

WEST CHELMSFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

242 Main Street, North Chelmsford, MA 01863

Telephone – (978) 251-4834 email: office@wcumc.us

Web Address: www.wcumc.us

8th Sunday after Pentecost

August 3, 2025

Worship Service In-person and via Zoom

9:30 AM

Prelude – “Peace With God”

Parker

Greeting

This is the day that the Lord has made

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Opening Hymn – “Close to Thee”

Call to Worship

Give thanks to God,

For God’s steadfast love lasts forever.

God accompanies us in our distress,

As we cross the threshold to worship’s blessings.

Give thanks to our God,

For God’s steadfast love abides with us.

Let us enter this space for worship,

Celebrating God’s works for humankind.

Opening Prayer

Spirit of hope and renewal, as the dawn nudges us awake, summon us with your presence. Wrap us with the cloak of your wisdom and grace. As your light breaks the horizon this day, help us see the love revealed in your realm. Nourish us with your wisdom and guide us with your hope, for we hunger to know you better. 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.

Prayer of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

Children’s Message

Roberta Stratton

Offertory Reflection

Ellen O’Neill

Offertory - “Elegy”

Paxton

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Holy and ever-present God, you call us to set our minds on things above, to let go of all that weighs us down, and to embrace the new life found in Christ. As we bring these gifts, shape our hearts in generosity, our hands in service, and our minds in faithfulness. May these offerings be used to transform lives, to build up your kingdom, and to reflect your love in this world. Keep us ever mindful that we give because you have first given so abundantly to us. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen

Hymn – “Change My Heart, O God”

Epistle Reading – Colossians 3:1-11**

Sermon – “Letting Go of the Old”

Charles McCrea

Closing Hymn - “Leave It There”

Announcements

Benediction

And God’s people say:

Amen.

Postlude – “I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

arr. Ritter

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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 Davidson and Stratton families in memory of loved ones.

**Today**

Lay Reader – Roberta Stratton

Minister of Music – Karen Leonard

Pastor – Rev. Geisa Matos

Guest Speaker – Charles McCrea

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

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

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

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

Saturday – 12:00 PM, Private Event in Fellowship Hall

**Sunday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, Blessing of the Animals**

**9:30 AM, Worship Service In-person only**

### **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).

**Rummage Sale** - It's time to start thinking about our annual rummage sale. Here's a notice that appeared in a church bulletin somewhere. "Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands." Well, first, I don't think I need to address "ladies" only. We have a very helpful group of men who are wholeheartedly involved in the running of our rummage sale. I am asking everyone to start thinking about what you would like to see for our rummage sale this year. Whether or not you are able to physically help, your ideas are welcome. Some of us have discussed the amount of energy needed to provide this sale, and that the amount of money made does not seem to match the effort put in. Should we accept only soft goods, clothes, linens, purses, belts, socks, hats, etc.? Should we have a toy room? If we do accept houseware items, is there someone to help us distribute the leftovers? What days and hours should we be open? Last year, we sold only about half of what we collected, and donating the leftovers took away some of our profit. How can we gently remind people that we would like only gently used items? I believe our "café" is important and profitable. Contact me, Holly Cerullo, at [hbcteach@comcast.net](mailto:hbcteach@comcast.net), or talk with me after church.

#### **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:

