here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd’s flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us, as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

Closing Hymn

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour, for the facing of this hour.

Lo! the hosts of evil round us scorn thy Christ, assail thy ways!
From the fears that long have bound us, free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the living of these days, for the living of these days.

Cure thy children's warring madness; bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy righteous goal, lest we miss thy righteous goal.

Set our feet on lofty places; fill our lives, that they may be
strengthened with all Christ-like graces pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we fail our call from thee, lest we fail our call from thee.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
Let the search for thy salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore, serving thee whom we adore.