

*Please rise in body or in spirit

Prelude – “A Shepherd’s Lament”

Martin

Greeting

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Opening Hymn – “God Almighty, We Are Waiting”

Call to Worship

God, hear our call.

Stir up your strength and come to save us!

Restore us, O God. Let your face shine, that we may be saved.

For we know that new life is coming.

A child will change us all.

Let your hand be upon him in blessing.

For he will bring you near.

He will be Emmanuel, God with us!

Opening Prayer

God of expectation, fill us with hope this day. Birth in us an expectation of goodness and grace. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, that we may perceive your presence in the world, and jump for joy at the blessings and hope all around us. Amen.

Advent Wreath Lighting, Candle of Love Matos/Machuca Family

Response - “Come, Lord Jesus, We Are Waiting” vs. 1 Christopherson

Unison Prayer

Dear God, are we doing this right? Sometimes we aren’t sure. We think that we are ready for the baby to be born who will lead us in love. Show us how to love our neighbors while we wait. As we welcome the baby Jesus to the world, teach us how to also be like him. Let the light of your love live in us for all to see. Amen.

Passing of Peace

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Call to Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

Cantata – “Sing With the Angels”

Raney

Of the Father’s Love

The Angel Gabriel

The Midnight Clear

Run to Bethlehem

Angels Watching Over Me

Sing with the Angels!

The Angel Songs

Offertory Reflection

Offertory - “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

arr. Whipple

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Glorious God, bless these gifts, that they may lift up the lowly, fill the hungry with good things, and give strength and mercy to those most in need. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Closing Hymn - “Jesus, the Light of the World”

Announcements

Benediction

Blessed are you when you carry Christ’s hope to the world.

Blessed are we when we carry Christ’s hope to the world.

Pregnant with expectation, waiting with hope and joy,

We go forth to bless the world!

And God’s people say: **Amen.**

Benediction Response – “Angels Watching Over Me”

Raney

Postlude – “The Heavens Rejoice!”

Kendall

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

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

**Today** – Senior Choir

Acolyte – Anisha Machuca

Lay Reader – Cathy Order

Cantata Narrators – David and Judy Troughton

Minister of Music – Karen Leonard

Pastor – Rev. Geisa Matos

## THIS WEEK AT WEST CHELMSFORD UMC

**Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, Cantata Sunday**

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

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

**11:00 AM, Children's Pageant Rehearsal in the Sanctuary**

11:00 AM, Men's Study Group in the Youth Lounge

3:00 PM, Westford Girl Scout Troop 70533 Meeting in the Education Wing, Classroom 1

**Monday – 7:30 PM, Festival Ringers Rehearsal in the Sanctuary**

**Tuesday – 7:00 PM, Christian Ed Meeting via Zoom**

**7:30 PM, Senior Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Room**

**Wednesday – 4:00 PM, Christmas Eve Service In-Person and via Zoom featuring the Children's Pageant "Twas the Night Before Christmas."**

**8:00 PM, 8:00 PM, Candlelight Service featuring Brass Quintet, Festival Ringers, and Senior Choir In-Person and via Zoom**

Thursday – Merry Christmas!

**Sunday, December 28<sup>th</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas**

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

### Ongoing Prayer Requests

- Victims of the earthquake in Alaska
- World peace and conflict in the Middle East and Ukraine
- All who 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**.

**Altar Visuals:** As we enter the Advent season and contemplate the arrival of the baby Jesus, our altar visuals will center on the theme of angels. Angels, intermediaries between God and humans, are mentioned numerous times throughout the Bible. While popular culture often portrays angels with wings, halos, and as female figures, biblical accounts describe them differently—as shining, glorious messengers, frequently

appearing as male. Each Sunday, the altar will highlight a different character visited by the Angel Gabriel and the significance of his message. In these encounters, Gabriel's words often begin with, "Be not afraid," offering comfort and hope as God's promises unfold. May these visuals invite us to reflect on God's messengers and the profound messages they bring during this sacred time.

Today, we learn about the angels that brought the message of Christ's birth to the people of this blessed event with the presentation of the Cantata, "Sing with the Angels." Find joy and love in this sharing. Today we celebrate the Host of Angels who came to the shepherds in the fields where they were watching their sheep. Again, the angels said, "*Do not be afraid. I bring you good news...*" **Luke 2: 10**. Mary and Joseph have arrived at the manger and await the birth. On the back curtain are the **shepherd's crook** – faith of the shepherds, the **star** – representing the star over the manger, and the **cross and anchor** – steadfast love.

**Men's Group Study** - We will continue our discussion of the 5 Masculine Instincts after the service this morning, **at 11:00 AM**. We will be discussing Chapter 4 and the story of Sampson with regard to the Masculine Instinct of "Adventure". A short video for review will be shown prior to the discussion.

We will meet in the Youth Lounge. For those of you who do not have books or would like to invite a friend, please contact Bill Evans, 978-852-1456 or [evans1818@verizon.net](mailto:evans1818@verizon.net).

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

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

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040448A8AB28AAFF2-60765043-stpauls>

**2026 Flower Calendar** – The 2026 Flower Calendar is posted on the wall in the entryway. Select a favorite date, write your name and phone number on the calendar. The flower arrangement each Sunday is \$30.00. Make your check payable to the church with a notation that it is for the

altar flowers. If you have any questions, please get in touch with Diana Bard at 978-692-7668.

**Kitten Food Request** - Our friends at the Lowell Humane Society are in need of Kitten food! There are **currently 60 kittens** in LHS Foster Homes, down from a high of 81 just a few months ago. If you can help by donating a few cans of the items listed below, a box has been placed in the Education Building Lobby to collect the items. The kitten food that is requested is:

- Royal Canin Kitten Mousse
- Purina Fancy Feast Kitten
- IAMS Kitten Pate

Although not all of these kittens are ready for adoption yet, they will be soon! If you are thinking about adding a furry friend to your family, now is the perfect time to visit the Lowell Humane Society at 951 Broadway St., Lowell, MA, to fill out an adoption application. If you have any questions, please contact the Missions Committee.

**Open Pantry Donations** - The Open Pantry of Greater Lowell is currently in need of shelf-stable milk. Shelf-stable milks are safe to store at room temperature and can be purchased at Amazon, Walmart, Target, Whole Foods, Market Basket, and many other local stores. Donations of any unexpired, non-perishable food items are, of course, always welcome. Donations of goods should be placed in the large container outside the back door of the church that is marked for Open Pantry, and monetary contributions can be mailed to the church or placed in the collection plate. Please be sure to annotate monetary donations for the “Open Pantry”. Your generosity will be appreciated more than you know. If you have any questions, you may contact the Missions Committee.

**Church Cookbook** - Hi Everyone! We want to thank everyone for their recipe contributions for the church cookbook “SHARE THE LOVE” and would like anyone who still wants to obtain a printed copy to come to coffee hour, or contact Janice Rutter at 978-337-4002. Please leave a message with your name and phone number, and I will return your call. They make a great Christmas gift for \$12 and have some really awesome recipes. We hope that you all enjoy them.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!  
The Congregational Care Committee

#### **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:



## Congregation Caring needs your help!

If we can call on you to help out in one of the areas listed below, please check off one or as many ways to help us get things done. Fill in your name, phone number, and email so we can create our go-to list. Place it in the collection plate or hand it to the usher. Many hands lessen the task.

Thank you in advance for supporting your church family.

The following would be for a funeral happening at WCUMC:

- Can we call on you to make or purchase something in the event that a funeral meal will take place in Fellowship Hall
- Kitchen help and serve
- Set up
- Clean up

Can we call on you to...

- Deliver flowers
- Drive someone to an appointment, Sunday service, or another church event
- Deliver a meal when the need arises
- Bring a dessert or snack to Sunday coffee hour (one item to share)

Name:

Phone:

Email:

Your contact preference: (please circle) text, email, or phone call



*The Poinsettias are given to the glory of God:*

Given by Bill and Lori Evans – Blessings to all, and kind words to others transform the world to a better place.

Given by Nancy Bissell in honor of the Hall and Bissell families,

Given by Ellen Cellini – wishing all a very Merry Christmas!

Given by the McIlvenna Family – a joyous holiday and Merry Christmas!

Given by Bill and Lori Evans – may the memories of those that we have lost help us celebrate the joys of Christmas.

Given by Ellen and Gary O’Neill – for the joy of the season.

Given by Carole Wyant in memory of her parents, sister, aunt and uncle, and Robert E. Wyant.

Given by the Leonard Family in memory of George and Ellen Laycock, and Harry and Elizabeth Leonard.

Given by Bob Davidson, Roberta Davidson-Stratton, Jim, BJ, and Pippin Stratton in memory of loved ones.

Given by Joanne and Elly Evans – for the joy of the season.

Given by Karen Leonard in memory of Mark, husband and father.

Given by Larry Estelle – “Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night.”

Given by Carole, Rebecca, and Gregory Wyant in memory of Geoff, husband and father.

Given by Judy and David Troughton – Merry Christmas to all.

Given by the Orford Family – Merry Christmas!

Given by Sandra Huss – in celebration of family and friends.

Given by Nancy O’Neil – for the love of family.

Given by Phyllis Carrow – Jesus is the reason for the season.

Given by Ellen Cellini – Joyous Holidays!

Given by Angela and Terry McAlister – for the joy of the season.