24th Sunday after Pentecost — November 8, 2026
Worship Service at WCUMC — 9:30 AM

Prelude – "Op. 28, No. 4" — Chopin

Greeting
This is the day that the Lord has made
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Opening Hymn – "How Great Thou Art"

Call to Worship
Bless the Lord, whose relentless love chases after us.
Bless the Lord, O my soul!
Bless the Lord, whose faithfulness endures through every season.
Bless the Lord, whose great power is greater than our trials.
Let us enter God's presence and worship the Lord with joy!
With all that we are, we praise your holy name!

Handbell Introit – "My Lord, What a Morning" — Thompson

Opening Prayer
Glorious God, we come into your holy presence with joy and gratitude. Bless this time of worship to draw us closer to you. Bless our lives to shine brightly with your love. Bless our work in the world to bring your justice and compassion to life. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Passing of Peace

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Call to Prayer
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

The Lord's Prayer

Children's Message — Rev. Geisa Matos and David Helms

Offertory Reflection

Handbell Offertory – "Courage and Grace" — Joy

Doxology*

Prayer of Dedication*
Holy One, thank you for blessing us in so many ways. Please bless our offerings: to bring your presence more fully into the world, to spread your love far and wide, to bring hope and peace where despair runs deep. In loving gratitude, we pray. Amen.

First Old Testament Reading – Proverbs 3:5-6**

Hymn – "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

Second Old Testament Reading – Ecclesiastes 3:1-8**

Sermon – "Tis the Season" — Angela McAlister

Closing Hymn – "When We Are Living"

Announcements

Benediction
And God's people say:
Amen.

Benediction Response – "O God Our Help in Ages Past" — Croft/Callahan

Postlude – "Bagatelle, Op. 22, No. 3 in F Major" — Beethoven

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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 Gary and Ellen O'Neill in loving memory of their parents, Jack and Alice O'Neill, and Ann and Jim Kester.

Today – Festival Ringers
Acolyte – James and Jack Ruth
Lay Reader – David Grudinski
Pastor – Rev. Geisa Matos
Guest Speaker – Angela McAlister
Guest Musician – Emily Dunbar
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THIS WEEK AT WEST CHELMSFORD UMC

Sunday, November 8th, 24th Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 AM, Worship Service In-person and via Zoom
10:00 AM, Sunday School in the Education Wing
10:30 AM, Coffee Hour in the Vestry
1:30 PM, MVR Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

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

Tuesday – **7:30 PM, Finance Committee Meeting via Zoom**

Wednesday – **7:30 PM, Festival Ringers Rehearsal in the Sanctuary**
7:30 PM, Missions Committee Meeting via Zoom
7:30 PM, Cub Scout Pack 70 Arrow of Light Den Mtg. in the Education Wing, Classroom 1

Thursday – 6:00 PM, Cub Scout Pack 70 Tiger Den Mtg. in the Education Wing, Classroom 1
7:30 PM, Senior Choir rehearsal in the Choir Room

Sunday, November 15th, 25th Sunday after Pentecost
9:30 AM, Worship Service In-person and via Zoom

Ongoing Prayer Requests

- For all who are grieving, especially within our congregation and community, that they may find comfort, strength, and hope.
- For unity among all people and peace throughout the world.
- For those experiencing poverty, injustice, and discrimination, that they may find dignity, justice, and compassion.

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 **December 2026 Newsletter** are due in the church office by **9:00 AM on Monday, November 16, 2026**.

Altar Visuals: Representing **Ecclesiastes 3:1** *"There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven:"* are the pictures of each season. The hearts with Love and Trust represent **Proverbs 3:5**, *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart."*

Pledge Cards: Thank you to everyone who submitted their Pledge Cards. If you haven't submitted your pledge or never pledged, please consider blessing your church by submitting a Pledge Card. You can submit your pledge by emailing Ellen O'Neill, Finance Secretary, at fin_sec@wcumc.us or by sending your pledge to: WCUMC, 242 Main St., North Chelmsford, MA 01863- 2106, Attn: Finance Secretary.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

WCUMC Hockey Game Night Out - Let's Go Riverhawks! Last year we gathered close to 30 people to go to the **UMASS Lowell Riverhawks hockey game**. Let's plan another event for us all to experience a night out cheering for the Riverhawks. The game is against the University of Vermont Catamounts on **November 20th, at 7:15 PM, at the Tsongas Arena in Lowell.** It is sure to be a competitive battle. Group Ticket rates are **$13** - just like last year; what a deal! Last-minute orders may be available but are not assured to sit together.

Transgender Day of Remembrance – Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR), celebrated annually on or around November 20th, is a day dedicated to honoring the transgender community and raising awareness of the discrimination and challenges they face. Chelmsford's event will provide a platform for visibility, support, and education, affirming the dignity and humanity of all transgender individuals.

There will be a candlelight procession to and around Chelmsford Town Common, followed by a vigil to remember and honor the individual names of those transgender people who lost their lives to anti-transgender violence in the past year. It is an opportunity for individuals to come together in solidarity and respect.

The procession begins at the Chelmsford Center for the Arts, 1A North Rd., at 6:00 PM on Saturday, November 21st, and the vigil begins at 6:30 PM. For more information, please email welcoming@uuchelmsford.org.

Advent Can Still Change the World - Join us for this remarkable study that will help us understand our present-day challenges as we examine the world at the time of Jesus' birth. We'll look at the themes of power vs. promise and empire vs. empathy.

Author Josh Scott (Pastor of Grace Pointe Church) will help us understand that the birth of Christ still offers the assurance that God is right here with us, and the hope that Advent can still change the world.

Lorraine Macpherson will lead this book study with video segments for each session. We will offer each session twice per week:

- Via Zoom on Tuesday evenings at 6:30 PM, November 24th - December 15th.
- In-person after church on Sunday, November 29th – December 20th.

Choose whichever time works best for you. Books will be available at the church office or on Amazon.

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, November 25, 2026**.

Each year on the Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving, WCUMC serves a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner (Turkey, Stuffing, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, and Squash) that is prepared by the Princeton Station Restaurant in Chelmsford. This year, WCUMC will provide traditional apple and pumpkin pies for dessert. We will need milk, 15 pies (apple or pumpkin only), and 8-10 servers for the meal. The pies should serve 8 people and be pre-baked, but DO NOT SLICE the pies.

Please review the available slots, make your selection, and thank you for your support of this important mission.

Thank you.

David Troughton

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040448A8AB28AAFF2-67202417-november

Holiday Fair – Calling all elves! We need to start planning for our Holiday Fair on **Saturday, December 5th from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM**. Please see the attached flyer to see how you can help.

- **Candy Making Night - Tuesday, November 17th.** Let me know if you are interested in helping. Holly Cerullo, hbcteach@comcast.net.
- **Plants** – Please let Holly know if you have a plant to donate to the Fair. Accepting 4"-6" pots of well-developed plants. A poster for Swag orders will be up soon.

Santa Parade - The Christian Education Committee has been working with Santa's Secretary to schedule Santa and his elves for a drive-by parade on **Sunday, December 13th, between 1:30 and 3:30 PM!** We would like to invite those who are interested in participating, either by joining the parade or scheduling a visit, please contact Kathy Clark at 978-857-1651 or kathysbiz@verizon.net.

Poinsettias – Keep an eye out for the Christmas Poinsettia sign-up list. Flowers have been pre-ordered for our December 20th worship service. You can choose between a white or red poinsettia. Please indicate if you'd like to take it and enjoy it for the holidays, or give it to a sick or shut-in to make their holidays cheery and colorful. The cost is $14.00 each. Please make your check payable to the church and note it for Christmas Poinsettias. If you have any questions, please contact Diana Bard at 978-692-7668.

2027 Flower Calendar – The 2027 Flower Calendar is posted on the wall in the entryway. Select a favorite date, and write your name and phone number on the calendar. Each Sunday flower arrangement is $30.00. Make your check payable to the church and note it for the altar flowers. If you have any questions, please get in touch with Diana Bard at 978-692-7668.

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.

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) 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 pair of black reading glasses, stop by the office and pick them up.