



WEST CHELMSFORD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
242 Main Street, North Chelmsford, MA 01863
Pastor: Rev. Geisa Y. Matos
Tele. # 978-251-4834 email: office@wcumc.us
Church website: www.wcumc.us

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

JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

From the Pastor's Desk

“Embracing Holy Transitions”

January always arrives carrying the quiet weight of transition. The calendar turns. The pace shifts. We find ourselves standing between what has been and what is still unfolding, with the future not yet fully clear.

Over the past year, and in the years before it, we haven't always known how things would unfold. We've wondered about our financial future, our vitality, and how we would face unexpected challenges, including the complexities of the LEAD project. We've also asked how to remain generous and faithful in the face of loss, personal struggle, and communal uncertainty. And yet, here we are. Still standing. Still worshiping. Still serving. Still loving. God has brought us this far, and God hasn't let go of us yet.

Scripture assures us that God meets us in the in-between. Our calling isn't to have all the answers. It's to remain open and faithful to God and to all God's people. Together, we ask: What, then, is the next right step? The answer should be clear by now, for again and again, we've been invited to choose courage and to listen for God's steady voice saying, “Do not be afraid.”

Imagine how different 2026 could be if fear didn't have the final word. Imagine stepping out of the shadows that keep us feeling powerless in the face of **life's burdens** and social injustice. Imagine living boldly, trusting deep in our bones that Christ is the One who strengthens us for whatever lies ahead.

This is the vision and the invitation set before us as we begin this new year. Not certainty, but trust. Not control, but faithfulness. Not isolation, but community. As we step into 2026 together, may we continue to listen for



God's voice, serve with compassion, and walk forward with courage—confident that God is still at work among us and leading us into what's next.

With gratitude and hope,

Rev. Geisa Matos

Happy New Year!!!

December Highlights

Christmas/Craft Fair: Raised over \$7,000 for local ministries and outreach—a celebration of generosity, creativity, and community spirit.



Advent and Christmas Worship: Our Advent sermon series, along with the Christmas Cantata featuring Joel Raney's *Sing with the Angels!* and Christmas Eve services, inspired us to live the love of Christ—seeking Jesus in our neighbors, lifting each other's spirits, and celebrating the grace and light that surround us this season.



Prayer List

In the Sunday bulletin under “Let us remember these people in our prayers,” we list those with prayer needs. Our Monthly Newsletter carries a list of more “on-going” concerns to bring to God in Prayer.

We will keep the description you provide as general or specific as you indicate. Please let us know what you would like included. We also 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.

Those who are at home or in nursing homes:

Betty Chaput – at The Saab Center at D’Youville in Lowell

Alice Howard – at The Residence at Freeman Lake

Beverley Jones – at The Residence at Freeman Lake

Mary Lynn Weinbeck – at home



Prayer list for on-going health needs:

Judi and Bob Hill

Jen Weinbeck’s friends, Mike and Sarah

Lisa Dushais

Inspiration Corner

"Approach the New Year with resolve to find the opportunities hidden in each new day."

Michael Josephson

Do you have any favorite inspirational poems, short stories, or devotions? If so, please e-mail to the church office at office@wcumc.us. We would like to share these in upcoming newsletters.

St. Paul's Meal

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, January 28, 2026**, at Eliot Presbyterian Church in Lowell. Thank you for your support of this important mission.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040448A8AB28AAFF2-61362231-stpauls>

Missions Committee

Summary of your Support for our Missions

The Missions Committee would like to thank all of you for your generosity in supporting the many and varied Missions of the West Chelmsford United Methodist Church in 2025! In addition to our ongoing contributions of non-perishable food items to the Open Pantry of Greater Lowell and the over 1,000 meals provided through the St. Paul's meal program to help feed our neighbors, we made donations totaling over \$11,800 to help our neighbors domestically and internationally.

In January, we started off the year by donating \$347 for Human Relations Sunday, which was celebrated the Sunday before Martin Luther King Jr. Day, to foster better relationships, community, and youth outreach. Then, in February, Holly Cerullo spearheaded a collection for the Kairos Center in Nicaragua that raised \$1,000 for much-needed repairs to their school.

In March, we donated \$1,676 to support the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)'s work in global disaster response and humanitarian aid.

We continued to support Belinda Forbes, the UMC Global Missionary for Nicaragua, in April with a contribution of \$2,500, plus an addition \$261 collected at Messy Church. Also in April, we donated \$305 to Native American Ministries Sunday to celebrate Indigenous gifts, support Native ministries, and provide scholarships for Native clergy.

In June, we contributed \$350 to the churchwide Peace with Justice special Sunday to support programs promoting peace and justice globally, funding ministries through the General Board of Church and Society.

Our Blessing of the Animals event in August raised approximately \$706 in Cash and Pet Food, plus roughly 40 lbs. of textiles for the Lowell Humane Society. In addition, another \$60 was raised for Newhouse Wildlife Rescue.

World Communion Sunday in October we raised \$321 to join Christians around the world to celebrate the Lord's Supper, symbolizing unity across denominations and nations through shared faith and the breaking of bread. Also in October, we supported the Lowell Transitional Living Center with their Winter Clothing Drive by donating an estimated \$935 in clothing for individuals who are experiencing homelessness.

In November we had the opportunity to donate to the Gaza Humanitarian Relief effort thru UMCOR in the amount of \$342 which will help to provide food, water, and other necessary relief to families displaced by fighting. We also had a \$50 donation to United Methodist Student Day which will next be celebrated in May 2026.

And finally, our ongoing participation in the Salvation Army Angel Tree program in December brightened the holiday with gifts for 35 children totaling an estimated \$3,000.

This congregation has certainly lived up to the words of Hebrews 13:16, "Do not neglect to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

Thank you!

The Howard Family would like to thank the wonderful congregation of West Chelmsford United Methodist Church for the cards and expressions of sympathy for Tom's passing. It was Tom's pleasure to be a part of WCUMC and its wonderful congregation! Your thoughtfulness was a great comfort.

Kind regards,

The Howard, Sawyer, Rautenberg, and Hendl Family

Our Favorite Pictures from December 2025

Advent 2025

Week 1 – Hope



Advent Week 2 – Peace



Advent Week 3 – Joy



Advent Week 4 – Love



Senior Choir Cantata “Sing With the Angels



Christmas Eve, 4:00 PM Service "Twas the Night Before Christmas"



Christmas Eve, 8:00 PM Service



Church Office Information

- The Church Office is open on 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.
- 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
- 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, January 19, 2026, for the February 2026 Newsletter.**



JANUARY 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 	2	3
4 9:30AM-Worship Service In-Person & via Zoom 9:30AM-Sunday School 10:30AM-Coffee Hour	5 6:45PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Wolf Den Mtg. 7:30PM-Jubilee Ringers Rehearsal	6 10:00AM-Congregational Care Team Meeting 7:30PM-Church Admin Council Mtg	7 7:00PM-Missions Mtg 7:30PM-Festival Ringers Rehearsal	8 6:30PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Wolf Den Mtg 7:30PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal	9 6:45PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Den Meeting	10
11 9:30AM-Worship Service In-Person & via Zoom 10:00AM-Sunday School 10:30AM-Coffee Hour 3:00PM-Westford Girl Scout Troop 70533 Mtg	12 7:30PM-Jubilee Ringers Rehearsal	13 7:30PM-Finance Mtg.	14 7:30PM-Festival Ringers Rehearsal 7:30PM-Trustees' Mtg.	15 7:30PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal	16 7:30PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Webelos Den Mtg.	17
18 9:30AM-Worship Service In-Person & via Zoom 10:00AM-Sunday School 10:30AM-Coffee Hour 11:00AM-Men's Group Study 2:00PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Tiger Den Mtg.	19 6:45PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Bear Den Mtg. 7:30PM-Jubilee Ringers Rehearsal	20	21 St. Paul's Meal 7:30PM-Festival Ringers Rehearsal	22 7:30PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal	23	24

25 9:30AM-Worship Service In-Person & via Zoom 10:00AM-Sunday School 10:30AM-Coffee Hour 3:00PM-Westford Girl Scout Troop 70533 Mtg	26 7:30PM-Jubilee Ringers Rehearsal	27 7:00PM-Christian Ed Mtg.	28 7:30PM-Festival Ringers Rehearsal	29 6:30PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Wolf Den Mtg. 7:30PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal	30 7:30PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Webelos Den Mtg.	31
--	---	---------------------------------------	--	--	--	-----------