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, November 8, 2026 The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost 10 o'clock a.m.



**Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids – Matthew 25:1-13**

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** "Holy Ground," "How Majestic Is Your Name" arr. Hayes Tudor Bota
**Welcome and Announcements** Janet Paton
**Ringing the Bell and Centering for Worship** Wendy Perry

**Call to Worship** John Carson
Leader: In the quiet moments of waiting, in the busy routines of our week, God is at work.
People: **We gather to listen for the still, small voice that guides us.**
Leader: Bring your lamps, bring your questions, bring your open hearts.
People: **We come to refuel our spirits and rekindle our hope.**
Leader: Look around—God is doing a new thing in our midst and in our community.
All: **Let us worship with joy, ready to step into God's future together!**

***Opening Hymn** "Rejoice, You Pure in Heart" #15 Blue
**Opening Prayer and The Lord's Prayer** John
Faithful God, you meet us exactly where we are—in our sanctuary, in the streets of Chelmsford, and in the quiet places of our hearts. As we gather today in a season of discernment and transition, pour out your Spirit upon us. Fill our lamps with the oil of wisdom, compassion, and patience. Help us to keep awake to the needs of our neighbors and to the quiet ways you are inviting us to work side by side. We pray as Jesus 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** Merri Robison
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** Matthew 25:1-13 Pew Bible p. 806 Margie Dissinger
Reader: The Word of God for the people of God
**All: Thanks be to God**
**Sermon** Glenn Dissinger
***Hymn** "Called as Partners in Christ's Service" #453 Blue

**Sharing Our Joys and Concerns** Shaleena Pulliam
**Pastoral Prayer** Shaleena
**Invitation to the Offering** John

**Offertory** "All That I Am" by Himes Chancel Choir

All that I am, all I can be, All that I have, all that is me, Accept and use, Lord, as You would choose, Lord, Right now, today.

Take every passion, every skill, Take all my dreams and bend them to Your will; My all I give, Lord; for You I'll live, Lord, Come what may.

Often I come with my problems and cares, Running to You when distressed, But I must bring You the whole of my life – Lord, I must give You my best.

Life has no purpose unless it is Yours; Life without You has no goal; All that fulfills me is doing Your will, Knowing that You're in control.

All that I am, all I can be, All that I have, all that is me, Accept and use, Lord, as You would choose, Lord, Right now, today.

***Doxology** **"**Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow**"** #46-48 Blue

**Prayer of Dedication** Margie

***Closing Hymn** "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" #622 Blue

**Benediction** Karen Banakos

**Three-fold Amen**

**Postlude** "Courante" by Couperin Tudor

# Welcome to Central Congregational Church!

*No matter who you are, or where you are on your spiritual journey, you're welcome here!*

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**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.

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| **Greeter(s):** | Amy Provencal |
| **Head Usher** | Curtis Bates |
| **Livestream Operator** | Vivian Hussey |
| **Liturgist:** | John Carson |
| **Deacon of the Day:** | Shaleen Pulliam |
| **Nursery Coordinator** | Hunter Lyons |
| **Coffee Hour Host:** | |
| **Flowers** | Flowers are donated by KiSeLo in memory of Carol Engel.. |

***Many thanks to all who enrich our morning together.***

Central Congregational Church UCC

*"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 | tudormbota@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** | 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, November 8, 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 Tabernacle Congregational UCC in Salem. We invite you to keep them in your hearts and prayers throughout the week as we strengthen the bonds of our faith community.

**Lowell Transitional Living Center**
The SAM November initiative is Lowell Transitional Living Center (LTLC) a 24-hour staff supported emergency shelter. Please, consider donating some much-needed items. You can find the donation box in the church narthex with a list of items needed. The donation list is also provided in the November Beacon.
Thank you for your continued support!
Wendy Piacenza, winstlex@comcast.net

**Campfire & S'mores - Today**
Join others in Carson Park at 4:30 PM to enjoy fellowship, S'mores and the campfire. S'mores supplies will be provided, you can bring savory items to share.

**Sunday School Fall Hike**
Next Sunday, Nov. 15 Sunday School classes will meet at 10:00 am at 40 Janet Rd in Chelmsford for their annual hike in Thanksgiving Forest.

**United Day of Welcome Video Submissions**
CCC's social media team needs your help!
The Southern New England Conference is calling on churches to participate in a United Day of Welcome on Wednesday, Nov. 18. The idea is to raise the visibility of congregations across the Conference, to send a message to the public that there is a local church that will welcome them. On that day, churches are encouraged to post stories of welcoming, encouragement and love. "For someone who has been wounded by the church or wondered whether there is a place for them, seeing a message of welcome can be the beginning of hope," said Executive Conference Minister the Rev. Darrell Goodwin. "The United Day of Welcome invites our congregations to make the love of Jesus visible and personal. Let's tell our neighbors: you are beloved, your questions are welcome, and you do not have to leave any part of yourself at the door."
CCC's social media team is making a United Day of Welcome video. We humbly ask anyone who is willing to submit a video clip of themself or their family sharing a brief welcoming message.
Specifications:

- Please film your video vertically
- Please keep your video brief—less than 10 seconds long/1–2 sentences
- Please either answer the question "how do you know you're welcome at CCC?" or give a short welcoming statement ( "you are welcome here," "you are beloved," "your questions are welcome," "you do not have to leave any part of yourself at the door," etc)

Please email or text your short videos to Emmett Lyons at emmettmlyons@gmail.com or 978-930-1039

Thank you! –CCC Communications Committee

**2026 Advent Festival**

Please join us Sunday, November 29th immediately following the worship service for this year's Advent Festival. This is a fun tradition at CCC where everyone in the congregation gets together for fellowship and to bring in the Advent Season together. We will sing carols, enjoy music, and create crafts and Advent wreaths to take home. We also plan to share and enjoy a delicious potluck lunch - with your help! We ask that everyone bring an appetizer, main dish, or side dish to share and join in the festivities.

The Advent Festival is a tradition that our youth look forward to every year. We are very grateful for everyone who makes this day so special for them and all who are young at heart to enjoy!

Please sign-up at Coffee Hour or by using this link. We suggest a small donation for those who are able to help cover the cost of the event, $2 per person or $8 for the whole family. Sign-ups are just a way to help us plan for the day, but are not required, please attend regardless if you sign-up, donate, or not. All are welcome to celebrate the day together!!

We look forward to ushering in this Advent season with you!! *~Your Christian Education Committee*

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| **Sun, Nov 8** | Worship | 10:00 AM | Sanctuary |
| | Concert Choir Rehearsal | 11:30 AM | Sanctuary |
| | Campfire & S'mores | 4:30 PM | Carson Park |
| | Women's Bible Study | 7:00 PM | Zoom |
| **Mon, Nov 9** | Movie Group | 7:00 PM | Zoom |
| **Tues, Nov 10** | Knitters & Crocheters | 10:30 AM | Parlor |
| | Lunch Bunch | 11:45 AM | Room 202 |
| | SonLight Band | 7:30 PM | Sanctuary |
| **Wed, Nov 11** | Council Meeting | 7:30 PM | Zoom |
| **Thurs, Nov 12** | Bell Choir Rehearsal | 5:45 PM | Room 312 |
| | Choir Rehearsal | 7:00 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.



**CCC Holiday Fair 2026 – Jewelry Donations Requested!**

The Annual Holiday Fair is a month away on Saturday, November 21, 2026!

The Jewelry Table ladies need your donations as soon as possible so they will have the time needed to clean, repair, price, and organize the pieces.

Donations requested: earrings, necklaces, bracelets, rings, watches, and accessories. "Good" jewelry and costume jewelry are welcome! Pieces with gold, silver, and/or precious stones always sell well!

You may bring donations to the church, either to the office during the week, or to Sunday services. As soon as possible, please!

If a pickup at your home would be helpful, Lynn Horton can come at your convenience! (978) 256-9524 Lynn@terpsoft.com

Contact Amy Provencal if you have questions. (603) 801-7139 seekantik@gmail.com

If you would like to join the Jewelry Team, let Lynn or Amy know! Thank you!

**CCC Holiday Fair – Let's Get Ready!**

*Saturday, November 21, 2026, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm*
*Fellowship Hall*
The annual CCC Holiday Fair is one of the major fundraising events for our church budget!
Everyone is invited and encouraged to participate to help make the Fair a success!
You can –

- Donate items or services for the Silent Auction
- Bake delicious treats for the Bake Sale Table
- Donate Books, Games, and Puzzles for the Media & More Room
- Prepare pie dough and/or help bake the CCC Apple Pies
- Donate Jewelry, Christmas items, Handcrafts
- Help with Set Up or Clean Up
- Donate Bags for shoppers to take home purchases in
- Help staff a sales table or room
- Make a cash/check donation to support the Fair
- Come to the Fair! Shop! Have lunch! See church friends!
- Invite friends, family, neighbors! Spread the word!

Sign-ups begin during Coffee Hour on Sunday, November 1.
Or contact Lynn Horton, your Fair Chair, at (978) 256-8524 <Lynn@terpsoft.com>
*THANK YOU, everyone!*

# HYMN LYRICS

**Opening Hymn** **"Rejoice, You Pure in Heart"**

Rejoice, you pure in heart; lift praises to the sky; your festal banner wave with joy,
the cross of Christ raise high. Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

Bright youth and snow-crowned age, strong souls and spirits meek, raise high your free, exulting song,
God's wondrous praises speak. Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

With voice as full and strong as ocean's surging praise, send forth the hymns the saints have loved,
the psalms of ancient days. Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

Yes, on through life's long path, still singing as you go, from youth to age, by night and day, in gladness and in woe. Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

Praise God, who rules all worlds; the risen Christ adore. Parise God the Spirit, Holy Fire, one God for evermore! Rejoice, rejoice, rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

**Hymn** **"Called as Partner in Christ's Service"**

Called as partners in Christ's service, called to ministries of grace,
we respond with deep commitment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
May we learn the art of sharing, side by side and friend with friend,
equal partners in our caring to fulfill God's chosen end.

Christ's example, Christ's inspiring, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
let us follow, never faltering, reconciling folk on earth.
Men and women, richer, poorer, all God's people, young and old,
blending human skills together gracious gifts from God unfold.

Thus new patterns for Christ's mission, in a small or global sense,
help us bear each other's burdens, breaking down each wall or fence.
Words of comfort, words of vision, words of challenge, said with care,
bring new power and strength for action, make us colleagues, free and fair.

So God grant us for tomorrow ways to order human life
that surround each person's sorrow with a calm that conquers strife.
Make us partners in our living, our compassion to increase,
messengers of faith, thus giving hope and confidence and peace.

**Closing Hymn** **"Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"**

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land; I am weak, but thou art mighty; hold me with thy powerful hand; bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing waters flow; let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through; strong Deliverer, strong Deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield, be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside; bear me through the swelling current; land me safe on Canaan's side; songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever give to thee, I will ever give to thee.