TRIAD God Church Family

Central Congregational Church, UCC

115 Commonwealth Avenue Attleboro Falls, MA 02763

Telephone (508) 699-7700

E-Mail Address: centralucc@verizon.net

Website: https://www.attleborofallschurch.org



Worship Sunday's at 10:00am in-person and Online

December 21, 2025 FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT

Worship at 10:00am in-person/Sanctuary & by Zoom

Sermon: Waiting for Love

Fellowship Hr: Cheryl Peterson

The Sunday School Christmas
Pageant takes place today
during the 10am Worship
service. Join us!

December 16, 2025

Volume 55 Issue 23



Advent – the season of Hope, Peace, Joy & Love



December 24, 2025 CHRISTMAS EVE

Advent Readers: The Macie Family

Worship at 6:00PM

By Candlelight with the Sacrament of Holy Communion and the Choir in-person/Sanctuary & by Zoom.

All are Welcome!

December 28, 2025 First Sunday after Christmas

Worship at 10:00am in-person/Sanctuary & by Zoom Lessons and Carols Today.

Fellowship Hr: Peg Robinson for the Mission Committee



Each year on All Saints Sunday we remember the people who have left their mark on our church, our lives and our hearts. We focus on the journey of grief. In my sermon I mentioned resources I would include in our Triad. These insights are helpful markers along that road:

We've learned a few important things about grief:

Grief is not a straight road—it winds through laughter and tears, memory and silence.

- o It's not something to get over, but something to grow through."
- It is unique and non-linear:
 - It can come, subtly quietly whispering to your soul, or like a crashing wave overwhelming you with emotional paralysis.
 - There is no normal or prescribed way to move through grief. There are some helpful typical patterns of grief, but don't presume they apply universally or linearly.
- It involves more than just the initial loss:
 - You don't just lose a person; you also lose their roles, the dreams you had together, and the meaning in the role you played in their life.
- It can be a process of rebuilding, not just recovering:
 - The goal is not to "get over" the loss, but to learn how to build a meaningful life alongside the memory of the person you lost.
 - Time does not heal grief. You may feel you have gotten past its intensity only to be incapacitated by some small sight or sound or smell that activates it all over again.
 - Grief is normal, but if you still feel that it handicaps your capacity to live, or work, or relate after a few months it may be helpful to seek a therapist or group that specializes in grief work.
 - It means discovering the textures and images of a new landscape with that empty chair.

THANKSGIVING THOUGHTS:

Do you know that research tells us that the wiring of our brain makes it difficult for us to hold gratitude and anger in our mindset the same time? That's true as well for gratitude and depression. Or gratitude and sadness. Or gratitude and most any 'negative' emotion. The circuitry of our brain will toggle between one or the other but won't activate on both at the same time. It may seem like we are feeling both because that toggle can happen quickly; instantly. But the more we focus on gratitude, the harder it will be for those other emotions to take hold of our hearts.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

Advent is quickly approaching. I've heard so many folks talking about how quickly time seems to be moving. To help us find a sacred pace to the season we have a devotional crafted by a writers' group from our denomination. It is entitled: "Soon & Very Soon". It draws on images from that song that speak to how hard it is to wait for relief or justice or healing or resolution. We'll be weaving some of the themes from the devotional into our worship themes. Copies will be available Sunday morning in the Narthex. We also have an Advent Calendar. Each day you will have an opportunity to 'scratch' off a surface to reveal a prompt for prayer. Building on the worship themes of waiting for Hope, Peace, Joy and Love, the calendar will give you thoughts for reflection and prayer. This will also be available in our church Narthex.

See you in Church, Rev Don

CENTRAL CHURCH CALENDAR

Wednesday, December 17th

7:00pm Profile Writing Team meets in Vestry

Thursday, December 18th

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal/Vestry.

Saturday, December 20th

1-6pm / HALL RENTAL

Sunday, December 21st

10:00am Worship/Sanctuary

The Sunday School Pageant will take place during the worship service today.

Fellowship Hr: Cheryl Peterson

Monday, December 22nd

6:30pm PRAYER GROUP meets via Zoom. All welcome to join in. Use the same link you would use for worship or meetings.

Tuesday, December 23rd

TRIAD DEADLINE to submit news and information 7:00pm Mission Committee meets/Vestry & Zoom

Wednesday, December 24th

6:00pm CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP/SANCTUARY &

ZOOM Join us for worship by Candlelight with the Sacrament of Holy Communion and the Choir. *All welcome!*

Thursday, December 25th

CHRISTMAS DAY – MERRY CHRISTMAS! CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED.

Sunday, December 28th

10:00am Worship with Lessons and Carols in the Sanctuary with Rev Don and by Zoom. *No Sunday School Today. No Family Sunday Today.* **Fellowship Hr:** Peg Robinson for the Mission

Committee

Wednesday, December 31st

NEW YEARS' EVE

Thursday, January 1, 2026 HAPPY NEW YEAR!

1-5pm NEW YEAR LINE DANCE / HALL

*Church office Closed Today

*No Choir Rehearsal tonight.

Sunday, January 4, 2026

9:45am Sunday School/Daggett Lounge

10:00am Worship with the Sacrament of Holy

Communion/Sanctuary & Zoom Fellowship Hr: Trustee: Dave Will

Tuesday, January 6th EPIPHANY

Wednesday, January 7th

7:00pm Exec Council/Vestry & Zoom

Thursday, January 8th

6:00pm Memorial Gifts/Vestry 7:00pm Choir/Vestry

Saturday, January 10th

9:00am The Deacons would love to have your help taking down the Advent decorations in the church building. Supervised older children are welcome to lend a hand, too.

ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY THURSDAY, JANUARY 15TH

Our Parish Register

Please submit names for the January Prayer List by 12/23/2025.

Rev Carole, Ed, Jen, Mark, Madi, Jeannine, Richard, Judy, Megan, Rich, Tyler, Carmen, Karen, Suzanne, Laurie, Heather-Ann, Lorraine, Riley and the Cochran Family, Bruce and Donna Carpenter, The Woodhouse Family.

TRIAD DEADLINES

to submit news and information: *Tuesdays, December 23, January 6 & 20.*

ZOOM LINK FOR WORSHIP AND MEETINGS AS OF 03/2023

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2148198 082?pwd=b2krNFNOODRTQjVuWV RZSDJTVnc5dz09

> Meeting ID: 214 819 8082 Passcode: 1234



01 Carl Barry 22 Loretta Lomov 07 Carmen Lamoureux 23 Hannah Fish 10 Laura Robinson 23 Megan Spooner 24 Charlie Hepburn 11 Grace Booker 26 Nancy Shaw 16 Tyson Bolles 26 Ben Morse 19 Andrew Goss 19 Kyle Will 30 Danielle Pond 20 Stan Lockavitch 31 Phil McCally

COMMITTEE CORNER

From the Board of Deacons

Our next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 14, 2026 at 7:00pm / Vestry and by Zoom.

LITURGISTS – We are seeking People who would like to read the announcements in Church on Sunday mornings. Occasionally, you may be reading the Scripture lesson, as well. The announcements and any other readings are prepared for you and sent to you ahead of time by email. Please speak with Martha McHatton if you'd like more information.

ELEVATOR OPERATORS – We are seeking several people who would like to be part of our Hospitality Team by providing a lift in our elevator from the Vestry to the Sanctuary, and back down again, on Sunday mornings. This can be on a scheduled rotating basis, according to your availability. If you have weekday availability, we have the occasional funeral to provide elevator service for. We also have evening services a few times a year. Please speak with Martha McHatton if you'd like more information.

From Dave Valerio, Music Director

Choir Rehearsals for Grade 9 through Adult take place on Thursdays, at 7:00pm in the Vestry. All are welcome! No auditions – the only requirements are that you are willing to learn more about singing and want to have FUN! Come on over and check us out – and bring a friend! See Dave any Sunday for more information.

From the Profile Writing Team

Notes and Request from our Profile Writing Team

Our team has been working steadily these last several months gathering the foundational data and information for our Local Church Profile. This profile is the key story of our church that we want to present for our search for our next settled pastor. The next milestone for the profile will be the budget. Our 2026 budget will determine the compensation package for our next pastor (so get your pledges in as soon as you can and thank you for your generosity of spirit). Once this information is in place we will be holding a series of meetings in the New Year to engage our congregation in reflections and visioning. In the meantime, our Profile invites us to provide 2-4 pictures that capture the life, vibrancy and ministry of our church. If you have any photos (digital version) that might be helpful please email them to our church office so we can see which ones will help us tell our story.

From the Board of Trustees

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 at 7:00pm /Vestry & Zoom.

From the Christian Education Committee

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 28th at 7:00pm in the Vestry & by Zoom

The Advent season is upon us, and our Sunday School is gearing up for two joyful celebrations that bring the Christmas story to life in creative and memorable ways.

- Sunday School Christmas Event Bethlehem Bound in Route 66
 Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 9:45 am our children journey down Route 66 toward Bethlehem. This immersive event blends storytelling, scripture, and hands-on engagement to help kids experience the wonder of Christ's birth in a fresh, interactive way.
- Readers Theater Christmas Pageant
 On Sunday, December 21, 2025 at 10:00 am,
 our Sunday School students will participate in our
 intergenerational Readers Theater Christmas
 Pageant. Through spoken word and dramatic
 reading, they'll share the timeless story of Jesus'
 birth with warmth and creativity. It's a wonderful
 opportunity for families and the congregation to
 celebrate together.

Holiday Break Reminder

Sunday School classes will pause during the Christmas school vacation. We encourage families to enjoy this time together, reflecting on the gift of Christ's birth. Classes will **resume on Sunday, January 4, 2026**.

From the Executive Council

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026 at 7:00pm/Vestry & Zoom

From the Memorial Gifts Committee

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 8, 2026 at 6:00pm/Vestry & Zoom

An upcoming and ongoing project for our committee will be working on taking an inventory of current memorial gift plaques and those that are still needed.

Another ongoing project is the updating of our Memorial Book in the Narthex of the Church. We will go back to using the old Memorial book whose entries were handwritten. We are in search of a volunteer who has calligraphy skills or excellent handwriting. Please contact Kathy in the Church office or any member of the committee (Rich and Julie Goss, Jan Bisio, Heather Bonfilio, Bruce Carpenter, Judy Holland and Keith Darling).

Please let us know if you have suggestions for a new Remembrance Project!

From the Prayer Fellowship Group

"Prayer Fellowship—Refreshing Moments with God!"

Dates: 2nd & 4th Monday's:

Dec 8, 22 Time: 6:30 PM via ZOOM.

Everyone is welcome to participate in Prayer Fellowship! Together we celebrate the Lord's blessings with thanksgiving! We pray for the 'concerns of our church' and any concern on our minds. Silent prayer is always an option. It's a wonderful way to wind down after a busy day! You'll be refreshed! Jesus said, "Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them." Matthew 18: 19-20 ESV

Use the same zoom link as used for Sunday worship.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2148198082?pwd=b2krNFNO ODRTQjVuWVRZSDJTVnc5dz09

Containers for leaving Prayer Requests are found on the table in the Sanctuary Narthex & on the Vestry table under the Mission bulletin board. Index cards and pens are next to the containers. Requests are shared with Prayer Fellowship participants. You may also continue to send a prayer request in an email to the church office at

centralucc@verizon.net or call the church office at 508-699-7700.

From the Mission Committee

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 23, 2025 At 7:00pm/Vestry & Zoom.

"The purpose of the Mission Committee is to enable Central Congregational Church to fulfill its calling – to go out into the world and minister to those in need."

- CCC By Laws

DECEMBER MISSION - THE CHRISTMAS FUND

"...When they saw the Star, they were filled with JOY..."

Matthew 2:10

"For more than a century, The Christmas Fund has been a beacon of love and care – providing direct financial assistance to the healers in our lives: retired and active UCC ministers, faithful church workers, and their families. In 2024 alone, The Christmas Fund offered more than 1.7 million in support, touching the lives of 766 individuals across the UCC. This generosity made hope tangible. It meant:

- A couple could hear each other clearly again with the gift of hearing aids.
- A family found safety through a plane ticket out of a war-torn land.
- Mounting medical bills were eased during a time of deep crisis.

Each gift represented more than financial relief – they were a reminder of God's presence and the Church's love. This year, will you join **The Christmas Fund Community of Compassion**..." (Rev. Dr. Paul L. Ramsey, Director, Church Relations & Philanthropy/ United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance)

Central Congregational Church has annually supported The Christmas Fund, formerly known as 'Veterans of the Cross'. This special offering will be received during our Christmas Eve Service.

Your donation to this fund may also be mailed to the church office. Please make your check payable to Central Congregational Church and write 'The Christmas Fund' on the memo line of your check.

<u>NOVEMBER MISSION -</u> CHRISTMAS IS FOR KIDS 2025!

On Tuesday, December 2nd all of your gifts were delivered to CHRISTMAS IS FOR KIDS / Greater Attleboro Area Council for Children offices. Let's call it 'Santa Helpers Center'.

Thanks again for your enthusiastic support selecting gift tags from our Christmas 'wish' trees and joyfully delivering your gifts! Please pray that all of these children and families will enjoy their Christmas celebration. Not season' – the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

<u>UPDATES & OUTCOMES – 'THE HEARTBEAT INITIATIVE'</u>

Through her college work this year, Allison Darling, a member of our church, was able to provide volunteer service in Kisumu, Kenya at several community health centers and hospital. During her work she realized that across Kenya, police officers, firefighters, and community health providers are often the first to arrive at emergency scenes, yet few have access to CPR training. Without these lifesaving skills preventable deaths occur every day. To address this concern, Allison created The Heartbeat Initiative to address the need. The mission is to ensure no life in Kenya is lost because help arrived unprepared. They partner with local organizations to train first responders in CPR. Through structured, evidencebased workshops, participants learn how to recognize cardiac arrest, deliver chest compressions, and respond confidently before ambulance or hospital teams arrive.

The **Heartbeat Initiative** program not only builds individual skills, but it also strengthens the entire emergency response system. By empowering frontline responders, they are reducing time to first intervention, increasing survival rates, and fostering collaboration between community members and hospitals.

Allison is returning to Kisumu, Kenya between January 12-25.2026 to oversee a **Heartbeat Initiative** training event for 400 delegates. Allison, as founder of the Initiative, has been raising funds for the Initiative. Allison presented the focus of the Initiative and goal of providing CPR training events to the Mission Committee in November. The Mission Committee was impressed with the overall project plan to achieve the first training event. On behalf of Central Congregational Church, we agreed to contribute a financial gift of \$1500 from our Board Designated Fund to help achieve a \$17,000 budget for this event. Personal donations from church members are welcomed! Make your check payable to Central Congregational Church and add "Heartbeat Initiative" in the memo line. Thanks for supporting this new mission initiative in Kisumui Kenia. Pray for Allison as she works to fulfill "The Heartbeat Initiative" achieving 'Non-Profit Organization' status and the vision to establish CPR training in Kenya.

YEAR-ROUND MISSIONS

<u>Lenore's Pantry</u> — Thanks for recent food donations and please continue to give. Place purchased items in the marked bins located in the vestry or in the hallway of the CE building outside the church office. <u>We also gratefully receive your financial donations</u>. Be sure to write Lenore's Pantry on the memo line of your check.

Lenore's Pantry NEW 'Wish List': Cereal,
Condiments (ketchup, mustard, salad dressing, BBQ sauce), Tuna Fish, Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Individual bags of chips, individual bags of cookies, Ramen noodles, Progresso Soup. "Please keep in mind anything you have in your cupboards would be appreciated in our pantry!" Steve Berdos, Lenore's Pantry

<u>Our Shriner's Hospital Aluminum Tab Collection</u> - If you're not involved, join our regular contributors by saving the tabs from beverage cans and dropping them into the labeled round containers on the counter outside the church office or the container on the windowsill in the entry to the CE building. There is also a container in the Vestry located on the table under the Mission bulletin board.

UCC Disaster Ministries

The United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries supports long-term recovery and spiritual care initiatives after disasters made possible by contributions from the wider church. To contribute, write a check to Central Congregational Church and on the memo line write Storm Relief or the name of the storm or disaster.

Red Cross Blood Drives

The Red Cross states, "Every day, blood donors help patients of all ages: accident and burn victims, heart surgery, and organ transplant patients, and those battling cancer. In fact, in every two seconds, someone in the United States need bloods". To support Red Cross Blood Drives a web link is provided so you can quickly review a list of nearby blood drive locations. Eligibility to participate as a blood donor is also provided. Schedule a Blood, Platelet or Plasma Donation | American Red Cross

A few locations include:

12/17 – Plainridge Park Casino, 301 Washington St. Plainridge, MA 02762 – 1:00PM – 6:PM. **Register early to assure openings and eligibility**.

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S SPONSORSHIP PROGRAMS

Tibetan Refugee Self Help Center, Darjeeling, India Since January 2024 we have been sponsoring through UCC Global Ministries Child & Elder Sponsorship Program TENZIN YANGZOM. Tenzin is 8 years of age. Letters and drawings received from Tenzin and family information are posted on the mission bulletin board in the Vestry. The Mission Committee recently approved a gift donation of \$500 for the school, sent through the UCC Children's Sponsorship Office, to support the children's school and provide a fun event for Tenzins' classmates. This rehabilitation organization trains adults in handicraft arts to support their families while children are provided free education, in both Hindu and English. Textbooks and school supplies are provided. Please pray for Tenzin, her family and all of the families and children at the center.

<u>The Reverend Jean Parisot Foundation - St. Claire</u> School, Jacmel, Haiti

The Mission Committee recently sent our semi-annual gift of \$1000 to the foundation. An updated overview of recent completed and new proposed projects was recently received and is posted on the mission bulletin board. The sole focus of the Foundation is the operation of a liberal arts and vocational school. Currently the Foundation is running a grammar school for 125 children in preschool through eighth grade. Every child receives a nutritious meal in addition to a free education. Please pray for the school, its leadership, teachers, and students! Please feel free, anytime throughout the year, to send a donation for the school. Make your check payable to Central Congregational Church and add "Haiti School" in the memo line. Thanks for supporting and praying for the children of Haiti.

A Visit from St. Nicholas

(Written in 1823) By Clement Clarke Moore 1779 – 1863

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house,

Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse; The stockings were hung by the chimney with care, In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there; The children were nestled all snug in their beds, While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads; And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap, Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap, When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter.

I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter. Away to the window I flew like a flash. Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash. The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below, When, what to my wondering eyes should appear, But a miniature sleigh, and eight tiny reindeer, With a little old driver, so lively and guick. I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick. More rapid than eagles his coursers they came, And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name; "Now. Dasher! now. Dancer! now. Prancer and Vixen! On, Comet! on, Cupid! on, Donder and Blitzen! To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall! Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!" As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly. When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky; So up to the house-top the coursers they flew, With the sleigh full of Toys, and St. Nicholas too. And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof The prancing and pawing of each little hoof. As I drew in my head, and was turning around, Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound. He was dressed all in fur. from his head to his foot. And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot; A bundle of Toys he had flung on his back, And he looked like a peddler just opening his pack. His eyes—how they twinkled! his dimples how merry! His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry! His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow; The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth, And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath; He had a broad face and a little round belly, That shook when he laughed, like a bowlful of jelly. He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf, And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself; A wink of his eye and a twist of his head. Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread; He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work, And filled all the stockings; then turned with a jerk, And laying his finger aside of his nose, And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose; He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle. And away they all flew like the down of a thistle, But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight. "Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night."

(This poem is in the public domain).



December 2025

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT
REVISED 12/16/2025	01	02	7:00pm Exec Council, Trustees and Finance Committee meet in Vestry & by Zoom	7:00pm CHOIR REHEARSAL/ VESTRY	05	06
O7 THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION 9:45am SUNDAY SCHOOL 10am Worship/ Sanct & Zoom Fellowship Hr: Frank Bonfilio	08 6:30PM PRAYER GROUP/ ONLINE ONLY	09 TRIAD DEADLINE	10 7:00pm Deacons/Vestry & Zoom	7:00pm CHOIR REHEARSAL/ VESTRY	12	13 12noon – 7:00pm FUNERAL COLLATION / VESTRY HALL RESERVED for CE EVENT 4-9pm CHRISTMAS POTLUCK At the Peterson/Melen dy Home
14 9:45am SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:00am Worship/Sanct & Zoom Fellowship Hr: Kelliann Bachand SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING TODAY- VESTRY	15	16	17 7:00pm Profile Team meets /Vestry	18 7:00pm CHOIR REHEARSAL/ VESTRY	19	20 1-6pm HALL RENTAL
21 SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT TODAY DURING WORSHIP. 10:00am Worship/Sanct & Zoom Fellowship Hr: Cheryl Peterson	6:30PM PRAYER GROUP/ ONLINE ONLY	7:00pm Mission Committee/ Vestry & Zoom TRIAD DEADLINE	6:00pm CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP BY CANDLELIGHT WITH HOLY COMMUNION & THE CHOIR/ SANCTUARY	7:00pm CHOIR REHEARSAL/ VESTRY	26	27
28 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY 10:00am Worship/Sanct & Zoom Fellowship Hr: Peg Robinson	29	30	31			

Central Congregational Church, UCC 115 Commonwealth Avenue Attleboro Falls, MA 02763

Services of: Dec 21, 24 & 28, 2025

Central Congregational Church
United Church of Christ
ONA – An Open & Affirming Congregation
115 Commonwealth Avenue
Attleboro Falls, MA 02763

Phone: 508 699 7700
Email Address centralucc@verizon.net
Website: attleborofallschurch.org

INTERIM PASTOR - Rev. Don Remick
MUSIC DIRECTOR - Dave Valerio
CHURCH SECRETARY - Kathy Trowbridge

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday & Thursday – 8:30am – 4:30pm