



## WEST CHELMSFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

242 Main Street, North Chelmsford, MA 01863

Tele. # 978-251-4834 email: [office@wcumc.us](mailto:office@wcumc.us) Church website: [www.wcumc.us](http://www.wcumc.us)

Pastor: Rev. Geisa Y. Matos

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

### MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

#### From the Pastor's Desk

##### *Expect Good Things*

Are you a gardener? If so, are things blooming yet?

I'm not a great one. I've probably killed more plants than I can count... even when I've tried everything, including talking and singing to them. So when I recently heard a radio host talking about how to be a successful grower, I paid attention. I was hoping for a secret.

But the takeaway was simple: sometimes plants don't struggle because they lack care, but because they get too much of it. Too much water, specifically. In trying to force growth, we can actually prevent it. Too much of anything, even something good, can overwhelm the very things meant to grow. Thanks be to God for those who tend the earth with care, who help make our surroundings beautiful, and who remind us that life is still unfolding.

Easter is a blossoming, a continual emergence of new life, much like what we see in gardens. It doesn't stay on one Sunday; instead, it unfolds in steady, often unseen ways. After the resurrection, Jesus comes to his disciples and says, "Peace be with you." He breathes on them and says, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

This is the perfect season to slow down and breathe deeply: to let our lungs fill and remember the Spirit of God within us. As we breathe in, let's remember: this breath is a gift; this breath is Spirit; this breath is prayer. Each one of these prayers proclaims that, in the end, all will be well.

As a church, we are sustained by Christ, our cornerstone. And here is a glimpse of that life among us: At the end of this month, we will celebrate two baptisms. This is a sign that our community continues to be life-giving and relevant—a sign that faith is still taking root among us, still growing, still blooming, still being renewed.

Water, in excess, can overwhelm and even destroy what is trying to grow. But in baptism, water becomes something different. It does not take life; it becomes the water where new life begins.

As we continue in this Easter season, may you be expectant—look for new life not only in the church, but also in your own life and in the world around you. Easter is not over; new life is still unfolding.

Rooted in hope,

*Pastor Geisa Matos*

## *Inspirational Corner*



**Do you have any favorite inspirational** poems, short stories, or devotions? If so, please email the church office at [office@wcumc.us](mailto:office@wcumc.us). We would like to share these in upcoming newsletters.

## *Prayer List*

We 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 in North Chelmsford  
Beverley Jones – at The Residence at Freeman Lake in North Chelmsford  
Carol Smith – at home recovering from surgery  
Mary Lynn Weinbeck – at home  
Dave Wilson – at Carlyle Place, Room 114, 40 Route 101, Bedford, NH  
03110



### **Prayer list for ongoing health needs:**

Judi and Bob Hill  
Lisa Dushais

## *Altar Flowers - March and April 2026*

Altar flowers for the month of March 2026 were given to the Glory of God by the following people:

- March 1<sup>st</sup> – Phyllis Carrow, in loving memory of her mother, Rose Cowdrey.
- March 8<sup>th</sup> – The Ruth Family, in loving memory of Jim and Carol McMillian.
- March 15<sup>th</sup> – Stephen and Kristen Kirby, in loving memory of Stephen's stepfather, Edward Carrigan.
- March 22<sup>nd</sup> – Nancy Bissell with prayers that 2026 will be a wonderful, wonderful year!
- March 29<sup>th</sup> – The McIlvenna Family, in celebration of spring birthdays for daughter, Linda, and grandchildren Lori and Brian Evan.

Altar flowers for the month of April 2026 were given to the Glory of God by the following people:

- April 5<sup>th</sup> – Easter Sunday - .Karen Leonard, Adrienne Kielsing, Larry Estelle, Phyllis Carrow, Ellen Cellini, Debbie Allen, Lynne and Mark Gollands, Robin and Peter Orford, Ellen and Gary O'Neill, Margaret Wilkinson, Judy and David Troughton, Nancy Bissell, Carole Wyant, Ruth Clark, the McIlvenna Family, the Davidson-Stratton Family, the Vaughan Family, and Colleen and Colin Duggan.
- April 12<sup>th</sup> – Carole Wyant, in loving memory of her sister.
- April 19<sup>th</sup> – Stephen and Kristen Kirby, in loving memory of his mother, Geraldine Carrigan.
- April 26<sup>th</sup> – Ruth Clark, in memory of a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and in-law. You are loved.

There is an opening on the flower calendar for November 8<sup>th</sup>. The flower calendar is posted on the wall in the entryway. On the November 8<sup>th</sup> space, write your name and phone number on the calendar. The flower arrangement each Sunday is \$30.00. Please make your check available to the church, noting that it is for the altar flowers.

If you have any questions, please contact Diana Bard at 978-692-7668 or Roberta in the church office.

Thank you for making the altar beautiful on Sunday mornings.

## *Welcome to WCUMC and Baptism*

We'd like to welcome Ashley, James, and Miles Macpherson to WCUMC. James grew up at WCUMC. He, Ashley, and Miles are currently living in Westbrook, ME.

Ashley and Miles will be baptized on Sunday, May 31, 2026.

## *Spring Church 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*

**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!

## *MYF Event*

**Our next MYF event will be on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>**, and we will be going to the Stonybrook Fish and Game Club in Westford, MA, to do some fishing. If your child does not have a fishing rod, the club will supply one free with bait that they can keep. After lunch at the church, we will leave around 12:00 PM and head to the club. Depending on how many kids that are going, I may need some help from the parents to drive and help at the club. Please have your child bring a bag lunch to church and dress appropriately for the outdoors.

If your child has any food allergies, please let me know. Also, the MYF is open to all kids who would like to participate. If you have never attended a MYF event, please come join us and have a good 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

## *Lowell General Hospital's TeamWalk for CancerCare*

**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

## *News from Belinda Forbes #StillInMission*

You are Invited to #StillInMission!

Please join me on **Thursday, May 7, 2026, at 12:00 PM EDT**, to hear updates from my 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

## *Merrimack Valley Ringers*

**HANDBELLS!** Merrimack Valley Ringers are back with another concert tour in late May and early June! This spring, MVR celebrates the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence that is the touchstone of the founding of America. We have brought together a program that celebrates the resiliency of our American history with an eclectic mix of traditional, heartfelt and whimsical pieces.



Some of our selections include William Wood's arrangement of "The All-American Hometown Band", which is reminiscent of traditional 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebrations in cities and towns throughout America, Sondra Tucker's stirring arrangement of "We Shall Overcome", remembering the struggle for civil rights in the 1960's, and Michael Helman's moving "Prayer for Peace", written in response to the tragic events of September 11, 2001. And of course, no 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration is complete without "The Stars and Stripes Forever"! We're happy to delight you with this unique program, where we'll live up to our motto of "Always Different, Always Fun!"

We can be seen and heard in Wilbraham MA, Andover MA, Bedford MA, and Concord, NH. Dates and times are on [www.mvringers.org](http://www.mvringers.org) – or email me at [music@wcumc.us](mailto:music@wcumc.us) or [director@mvringers.org](mailto:director@mvringers.org) for the schedule. If you are at the church, please pick up a "Let Freedom Ring" postcard in the Narthex - and give one to a friend. We hope to see YOU at one of our concerts!

Karen E. Leonard, Artistic Director – MVR

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

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


## 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 978-251-4834, 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, May 18, 2026, for the June/July 2026 Newsletter.





# 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> 6:45 PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Den Meeting	<b>2</b> <b>9:00AM-Trustees' Spring Church Maintenance Day</b> <b>5:30PM-Messy Church</b>
<b>3</b> 9:30AM-Worship Service In-Person & via Zoom 9:30AM-Sunday School 10:30AM-Coffee Hour 1:30 PM- MVR Rehearsal	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 10:00AM-Congregational Care in the Library	<b>6</b> 7:30PM-Missions Committee via Zoom 7:30PM-Festival Ringers Rehearsal	<b>7</b> 7:30PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>8</b> 7:30PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Webelos Den Mtg.	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9:30AM-Worship Service In-Person & via Zoom 10:00AM-Sunday School 10:30AM-Coffee Hour	<b>11</b> 6:45PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Bear Den Mtg.	<b>12</b> 7:30PM-Finance via Zoom	<b>13</b> 7:30PM-Trustees Mtg via Zoom 7:30PM-Festival Ringers Rehearsal	<b>14</b> 7:30PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:30AM-Worship Service In-Person & via Zoom 10:00AM-Sunday School 10:30AM-Coffee Hour 1:30PM-MVR Rehearsal 2:00PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Tiger Den Mtg. 3:00PM-Westford Girl Scout Troop 70533 Mtg.	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 7:30PM-Church Administrative Council via Zoom	<b>20</b> 7:30PM-Staff/Parish Mtg. via Zoom	<b>21</b> 7:30PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>22</b> 7:30PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Webelos Den Mtg.	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:30AM-Worship Service In-Person & via Zoom 10:30AM-Coffee Hour	<b>25</b> Office Closed 	<b>26</b> 7:00PM-Christian Ed Mtg via Zoom 7:00PM-MVR Dress Rehearsal	<b>27</b> St. Paul's Meal	<b>28</b> 7:30PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

<b>31</b> 9:30AM-Worship Service In-Person & via Zoom 10:30AM-Coffee Hour 3:00PM-Westford Girl Scout Troop 70533 Mtg.						
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