

Pastor's Ponderings

If people don't come to church it is either because

1. the church does not have anything to offer them at their deepest level of need
2. the church has something they love and need at the deepest level and they don't *know* it.
(Where "Know" includes *awareness, trust, and believing*; actions, not words)

After over 40 years of observing, experiencing and researching church vitality and church decline I suspect the heart of it boils down to that. And such a binary is never as simple as it seems. I also follow an insight from Simon Sinek that people "don't care **what** you do until they know **why** you do it". The focus is not on getting people to know what we do. It is not about advertising, invitation or attraction. It is about understanding the deepest level of longing and need that people have. And that is complicated because, while we as human beings have some common deep levels of need, we are also diverse. The way one understands, experiences and seeks that need depends on their gender, age, ethnicity, culture, locale, orientation, conditioning and psychology (and this is likely an incomplete list). And no church can be all things to all people. I think that is why Jesus spoke about 'the least of these' and 'planting seeds' rather than forming a community, building a movement or starting a church.

We have a powerful "Welcome Statement" that we put in our bulletin each week. It speaks to a lot of deep needs. It may not speak to everyone; it doesn't have to. And it won't speak at all if it is words and not actions. I think that is the ministry to which Jesus continues to call us: living out the deepest level of what we claim as we engage in the community and world around us.

SEARCH TEAM UPDATE:

Our Local Church Profile was posted online at the beginning of September. This month we blessed our Search Team. They are in the process of determining how to receive and review profiles from potential candidates. They have also received guidance on how to communicate with candidates and move into and through the interview process. Please continue to hold our team in prayers as they engage in this sacred work over the next months.

A SPECIAL BREAKFAST CHURCH

On September 27th we will do another BREAKFAST CHURCH at 10 am (come a little early to set up your food and get yourself a plate before worship starts at 10)

This is a potluck breakfast event where we join in Worship, Food and Fellowship.

This Breakfast Church will be unique:

A powerful, Conference-wide worship service is being planned for Sunday, Sept. 27 at the DCU center in Worcester and we and all our sibling churches are invited to via the livestream.

The worship service will wrap-up the 7th Annual Meeting of the Conference, but all are invited to attend in-person or online, whether or not they attend the meeting

Our Conference tells us the service will include:

- Preaching by US Senator the Rev. Dr. Raphael Warnock, Senior Pastor of the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, spiritual home of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- A special blessing of the youth of the Conference. Churches are invited to bless their own youth simultaneously
- Special music offered by LaQuentin "Q" Jenkins, Worship Leader of Valley Kingdom Ministry International in Oak Forest, Illinois
- Music by a Conference Choir, directed by Amanda Hanzlik, Director of Music at Immanuel Congregational Church in Hartford, CT
- A children's message
- The baptism of Kyrie, the daughter of Executive Conference Minister the Rev. Darrell Goodwin and his spouse, Kentavis Goodwin-Brice

Let us know what you plan to bring to add to the Breakfast variety.

See you in Church,
Rev. Don

CENTRAL CHURCH CALENDAR

Tuesday, September 29th

2-6pm PUMPKIN PATCH VOLUNTEERS WANTED

6-9pm Dance/Hall

Wednesday, September 30th

2-6pm PUMPKIN PATCH VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Thursday, October 1st

2-6pm PUMPKIN PATCH VOLUNTEERS WANTED

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal/Vestry

Friday, October 2nd

2-6pm PUMPKIN PATCH VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Saturday, October 3rd

10am-6pm PUMPKIN PATCH VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Sunday, October 4th

10am Worship/Sanctuary

Fellowship Hr: Cheryl Peterson

2-6pm PUMPKIN PATCH VOLUNTEERS WANTED

6-9pm AA Meets/Hall

Monday, October 5th

6-9pm Dance/Hall

2-6pm PUMPKIN PATCH VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Tuesday, October 6th

TRIAD DEADLINE

2-6pm PUMPKIN PATCH VOLUNTEERS WANTED

6-9pm Dance/Hall

Wednesday, October 7th

2-6pm PUMPKIN PATCH VOLUNTEERS WANTED

7pm Executive Council meets in vestry & by Zoom

Thursday, October 8th

2-6pm PUMPKIN PATCH VOLUNTEERS WANTED

7pm Choir Rehearsal/vestry

Friday, October 9th

2-6pm PUMPKIN PATCH VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Saturday, October 10th

10am-6pm PUMPKIN PATCH VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Sunday, October 11th

10am Worship/Sanctuary

Fellowship Hr: Deacon, Cheryl Rogers

2-6pm PUMPKIN PATCH VOLUNTEERS WANTED

6-9pm AA Meets/Hall

Monday, October 12th INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY

6-9pm Dance/Hall

2-6pm PUMPKIN PATCH VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Tuesday, October 13th

2-6pm PUMPKIN PATCH VOLUNTEERS WANTED

6-9pm Dance/Hall

Wednesday, October 14th

2-6pm PUMPKIN PATCH VOLUNTEERS WANTED

7:00pm Deacons meet in Vestry & by Zoom

Thursday, October 15th

2-6pm PUMPKIN PATCH VOLUNTEERS WANTED

7:00pm Choir Rehearsal/Vestry

Special Announcements:

A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, November 1st at 3pm at the Purple Rooster Café, Rt 1, No. Attleboro (Fresh Catch Plaza) to remember Charlotte Harrington. All are cordially invited to attend.

Our Congratulations to Keith Darling on being appointed Fire Chief in Northborough, MA. Keith begins his new position as Chief on October 1st. Join us in wishing him great success in his new, well-deserved position!

Our Parish Register

Please submit names for the November Prayer List by 10/20/26.

Rev Carole, Ed, Jen, Mark, Madi, Jeannine, Richard, Rich, Heather-Ann, Carmen, Suzanne, Lee, Helen-Anne, Jen, Noli, Elliot, Follett Family, Karen & Bob, Kristen, Kerrin, Rev. Dr. John Fisk, Enquist Family, Rev Don Remick and Family, Jen, Noli & Elliot, Lori & Donald, Arnold & Elaine, Ed, Del Nunes on the passing of Charlotte Harrington, Kathy Dolley & Family on the passing of her Dad Kenneth Snay, Lida, Billy, Shannon, Jen Mischley & Family, Pat, Keith, John, Michael, Bill, Jim C., those living in nursing homes, those living in war torn areas around the world, and for world peace in our lifetime.

Our Sympathy to...

Del Nunes on the passing of **Charlotte Harrington** on September 10th.

Kathy Dolley on the passing of her Dad, **Kenneth Snay** in mid-September. Services were held on September 18th.

TRIAD DEADLINES

to submit news and information:

Tuesday Deadlines – October 6 & 20.

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2148198082?pwd=b2krNFNOODRTQjVuVVZRZSDJTVnc5dz09>

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



October Birthdays

03 Judy Holland	08 Colton Shuman
14 Nancy Brigham	14 Doreen Cheney
15 Gil Reynders	21 Julieanna Wilanson
21 Pam Morse	24 Wana Reynders
26 Heather Bonfilio	31 Mike Dunbar

COMMITTEE CORNER

From the Board of Deacons

Our next meeting will be held

Wednesday, October 14, 2026 at 7:00pm

Vestry and by Zoom.

ELEVATOR OPERATORS WANTED: We are looking to have a few more folks available on Sunday mornings to assist folks in using our elevator to go up to the Sanctuary for worship. It's easy to use and a brief training will be supplied. Please speak with Martha McHatton if you'd like to know more.

LITURGISTS WANTED: Would you like to read in Church? We are seeking a few more folks who would read prepared scripture verses, announcements and more during worship on Sunday mornings. You can give it a one-time try and see whether you like it. Please see Martha McHatton for more information.

From the Search Team

The Church's profile is completed and has been approved. We are officially searching for our new settled Pastor! Our profile went live on September 1st, and we should begin receiving applicants at any time now. The search team will be handling the process from here on out through finding a Pastor and hiring him/her. Watch the Triad and attend church on Sundays to hear updates and news on the official Search.

From the Board of Trustees

Our next meeting will be held on

Tuesday, September 15th, 2026 at 7:00pm

In the Vestry & Zoom.

CEMETERY CLEAN-UP - We are talking with Rev Kelly Thibeault, Pastor at First Congregational Church, Oldtown, to get information from her for a group who restores and repairs old cemetery headstones. Our cemetery behind the church could use some love. If you are interested in learning how and doing the cleaning or restoration, please contact Kathy in the church office. She will keep a list of interested volunteers and pass along the info to our group once we have it. So far, we have one person interested in lending a hand.

YARD WORK DAY - We are looking to see if anyone is interested in getting together to do some additional clean-up

work around the Church and CE Buildings this September. We held a July Clean-up day several years ago and it was a huge success! After the clean-up day we enjoyed a free lunch in the cool vestry with donated sandwiches, chips and desserts. Free Waters and Gatorades were available throughout the morning as well. We began on a Saturday at 8am and finished at 12noon. We are hoping to put together something similar. ***Please contact Kathy in the church office if you'd like to lend a hand. You need not stay the entire time – any time you have to give is needed and greatly appreciated.*** The exact day and times will be determined by those who volunteer and their availability. Individual participation (Your own day and time) is also welcome! Students needing community service hours welcome. Older elementary students accompanied by a parent or guardian are also welcome.

Here's a few things we'd like to have done:

1. Using a string trimmer to weed whack the weeds and grass growing in the cracks in the sidewalks around both buildings, and the vines growing along the rock wall at the cemetery on the Towne street side.
2. Using a home-made, organic weed killer solution, kill the weeds growing in the church parking lot, and spray the sidewalk areas after the weeds are removed.
3. Clear the brush and spray weed killer all around the tomb at the point - end of the cemetery.
4. Straighten up any HEAD IN PARKING signs along the hill in the church parking lot as needed
5. Spread the crushed pavement material out into areas where it dips and water puddles in the Church parking lot.
6. Pull weeds from the garden area in front of the church building.
7. Anything else you can think of...? ***(remember to get approved by Trustees before doing).***

From the Christian Education Committee

Our next meeting will be announced.

From the Executive Council

Our next meeting will be held on

Wednesday, October 7th at 7pm/Vestry & Zoom.

From the Memorial Gifts Committee

Our next meeting will be held on

Thursday, November 12th at 6:00pm/Vestry & Zoom

The Memorial Gifts Committee did not meet over the summer months but we are looking forward to getting back to work at our next meeting. Please notify a committee member if you have any suggestions for a gift in memory of someone.

From the Prayer Fellowship Group

"We love and serve a God who delights in hearing our voice in prayer! How grateful we can be that the God of glory hears our sighs and our cries. Even our tears are liquid words, and he can read them all. Our God answers prayer. He whispers to us his messages of love & truth."

– Brian Simmory, "I Hear His Whisper".

Our Prayer Fellowship Group meetings, via zoom, are held on the second and fourth Monday of each month at 6:30pm. Upcoming dates are September 28th, October 12th & 26th, November 9th & 23rd. All are invited to participate as we pray for the requests listed in 'Our Parish Register', included in the Triad, and other concerns expressed during the call and those spoken during Sunday worship.

Use the same zoom link as used for Sunday worship.

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

Be reminded that containers for leaving Prayer Requests are found on the table in the Sanctuary Narthex and 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, October 27th, 2026 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

Our August Mission project was the collecting of Gift Cards for our most recent Central Congregational Church graduates. We extend sincere thanks to everyone who took the time to shop for these cards or made a monetary donation so that we can give these young adults a boost!

September has been a very busy month as we have prepared for the Sixth Annual Children's Clothing Give – A- Way. We have been blessed by many generous people who have donated clothing, shoes and books to the members of our community, whose children will enjoy a like-new outfit or two for this school year. We really appreciate the way our members and friends have spread the word about this event.

Each year we have seen an increase in businesses and organizations who are willing to help with advertising and collection of supplies. The Give-Away would not be so successful without this concerted effort.

Our October Mission project will be the support of Homes for Our Troops, which you may recall is a program we have supported in the past. On October 4th Cheryl Peterson will present our Moment for this Mission and will tell us a bit about the special requirements that are needed in these homes. Our increased understanding of the way the program serves our veterans will help us to more effectively support this Mission.

From the Pumpkin Patch Team - Fall 2026

Volunteers needed to staff the Patch daily throughout the month of October.

Look for the Volunteer Sign-up sheet in the Vestry or use the online calendar link below to sign up for a shift or two: **<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0B4FA4A923A7F94-65542004-copy>**

Feel free to sign up for a single shift or as many shifts as you'd like to fill. Thank you for making this fundraiser a huge success each year!

Mr. Pumpkin will be attending the Pumpkin Patch for many more hours this year!

He is seeking **small toys (Think Oriental Trading type – bubble wands, water press-on tattoos, small word search or puzzle books, kazoos, whistles, light sticks, sticker sheets, etc).**

Also seeking **candies** to hand out to the children when they come to visit the Patch. **Please look for small, individually wrapped candies – think of Halloween sized pieces. Non-Chocolate candies and snacks are preferred since we don't have a way to keep them cool outside. Small individually wrapped snacks are also wanted such as Gold Fish Crackers, pretzels, animal crackers, cookies, popcorn.**

DONATION DROP-OFF: You may drop off your donations directly to Bruce Carpenter any Sunday after church, to the church vestry anytime – be sure to label them **"FOR MR. PUMPKIN"** or bring to the church office during office hours. *Many thanks!*



October 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT
NOTE: AA Group meets every Sunday 6-9pm/Hall				01 PUMPKIN PATCH SALE HOURS: 2-6PM	02 PUMPKIN PATCH SALE HOURS: 2-6PM	03 9AM – 10:30AM AA CLEANING/ HALL PUMPKIN PATCH SALE HOURS: 10AM-6PM
04 THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY 10am Worship/ Sanct & Zoom Fellowship Hr: Cheryl Peterson PUMPKIN PATCH SALE HOURS: 11AM-6PM	05 PUMPKIN PATCH SALE HOURS: 2-6PM 6-9pm LINE DANCE/HALL	06 TRIAD DEADLINE PUMPKIN PATCH SALE HOURS: 2-6PM 6-9pm LINE DANCE/HALL	07 PUMPKIN PATCH SALE HOURS: 2-6PM 7:00pm Exec Council meets in Vestry & by Zoom	08 PUMPKIN PATCH SALE HOURS: 2-6PM No Memorial Gifts/meeting Tonight 7pm Choir Rehearsal/Vestry	09 PUMPKIN PATCH SALE HOURS: 2-6PM	10 9AM – 10:30AM AA CLEANING/ HALL PUMPKIN PATCH SALE HOURS: 10AM-6PM
11 10am Worship/Sanct & Zoom Fellowship Hr: Cheryl Rogers PUMPKIN PATCH SALE HOURS: 11AM-6PM	12 PUMPKIN PATCH SALE HOURS: 2-6PM 6pm ONLINE PRAYER GROUP MEETS/ZOOM 6-9pm LINE DANCE/HALL	13 PUMPKIN PATCH SALE HOURS: 2-6PM 6-9pm LINE DANCE/HALL	14 PUMPKIN PATCH SALE HOURS: 2-6PM 7:00pm Deacons meet in Vestry & by Zoom	15 PUMPKIN PATCH SALE HOURS: 2-6PM 7pm Choir Rehearsal/Vestry	16 PUMPKIN PATCH SALE HOURS: 2-6PM	17 9AM – 10:30AM AA CLEANING/ HALL 9am – 5pm SCRAPBOOK GROUP/VESTRY PUMPKIN PATCH SALE HOURS: 10AM-6PM
18 10am Worship/Sanct & Zoom Fellowship Hr: Rich Goss PUMPKIN PATCH SALE HOURS: 11AM-6PM RUMMGE DROP- OFF 11:15AM – 2PM/HALL	19 RUMMGE DROP-OFF 1-4PM & 6-8PM HALL PUMPKIN PATCH SALE HOURS: 2-6PM NO LINE DANCE/HALL →	20 TRIAD DEADLINE RUMMGE DROP-OFF 1-4PM & 6-8PM HALL PUMPKIN PATCH SALE HOURS: 2-6PM 7pm Trustees/Vestry & Zoom	21 RUMMGE DROP-OFF 1-4PM & 6-8PM HALL PUMPKIN PATCH SALE HOURS: 2-6PM	22 RUMMAGE SALE 9AM – 6PM/HALL PUMPKIN PATCH SALE HOURS: 2-6PM 7pm Choir Rehearsal/Vestry	23 RUMMAGE SALE 10AM – 3PM PUMPKIN PATCH SALE HOURS: 2-6PM	24 RUMMAGE SALE 1AM – 1PM/HALL CLEAN-UP HELP WANTED AT 1PM. PUMPKIN PATCH SALE HOURS: 10AM-6PM
25 STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY 10am Worship in the Sanctuary & by Zoom Fellowship Hr: Barbara B. for the Mission Committee PUMPKIN PATCH SALE HOURS: 11AM-6PM	26 PUMPKIN PATCH SALE HOURS: 2-6PM 6pm ONLINE PRAYER GROUP MEETS/ZOOM 6-9pm LINE DANCE/HALL	27 PUMPKIN PATCH SALE HOURS: 2-6PM 6-9pm LINE DANCE/HALL 7:00pm Mission Committee meets in Vestry & Zoom	28 PUMPKIN PATCH SALE HOURS: 2-6PM	29 PUMPKIN PATCH SALE HOURS: 2-6PM 7pm Choir Rehearsal/Vestry	30 PUMPKIN PATCH SALE HOURS: 2-6PM	31 PUMPKIN PATCH SALE HOURS: 10AM-6PM

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

Services of: October 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
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**