



WEST CHELMSFORD  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
242 Main Street, North Chelmsford, MA 01863

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

## SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

### From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Beloved Community,

As September arrives and summer turns to fall, I invite you to pause and reflect: Where have you seen God moving in your life?

Perhaps this summer brought joy—such as travel, rest, time with loved ones, or the beauty of long, light-filled days. For some, it may have held sorrow or uncertainty.

As a congregation, we're mourning the sudden passing of Rev. Angus Mack Hagins, who faithfully led this church for over 20 years before his retirement. Although he retired several years ago, he maintained a healthy and professional connection with the church and with me as your new pastor. His presence shaped the lives of many, and his passing is deeply felt by this community.

And still, we proclaim with confidence: "The joy of the Lord is our strength" (Nehemiah 8:10).

This joy isn't a denial of grief; it's a sacred strength. It comes from knowing we're not alone. God is with us, weeping with us, strengthening us, and holding us fast. It's a joy that anchors us, even when the winds of life blow hard.

As we step into a new season, I invite you to carry that expectation with you: that God is not only present but actively working in our lives, in our community, and even through us. Let's look for God's fingerprints in the ordinary and the unexpected. Let's be a church that expects transformation and renewed hope.

We're going to be that church this fall through our Sunday School, Rummage Sale, Messy Church Anniversary Celebration, Stewardship Campaign, Church Conference, Christmas Fair, inspiring worship, meaningful service, and so much more in our shared life.

Are you ready to be part of it all?

Grace and peace,

Pastor Geisa

## *Prayer List*

We encourage you to clip out these names and keep them in your prayers. If you would like your name to be added or removed from any of the prayer lists, please contact the church office.

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

Whitney Hagins on the passing of her husband, Rev. A. Mack Hagins, who passed away on August 14, 2025.

**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



**Prayer list for on-going health needs:**

Judi and Bob 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*

### *A United Methodist Prayer for the Classroom*

**Back-to-School Litany**

Learning is a gift from God.

As we begin this new school year, we give thanks that God has given us the ability to learn many things in many ways.

Loving God, sometimes a new school year seems exciting or scary or both.

Help us remember to show our thanks for your gifts of learning by doing our best every day.

We ask that you bless our schools, teachers, classmates, and friends.

We ask that you bless those who prepare our lunches, those who drive us to school, and those who keep our schools clean and safe.

We ask God's blessing on this new school year, that it may be a time when we appreciate and fully use God's gift of learning.

Amen.

## *Save the Date* *Education Opportunity*

**Confronting White Christian Nationalism with Jim Wallis**  
**Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 6:30 PM EST VIA ZOOM**

The **Committee on Christian Unity and Interreligious Relationships (CUIR)** invites you to a vital and timely conversation on the rise of **White Christian Nationalism**—an urgent issue facing both the Church and our democracy today.

We are honored to welcome **Jim Wallis** as our featured speaker. A leading voice in public theology and social justice, Wallis serves as the inaugural **Archbishop Desmond Tutu Chair in Faith and Justice** at Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy, where he also directs the new **Center on Faith and Justice**.

Wallis is the founder of *Sojourners*, a bestselling author, and a nationally recognized advocate for faith in action. His latest book, *The False White Gospel: Rejecting Christian Nationalism, Reclaiming True Faith, and Refounding Democracy* (April 2024), has sparked widespread discussion on the role of faith in confronting extremism and rebuilding a more just society.

His past leadership includes service on President Obama's first **White House Advisory Council on Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships**, and recognition by *Washingtonian* magazine as one of **D.C.'s 500 most influential policy shapers** in both 2022 and 2023.

Join us as we reflect on how Christian communities can respond faithfully, courageously, and prophetically to the growing threat of Christian nationalism.

### **Save the Date**

*Thursday, September 18, 2025 at 6:30 PM EST*

[Click here to register](#)

## *Sunday School*

We are very excited to announce that the first day of Sunday School will be September 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 AM! It's a Communion Sunday, so we will meet in the classroom first and go up to the Sanctuary for Communion together.

A registration form was sent to all Sunday School families, but if you haven't filled it out yet, you can access it here: [2025-2026 WCUMC Children's and Youth Programs Registration Form](#)

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

## *Rolling Ridge Retreat*

Unfortunately, we did not receive the minimum number of people to attend the retreat, so the retreat has been canceled.

## *Rummage Sale*

The dates for the sales have been set for **Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>**. Times have not yet been determined. The donations will be from Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, through Wednesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>. We are not advertising donation times to the public. We want only donations from the congregation and their close friends. Donations will be limited, and a list will be available to the congregation. Please let me know if you can help. I will have a list of “jobs” later, but I particularly need many people to help sell on Friday. Let me know if you are available anytime from October 19<sup>th</sup> through October 25<sup>th</sup>, and we’ll work out where you can help.

Holly Cerullo - [hbcteach@comcast.net](mailto:hbcteach@comcast.net).

## *College Student Addresses Needed*



All parents of college students **please** send your son or daughter’s college address into the church office. We also need to know if there has been any change of address from last year, or if it is still the same as last year! We do care about our college students. We specifically remember them on Halloween and Valentine’s Day. Either call or e-mail their address to us.

**Please take the time today and send us this important information. The church e-mail is:**

**[office@wcumc.us](mailto:office@wcumc.us)**

## *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, September 24, 2025**. Thank you for your support of this important mission.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040448A8AB28AAFF2-58055175-stpauls>

## *Church Office Information*

- The Church Office Hours are 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](mailto:office@wcumc.us).
- 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](http://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, September 15, 2025, for the October 2025 Newsletter**.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> Labor Day Church Office Closed	<b>2</b> 10:00AM- Congregational Care	<b>3</b> 7:00PM-Missions Committee via Zoom 7:30PM-Festival Ringers Rehearsal	<b>4</b> 7:30PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9:30AM-Worship Service In-Person & via Zoom, Communion 9:30AM-Sunday School 10:30AM-Coffee Hour in the Vestry	<b>8</b> 7:30PM-Jubilee Ringers Rehearsal	<b>9</b> 7:30PM-Finance Committee via Zoom	<b>10</b> 7:30PM-Trustees' Meeting via Zoom 7:30PM-Festival Ringers Rehearsal	<b>11</b> 7:30PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b> 5:30PM-MVR Auditions	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:30AM-Worship Service In-Person & via Zoom 10:00AM-Sunday School 10:30AM-Coffee Hour 3:00PM-Westford GS Mtg.	<b>15</b> 7:30PM-Jubilee Ringers Rehearsal	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 7:30PM-SPRC Meeting via Zoom 7:30PM-Festival Ringers Rehearsal	<b>18</b> 7:30PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 10:00AM-MVR Retreat & Rehearsal 1:30PM-Rev. Mack Hagins Memorial Service in Bolton, MA
<b>21</b> 9:30AM -Worship Service In-person & via Zoom 10:00AM-Sunday School 10:30AM-Coffee Hour in the Vestry	<b>22</b> 7:30PM-Jubilee Ringers Rehearsal	<b>23</b> 7:00PM-Christian Ed Meeting via Zoom	<b>24</b> St. Paul's Meal 7:30PM-Festival Ringers Rehearsal	<b>25</b> 7:30PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:30AM -Worship Service In-person & via Zoom 10:00AM-Sunday School 10:30AM-Coffee Hour in the Vestry	<b>29</b> 7:30PM-Jubilee Ringers Rehearsal	<b>30</b> 6:30PM-Private Event				