

WEST CHELMSFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

242 Main Street, North Chelmsford, MA 01863

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Web Address: www.wcumc.us

7th Sunday after Pentecost July 27, 2025

Worship Service In-person and via Zoom 9:30 AM

Prelude – “Come, Christians, Join to Sing” arr. Thygerson

Greeting

This is the day that the Lord has made

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Opening Hymn – “Blessed Assurance”

Call to Worship

God’s teachings are sweeter than honey.

Christ’s love is more precious than jewels.

The Spirit’s wisdom is mightier than the sword.

God’s guidance is the treasure we seek.

Opening Prayer

God of discernment and truth, our hearts and tongues praise you, offering thanks for every season of life. Your mercy, provision, and direction have guided us through both storm and sunshine. When the rains of fear, anxiety, and despair fall upon our weary souls, refocus our weary souls, refocus our minds on things that are noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, and praiseworthy. Make us a channel of hope, as the hands of Christ. In gratitude and peace, we pray. Amen.

Passing of Peace

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Call to Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us be in silent prayer.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

Children’s Message

Mark Smith

Offertory Reflection

Offertory - “Aria”

Martin

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

God of wisdom, we bring our gifts and offerings this day that the hope of the bread of heaven might be manifested for all. Ground us in the power of the eternal now and satiate the physical, emotional, and spiritual hunger within us. Amen.

Hymn – “Seek Ye First”

Epistle Reading – Romans 12:1-8**

Sermon – “Finding Our Spiritual Practices through Discernment”

Rev. Mehida Gonzales

Hymn Sing

“In Christ Alone (verses 1 and 3)

“His Eye Is On the Sparrow” (verses 1 and 2)

“Grace Alone” (verses 1 and 2)

“Fairest Lord Jesus” (verses 3 and 4)

“The Battle Hymn of the Republic” (verses 1 and 5)

Announcements

Benediction

And God’s people say:

Amen.

Postlude – “Allegro Energico”

Cappelen

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\*\*After the scripture readings, please respond, "Thanks be to God."

We extend a warm greeting to all who are attending our worship service this morning in person or on Zoom or watching later via a video link.

**The Flowers on the altar** this morning are given to the Glory of God by Adrienne Kielsing in memory of her friend, Margo.

**The Flowers on the altar** on Sunday, July 20, 2025, were given to the Glory of God by Kristin and Stephen Kirby in memory of Kristin’s mother, Louise Mears.

**Today**

Lay Reader – Cathy Order

Minister of Music – Karen Leonard

Pastor – Reverend Geisa Matos

Guest Speaker – Rev. Mehida Gonzales

## **THIS WEEK AT WEST CHELMSFORD UMC**

**Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**9:30 AM, Worship Service In-person and via Zoom**

**10:30 AM, Coffee Hour in the Vestry**

**Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**9:30 AM, Worship Service In-person and via Zoom**

### **Ongoing Prayer Requests**

- Victims and their families of mass shootings in our country
- Victims and their families of plane crashes in our country and around the world
- World peace and conflict in the Middle East and Ukraine
- All that are sick, mourning, and/or lonely

### **Article Submission Due Dates**

- Articles for the **mid-week email** are due in the church office by **9:00 AM on Monday**.
- Articles for the **church bulletin insert** are due in the church office by **9:00 AM on Tuesday**.

## **UPCOMING ACTIVITIES/EVENTS**

**Continue to support our Organ Fund** – Don't forget to leave your donations in the organ pipe display.

**Save the Date, Sunday, August 10, 2025!** - Come One - Come All! Big and Small! Fur, Feathers, Scales, or Fins All are Welcome!

With the Blessing of the Animals worship service quickly approaching, you may be wondering how you can support the Lowell Humane Society in their mission to save pets in the community. There are several ways that you can help us help them:

1. You have already heard about the in-gathering for the Lowell Humane Society's Pet Food Pantry to help them provide pet food, free of charge, to those in need. If you are able, donations of all types of non-perishable pet food, in sealed packages, will be collected from now until the Blessing of the Animals event. Pet Food donation Collection Boxes are in the Education Building lobby as well as the

Vestry. All types of non-perishable dog and cat food, wet or dry, bird and small animal food are welcome.

2. Clean out your closets and update your linens and things! Animal shelters go through an incredible amount of sheets, pillow cases, blankets, and towels in their daily operations. If you would like to recycle any of yours, please bring your old, but clean linens and things, marked for the Lowell Humane Society. All sizes are welcome, but they must fit into a standard washing machine. Look for the "Linens and Things" Collection Bin in the Education Building lobby.
3. Boredom for shelter pets is a real problem. Volunteers at the Lowell Humane Society would like to purchase enrichment items to help keep the animals engaged. If you can spare a dollar or two, please place them in the Jar on the Lowell Humane Society Table at the Blessing of the Animals event.

Finally, help us get the word out! Take a few hard-copy flyers and ask to leave a copy at any establishment that you visit! Your Hair Salon or Barber Shop, Nail Salon, Gym, Pizza Place, Senior Center, Grocery Store, or any place that will allow it! Tell your friends and neighbors. You would be surprised at how many people would love to help an animal in need. And don't forget your Social Media presence! When you see the WCUMC Facebook Post, forward it to your Facebook friends and groups! Keep the momentum going!

If you have any questions about the Lowell Humane Society in-gathering, please contact the Missions Committee.

If you would like to have another **Hymn Sing on August 17<sup>th</sup>**, please submit your favorite hymn to Karen Leonard at [wcumckel@aol.com](mailto:wcumckel@aol.com) or [music@wcumc.us](mailto:music@wcumc.us) along with the two verses you would like to sing. I will choose four or five of those submitted as long as they clear copyright with our streaming licenses.

**The sign-up sheet for the St. Paul's Meal** is now online. To volunteer, please click on the link below. The St. Paul's Meal will be served on **Wednesday, August 27, 2025**. Thank you for your support of this important mission.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040448A8AB28AAFF2-57628858-stpauls>

**Rolling Ridge Retreat - Into the World, Unafraid; A Day of Retreat at Rolling Ridge Retreat Center. North Andover, MA on **Friday, September 26, 2025, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.****

Don't miss this opportunity to gather with our church in this peaceful place! We'll come together to find perspective on our turbulent times and experience some techniques to channel our fears in positive ways. We'll explore our Christian calling to understand others, and work to find courage and hope as individuals and as a community of faith. Morning coffee and luncheon are included with the registration fee of \$85 per person. Space is limited, so register soon to secure your spot by contacting the church office at [office@wcumc.us](mailto:office@wcumc.us). **Payment is due by September 7, 2025** (confidential scholarships are available, see Pastor Geisa).

#### **4 Ways to Give to WCUMC**

- Mobile Giving – Download the Tithely app. Fill out the Tithely secure donation transfer form. Enter donation and fee coverage (if desired)
- QR Giving – Using your phone's photo app, click the link after hovering over the QR code (see below). Fill out the Tithely secure donation transfer form. Enter donation and fee coverage (if desired)
- Click "Give" or "Donate" – Go to [www.wcumc.us](http://www.wcumc.us). Fill out the secure donation transfer form for PayPal or Tithely. For Tithely, remember the code number assigned for future login. Enter donation and fee coverage (if desired)
- Cash or Check – Place in the offering plate during the Worship Service or send your donation via the US Postal Service to WCUMC, 242 Main Street, North Chelmsford, MA 01863.

QR Giving Code:

