

4th Sunday of Easter

Worship Service at WCUMC and via Zoom

April 26, 2026

9:30 AM

Prelude – “Ivory Palaces”

arr. Paxton

Greeting

This is the day that the Lord has made

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Opening Hymn – “How Like a Gentle Spirit”

Call to Worship

Do you need a guide?

The Lord is our shepherd.

Do you need a path to new life?

The Lord is our gate.

Do you need rest?

The Lord restores our souls. Come, let us worship.

Handbell Introit – “All Things Bright and Beautiful”

arr. Thompson

Opening Prayer

Loving Shepherd, you call us as your own. When danger is close at hand, you gather us to yourself, that we might dwell secure. When evil surrounds us, you give us a home and a safe place to rest. When foes threaten our fellowship, you rescue us from peril. Restore our souls, Gentle Savior, and lead us in the paths of righteousness, that we may walk in the ways of goodness and mercy, all the days of our lives. 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

Children’s Message

Offertory Reflection

Handbell Offering – “Toccata” from Suite for Handbells

Helman

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Shepherd of our souls, we thank you for the love that flows through our lives. May this love flow through these gifts, that no one may be in need. Work through this offering and through our very lives, that your community of love may be established here on earth for all the sheep of your fold. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Old Testament Reading – Psalm 100**

Hymn* - “Jesus, Name Above All Names” (sing twice)

FWS 2071

Gospel Reading – John 10:1-10**

Sermon

Closing Hymn* – “Shepherd Me, O God”

FWS 2058

Announcements

Benediction

The Lord is our shepherd.

We shall not want. In pastures green, we rest secure.

By still waters, we rest secure.

Go with the blessings of our shepherd.

And God’s people say:

Amen.

Postlude – “Onward, Christian Soldiers”

arr. Smith

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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 Ruth Clark in memory of a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and in-law. You are loved.

**Today** – Jubilee Ringers

Acolyte – Josephine Ciardi

Lay Reader – Roberta Stratton

Minister of Music – Karen Leonard

Pastor – Reverend Geisa Matos

## THIS WEEK AT WEST CHELMSFORD UMC

### **Sunday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter**

**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**.

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

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

**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.

**Fill the Ark!! Heifer International Project** - Imagine a world where families don’t just survive—they thrive! Heifer International empowers families by providing livestock, training, and resources that create lasting income and food security.

When you support Heifer, you’re not just giving a goat, a cow, or a flock of chickens. You’re giving a family the tools to build a future. Fresh milk for children. Reliable income from eggs or wool. Crops that flourish with natural fertilizer. And perhaps most powerful of all—knowledge and independence can be passed from one generation to the next.

What makes Heifer unique is its “pay-it-forward” model. Families who receive help commit to passing on the gift—sharing offspring, skills, and support with others in their community. Your single act of generosity multiplies into a ripple effect of hope, dignity, and self-reliance. Let’s hear Susan’s story:

“In Uganda, Susan is a devoted mother, working to ensure her three daughters receive the education she never had. Her life took a positive turn when she was introduced to Heifer. She learned how to successfully save money, make healthy concentrate for her cows and even added solar panels to her cowshed. Heifer’s support extended further with the gift of two Friesian dairy cows that have since birthed calves. This type of cow is known for producing a large amount of milk. Now with extra milk to sell, Susan not only secures her family’s nutrition but also paves the way for financial independence. She made her dreams of a life free from hunger and poverty become a reality, one that she and her daughters live each day.”

Each Heifer costs \$500 each. If we Fill the Ark, two Heifers are included! Please give generously in helping us raise \$5,000 to Fill the Ark either in our collection plate, designating your donation to Heifer, or in our chicken bank located at the back of the Sanctuary, or by mailing your donation to WCUMC annotated for Heifer. You may also donate electronically at <https://www.wcumc.us/give> through Tithley or PayPal.

If using PayPal, please send a follow up email to Finance at [fin\\_sec@wcumc.us](mailto:fin_sec@wcumc.us) to let Ellen know that your contribution is for the Heifer project.

*Psalm 113:7 “He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap;”*

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

**Trustees Spring Maintenance Day** – The Spring Maintenance Day is **Saturday, May 2, 2026, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM**. Listed below are some of the jobs Trustees would like to work on for our Maintenance Day.

1. Look at the window in the choir room
2. Put up blinds in the library
3. Put up a sign in front of the education building for delivery drivers to alert them that packages go to the back of the building
4. Put grab bars on the sides of the stage in Fellowship Hall
5. Continue decluttering the church – clean out filing cabinets, closets, and rooms as needed. Each committee is responsible for their own filing cabinet drawers.
6. Place hatching on the floor in front of the electrical box and Corporate Electric box to indicate that the spaces need to remain clear of clutter.

If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Trustees Committee.

**Messy Church Does Science! – On Saturday, May 2, 2025, at 5:30 PM**, can science really teach us about our faith? We are inviting the congregation and the surrounding community to come and experience some of the science experiments that teach us how to follow our faith. For those who have never been to Messy Church, be prepared to enjoy a free dinner, activities for all ages, music, dancing, and a message celebrating at this event, tying science and our faith. If you have one, bring your lab coat! We usually collect donations for those in need, so come and help us by bringing a food gift card, preferably from Market Basket, Stop and Shop, Walmart or Target, to share with some of our neighbors in our extended community dealing with food insecurity. See you there!

**Lowell General Hospital’s TeamWalk for CancerCare** - I am walking in Lowell General Hospital’s TeamWalk for CancerCare on **Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>**. The money raised supports cancer patients by helping them pay for their treatments, wigs, nursing visits, medications, prostheses, rides to and from treatments, support groups, and nutritional supplements... The list goes on.

If you are interested in learning more about “TeamWalk for CancerCare” or would like to walk or volunteer at the event, go to [www.teamwalk.org](http://www.teamwalk.org).

For anyone wanting to sponsor me online, go to my personal page at [https://www.teamwalk.org/site/TR/Events/General?pg=personal&px=1014687&fr\\_id=1211](https://www.teamwalk.org/site/TR/Events/General?pg=personal&px=1014687&fr_id=1211). If the page does not come up, go to [www.teamwalk.org](http://www.teamwalk.org), go to “Search Participants” on the left side of the page, and type in my name.

You can also donate by cash or check made out to “TeamWalk for CancerCare.” I will be available at coffee hour over the next few Sundays for anyone who has questions or would like to sponsor me.

Thank you.  
Adrienne Kielsing

**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

**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, May 27, 2026**. Thank you for your support of this important mission.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040448A8AB28AAFF2-63684503-may27>

**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](#).

**Upcoming Community Events** – Chelmsford Public Health has set up the following community events.

- Community Drop-In Hours on the last Thursday of the month from 1:00 to 3:00 PM, **beginning on April 30<sup>th</sup>**.
- Textile Recycling and Paper Shredding Event on **Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM** at the Chelmsford Senior Center at 75 Groton Rd., North Chelmsford.
- Summer Walking Group on the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail on the **2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month from 9:00 to 9:30 AM**. The first one is on May 12<sup>th</sup>. The meeting location is at the rail trail at Brickhouse Center. All abilities are welcome!