



WEST CHELMSFORD
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
242 Main Street, North Chelmsford, MA 01863

Pastor: Rev. Geisa Y. Matos
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*WCUMC Faith, Family, and Future are the
Cornerstones of this nurturing community.*

August 2026 NEWSLETTER

One of the greatest joys of July was celebrating the baptism of Eleanor Drapeau. Witnessing a child welcomed into God's family is always a beautiful reminder that God's love continues to reach new generations and that our church is a place where faith begins, grows, and is celebrated together.

That joyful celebration also reminds us that many more families may be searching for a church home. If you know parents or grandparents with babies or young children, please encourage them to consider having their children baptized here at West Chelmsford United Methodist Church. We'd be honored to welcome them into our loving and caring community. In fact, we're already looking forward to another baptism on August 16 with joyful anticipation. Every baptism is a celebration of God's grace and a reminder that our church continues to grow in faith and hope.



That upcoming baptism will be especially meaningful for me, as it'll also mark my return to regular Sunday worship on August 16 following my renewal leave. I'm grateful for this opportunity to rest and be renewed, following the biblical rhythm of Sabbath, and I look forward to worshipping with you again and serving alongside you.

The blessings don't end there! We'll close the month with one of our favorite traditions—our 3rd Annual Blessing of the Animals. This joyful community event is a wonderful opportunity to invite friends, neighbors, family members, and anyone who loves animals to experience the warmth and hospitality of our church. Bring your beloved pets to receive a special blessing, or if you're unable to attend, simply send us a photo so they can be included in our celebration.

As I look ahead, I'm filled with hope for what God has in store for our church. Together, we'll continue to welcome new people, celebrate God's grace, and share Christ's love with our community. I can't wait to see what God will do in the months ahead.

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May God renew your strength, fill your heart with peace, and surround you with grace each day. May our church continue to welcome, love, and invite all to grow in Christ.

Grace and peace,

Rev. Geisa Matos

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 get in touch with the church office.

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
Mary Lynne Weinbeck – at home
Dave Wilson – at Carlyle Place in Bedford, NH



Prayer list for ongoing health needs:

Judi and Bob Hill
Lisa Dushais

Inspirational Corner



Smell the sea and feel the sky. Let your soul and spirit fly.
-Van Morrison

Do you have any favorite inspirational poems, short stories, or devotions? If so, please e-mail the church office at office@wcumc.us. I’d 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, August 26, 2026**. Thank you for your support of this important mission.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040448A8AB28AAFF2-64847762-august>

Missions Committee

3rd Annual Blessing of the Animals *Save the Date, Sunday, August 23, 2026*



Come One - Come All! Big and Small! Fur, Feathers, Scales, or Fins - All are Welcome!

We will once again be supporting the Lowell Humane Society in its mission to save pets in the community. There are several ways that **you** can help:

1. We are sponsoring an in-gathering for the Lowell Humane Society's Pet Food Pantry to help them provide pet food, free of charge, to those in need. If you are able, donations of all types of non-perishable pet food, in sealed packages, will be collected from now until the Blessing of the Animals event. Pet Food donation Collection Boxes are in the Education Building lobby. All types of non-perishable dog and cat food, wet or dry, bird and small animal food are welcome. It is helpful if dry dog food comes in 5-lb bags so it can be given to more families.
2. Clean out your closets and update your linens and things! Animal shelters go through an incredible amount of sheets, pillow cases, blankets, and towels in their daily operations. If you would like to recycle any of your old linens, please bring your clean, used linens and items, marked for the Lowell Humane Society. All sizes are welcome, but they must fit into a standard-size washing machine. Look for the "Linens and Things" Collection Bin in the Education Building lobby.
3. Donations of old newspapers are very helpful to Animal Shelters. If you have any that are no longer needed, please leave them in the box marked "Newspaper" in the lobby of the Education Building.
4. Boredom for shelter pets is a real problem. Volunteers at the Lowell Humane Society would like to purchase enrichment items to help keep the animals engaged. If you can spare a dollar or two, please place them in the Jar on the Lowell Humane Society Table at the Blessing of the Animals event.

Finally, help us get the word out! Take a few hard-copy flyers and ask to leave a copy at any establishment that you visit! Your Hair Salon or Barber Shop, Nail Salon, Gym, Pizza Place, Senior Center, Grocery Store, or any place that will allow it! Tell your friends and neighbors. You would be surprised at how many people would love to help an animal in need. And don't forget your Social Media presence! When you see the WCUMC Facebook Post, forward it to your Facebook friends and groups! Keep the momentum going!

You may bring a photo of a pet who cannot attend or a beloved pet you would like to remember to the Blessing of the Animals service. These photos will also receive a Blessing! If you have any questions about the Lowell Humane Society in-gathering, please get in touch with the Missions Committee.

Thank You



Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the generous scholarship. This will help support my family and I as I go off to Bryant University this fall.

Thank you!

Troy Gregoire

A Special Thank You from Heifer International!



Heifer International recognized the West Chelmsford United Methodist Church with a certificate of appreciation for our generous donation. This certificate is on display in the Vestry.

Altar Flowers – June and July 2026

Altar flowers for June & July 2026 were given to the Glory of God by the following people:

- June 7th – Karen Leonard in loving memory of Mark.
- June 14th – Bea Stankard in loving memory of parents, Arthur and Elsa McLean, and Charles and Ann Stankard
- June 21st – Denille Ruth in memory of Jim, Carol, and Dick McMillen
- June 28th – Debbie Allen in remembrance of her mother, Candace Allen, who firmly believed in the value of Sunday School lessons being taught to children.
- July 5th – Stephen and Kristin Kirby in loving memory of Kristin's mother, Louise Mears
- July 12th – Carole, Rebecca, and Gregory Wyant in loving memory of Geoff, husband and father
- July 19th – Mark Smith in loving memory of his Aunt Mary
- July 26th – Roberta Marengi in loving memory of her mother, Nevley Hilliard

Church Office Information

- During July and August, the Church Office will be open on Tuesday mornings from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM and Friday mornings from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM. The office phone number is 978-251-4834, 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, August 17, 2026, for the September 2026 Newsletter**.



August 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 11:30AM-Private Event in Fellowship Hall
2 9:30AM-Worship Service In-Person & via Zoom 10:30AM – Coffee Hour	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 9:30AM-Worship Service In-Person & via Zoom 10:30AM – Coffee Hour	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 9:30AM-Worship Service In-Person & via Zoom 10:30AM – Coffee Hour	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 9:30AM-Worship Service In-Person only. Blessing of the Animals Service 10:30AM – Coffee Hour	24	25 7:00PM-Christian Ed Meeting via Zoom	26 St. Paul's Meal	27	28	29
30 9:30AM-Worship Service In-Person & via Zoom 10:30AM – Coffee Hour	31					