

WEST CHELMSFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Web Address: [www.wcumc.us](http://www.wcumc.us)

9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, Blessing of the Animals August 10, 2025

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

Prelude – “All Things Bright and Beautiful” arr. Page

Greeting

This is the day that the Lord has made

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Opening Hymn – “All Things Bright and Beautiful”

Call to Worship

We gather today to honor and bless our pets.

**Thank you, Lord, for their days of comfort and companionship.**

We praise God for the gift of all creatures in this circle of life.

**Thank you for the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the animals that walk this earth.**

We are grateful that God has entrusted us with their care.

**Help us be good and faithful stewards of your creation.**

Opening Prayer

**Gracious God, we praise you as we gather on this joyous occasion to celebrate and honor the pets in our lives. In your wisdom, you created the universe and blessed us with living creatures. May they continue to bring us immense joy and comfort in all our days together. May we always find wonder in your gifts. Give us a greater sense of responsibility in the care and nurture of all your creation. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

Passing of Peace

The Lord’s Prayer

Children’s Message

Holly Cerullo

Gospel Reading – John 1:1-5

Collective Reflection

Dan Ward and Deacon Chris Everhart

Blessings of the Animals

Invitation to the Offering

Offertory - “In the Garden”

arr. Sallee

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

**Creator and Provider of all that exists, you told us that it is more blessed to give than to receive. Bless the gifts we will share with this community. May they be used to help build God's Kingdom of Justice and peace on earth. Amen.**

Closing Hymn – “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”

Announcements

Benediction

And God’s people say:

**Amen.**

Postlude – “This Is My Father’s World”

arr. Page

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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 Larry Estelle in loving memory of his wife, Dotty.

**Today**

Lay Reader – Dan Ward and Roberta Stratton

Minister of Music – Karen Leonard

Pastor – Rev. Geisa Matos

Guest Speakers – Dan Ward and Deacon Chris Everhart

## THIS WEEK AT WEST CHELMSFORD UMC

**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**

**10:30 AM, Coffee Hour in the Vestry or Outside (weather permitting)**

**Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 10<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**.
- **Articles for the September 2025 Newsletter** are due in the church office by **Monday, August 19, 2025**.

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

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

**Today is the Blessing of the Animals!** - Come One - Come All! Big and Small! Fur, Feathers, Scales, or Fins All are Welcome!

You may be wondering how you can support the Lowell Humane Society in its 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.

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. **PLEASE NOTE - this is the last week to submit hymns. The deadline is today.**

**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:

