



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 18, 2026

Youth Mission Trip Celebration

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	“Piano Concerto in C by Mozart” arr. by Hayes	Tudor Bota
Welcome and Announcements		Lynn Horton
Ring the Bell and Centering for Worship		DEMM Worker
Call to Worship		DEMM Worker
We come together—young and old and every age in between—each one a beloved child of God.		
We belong to God, and we belong to one another.		
We come with different gifts, different stories, different questions, and different ways of serving.		
God calls every one of us to be part of Christ’s ministry.		
We celebrate children and youth who show us that faith is something we live, not simply something we believe.		
We celebrate all God’s people who answer the call to love and serve.		
So bring your whole self—your gifts, your questions, your hopes, and your heart.		
We belong to God. Let us worship together!		
*Opening Hymn	“O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee”	#602 Blue
Opening Prayer and The Lord’s Prayer		DEMM Worker
Holy God, you have called each of us by name and made us your own. You give gifts to children and adults, youth and elders, and call all of us to share in your work of love. Open our hearts this morning to the stories we will hear and the people around us. Show us where you are already at work and give us courage to join you. Remind us that wherever we go and whatever we do, we belong to you. We pray in Jesus’ name 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		DEMM Worker
The Peace of the Lord be with you.		
And also with you.		
Children’s Message		Will Hargett
Sending Song		#437 Blue
Go now in peace, go now in peace, may the love of God surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go.		
Prayer for Illumination		DEMM Worker
God of every generation, open our ears to hear your Word, our hearts to receive it, and our lives to live it. Speak to us through scripture and through one another, so that we may discover again what it means to belong to you. Amen.		
Scripture	Matthew 22:15-22 Pew Bible p. 803	DEMM Worker
Reader: The Word of God for the people of God All: Thanks be to God		

Hymn*"Sanctuary" (twice)**

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true;
with thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

Sharing Our Joys and Concerns

Pastor Lee

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

Pastor Lee

One: Am G Many: Am G C

A - - - men. A - - - men.

Invitation to the Offering

DEMM Worker

Offertory**"Lord, Listen to Your Children" by Ken Medema**

Chancel Choir

Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place; Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace. (repeat)

Something's gonna happen like the world has never known, when the people of the Lord get down to pray; a door's gonna swing open and the walls come a-tumbling down, when the people of the Lord get down to pray. Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place; Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace. You're gonna know it, when the Lord stretches out His hand, and the people of the Lord get down to pray; there's gonna be a brand new song of vict'ry in this land, when the people of the Lord get down to pray, to pray. And all the people sang: Lord, listen to your children praying, Lord, send your Spirit in this place; Lord, listen to your children praying, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace. Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace. Send us love, send us pow'r send us grace, grace.

Doxology*"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"**

#46-48 Blue

Prayer of Dedication

Pastor Lee

Closing Hymn*"Take My Life"**

#609 Blue

Benediction**Three-fold Amen****Postlude****"Sarabande" by Bach**



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): John & Sandy Lamplough

Head Usher Sue Sarafinas

Livestream Operator Vivian Hussey

Liturgist: DEMM participants

Deacon of the Day: Lindsay Moore

Nursery Coordinator Hunter Lyons

Coffee Hour Host:

Flowers Donated by Kathy & Mark Gaphardt in honor of the Pastoral Search Committee with grateful thanks for their hard work and dedication.

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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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 18, 2026

2026 DEMM Mission Work-Campers

Becky Acheson, Bennett Acheson, Brian Acheson, Caden Acheson, Willy Barrett, Jessie Bowers, Arthur Hargett, Will Hargett, Lucas Hart, Peter Lockwood, Charlotte Mulholland, Kai Pulliam, Anne Strobel, Lora Strobel, Kristin Strobel, Michele White, Peter White

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

Open and Affirming – Guest Speaker

The Open and Affirming Ministry will be hosting a guest speaker TODAY 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.

CCC History Display

Following church services on next 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 18	Worship	10:00 AM	Sanctuary
	Concert Choir Rehearsal	11:30 AM	Sanctuary
	ONA Speaker – Dr. Casey Brimmer	11:30 AM	Fellowship Hall
	Women’s Bible Study	7:00 PM	Zoom
Mon, Oct 19	ChristCare	7:00 PM	Zoom
Tues, Oct 20	Knitters & Crocheters	10:30 AM	Parlor
	Lunch Bunch	11:45 AM	Room 202
	House Committee Meeting	7:30 PM	Room 202
	SonLight Band	7:30 PM	Sanctuary
Wed, Oct 21	The Book of Revelation Study	10:30 AM	Room 202
Thurs, Oct 22	Bell Choir Rehearsal	5:30 PM	Room 312
	Choir Rehearsal	6:45 PM	Sanctuary

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

“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.

Hymn

“Sanctuary”

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true;
with thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

Closing Hymn

“Take My Life”

Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.
Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise,
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee,
swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing; unto God my praise I bring.
Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee,
filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use every power as thou shalt choose,
every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne,
it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store.
Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee,
ever, only, all for thee.