

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter  
Worship Service at WCUMC and via Zoom

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April 12, 2026  
9:30 AM

Prelude – “O Day of Rest and Gladness” arr. Broughton

Greeting

This is the day that the Lord has made  
**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Opening Hymn – “The Summons”

Call to Worship

When we listen for God’s direction  
**The Lord illuminates a path**  
When we journey with anxious steps  
**Jesus walks beside us**  
When we arrive with tasks ahead of us  
**Christ has arrived before us**

Choral Introit – “We Walk by Faith” Wilson

Opening Prayer

**Loving God, thank you for going before us. Help us to stay on the course you have laid before us and to feel your presence wherever we go. Use us to help others find you. Direct us to help heal this broken world. Give us the ability to understand your will for us and the strength to act upon it. Amen.**

Passing of Peace

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Call to Prayer

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

Prayer of the People

The Lord’s Prayer

Children’s Message

Offertory Reflection

Offertory Anthem – “I Will Worship You” Neufeld

**Doxology**

Prayer of Dedication

**Precious God, we thank you for your presence in our lives. Bless these gifts we offer to you. May they be a reflection of your love as we respond to your call in our church, our community and our world. Amen**

First Gospel Reading – Mark 16:5-7\*\*

Hymn - “Walk With Me”

Second Gospel Reading – John 21: 1-11\*\*

Sermon – “He Goes Ahead of You” Lorraine Macpherson

Closing Hymn – “Song of Hope”

Announcements

Benediction

**Let us go now, to bring the love and peace of God to a hurting world with confidence that “He” goes ahead of us. And God’s people say: Amen.**

Benediction Response – “Holy Ground” Davis

Postlude – “Sortie” Blake

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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, on Zoom, or watching later via a video link.

The Flowers on the altar this morning are given to the Glory of God by Carole Wyant in loving memory of her sister.

**Today** – Senior Choir

Acolyte – Estelle Loiselle

Lay Reader – Cathy Order

Minister of Music – Karen Leonard

Pastor – Reverend Geisa Matos

Guest Speaker – Lorraine Macpherson

## THIS WEEK AT WEST CHELMSFORD UMC

### **Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter**

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

**10:00 AM, Sunday School in the Education Wing**

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

**11:00 AM, Simon Peter Book Study in the Library**

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

1:30 PM, MVR Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

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

Monday – 6:45 PM, Cub Scout Pack 70 Bear Den Meeting in the Education Wing, Classroom 1

**7:30 PM, Jubilee Ringers Rehearsal in the Sanctuary**

Tuesday – **7:30 PM, Finance Committee Meeting via Zoom**

Wednesday – **6:30 PM, Simon Peter Book Study via Zoom**

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

Thursday – 6:30 PM, Cub Scout Pack 70 Wolf Den Meeting in the Education Wing, Classroom 1

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

Saturday – 4:00 PM, Private Event in Fellowship Hall

### **Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter, Native American Ministries Sunday**

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

### Ongoing Prayer Requests

- World peace and social justice for all God's children, independently of race, gender, or socioeconomic background.
- 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 Monday**.
- Articles for the **church bulletin insert** are due in the church office by **9:00 AM Tuesday**.
- **Articles for the May 2026 Newsletter** are due in the church office by **Monday, April 20, 2026**.

**Altar Visuals:** This Sunday is often referred to as “Low Sunday” due to a large drop-off in attendance. However, we need to remember that every Sunday is a celebration of Christ's resurrection. The altar reminds us of resurrection and spring with butterflies, eggs, and a lamb.

**Simon Peter Book Study** – will meet this morning in the Library at 11:00 AM. The Wednesday night group will meet on Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, via Zoom.

**Men's Group Study** – will meet this morning in the Youth Lounge at 11:00 AM.

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

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

**Learning in Retirement Association (LIRA) Opportunity** – LIRA is presenting Immigration In The Merrimack Valley on **Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>**, from 1:00 to 3:00 PM via Zoom. The presenter is Robert Farrant.

Immigrants and immigration are clearly in the news these days. In this two-part LIRA presentation, UMass Lowell History Professor Emeritus Robert Farrant will discuss the Merrimack Valley's immigration history from the 1820s to the 2020s, with a particular focus on the Greater-Lowell story. Before the Civil War, the Irish arrived, and they continued to arrive afterward. The next wave of French Canadian and German migrants swelled the population between 1870 and 1900. Between 1890 and the First World War, immigrants arrived from numerous southern and eastern European countries, including Italy, Greece, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Poland, Armenia, and Lithuania. In the 1920s, after decades of trying, those in favor of dramatically curtailing new arrivals carried the day, and a quota system was put in place. During the 1960s and again in the 1980s, reforms to the system opened its gates, leading to the most diverse migration to the U.S. in the nation's history. Today, people continue to arrive from all over the world despite the obstacles and barriers they face.

Zoom Link: <https://uml.zoom.us/j/97798393660>

Meeting ID: 977 9839 3660

**Native American Ministries Sunday – On Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>**, we sponsor the seminary costs for Native American ministers. Then their ministers help guide the tribe. Native Americans have huge challenges, extreme poverty, and little government help. Methodist Native American ministers work to educate them to help them get out of the poverty cycle.

Native American ministers help their tribes combat incredible poverty. When we give to the Native American fund, we sponsor a tribal member to go to college and seminary. They then advocate for Native Americans' legal rights, food, and healthcare. Providing a JFON-like service for natives.

Their tribes as a whole work to help reduce poverty, not just among natives but among the poor in general.

In a way, giving to the Native American fund supports scholarships, colleges, and food banks. Half of all the money donated stays right in our conference, funding local American Natives to help local tribes. Native Americans have helped US citizens for hundreds of years. Initially, with farming and fishing skills. Then with freedom and liberty. They support the down and out. Even these days, Native Americans, though they are incredibly poor, still help the poor. If not for Native Americans, I would not be here, and I don't think Chelmsford as it stands would be here either.

The US Constitution is partially based on the principle of Native American equality. In our 250<sup>th</sup> year, we cherish our freedom. Native Americans helped us achieve that.

Please donate generously; we will all be blessed by your gifts.

David Helms, Missions Committee

**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, April 22, 2026**. Thank you for your support of this important mission.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040448A8AB28AAFF2-63159980-april>

**Ian MacPherson Scholarship** - The WCUMC Ian MacPherson Scholarship was established for those students graduating from high school who have been active in Sunday School, MYF, youth mission work, youth choirs, or the church program in general. **The application will be available online as of April 1<sup>st</sup>** at this link: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1pXWSsMZMkt-KzxTfyRWdBZvVb7ptOx\\_UCo6tJmhoPYs/edit](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1pXWSsMZMkt-KzxTfyRWdBZvVb7ptOx_UCo6tJmhoPYs/edit)

The deadline for submission is **April 30<sup>th</sup>** by midnight.

**2026 Summer Camp** - Summer is just around the corner. If you are looking for a summer camp experience for your child, the following camps are accepting registrations.

- **Aldersgate** – For information and Camp Registration, [click here](#).
- **Mechuwana** – For information and Camp Registration, [click here](#).
- **Wanakee** – For information and Camp Registration, [click here](#).

**Heifer International Project** - The Missions Committee is pleased to be partnering with the Sunday School as we are launching a six-week fundraiser supporting Heifer International. This year, we will once again be counted with the many United Methodists who are helping Heifer International in their mission to end hunger and poverty while caring for the earth. Stay tuned for the next six weeks to learn how we will be helping people and communities feed their families and become self-reliant. Each week we will be showcasing a different animal and how it can enrich the lives of a family in need by sharing a personal story of someone who has benefitted from Heifer International.

We start with the versatile chicken. Many families around the world want chicks because they give protein-rich eggs or meat to eat or sell. They adapt well to different climates and don't take up a lot of space. Inexpensive to feed, chickens round out their diet by pecking at bugs, weeds and seeds. Chickens also improve the ground by scratching up the soil with their sharp beaks and claws and fertilizing it with their droppings. Let's hear a real-life story:

“For Magali in Mexico, chickens helped her find her true self and improved her overall income. After experiencing a personal loss, Magali decided to rediscover herself by becoming an entrepreneur. Her journey began by caring for Melipona bees through the Educampo project and took a pivotal turn when she received an invitation from Heifer. After attending her first workshop alongside the women-only Kikibá Collective, she discovered her desire to own chickens. The collective focuses on ethical, cage-free production. She started with 50 hens, and she now has 160. Her flock produces about 65—70 eggs a day, which Magali is able to sell, elevating her income.”

We can purchase a flock of chicks for only \$20, or we can reach for our stretch goal of raising \$5,000 to fill the Ark! Please give generously either in our collection plate, designating your donation to Heifer, or in our Chicken bank located at the back of the Sanctuary.

*Hebrews 13:16 (NIV): "And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."*

For more information, contact a member of the Missions Committee.

**Save the Date for #StillInMission!** - Please join Belinda Forbes on **Thursday, May 7, 2026, at 12:00 PM EDT**, to hear updates from her missionary placement site with **AMOS Health and Hope**.

What happens on the call? The Zoom call lasts for one hour and includes a shared devotional, followed by breakout rooms where friends and supporters can engage in conversation with the missionary of their choice. Global Ministries will also bring updates and information.

Why #StillInMission? #StillInMission missionary episodes started during the COVID-19 pandemic and have continued as a valuable resource to connect local churches with United Methodist missionaries from different parts of the world.

#StillInMission is an opportunity to learn about the different ways missionaries answer God’s call and how churches can extend their mission presence in the world through the Advance. Registration is required. To join the #StillInMission May 7<sup>th</sup> Zoom call, please register by [clicking here](#).

I hope to see you there!

Belinda Forbes

**Lost and Found** – If you are missing a sweater, a pair of earrings, a pair of gloves, a single glove, or a toy dinosaur, please pick them up in the church office. Your items miss you.