



WEST CHELMSFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

242 Main Street, North Chelmsford, MA 01863

Tele. # 978-251-4834 email: office@wcumc.us Church website: www.wcumc.us

Pastor: Rev. Geisa Y. Matos

WCUMC Faith, Family, and Future are the Cornerstones of this nurturing community.

MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

From the Pastor's Desk

A Season for Kindness

While at the salon, my hairdresser shared how upset she felt after receiving a harsh online review. A client had left a negative comment simply because she was three minutes late. Despite her pleas for patience, the client posted the review anyway. This was especially difficult since she had just relocated her salon, investing more than expected in renovations, hoping for a fresh start.

Fortunately, the clients in the salon responded with incredible kindness. They became a supportive community as each promised to leave a positive review based on their own experiences. What moved me most was that they did it right then and there, determined to help her business thrive.

As I watched, I couldn't help but think of the Acts of Kindness Calendar our Congregational Care Committee (CCC) created for Lent. One suggested act is leaving a positive review for a local business. But what I saw in that salon went beyond a task on a list—it was compassion in action. (The Kindness Calendar is included in this newsletter.)



We often talk about sharing our faith and being a light in the darkness. One simple way is by telling others about the good we see. In our Vitality Committee meetings and during worship, we've encouraged each other to share about our church online. If someone were searching for a place to belong, what would you tell them about West Chelmsford UMC? Would you share how we're committed to loving our

neighbors and practicing the Golden Rule? Would you mention our dedication to interfaith dialogue, our advocacy for immigrant rights, or how this church has sustained your faith?

As always, we'll begin Lent with our Ash Wednesday service. In light of the ongoing immigrant rights crisis, both our church and Aldersgate UMC have decided to dedicate this year's offering to Justice for Our Neighbors, a ministry that supports God's children suffering due to their immigration status.

Ash Wednesday also offers us the opportunity to repent from our sins. May we repent for the times we've failed to live by the Golden Rule—whether by offering harsh words for minor inconveniences or by failing to show kindness when it was most needed. May we remember that we were created for such a time as this—a time when small acts of kindness can bring healing. May embrace the fact that in a world overwhelmed by negativity, kindness is a powerful antidote.

Sincerely,

Pastor Geisa

Acts of Kindness Calendar for Lent 2025

Acts of Kindness have a ripple effect!



March 5-April 17, 2025

This year, for Lent, we invite you to focus on the power of acts of Kindness and sharing their transforming power with others.

You will be offered an ***Acts of Kindness Calendar*** with 40 Acts of Kindness for you to reflect on and act on if you choose. We have provided a bible verse we felt supported the daily Act of Kindness.

Calendars are available on the Usher's Table and in the office. If you are unable to get a calendar at church, you can access this information on the [church webpage](#).

Remember...Kindness grows. Every small gesture you make, even if it feels like a drop in the ocean, creates a ripple that travels farther than we ever realize. Our hope is that this calendar brings moments of joy, laughter, and inspiration to Lent this year for you and that together, we'll create ripples of kindness that spread in wonderful, unexpected ways. Invite others to join you by sharing a calendar.

Bless you on this journey!

Congregational Care and Worship team

Prayer List



We encourage you to clip out these names and keep them in your prayers.

Please contact the church office if you would like your name to be added or removed from any of the prayer lists.

It's never too late for a note, a card, or a call.

Those who are at home or in nursing homes:

Betty Chaput – at The Saab Center at D'Youville in Lowell

Beverley Jones – at Summer Place in Chelmsford

Mary Lynn Weinbeck – at home



Prayer list for on-going health needs:

Judi Hill

Jen Weinbeck's friend, Mike, as he recovers from a kidney transplant, and prayers for the family of the donor

Lisa Dushais

Inspirational Corner



Do you have any favorite inspirational poems, short stories, or devotions? If so, please e-mail them to Roberta in the church office at office@wcumc.us. We want to share these in upcoming newsletters.

Daylight Savings Time

Spring ahead, fall back. On Sunday, March 9, 2025, Daylight Savings Time begins. Don't forget to change your clocks ahead one hour.



Ash Wednesday Service

Ash Wednesday Service – This year, the Ash Wednesday service will be held at Aldersgate UMC on **Wednesday, March 5, 2025, at 7:30 PM**. If you cannot attend the service in person, Aldersgate has a live YouTube link. The live link is <https://www.youtube.com/@aldersgateumcchelmsfordus7382/featured>. Then click on the “Live” tab near the top of the page.

This year, the small vials of ashes will not be available for the online participants. If you are participating online, here are a few ways to participate during the Imposition of Ashes. Burn a palm from last year. Burn a small amount of paper. Char a cork with a match. Use a small amount of oil. Through our Ash Wednesday worship, we are invited to engage in acts of repentance. The substance used is not as important as the act of repentance in which each person participates.

Holly Cerullo and Roberta Davidson-Stratton

St. Paul's Meal

The sign-up sheet for the St. Paul's Meal is now online. To volunteer, please click on the following link. The St. Paul's Meal will be served on **Wednesday, March 26, 2025**.

Please note we have increased the number of items to prepare the monthly meal at St. Paul's Soup Kitchen. The meal count continues to increase each month, and we need additional items. Thank you for your support of this important mission.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040448A8AB28AAFF2-55395030-stpauls>

Envelope Fundraising for the Ian MacPherson Scholarship Fund

The WCUMC Ian MacPherson Scholarship Fund Committee will need to replenish funds to keep giving scholarships. We are introducing a new type of fundraiser, *Envelope Fundraising*. A bulletin board has been prepared with hidden pictures behind rows of envelopes. Each envelope is pre-marked with dollar amounts on each one. Simply choose an envelope with a specific denomination from the board and return it by mail or drop it in the collection plate. As the envelopes are taken, the photos will be revealed. **The fundraiser will run during Lent, March 5th – April 17th**. Make this your devotion during Lent.

WCUMC has provided scholarships for graduating high school seniors planning to continue their education since 1972. Fundraising has not been done since 2019, pre-Covid, creating the need to keep this program alive. Please join us in showing our young church members that we care about their future by taking an envelope and returning it with your donation.

Many thanks,
Sue Loiselle & Scholarship Committee, 2025

Silent Auction to Benefit the WCUMC Ian MacPherson Scholarship Fund

The Scholarship Committee will conduct a silent auction as a way to replenish the funds needed to continue awarding scholarships to our high school graduates.

The auction will run for six weeks, from April 13, 2025, to May 18, 2025. The current nature of our worship and other church activities requires the auction to be held differently and to take advantage of the internet, which, to my knowledge, did not exist the last time our church had such an event.

The items up for auction, and the current bid will be posted in the weekly newsletter and on the bulletin board at the entry to the education building. There will be a link in the newsletter that will allow you to bid on any item. The link will send you directly to my e-mail address, esquaremdi@aol.com. Please include the word auction in all e-mails. On May 18th, those with the highest bid will win.

To conduct the auction, we will need things for folks to bid on. These could include any type of goods or services. Examples of items from past auctions and newer ideas are:

- A weekend at someone's summer home
- A special meal for some number of people prepared and delivered to someone's home
- A ride to and from Logan Airport or another Boston location
- Crafts – any type
- Small household repairs or yard work.
- Any other unique idea you may have, perhaps great grandma's soup taurine?

If you have something to contribute, please let me know what it is by e-mail. My address is esquaremdi@aol.com. In addition, please include what should be considered a minimum starting bid.

Thanks for helping our deserving young folks,
Elly Evans

Sunday School News

In February, we began our rotation curriculum. Through art, music, and cooking, we explored the Bible story of a faithful man named Noah. The Noah's Ark story reminds us that God loves and cares for all creation and that God made a special covenant with Noah and all living things, and the rainbow is a sign of that covenant.

Most of March continues the study of Noah through science, storytelling, games, and video. On March 30th, we will have the first of several Easter lessons.

A registration form was sent to all Sunday School families, but if you haven't filled it out yet, you can access it here: <https://forms.gle/TXndPVzhw8gj3Awi6>.

If you are interested in volunteering in our Sunday School program, please contact Kathy Clark (Sunday School Superintendent) at kathysbiz@verizon.net or 978-857-1651.

The WCUMC Ian MacPherson Scholarship was established for those students graduating from high school who have been active in Sunday School, MYF, youth mission work, youth choirs, or church programs in general. The application will be available online as of April 1st, and the deadline for submission will be April 30th by midnight.

Easter Flowers

Easter is on **Sunday, April 20, 2025**. The flowers will be preordered. Keep an eye out for the poster to sign up. More details will become available shortly.

- Double Stem White Lilies are \$20.00 per pot
- 6" Tulips are \$10 per pot
- 7" Hyacinths (blue) are \$10.00

If you have any questions, please get in touch with Diana Bard at 978-692-7668.



Summer Camp

Summer is just around the corner. If you are looking for a summer camp experience for your child, the following camps are accepting registrations.

- **Aldersgate** – Brochures are available in the Education Wing Lobby. To register for Aldersgate's Summer Camp, [click here](#).
- **Mechuwana** – For information and Camp Registration, [click here](#).
- **Wanakee** – For information regarding their Summer Schedule, [click here](#). To register, [click here](#).



Church Office Information

- The Church Office is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. The office phone number is 978-251-4835, and the email address is office@wcumc.us.
- Rev. Geisa is off on Monday's and her office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM.
- We have six e-mail addresses:
office@wcumc.us – for general church business
pastormatos@wcumc.us – for Rev Geisa only
music@wcumc.us – for Karen Leonard, Music Minister
treasurer@wcumc.us – for Kimberly Stewart, Church Treasurer
fin_sec@wcumc.us – for Ellen O'Neill, Financial Secretary
trustees@wcumc.us – for the Trustees
- Church Website is www.wcumc.us
- Items for the mid-week email are due in the church office by **Monday morning**.
- Items for the church bulletin insert are due in the church office by **Tuesday morning**.
- Items for the **monthly Newsletter** are due in the church office on the third Monday of each month. **All articles must be signed**. The next submission deadline is **Monday, March 17, 2025, for the April 2025 Newsletter**.



March

2025



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|-----------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 9:30AM Worship Service In-Person & via Zoom 9:30AM-Sunday School 10:30AM-Coffee Hour 1:30PM-MVR Rehearsal 3:00PM-Westford Girl Scout Troop 70533 Mtg 6:00PM-Christianity & World Religion | 3 6:45PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Wolf Den Mtg. 7:00PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Arrow of Light Den Mtg 7:30PM-Occasional Ringers Rehearsal | 4 10:00AM-Congregational Care 7:30PM-Festival Ringers Rehearsal | 5 7:00PM-Missions via Zoom 7:15PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Bear Den Mtg 7:30PM-Ash Wednesday service at Aldersgate UMC | 6 7:30PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal | 7 6:45PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Den Mtg. | 8 |
| 9 9:30AM Worship Service In-Person & via Zoom 10:00AM-Sunday School 10:30AM-Coffee Hour 1:30PM-MVR Rehearsal | 10 6:00PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Tiger Den Mtg 7:30PM-Occasional Ringers Rehearsal | 11 7:00PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Webelos Den Mtg. 7:00PM-Committee on Children & Youth via Zoom 7:30PM-Finance via Zoom | 12 7:15PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Bear Den Mtg 7:30PM-Trustees via Zoom 7:30PM-Festival Ringers Rehearsal | 13 7:30PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal | 14 6:00PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Bear Den Mtg | 15 |
| 16 9:30AM Worship Service In-Person & via Zoom 10:00AM-Sunday School 10:30AM-Coffee Hour 1:30PM-MVR Rehearsal 3:00PM-Westford Girl Scout Troop 70533 Mtg | 17 6:45PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Wolf Den Mtg 7:30PM-Occasional Ringers Rehearsal | 18 | 19 7:30PM-Festival Ringers Rehearsal | 20 7:30PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal | 21 5:30PM-Messy Church | 22 |
| 23 9:30AM Worship Service In-Person & via Zoom 10:00AM-Sunday School 10:30AM-Coffee Hour 1:30PM-MVR Rehearsal | 24 7:30PM-Occasional Ringers Rehearsal | 25 | 26 St. Paul's Meal 7:15PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Lion Bear Mtg 7:30PM-Festival Ringers Rehearsal | 27 7:30PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal | 28 | 29 |

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| 30 9:30AM Worship Service In-Person & via Zoom 10:00AM-Sunday School 10:30AM-Coffee Hour 1:30PM-MVR Rehearsal 3:00PM-Westford Girl Scout Troop 70533 Mtg | 31 7:30PM-Occasional Ringers Rehearsal | | | | | |
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