WEST CHELMSFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

242 Main Street, North Chelmsford, MA 01863
Rev. Geisa Y. Matos

978-251-4834| www.wcumc.us | office@wcumc.us

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

NOVEMBER 2026 NEWSLETTER

From the Pastor's Desk

"For All the Saints: Alleluia!"

If you're reading this, someone likely sees you as a saint—as a divine blessing in their life. We may be flawed saints, but saints nonetheless.

November invites us to reflect deeply on the saints who shape our lives: both those who continue to walk alongside us and those whose lives continue to inspire us from beyond. Their faith and witness remind us of the countless ways God's grace moves through our world.

This year, All Saints' Day carries a profound weight for our congregation. As we remember all those who departed from this earth in 2026, we especially mourn the immense loss of Karen Leonard, our music minister. Her life was deeply woven into the very fabric of West Chelmsford UMC, where her unique gifts, unwavering devotion, and resilience leave a lasting legacy.

To honor her legacy, we'll gather on Sunday, November 22, to celebrate what would have been Karen's 57th anniversary of service to our church. We'll dedicate the church organ to her ministry and place a commemorative plaque on the organ as a permanent marker of our gratitude.

With that same spirit of gratitude, I praise the Almighty for the many ways our church family has come together throughout this season of grief. Even amid our sorrow, we've completed our Stewardship Campaign, held Messy Church, and hosted the Fabulous Finds Rummage Sale. What an amazing church family! Your prayers, presence, and unwavering care for one another testify that the Holy Spirit continues to fuel our shared mission.

For you—and for the saints in our community—I say, "Alleluia."

And

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia, Alleluia!

Together in ministry,

Pastor Geisa



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Prayer List

We encourage you to clip out these names and keep them in your prayers. Please contact the church office if you would like your name to be added or removed from the prayer list.

It's never too late to send a note, card, or call.



The Family of Karen Leonard, who passed away on October 18, 2026

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



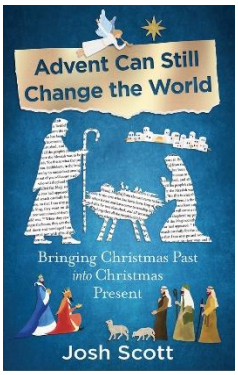
Do you have any favorite inspirational poems, short stories, or devotions? If so, please e-mail Roberta Stratton in the church office at office@wcumc.us. We'd like to share these in upcoming newsletters.

2027 Flower Calendar

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

Advent Book Study

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:

- 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.

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, 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



Fall Church Maintenance Day

On **Saturday, November 7th**, the Board of Trustees will be holding the Fall Church Maintenance Day from **9:00 AM to noon**. Some of the projects we would like to tackle include, but are not limited to,

- Clean sanctuary windows (outside)
- Take out storm windows
- Knox box install
- AC covers on all AC units
- Work in furnace room off vestry
  - look at exhaust/intake pipe near light in ceiling
  - install light in corridor off the room
- Install keypad for Rev. Geisa's door
- Install lockable door handles on door between Roberta's office and Rev. Geisa's office
- Inspect emergency stairs off sanctuary and emergency stairs off side of education building
- Clean out UM Army shed

If you have any tools or equipment that would help us accomplish these tasks, please bring it on cleanup day. If you are not sure these tasks are for you, we could also use some baked goods such as cookies or breakfast breads as well as coffee or tea.

If you have other projects in mind and would like Trustees' help, feel free to bring them to our attention. If you have any questions, feel free to talk to any member of the Board of Trustees or e-mail us at Trustees@wcumc.us.

Hope to see you all there.
Thank you on behalf of the Board of Trustees

UMass Lowell Hockey Game

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 **Friday, November 20th, at 7:15 PM, at 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. If you have any questions, please contact Bill Evans, 978-852-1456, or evans1818@verizon.net.

2026 Rummage Sale

This was a very successful event thanks to so many people contributing to all the areas. Everyone, workers and customers, were so friendly and had a wonderful time.

There were twenty-five people who stepped up to be sales associates on Friday and Saturday, and ten sorters and organizers each day, Monday through Thursday. The café operated efficiently with a team of five servers scheduled each day, including Fridays and Saturdays. All helpers had great suggestions and took charge when needed. Thank you to Abbey Ciardi and Lori Evans for being wonderful co-chairs and helping to bring the newly organized sale to fruition. Sue Loiselle did an impressive job with our Café, with so many parishioners donating soup and desserts. Our Fabulous Finds section with higher-priced items was a success. Thank you to Ellen O'Neill and her sister Betsy for helping us price these items appropriately. It was also a promising idea this year to accept donations from our congregation and friends, only as the goods we received were in good condition and sold well. We made approximately $2,700 this year. A big thank you to everyone for supporting this new format.

Holly Cerullo





HOLIDAY



Holiday Fair
Saturday December 5th - 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Please come and shop in a stress free atmosphere*! *Thank you for making our fair a success!

Don't forget to bring the kids to the ***Christian-Ed sponsored Kids Room***. Kids can have fun doing holiday-themed crafts and having fun – all while you shop!!
As always, our ***Professional craft vendors*** will be offering a great selection of gifts this year! We have new crafters joining us this year with new, unique gifts!!!
We will have beautiful hand-made gifts, jewelry, toys, and much more!
Stop by our ***breakfast bistro*** for a hot cup of gourmet coffee & homemade treats. Take a break at our ***luncheon*** featuring hot, homemade lunch. As always, we'll have handmade ***candies***, ***pies, breads & treats***, ***crafts,*** and ***white elephant bargains***!

Craft donations
Please deliver your craft donations to the church by Friday, December 4th. Please price each item with a suggested price.

Food donations
Donations for the food table can be delivered to the church the week of the fair. The church will be open on Wednesday, December 3rd, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM or 7:30 – 9:00 PM, Thursday, December 4th, from 5:00 to 8:30 PM, and Friday, December 5th, from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.





Candy donations
The Candy Table would appreciate donations of already-made fudge or other types of candy. Please drop off at the church by **Thursday, December 4th**. We also need **a few people to help with packaging on Friday afternoon, 1:30 pm at the church.**







October 2026 Photo Album

Messy Church – October 16, 2026







Karen Leonard – Celebration of Life Service, October 23, 2026



October 2026 Photo Album (continued)

Rummage Sale – October 23 and October 24, 2026



Festival Ringers – Sunday, October 25, 2026



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 978-251-4834, and the email address is office@wcumc.us.
- We have five-mail addresses:
  office@wcumc.us – for general church business
  pastormatos@wcumc.us – for Rev Geisa only
  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, November 16, 2026, for the December 2026 Newsletter**.

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **9:30AM-Worship Service In-Person & via Zoom** **9:30AM-Sunday School** **10:30AM-Coffee Hour** 1:30PM-MVR Rehearsal 3:00PM-Westford Girl Scout Troop 70533 Mtg	**2** **7:30PM-Jubilee Ringers Rehearsal**	**3** **10:00AM-Congregational Care Mtg**	**4** **7:00PM-Missions Committee Mtg** **7:30PM-Festival Ringers Rehearsal**	**5** **7:30PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal**	**6**	**7** **9:00AM-Trustees Fall Clean Up Day**
8 **9:30AM-Worship Service In-Person & via Zoom** **10:00AM-Sunday School** **10:30AM-Coffee Hour** 1:30PM-MVR Rehearsal	**9** **7:30PM-Jubilee Ringers Rehearsal**	**10** **7:30PM-Finace Committee Mtg**	**11**  **7:00PM-TrusteesMtg** **7:30PM-Festival Ringers Rehearsal** 7:30PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Arrow of Light Den Mtg	**12** 6:00PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Tiger Den Mtg **7:30PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal**	**13**	**14**
15 **9:30AM-Worship Service In-Person & via Zoom** **10:00AM-Sunday School** **10:30AM-Coffee Hour** 1:30PM-MVR Rehearsal 3:00PM-Westford Girl Scout Troop 70533 Mtg	**16** **7:30PM-Jubilee Ringer Rehearsal**	**17** **7:30PM-Holiday Fair Candy Making Night**	**18** **7:30PM-Festival Ringers Rehearsal** 7:30PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Arrow of Light Den Mtg	**19** 6:30PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Bear Den Mtg. **7:30PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal**	**20** 7:15PM-UMass Lowell Riverhawks Hockey Game	**21** **2:00PM-Annual Church Conference at Aldersgate UMC**
22 **9:30AM-Worship Service In-Person & via Zoom** **10:00AM-Sunday School** **10:30AM-Coffee Hour** 1:30PM-MVR Rehearsal	**23** **7:30PM-Jubilee Ringer Rehearsal**	**24** **7:00PM-Christian Ed Committee Mtg**	**25**	**26** 	**27**	**28**

29 **9:30AM-Worship Service In-Person & via Zoom** **10:00AM-Sunday School** **10:30AM-Coffee Hour** **11:00AM-Holiday Fair Setup**	**30** **Holiday Fair Setup** **7:00PM-MVR Dress Rehearsal**					