



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

Pastor: Rev. Geisa Y. Matos
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Church website: www.wcumc.us

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

SEPTEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

From the Pastor's Desk

“What a Summer! What’s Next?”

Since my return from renewal leave, I’m often asked, “Are you feeling refreshed?”

My answer is a joyful yes! The time away gave me a chance to rest, reflect, and be renewed. And since my return, it has been a beautiful gift to see the life and faithfulness of our church community. Thank you to those who faithfully led our church while I was away, and to all of you for your good wishes and prayers.

As promised, August was such an amazing month! Our lay leaders shared moving messages, and I’m grateful for the ways they helped lead our worship. I couldn’t have asked for a more beautiful first Sunday back than August 16th, when we celebrated Baptism and Holy Communion together. What a joy to welcome Kennedy Ruwa Purtell into our church family!



The following Sunday, we celebrated our 3rd Annual Blessing of the Animals, and it was simply spectacular! Even indoors, the joy was everywhere. Thank you to all the committees and volunteers who worked together to make it such a special celebration.



Summer often brings a quieter rhythm to church life, but our church has remained active and lively. Now September brings a new beginning. Our Sunday School classes begin September 6th, and we’re looking forward to meaningful and life-giving opportunities in the season ahead.

I invite you to be part of this new season. Come, connect, serve, and see what God is doing among us. Together, let’s ask how our faith calls us to respond to the challenges facing so many of God’s children in our community and beyond—and how we can turn our faith into action.

May this new season find us growing in faith, opening our hearts, and joining our hands in the work God has placed before us.

With hope for the journey ahead,

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



Prayer list for ongoing health needs:

Judi and Bob Hill

Inspirational Corner

A United Methodist Prayer for the Classroom

Back-to-School Litany

Learning is a gift from God.

As we begin this new school year, we give thanks that God has given us the ability to learn many things in many ways.

Loving God, sometimes a new school year seems exciting or scary or both.

Help us remember to show our thanks for your gifts of learning by doing our best every day.

We ask that you bless our schools, teachers, classmates, and friends.

We ask that you bless those who prepare our lunches, those who drive us to school, and those who keep our schools clean and safe.

We ask God's blessing on this new school year, that it may be a time when we appreciate and fully use God's gift of learning.

Amen.

Blessing of the Animals 2026



The Blessing of the Animals was a “blessing”. We had 60 humans, eight dogs, two cats, one rabbit, one bird, one Bearded Dragon, one Guinea Pig, and a poster of sticky notes and pictures of pets who have passed and those unable to attend. All were very well behaved, including the humans.

Holly Cerullo.



Thank you! - Many thanks to everyone who donated to the Lowell Humane Society fundraiser in conjunction with the Blessing of the Animals event. We raised an estimated \$500 worth of Dog, Cat, Small Animal, and Bird food for the Lowell Humane Society's (LHS) Pet Food Pantry, as well as about \$50 worth of dog, cat, bird, and small animal toys and treats! In addition, about 40 lbs. of sheets, towels, and blankets, and plenty of newspapers were donated to help with their daily operations, and the monetary contributions were much appreciated.

All of the LHS Volunteers attending the event were very impressed by the service, our church, and the welcoming nature of our congregation!

Thank you from the Missions Committee.

Sunday School

The first day of Sunday School will be **September 6, 2026**. If you haven't registered your child for Sunday School yet, [click here](#).

Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour Is Back! - It's time to start Coffee Hour, and everyone is invited! Beginning Sunday, September 6th, and continuing every Sunday following the service, we'll gather in the vestry to enjoy some time together as a congregation. There will be:



Hot coffee



A cuppa tea



Hot chocolate



A cold drink

We'll also have a sign-up calendar on the table for anyone who would like to bring a breakfast item to share. Nothing fancy or time-consuming is needed - just something simple to enjoy with our coffee and fellowship. Please choose a Sunday that works for you and add your name to the calendar.

We hope you'll join us each Sunday for good food, warm drinks, and, most importantly, good fellowship with one another!

Thank you from the coffee crew!

Rummage Sale

It's that time of year; **Fabulous Finds Rummage Sale** is coming up. People have already been asking when the sale will take place. The dates of the sale are **October 23rd & 24th**. Again, this year we will accept donations from members and friends of WCUMC only. Start putting your "fabulous finds" together. More information about set-up, donating times, and where you can assist will be coming soon. Last year's Fabulous Finds section was a great success, and we hope to provide that again.

Holly Cerullo, hbcteach@comcast.net or 978-846-2203.

College Student Addresses Needed



All parents of college students **please** send your son or daughter's college address into the church office. We also need to know if there has been any change of address from last year, or if it is still the same as last year! We do care about our college students. We specifically remember them on Halloween and Valentine's Day. Either call or e-mail their address to us. **Please take the time today and send us this important information. The church e-mail is:**

office@wcumc.us

St. Paul's Meal

Save the date – St. Paul's Soup Kitchen 2026 Fundraiser will be held on Saturday, **September 19, 2026, from 6:00 – 10:00 PM** at Mount Pleasant Gold Club, 141 Staples St., Lowell, MA. Tickets are \$55 per person (dinner and dancing) and are available by [clicking here](#).

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, September 23, 2026**. Thank you for your support of this important mission.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040448A8AB28AAFF2-65419765-september>

Altar Flowers - August 2026

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

- August 2nd – Davidson-Stratton family in celebration of Roberta's birthday on August 4th, and in memory of loved ones.
- August 9th – Larry Estelle in loving memory of Dotty.
- August 16th – McIlvenna family in honor of their son Scott's birthday and daughter-in-law Julie's birthday.
- August 23rd – Joanne and Elly Evans in loving memory of their parents, Fannie and Ralph Gould, and Hazel and Ellsworth Evans, Sr.
- August 30th – Ellen and Gary O'Neill for the love and joy of family.



Church Office Information

- The Church Office Hours are 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, September 21, 2026, for the October 2026 Newsletter**.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 7:00PM-Missions Committee via Zoom 7:30PM-Festival Ringers Rehearsal	3 7:30PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal	4	5
6 9:30AM-Worship Service In-Person & via Zoom, Communion 9:30AM-Sunday School 10:30AM-Coffee Hour in the Vestry	7 Labor Day Church Office Closed	8 7:30PM-Finance Committee via Zoom 7:30PM-Festival Ringers Rehearsal	9 7:30PM-Trustees' Meeting via Zoom	10 7:30PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal	11	12 8:30AM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Parent Trng 9:00AM-MVR Retreat
13 9:30AM-Worship Service In-Person & via Zoom 10:00AM-Sunday School 10:30AM-Coffee Hour 3:00PM-Westford GS Mtg.	14	15	16 7:30PM-SPRC Meeting via Zoom 7:30PM-Festival Ringers Rehearsal	17 7:30PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal	18	19
20 9:30AM -Worship Service In-person & via Zoom 10:00AM-Sunday School 10:30AM-Coffee Hour in the Vestry 1:30PM-MVR Rehearsal 3:00PM-Westford Girl Scout Mtg.	21	22 7:00PM-Christian Ed Meeting via Zoom	23 St. Paul's Meal 7:30PM-Festival Ringers Rehearsal	24 7:30PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal	25	26

27 9:30AM -Worship Service In-person & via Zoom 10:00AM-Sunday School 10:30AM-Coffee Hour in the Vestry	28	29 6:00PM-SPRC Meeting via Zoom	30 7:30PM-Festival Ringers Rehearsal			
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