



## WEST CHELMSFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

242 Main Street, North Chelmsford, MA 01863

Rev. Geisa Y. Matos

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

### OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

#### From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Church Family,

From the upcoming Spooky Messy Church Celebration to the long-awaited Fabulous Finds Rummage Sale, this October our church family will be buzzing with joyful anticipation. What a gift it will be to see energy, laughter, and connection overflowing throughout our building!

This year's Stewardship campaign—*Enriching Lives, Strengthening Our Community*—is also filling us with joy. Our theme reminds us daily that generosity isn't just about giving; it's about creating spaces where God's love takes root and blossoms for all. During this year's campaign, we'll celebrate the impact we're making in the community by hearing directly from leaders of the Open Pantry, Lowell Transition Center, Saint Paul's Meal, and the Girl Scouts. Their voices will remind us that our giving touches real lives, right here and right now.

To be honest, this fall our Finance Committee wrestled with how to ask for two things at once: financial pledges for the coming year and support for our lead abatement project. That's no small task. Yet, before we even asked, a significant gift arrived. What a blessing!

A member of our church said, *"I'm not worried about the money. I think we need to do the right thing. We have a duty." It's amazing (but perhaps it shouldn't be!) that when we act in faith—when we choose the right path—God meets us there. Unexpected gifts come. Resources appear. Doors open. This is our story: a church rooted in generosity, abundance, and love".*

That's a powerful statement of faith! With confidence in our church and gratitude for the outstanding work of our Trustees Committee, we stepped forward. And sure enough, God provided again.

And what greater joy than this—that through lead abatement, we're literally opening our doors wider to children and families. We're saying, "This place is safe. This place is for you. This is God's house of welcome." That's a gift we're all giving together.

In the spirit of transparency, here are the numbers:

- Total cost of the project: \$43,380.00
- Covered through the Fiske Foundation bequest and Trustees funds: \$29,019.96
- Additional gifts already received from church members: \$5,000.00
- Remaining amount needed: \$9,360.04

Every gift, large or small, helps us close that final gap. It always feels like a miracle when gifts arrive just in time, and together, we can make it happen.

Friends, this is why we believe WCUMC continues to receive such faithful support. We've got work to do in our community. We may not know the full shape of that work yet, but we know it's important, and it's necessary. And together, with generous hearts, we'll do it.

With gratitude and joy,

Rev. Geisa Matos

*working in partnership with the Finance Committee and Trustees Committee*

Rummage Sale 2023, looking for a bargain



Our first Messy Church October 2023



## 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 the prayer list.

**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 friends, Mike and Sarah

Lisa Dushais

## Inspirational Corner

### The Fox and the Grapes

A famished fox saw some clusters of ripe black grapes hanging from a trellised vine. She resorted to all her tricks to get at them but wearied herself in vain, for she could not reach them. At last, she turned away, hiding her disappointment and saying: "The Grapes are sour and not ripe as I thought."

**The moral of the story:** If you think something is not worth having, ask yourself: "Is that only because I think I'm unable to achieve it?"

[\*Aesop's Fables\*](#)

### Do You Have an Inspiration Story?

We are looking for people to share their faith in a short paragraph, poem, or story – it can be about something that has inspired you. Maybe you have encountered an experience this past summer while on vacation or maybe it was just in your own backyard. **Sometimes, it's just the littlest thing that can make you wake up and realize life is great!**

You may email your "inspiration" - to [office@wcumc.us](mailto:office@wcumc.us) or drop it off in the church office. Thank you.

## World Communion Sunday - October 5, 2025



World Communion Sunday celebrates the unity and diversity of the universal Christian community. As we gather around the Lord's table, we recognize our unity in Christ, joining with others worldwide in Holy Communion. Embracing this commitment, United Methodists are dedicated to nurturing diverse leadership within the church by allocating funds for scholarships and leadership training for underrepresented students. Each World Communion Sunday, we remember our oneness in Christ and invest in leaders for tomorrow. Your offering helps fund

scholarships for racial-ethnic minority students and international scholars, as well as inclusion training across the church. We invite you to give generously and be part of this vital mission. Together, we can make a real difference!



On Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, please place your gift in an envelope (provided by the ushers) marked “World Communion Sunday” to participate in this worthy offering.

### *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, October 22, 2025**.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040448A8AB28A8FF2-58534811-copy>

### *Methodist Youth Fellowship*

I would like to welcome everyone to this year's MYF, which will start in October. We have two events planned for October and a hockey game we can attend in November.

- October 5<sup>th</sup>, after Sunday School, if the weather is good, we are planning to go for a fall hike at one of the local hiking trails. I would ask if your child is planning on going on the hike, they come to Sunday School with a bag lunch and wear appropriate walking shoes and clothing for outdoors.
- October 26<sup>th</sup>, after Sunday School, we are having our annual family pumpkin carving event. If you can bring a pumpkin and some kid-friendly carving tools, it would be greatly appreciated. I will also bring some pumpkins to give out if you are unable to find one. We would like to have a potluck lunch before we start carving and would ask everyone to bring a dish to share. I will also bring some stencils and kid-friendly pumpkin carving tools.
- On November 1<sup>st</sup>, the church is planning on attending a UMass hockey game at the Tsongas Arena. We were thinking that the MYF can go as a group and attend. Please let me know ASAP if your child would like to attend so we can order the tickets and be together as a group.

If your child has any food allergies, please let me know.

Additionally, the MYF is open to all children who wish to participate. If you have never attended a MYF event, please join us and have a great time. All kids must be picked up by a parent or guardian at the end of the event.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me.

Harry Johnson  
617-784-3776

## Missions Committee



**How Can We Help? - The Lowell Transitional Living Center (LTLC)** is an emergency shelter for unaccompanied individuals over 18 years of age who are experiencing homelessness. With winter coming, the LTLC needs specific items for its guests. So how can we help? The easiest and fastest way to help is through the LTLC Amazon Wish List! Just click on the link below, or follow the QR Code, and select the items that you wish to donate. Then, annotate the Amazon Gift Order message box with WCUMC. It couldn't be easier! The items will be shipped directly to the LTLC!

Link for [LTLC Amazon Wish List](#)

LTLC QR Code:



Alternatively, you can bring in any of the following items and leave them in the designated bin in the lobby of the Education Building: Adult-size hats, gloves, mittens, clean, gently used jackets, sweatpants, and sweatshirts (men's & women's all sizes), foot and hand warmers, socks, wash cloths, and bath towels. ***Please note: We will suspend the in-person collection for LTLC from October 18th to October 25th to avoid any possible confusion with the Rummage Sale.***

**This campaign will run until Friday, October 31, 2025.** The Amazon Wish List will be posted on the WCUMC Website for future reference. If you have any questions, please get in touch with a member of the Missions Committee.

**Open Pantry Donations** - The holidays are coming, and wouldn't you like to put a smile on someone's face by helping them bake a pie? This month, we are looking for cans of pumpkin, squash, apple, or your favorite pie filling, as well as Jiffy Pie Crust Mix. Donations of any unexpired, non-perishable food items are, of course, always welcome, and if you would like to make a monetary donation, please annotate your contribution with the notation "Open Pantry".



Your generosity will be appreciated more than you know. If you have any questions, you may contact the Missions Committee.

## WCUMC Hockey Game Event

UMASS-Lowell hockey marketers reached out to Rev Geisa to have a group event for our church. Let's GOOOO! We have selected **Saturday, November 1st, at 6:00 PM.** UMASS-Lowell is playing Providence College, and it should be a great game for these two rivals. They are also giving away t-shirts for the first 1500 fans, so get there early. They are also honoring the Manning School of Business this night as well. Doors open at 5:00 PM. Please sign the "I want to GO! sheet on the table in the Vestry and the number of people in your party. Bill will reserve seats the week of September 22<sup>nd</sup> in advance since this is a very popular game. Contact Bill Evans at [evans1818@verizon.net](mailto:evans1818@verizon.net) or 978-852-1456 if you'd like to be added to the list. Tickets are \$13 and can be paid to Bill when you see him. Let's GOOOOOO Riverhawks!

## *Save the Date!* *Fall Church Maintenance Day*

### **Save the Date!**

On Saturday, November 1, 2025, the Board of Trustees will hold the Fall Church Maintenance Day from 9:00 AM to noon. Project details will be announced soon.



Thank you on behalf of the Board of Trustees – Adrienne Kieldsing & Mark Smith

## *Fabulous Finds Rummage Sale*



**Fabulous Finds Rummage Sale:** I hope you are organizing your donations for this sale. Things to keep in mind. Donation times will be very specific. Please adhere to these times only. If you need to drop off outside of these times, contact Holly Cerullo, [hbcteach@comcast.net](mailto:hbcteach@comcast.net), 978-846-2203, or Abbey Ciardi, [abbeyandrj@yahoo.com](mailto:abbeyandrj@yahoo.com), 802-345-8893.

Donation hours are:

- Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- Monday – Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup>, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Items **not** accepted:

- Single mugs, dishes, or teacups without saucers.
- Water bottles, Stemmed Wine Glasses, and glassware with Logos
- Frames/Pictures over 8" x 10"
- Chipped or broken dishes, knick-knacks
- CDs, VCR tapes, cassette tapes
- Large furniture
- Textbooks
- Artificial flowers
- Wrapping paper, ribbon, bows

**Jewelry Donations:** Please donate any jewelry to the Fabulous Finds Rummage Sale. It will be set aside for sales at the Holiday Fair. We will also accept broken jewelry as it can be used for crafts. Thanks, Holly Cerullo, Lori Evans, Heidi Vaughn.

## *Fabulous Finds Rummage Sale Cafe*

The “Fabulous Finds Rummage Sale Cafe” needs your help. The following donations will be needed to offer snacks, soup, or hot dogs during the upcoming rummage sale, both Friday evening and Saturday. Please get in touch with Sue Loiselle with your contribution to make this a delicious way to take a break from shopping.

Assorted Pastry & Sweets such as brownies, cookies, bars, etc. (packaged in small baggies for quick sale with 2-4 pieces in each bag)

Hot Dogs & Buns

Suggested Soups (but not limited to this list) are requested:

- Turkey Rice Gluten Free
- Butternut Squash
- Spicy Chicken, Bean & Veggie
- Minestone
- Vegetarian Chili
- Chili with Meat
- Veggie Soup- spicy or not
- Chicken Rice or Noodle

Also, help will be needed to set up, serve, and clean up. Please let Sue know if you’re willing to give some time on Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, or Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>.

Contact Sue through email, text, or phone: [loisellesue@gmail.com](mailto:loisellesue@gmail.com) or 978-337-2163

## *College Student Addresses Needed*

All parents of college students, please send your son or daughter’s college address to the Church Office ([office@wcumc.us](mailto:office@wcumc.us) or call 978-251-4834.) 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. Thank you!

## Congregational Care Committee



**Do you know how:**

- **To request someone be added to the church prayer chain or to be added to the chain yourself?**  
Email Beth Arnald at [barnald@verizon.net](mailto:barnald@verizon.net)
- **To get a prayer shawl to bring to someone you know?**  
Email Roberta at [office@wcumc.us](mailto:office@wcumc.us) and request a shawl. One will be put aside in the office for you
- **Concerned that someone in our congregation needs a call or a visit?**  
Contact Rev. Geisa at [geisa3matos@gmail.com](mailto:geisa3matos@gmail.com)
- **Ask for help with a meal delivery or a ride to an appointment?**  
Email Roberta at the church and she will send your request to the Congregational Committee who will help make the arrangements.
- **Would like to dedicate an Altar flower arrangement for a special person or event?**  
Sign up is at the bottom of the stairs in the sanctuary, contact Diana Bard at [forrest835@aol.com](mailto:forrest835@aol.com)
- **Do you need help with something simple like remove an AC, replace light bulbs, look at computer, fix a railing....no job is too small!**  
Contact Roberta or Lori from the Congregational Care team who will connect you with someone on the *Faithful Fixers*!!





# HOLIDAY



*The WCUMC Annual Holiday Fair is returning!  
Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM*

*Please come and shop in a stress-free atmosphere!*

- Our **Professional craft vendors** will be offering a great selection of gifts this year!  
We will have beautiful hand-made gifts, jewelry, and much more!
- Stop by our **breakfast bistro** for a hot cup of gourmet coffee & homemade treats.
- Take a break at our **luncheon** featuring hot, homemade lunch.
- As always, we'll have handmade **Candies, Breads & Treats, and White Elephant bargains!**
- **Church craft table**. These are crafts made by church members, with proceeds going directly to the church.
- **Christian Ed sponsored Kids Room** – Don't forget to bring the kids so they can have fun doing crafts and playing games – all while you shop!!

***We Need Your Donations!***

**Craft Donations** – We will be reaching out to individuals for help in this area to help us brainstorm ideas of what we can bring to the table. This will be a community effort, with a craft night to help fill the table to benefit the church.

**Food Donations** – We need your baked treats for our food table! Do you have a special bread, cookie, snack, cupcake, or squares recipe that you or your family enjoys during the holidays? Trail and snack mixes are also welcome! We need contributions from every family in the church! We would love a large selection of baked treats to sell. If you have a recipe that you like to make with your children or grandchildren, spend an afternoon baking it together and freeze it for the fair. Your support is greatly appreciated! Donations for the food table can be delivered to the church the week of the fair. Times for drop off will be announced later.

**Candy Donations** – Make your favorite candy recipe. Donations of chocolate (semi sweet or milk chocolate chips, nuts (walnuts, pecans) are also appreciated! Details to follow.

**Jewelry Table** – We need your donations! Go through your jewelry box to see what you don't want anymore.

**WE NEED HELP**

**Plant Table** – We need help filling the plant table. Please donate live plants! Please contact Heidi Vaughan if you have plants to drop off.

**Set-up** this year will be split over 2 days to allow more people to participate! 1<sup>st</sup> setup is Thursday evening from 5-7 pm (Upstairs). 2<sup>nd</sup> set-up is Friday morning from 9 am – noon (Downstairs).

**Sales help, cashiers, greeters, food prep**– Throughout the day on Saturday from 9 am until 2 pm!

**Vendor help/Clean up** – From 8-9 am or from 3-4 pm. Please consider helping the vendors unload in the morning, or helping at the end of the day to clean up the hall and put away tables/chairs.

*Thank you for making our fair a success!*

**If You have any Questions How You Can Help at Our Fair  
Please Contact:**

Heidi Vaughan - [hvaughan00@gmail.com](mailto:hvaughan00@gmail.com)

Lori Evans - [levans45@verizon.net](mailto:levans45@verizon.net)

## *Thank you*

From the Open Pantry of Greater Lowell:

Dear Friends, thank you very much for your most generous donation to the Open Pantry. Your gifts will be put to great use to feed the less fortunate in our community.

Regards,  
Open Pantry

From the Lowell Humane Society:

Dear Rev. Geisa,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff at the Lowell Humane Society, I want to write and thank you for your recent donation of \$156.05, various pet foods, many pet treats, pet toys, sheets, towels, and blankets, all gathered during your Blessing of the Animals Event!

Because of your generosity, the Lowell Humane Society has been able to operate as a valuable community resource since 1873. Homeless pets find a safe refuge in our shelter receiving needed medical treatment, behavior training, spaying/neutering, and, of course, much love. Once ready for adoption, these pets are placed into new, loving, and responsible life-long homes.

Again, thank you for your kindness and support.

Kind Regards,

Crystal Arnott  
Executive Director, Lowell Humane Society

From Whitney Hagins:

To my West Chelmsford Family

Thank you! Words cannot adequately express how much it meant to me to have you at Mack's service. I could not believe how many of you were there. Karen, the choir, and Steve brought Mack's music and his love of music to life. Music was so much a part of his life, but I never realized how many people didn't know of his incredible talent--so many people mentioned that they never knew his musical side.

As I said during the service, I have been supported by the cards, kind words, and prayers that you have shared with me. Mack and I were a part of many churches, but I will always think of West Chelmsford as my home.

Thank you, and let me know if you ever want to come feed the cows, or give them voice lessons!!

With Love  
Whitney

## *Church Office Information*

- The Church Office Hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:00 AM to 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, October 20, 2025, for the November 2025 Newsletter.**






# 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 7:00PM-Missions Committee via Zoom 7:30PM-Festival Ringers Rehearsal	<b>2</b> 6:00PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Lion Den Mtg 7:30PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>3</b> 6:45PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Den Meeting	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> <u>World Communion Sunday</u> 9:30AM-Worship Service In-Person & via Zoom 9:30AM-Sunday School 10:30AM-Coffee Hour 11:00AM-MYF Meeting 1:30PM-MVR Rehearsal 3:00PM-Westford Girl Scout Meeting	<b>6</b> 6:45PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Bear Den Meeting 7:30PM-Jubilee Ringers Rehearsal	<b>7</b> 10:30AM-Congregational Care Meeting in the Library	<b>8</b> 7:30PM-Festival Ringers Rehearsal 7:30PM-Trustees via Zoom	<b>9</b> 7:30PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9:30AM-Worship Service In-Person & via Zoom 10:00AM-Sunday School 10:30AM-Coffee Hour 1:30PM-MVR Rehearsal	<b>13</b> Columbus Day Church Office Closed 7:30PM-Jubilee Ringers Rehearsal	<b>14</b> 7:30 PM-Finance Committee Mtg via Zoom	<b>15</b> 7:30PM-Festival Ringers Rehearsal 7:30PM-Staff/Parish via Zoom	<b>16</b> 7:30PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>17</b> 5:30PM-Messy Church in Fellowship Hall	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 9:30AM-Worship Service In-Person & via Zoom 10:00AM-Sunday School 10:30AM-Coffee Hour 11:00AM-Rummage Sale Set-up 1:30PM-MVR Rehearsal 3:00PM-Westford Girl Scout Meeting	<b>20</b> 9:00AM-Rummage Sale Set-up 7:30PM-Jubilee Ringers Rehearsal	<b>21</b> 9:00AM-Rummage Sale Set-up 7:30PM-CAC Mtg via Zoom	<b>22</b> St Paul's Meal 9:00AM-Rummage Sale Set-up 7:30PM-Festival Ringers Rehearsal	<b>23</b> 9:00AM-Rummage Sale Set-up 7:30PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>24</b> 3:00PM-Rummage Sale	<b>25</b> 10:00AM-Rummage Sale



<b>26</b> <b>9:30AM-Worship</b> <b>Service In-Person &amp; via</b> <b>Zoom</b> <b>10:00AM-Sunday</b> <b>School</b> <b>10:30AM-Coffee Hour</b> <b>11:00AM-MYF Meeting</b> <b>1:30PM-MVR Rehearsal</b>	<b>27</b> <b>7:30PM-Jubilee</b> <b>Ringers Rehearsal</b>	<b>28</b> <b>6:30PM-Cub Scout Pack</b> <b>70 Arrow of Light Den</b> <b>Mtg.</b> <b>7:00PM-Christian Ed</b> <b>Mtg via Zoom</b>	<b>29</b> <b>7:30PM-Festival</b> <b>Ringers Rehearsal</b>	<b>30</b> <b>7:30PM-SPRC Mtg</b> <b>w/Rev. M. Stowe via</b> <b>Zoom</b> <b>7:30PM-Senior Choir</b> <b>Rehearsal</b>	<b>31</b> 	
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