

Prelude

Greeting

This is the day that the Lord has made

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Opening Hymn – “Let Us Break Bread Together”

Call to Worship

Come from every corner of the earth; God gathers us around one table.

We come with grateful hearts.

God has blessed us with unique gifts to offer in joyful service.

We come ready to give, ready to receive, and ready to love.

Come, let us worship the God who unites us and sends us out into the world.

Choral Introit – “I Come with Joy”

Wren

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, you gather us today as one family, around one table, across every border and nation. Thank you for all you have given us—our lives, our gifts, and one another. Forgive us when we hold too tightly to what was never ours alone. Open our hearts to generosity, and remind us that what we give can become a blessing to others. As we worship and share this Communion, make us one in Christ and send us into the world with love. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Listen to the good news.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven

Thanks be to God.

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

Offertory Reflection – Video “World Communion Sunday”

Offertory – “Circle the Table”

Horman

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Faithful Shepherd, you call us beyond our resumes and our trophies, beyond what we have been, toward who we are becoming in Christ. As we lay these gifts before you, free us from clinging to what we think gives us worth. Turn our eyes toward the future you are unfolding. Let our giving press us deeper into mercy, widen the circle of belonging, and shape us into people who embody your justice and grace. Keep us moving; keep us growing; keep us following. We press on toward your kingdom, trusting you to lead. Amen.

Gospel Reading – Matthew 28:18-20**

Sermon – “The Call to Ride”

The Great Thanksgiving and The Lord’s Supper (see last page)

Sanctus

Memorial Acclamation

Great Amen

Communion Music – “This Is a Day of New Beginnings”

“Spirit of the Living God

Closing Hymn* – “The Summons”

FWS 2130

Announcements

Benediction

And God’s people say:

Amen.

Benediction Response – “I Come with Joy”

Wren

Postlude – “We Are Marching in the Light of God”

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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 or 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 to honor her parents, in-laws, aunt, and uncle.

Prayer of Dedication from UMC Discipleship Ministry resources for October 4, 2026: <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org>

## Today

Acolyte – Preston Willett  
Lay Reader – Cathy Order  
Communion Ministers – Cathy Order, Preston Willett  
Minister of Music – Karen Leonard  
Pastor – Rev. Geisa Matos  
Guest Musician – Phyllis Carrow

## THIS WEEK AT WEST CHELMSFORD UMC

### **Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, World Communion**

#### **Sunday**

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

**9:30 AM, Sunday School in the Education Wing**

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

**11:00 AM, Acolyte Meeting in the Sanctuary**

**11:00 AM, Budgeting Workshop in Fellowship Hall**

1:30 PM, MVR Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

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

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

Wednesday – 5:00 PM, Private Event in Fellowship Hall

7:30 PM, Missions Committee Meeting via Zoom

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

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

Friday – 6:30 PM, Cub Scout Pack 70 Den Meeting in Fellowship Hall

### **Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

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

## Ongoing Prayer Requests

- Victims and their families of mass shootings in our country
- Victims and their families of plane crashes in our country and around the world
- World peace and conflict in the Middle East and Ukraine
- 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 on Monday.**

- Articles for the **church bulletin insert** are due in the church office by **9:00 AM on Tuesday.**
- **Articles for the November 2026 Newsletter** are due in the church office by **Monday, October 19, 2026.**

**World Communion** - Today, October 4<sup>th</sup>, is World Communion Sunday. It is a celebration of unity and service, being one in Christ across backgrounds, languages, and cultures. The Presbyterian church initiated this Sunday in the 1930s, when the country was recovering from the Great Depression, and churches needed cohesion and unity.

Funds collected this Sunday will go toward education, scholarships, and training for those going into any area of service (through the church).

Action needs to be Christ-like and safe, with positive action.

Nancy Bissell, Missions Committee

**Help Wanted** – If you would like to learn what an Acolyte or Lay Reader does on a Sunday morning, please let Rev. Geisa, Holly, or Roberta know.

- **Acolyte Meeting** will be held after the worship service in the Sanctuary.

**Stewardship Campaign** – Ride the Circuit: Fuel the Mission - The Circuit Riders carried Jesus's mission of reconciliation, justice, and peace to communities in need. Today, we are that community. Together, let's carry the mission forward. Come ride along and have the opportunity to be a circuit rider during our pledge campaign.

Pledge information will arrive on your doorstep via a member of our congregation or the US Postal Service. There are many ways to submit your pledge: bring or send your pledge form to the church, put your pledge form in the circuit rider packet, or submit your pledge electronically via our website at [www.wcumc.us](http://www.wcumc.us) and click on "give". If you have any questions, please call Ellen O'Neill at [978-835-6840](tel:978-835-6840).

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

**Halloween Messy Church is coming! – On Friday, October 16, 2016, at 5:30 PM.** Bring your costumes and be ready for a fun evening of ghoulish activities, scary dinner treats, monster dancing, fun music sing-a-longs, and a revealing message about how the love of Jesus is sweeter than candy!

October is National Substance Abuse Prevention Month and we will be collecting donations for the **Place of Promise** right here in Lowell dedicated to rebuilding broken lives through Christ centering programming. For donations, bring a Market Basket, Walmart, or Target gift card to give to those at the **Place of Promise**. For more information regarding **Place of Promise**, see their website, [www.placeofpromise.org](http://www.placeofpromise.org).

**Fabulous Finds Rummage Sale Countdown:** Only 17 days to gather all your “fabulous” items for our FF Rummage Sale. Please remember that we would prefer to accept donations from members and friends only. You can **bring your goods** to the church on **Sunday, October 18th, 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM; Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, 19th, 20th, 21st, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM; or by appointment.** The dates of the sale are **Friday, October 23rd, 3:00 to 7:00 PM & Saturday, October 24th, 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.** Set-up will be **Sunday, October 18th, after worship.** There are many ways to help. Sign-up sheets are in the lobby, or contact Abbey or Holly to volunteer.

Holly Cerullo, [hbcteach@comcast.net](mailto:hbcteach@comcast.net) or 978-846-2203, Abbey Ciardi, [abbeyandri@yahoo.com](mailto:abbeyandri@yahoo.com).

The **Fabulous Finds Rummage Sale Café** needs your help! We'll be offering snacks, soup, and hot dogs during the rummage sale on **Friday evening and Saturday**, and we'd love your help making it a delicious place to take a break from shopping.

### **Assorted Pastries & Sweets**

Brownies, cookies, bars, and other goodies are welcome!

**Please package in small baggies with 2–4 pieces per bag** for quick and easy sales.

### **Hot Dogs & Buns**

## **Homemade Soups**

The following are suggestions, but other favorites are welcome too:

- Turkey Rice — Gluten Free
- Butternut Squash
- Spicy Chicken, Bean & Veggie
- Minestrone
- Vegetarian Chili
- Chili with Meat
- Veggie Soup — spicy or not
- Chicken Rice or Chicken Noodle

## **Volunteers Needed!**

We'll also need help with **set-up, serving, and clean-up.**

If you're willing to lend a hand on **Friday, October 24, or Saturday, October 25**, please let Sue know what time you're available.

**Please contact Sue Loiselle with what you can contribute or how you can help:** [loisellesue@gmail.com](mailto:loisellesue@gmail.com) or 978-337-2163.

Thank you for helping make the **Fabulous Finds Rummage Sale Café** a delicious success!

**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, October 29, 2026** (please note date change). We have added slots for **bread**. After over 15 years, Panera Bread at Drum Hill has cut back on the availability of donations, especially bread. Thank you for your support of this important mission.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040448A8AB28AAFF2-66091664-octoer>

**Prayer Shawls** – The supply of prayer shawls is getting low. If you crochet, knit, or both, I can use your help. I have the basic prayer shawl pattern if you need it. Books with more advanced patterns are available, and Ravelry ([www.ravelry.com](http://www.ravelry.com)) is a good place to look for prayer shawl patterns.

If you have any questions, please see me in the church office, call me, or send me an email.

Roberta Stratton

**Lost and Found** – If you are missing a men’s flannel shirt, a child’s jacket, 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. If the items are not reunited with their owners by October 15<sup>th</sup>, they will be donated to the Rummage Sale.

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **Communion Responses**

### **Sanctus**

Holy, holy, holy Lord; God of power and might.

Holy, holy, holy Lord; God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory,

Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest! Hosanna in the highest!

From *Deutsche Messe* by Franz Schubert; adapt. by Richard Proulx

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### **Memorial Acclamation**

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Words: From *The United Methodist Hymnal*

Music: Sally Ahner

Music © 1988, 1996 Sally Ahner

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### **Amen**

Amen, Amen, Amen, Amen.

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