

# 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](mailto:centralucc@verizon.net)  
Website: <https://www.attleborofallschurch.org>



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

**January 4, 2026**

Second Sunday after Christmas  
EPIPHANY SUNDAY  
The Sacrament of Holy Communion

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

**Sermon:** "The Wise Still Seek"  
Stars with random words on them will be handed out as focal points for faith growth and reflection throughout the year.

**Fellowship Hr:** Trustee, Dave Will  
9:45am Sunday School /Daggett Lounge

**December 30, 2025**

**Volume 55 Issue 24**



**January 11, 2026**

**BAPTISM OF CHRIST**

**Worship at 10:00am**

in-person/ Sanctuary & by Zoom

**Sermon:** "Focus on our WHY: What is Your Own WHY?"

**Scripture:** Isaiah 42:1-9, Matthew 3: 13-17

**Fellowship Hr:** Deacon, Nancy Brigham  
**Coffee Hour Conversations** – Finding our Church's WHY. All encouraged to attend Fellowship Hour today and participate.

**9:45am Sunday School /Daggett Lounge**

### CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATIONS FOR OUR LOCAL CHURCH PROFILE

Our Local Church Profile writing team has been quietly and persistently working all fall in the midst of the many events and activities in the life of our church. Their work continues in the New Year with a series of gatherings to seek the discernment and wisdom of our congregation to give shape and depth to the story that our profile will tell to potential candidates in our Search for a new Settled Pastor.

In the weeks leading up to Lent we are scheduling a few meetings to focus on particular sections of the profile:

- **January 11<sup>th</sup>** ...Coffee Hour Conversation focusing on our WHY ("Who Are We Now?"). This section describes our church's nature, finances, facilities, structure, and history.
- **February 1<sup>st</sup>** ...Coffee Hour Conversation focused on our Neighbor ("Who Is Our Neighbor?"). This section of the profile explores the community around us: its dreams, challenges, demographics, and opportunities as well as our engagement with it.
- **February ?** We'll be looking for a weekend afternoon or evening when we can gather around a meal (pizza) to draw on the insights from the previous conversations as we discern God's future for our church and the kind of pastor we need to partner with us into that future.
- We'll also be exploring some possible focus groups (eg church school families) to get their insights and aspirations.

This is some of our most essential interim time work and your presence and perspective is crucial to helping our church be healthy, faithful, effective and impactful into its future. We'll aim to have these sessions include ZOOM for those folks who enjoy warmer climes in our winter months.

**Questions about these focus meetings? Please see Rev Don any Sunday after worship.**

## Pastor's Ponderings



I was recently at a workshop that was based on some verses from Isaiah 65:

*17 For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth;  
the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.*

*18 But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating,  
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy and its people as a delight.*

It is my belief that God does not meet your ideal self — God meets the self you actually are. Or another way of putting it is God already loves you just as you are and loves you too much to let you stay that way.

I believe that God is constantly moving us towards becoming something new. Not because there is something wrong with us, but because there is joy there: joy and delight in the creating and creation.

And, while there may be much about this past year that we would like to put behind us and get ASAP to the new delightful creation in the New Year, I suspect God's work is not re-creation, but evolution of the creation we already are. Our Advent Wreath candles of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love pointed us towards the deep current of connection in our souls from which this evolution emerges.

As this New Year unfolds look for and notice where that deep current calls to your life, longing to move you towards that ever-new creation. That call is the voice of God.

And, on January 4<sup>th</sup> we will be celebrating Epiphany this year and will again make 'Star' words available. Perhaps, the word you pick will help you focus on the call of that voice.

### SPEAKING OF JOY:

Folks asked me to give them the insight and acronym for Joy in my December sermon. Here is what I shared towards the end of our reflections:

#### What Joy is connected to and emerges from.

- **Meaning & purpose:** Finding significance in life that enables us to make a difference.
- **Connection:** Those deep bonds with others and with God and creation.
- **Presence:** Connecting often with mindfulness to the present moment even in difficult times, while allowing for vulnerability and vibrancy.
- **Gratitude:** Appreciating beauty in all its forms in ordinary moments; the awe we can experience and the good in life.

#### How we connect, reconnect and deepen our connections to Joy:

We do our B. E. S. T.

1. **Beauty:** notice it
  - a. and express gratitude
2. **Engage in an activity that flows out of your meaning and purpose**
  - a. Remember who you are and who you are called to be
3. **Seek out the connections to people/God who care for you,**
  - a. who can be present to you
  - b. and hold all your emotions with you
  - c. without judgement, denial, or cliché platitudes or fixing.
4. **Take care of yourself:**
  - a. rest, nutrition, exercise

See you in Church,

*Rev Don*

# CENTRAL CHURCH CALENDAR

Wednesday, December 31<sup>st</sup> NEW YEARS' EVE

Thursday, January 1, 2026

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

1-5pm NEW YEAR'S LINE DANCE / HALL

\*Church office Closed Today

\*No Choir Rehearsal tonight.

Sunday, January 4, 2026

**EPIPHANY SUNDAY**

9:45am Sunday School/Daggett Lounge

10:00am Worship with the Sacrament of Holy Communion/Sanctuary & Zoom

Fellowship Hr: Trustee, Dave Will

Tuesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>

**EPIPHANY**

**TRIAD DEADLINE to submit news and information.**

Wednesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>

7:00pm Exec Council/Vestry & Zoom

Thursday, January 8<sup>th</sup>

1:00pm NomCom meets in the Pastor's Office

7:00pm Choir/Vestry

Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup>

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.

Sunday, January 11<sup>th</sup>

9:45am Sunday School/Daggett Lounge

10:00am Worship/Sanctuary & Zoom

Fellowship Hr: Deacon, Nancy Brigham

**“Coffee Hour Conversations” Gathering during Fellowship Hr Today**

Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup>

6:30pm Prayer Group meets by Zoom. All Welcome. Use the same link you use for Worship and Meetings.

Wednesday, January 14<sup>th</sup>

7:00pm Deacons meet in Vestry

Thursday, January 15<sup>th</sup>

**9am - LAST DAY TO SUBMIT ANNUAL REPORTS**

7:00pm Choir/Vestry

Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>

9:45am Sunday School/Daggett Lounge

10:00am Worship/Sanctuary & Zoom

Fellowship Hr: TBA

Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>

2:00pm Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Interfaith Worship/Here at our Church. One Elevator Operator, a few Ushers and Greeters and some pastries for a Fellowship Hour will be needed. Please see Martha McHatton or Pam Morse if you can lend a hand.

Tuesday, January 20<sup>th</sup>

**TRIAD DEADLINE to submit news and information.**

7:00pm Trustees meet/Vestry & by Zoom

Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>

7:00pm Choir/Vestry

Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>

**15<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING will be held following Worship Today/Vestry.**

**\*\*ANNUAL REPORTS ARE DUE TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY 9AM ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 15<sup>TH</sup>\*\* HELP WANTED TO ASSEMBLE THE BOKLETS – PLEASE CONTACT KATHY IF YOU ARE AVAILABLE ON FRIDAY, 01/16 FOR AN HOUR OR 2. THANK YOU! \*\***

## Our Parish Register

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

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

**UPDATE:** Heather-Ann Krasner received a kidney on 12/17 and is doing well. Keep your prayers coming – they're working!

## TRIAD DEADLINES

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

**ZOOM LINK FOR WORSHIP AND MEETINGS AS OF 03/2023**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2148198082?pwd=b2krNFNOODRTQjVuWVRZSDJTVnc5dz09>

**Meeting ID: 214 819 8082  
Passcode: 1234**



## January Birthdays

|    |                   |    |                 |
|----|-------------------|----|-----------------|
| 01 | Hunter Wilanson   | 19 | Lee Ann Spooner |
| 03 | Gretchen Morin    | 20 | Steve Martino   |
| 03 | Tyler Valerio     | 21 | Emily Brigham   |
| 06 | Peter Drayton     | 23 | Shayla Bolles   |
| 09 | Amber Follett     | 27 | Ryan Spooner    |
| 09 | Joe Brigham       | 30 | Bridget Bolles  |
| 11 | Juliana Carpenter | 31 | Stacey Boss     |
| 11 | Kaitlyn DiSalvio  |    |                 |

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 28<sup>th</sup>**  
at 7:00pm in the Vestry & by Zoom

### **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**  
**Changed to: Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**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.

### 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

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: 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Monday's:**

**January 12 & 26**

**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=b2krNFNOODRTQjVuWVRZSDJTVnc5dz09>

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](mailto: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.*

### **UPDATES & OUTCOMES – 'THE HEARTBEAT INITIATIVE'**

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, evidence-based 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 Kisumu Kenya. 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**

**Lenore's Pantry** – 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. **We also gratefully receive your financial donations.** 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

**Our Shriner's Hospital Aluminum Tab Collection** - 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](#)

## **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.**

## **The Reverend Jean Parisot Foundation - St. Claire 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.**



# January 2026

| SUN   | MON  | TUES   | WEDS  | THURS   | FRI       | SAT  |
|---|--|--|---|---|-----------|--|
|   |  |  |   | <b>01</b><br><i>NEW YEAR'S DAY</i><br>1-5PM NEW<br>YEARS' DAY LINE<br>DANCE<br><i>NO CHOIR<br/>REHEARSAL<br/>TONIGHT</i>                        | <b>02</b> | <b>03</b>  |
| <b>04</b><br><i>EPIPHANY</i><br><i>THE SACRAMENT<br/>OF HOLY<br/>COMMUNION</i><br><b>9:45am SUNDAY<br/>SCHOOL</b><br>10am Worship/<br>Sanct & Zoom<br>Fellowship Hr:<br>Dave Will   | <b>05</b>  | <b>06</b><br><i>EPIPHANY</i><br><b>TRIAD<br/>DEADLINE</b>        | <b>07</b><br>7:00pm Exec<br>Council/Vestry<br>& by Zoom | <b>08</b><br>1:00pm<br>Nominating Cmt<br>meets in Pastor's<br>Office<br>6:00pm Memorial<br>Gifts/Vestry<br>7:00pm CHOIR<br>REHEARSAL/<br>VESTRY | <b>09</b> | <b>10</b><br>9am Take down<br>Advent<br>decorations/<br>Church Building.<br><i>All welcome to<br/>lend a hand!</i> |
| <b>11</b> <b>9:45am</b><br><b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b><br>10:00am<br>Worship/Sanct &<br>Zoom<br>Fellowship Hr:<br>Nancy Brigham<br>“Coffee Hour<br>Conversations”<br>Gathering during<br>Fellowship Hr<br>Today. PLEASE<br>STAY! | <b>12</b><br>6:30PM PRAYER<br>GROUP/<br>ONLINE ONLY  | <b>13</b>  | <b>14</b><br>7:00pm<br>Deacons/Vestry<br>& Zoom         | <b>15</b><br>9am ANNUAL<br>REPORTS DUE<br>TODAY<br>7:00pm CHOIR<br>REHEARSAL/<br>VESTRY   | <b>16</b> | <b>17</b>  |
| <b>18</b> <b>9:45am</b><br><b>SUNDAY SCHOOL</b><br>10:00am<br>Worship/Sanct &<br>Zoom<br>Fellowship Hr:<br>TBA  | <b>19</b><br>2pm MLK Day<br>Service - Here<br>at our Church –<br>Sanctuary<br>w/Fellowship<br>Hr to follow in<br>the Vestry. | <b>20</b><br><b>TRIAD<br/>DEADLINE</b>                           | <b>21</b><br>7:00pm Profile<br>Team meets<br>/Vestry    | <b>22</b><br>7:00pm CHOIR<br>REHEARSAL/<br>VESTRY   | <b>23</b> | <b>24</b>  |
| <b>25</b> <b>*151<sup>ST</sup></b><br><b>ANNUALMEETING<br/>TODAY</b><br><b>*FAMILY SUNDAY</b><br>10:00am<br>Worship/Sanct &<br>Zoom<br>Fellowship Hr:<br>Mission – Peg<br>Robinson  | <b>26</b><br>6:30PM PRAYER<br>GROUP/<br>ONLINE ONLY  | <b>27</b><br>7:00pm<br>Mission<br>Committee/<br>Vestry &<br>Zoom | <b>28</b><br>7:00pm CE<br>Committee/<br>Vestry & Zoom   | <b>29</b><br>7:00pm CHOIR<br>REHEARSAL/<br>VESTRY   | <b>30</b> | <b>31</b>  |

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

**Services of: January 4 & 11, 2026**

**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](mailto:centralucc@verizon.net)  
Website: [attleborofallschurch.org](http://attleborofallschurch.org)**

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

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