NOVEMBER 22, 2026 VOL. 9 ISSUE47

WELCOME TO

The Weekly Courier

A weekly newsletter brought to you by the Cheshire United Methodist Church

From the Pastor:

This past Monday, jury duty interrupted my usual plans. Waiting through a process I could not hurry reminded me that justice depends on ordinary people willing to give their time, listen carefully, and take another person's story seriously.

That responsibility begins with voir dire, meaning "to speak the truth." Potential jurors answer questions that help uncover biases affecting their judgment. Before we can weigh someone else's story fairly, we must be honest about our own.

In Compassion, Henri Nouwen and his coauthors bring together patience, deep listening, and honest confrontation. These practices ask us to stay present long enough to understand another person's suffering—and care enough to respond.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I see jury duty as a reminder of how much we depend on one another. Our lives are sustained by people who show up, give their time, and accept responsibility for our shared well-being. Around our Thanksgiving tables, we celebrate the gifts their love and labor make possible.

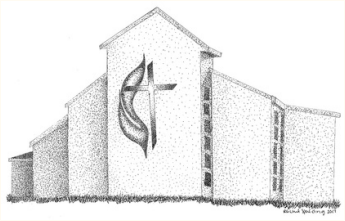
Gratitude invites us to continue that generosity. In the spirit of Martin Luther King Jr.'s call to serve others, we can ask: How will what we have received become a blessing to our neighbors?

Perhaps serving as "God's jury" for justice and peace begins with that question. It calls us to examine our prejudices, hear overlooked voices, and confront injustice with courage and compassion. These are everyday ways to live Micah 6:8: do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God.

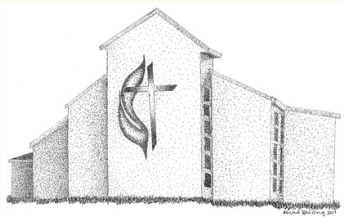
This Thanksgiving, may our gratitude move us to show up for someone else.



REV. DR. STEVE (YOUNG DONG) KIM
SENIOR PASTOR
CHESHIRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



This Week At CUMC



NOVEMBER 22	WORSHIP, 10:00 A.M.
NOVEMBER 23	ADVENT BIBLE STUDY, 6:00 P.M.
NOVEMBER 24	SOMETHING NEW, 11:00 A.M.

THERE WILL BE NO JUBILATE BELLS OR CHOIR REHEARSAL THIS WEDENESDAY, NOVEMBER 25TH.

Our Church Family Celebrations:



NOVEMBER 22	DEE POPOLIZIO
NOVEMBER 22	ERIN DEVILBISS
NOVEMBER 25	JULIANNE DEGANIS VALERIO
NOVEMBER 25	DIANE DYNIA
NOVEMBER 25	KEN ERICKSON (DRISCOLL)
NOVEMBER 27	DELPHINE DORTENZIO



NOVEMBER 27	MARA AND PETE WEED

FIND OUT MORE

Volunteers for Worship 11/22:



Usher: Joe Driscoll	**Visual Arts Creator: Rhonda Pattberg**
Ambassadoor: Jim Jackson	**Visual Arts Engineer: Mark Gilleylen**
Fellowship: Pat Keavney	**Livestream Tech: Matt Heafy**
Counters: Renee Poet, Michele Bloom	**Prayer Cards: Jean Roeder**
Lector: Promise Kids	**Member Outreach: Dot Mattson**

THIS IS AN ALL FAMILY IN WORSHIP TOGETHER SUNDAY. THERE WILL BE NO PROMISE KIDS OR NURSERY PROVIDED.

SOMETHING NEW:



Something New will be meeting on Tuesday, November 24th, at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING:



There will be a **Fellowship Committee Meeting** on **Sunday, November 29th**, following worship in the Faithful Thomas Room.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD:



Samaritan's Purse sends gift-filled **Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes** to children in need around the world together with the message of Jesus Christ. There are boxes available in the narthex, if you would like to be a part of this ministry. Before taking a box, please make sure that you know all the details of how to fill the boxes & what not to include. **Boxes need to be returned by THIS Sun, Nov 22nd with $10 for shipping (attach envelope with cash to outside of box).** *Boxes will be taken to the drop off location on Nov 22nd, so we cannot accept any late boxes.*

Go to: http://www.samaritanspurse.org/ for more info, including how to track your box to see where it ends up.

COLLECTING FOR BLESSING BAGS:



Blessing Bags are bags that you can keep in your car so that when you see someone while you are out that is asking for help, you have something useful (instead of cash) that you can give them. The bags are filled with snacks & other items that may be useful, like nail clippers, band-aids, tissues, etc. **through Sun, Nov 29th**: If you would like to donate, please leave your items in the collection bin in the narthex.

Items needed: warm socks, wipes, tissues, water, snacks (stay away from chocolate & things that are hard to chew), band-aids, nail clippers.
*Other good items to use: gloves, small notepads/pen, lip balm, deodorant, disposable razors, multi-tools, moisturizer, individual packs of Tylenol/Advil, dry shampoo, hand lotion.

**We already have lots of toothbrushes/toothpaste & Ziplock bags.

MUSIC MESSAGE:



Behind the Hymn
This Thanksgiving Sunday, our **Children's Choir and Chancel Choir will sing together**, offering Henry Smith's beloved song, "**Give Thanks**."

Smith wrote the song in 1978 during a difficult season. He was struggling to find work, facing financial uncertainty, and losing his sight to a degenerative condition. After hearing a sermon about discovering spiritual riches even in poverty, he responded by writing this simple song of gratitude.
The song eventually traveled from his church to Germany through a military couple and was later recorded around the world—often credited to "author unknown"—before Smith was finally recognized as its writer.

Its story reminds us that **gratitude can grow even amid uncertainty**. As our children and adults sing with one voice, we give thanks for God's enduring love and for the gift of Jesus, who sustains us through both joy and hardship. This is part of our purpose: to recognize God's gifts and share our gratitude from one generation to the next.

📣**There will be no Bell and Choir practice on Wednesday, 11/25.**

PROMISE KIDS UPDATE:

ALL GENERATION WORSHIP TOGETHER (no nursery & Promise Kids gathering)!

This Thanksgiving Sunday, families of all ages will worship together! Our children will take part by reading Scripture, sharing the children's message, and singing with the choir.
Together, every generation will give thanks to God for the blessings of our families, church, neighbors, and wider community.

We will also celebrate a special milestone by presenting Bibles to 16 children. Your financial support of our Children's Ministry is greatly appreciated as we continue to nurture our children and help them grow in faith.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THIS SUNDAY!:



MEDIA MINISTRY UPDATE:

Over the past few months, the **Media Ministry** has completed production of several video projects, including the "Live Like Jesus" sermon series video in October, the "Purpose" sermon series video in November, and the Promise Kids promotional video. The Media Ministry also had the opportunity to capture footage from our Trunk-or-Treat community event, helping preserve and share the life of our church.

Looking ahead, Cole will continue filming church activities and events to build a library of photos and video content that can be used for future Media Ministry projects, our church website, outreach efforts, and special events.

If you have a church-related event you would like captured by the Media Ministry, please email cole@tacticalfocusmedia.com

HOPE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS CONCERT:



Hope for our Neighbors, Inc. is a non-profit organization here in Cheshire that provides hope and help for housing insecurity and homelessness in Cheshire. **St. Bridget's Church will be hosting a holiday concert** with proceeds being donated to Hope for Our Neighbors. The concert will be held on **Friday, December 11th at 7:00 p.m. with the cost of $50 per ticket**. All are invited to attend. To learn more about Hope for our Neighbors, please see their Facebook page or visit, www.hfon.org.

POINSETTIA SALES BEGIN THIS WEEK!:

Poinsettia sales will begin this week and continue through Sunday, December 6th. Each pot is 6.5" and will cost $9. These gifts will be recognized in the December 13th and December 20th bulletins, as well as the Christmas Eve bulletin. Flowers will be available for pick-up following the Christmas Eve service. Please find the order form in your bulletin, or call the office if you're unable to order in person! Please see Dot Mattson for more information.

THANK YOU TO OUR BLOOD DRIVE VOLUNTEERS:



Megan Serke, our Red Cross liaison presented us with a meaningful mission moment last Sunday. I didn't expect to be called up front, but as soon as I sat back down I realized that I was remiss to not grab the microphone and mention our faithful volunteers. Thank you to Ruth Veleber, Matt Heafy, Jean Roeder, Laurie Bellagamba, Deb Bond, Doug VanWie, Diane Gaborc, Dee Popolizio and Renee Poet. (I so hope I'm not leaving anyone out.)

If any others would like to join us, please let me know. Despite what it sounds like on the surface, we have a good time, mostly spent making the donors feel welcomed and appreciated. Our next drive is Thursday December 17.

Sue Trumbo

CHESHIRE CREATION CARE EVENT:



Cheshire Creation Care (CCC) will be hosting a talk on **Climate Change and a Path to a Sustainable Future: Where we are and where to find hope** by Professor Dan Esty, Hillhouse Professor of Environmental Law and Policy, Yale University.

Where: First Congregational Church of Cheshire

When: December 7, 2026

Cost: Free Admission

All are invited to attend. Please see Steve Trumbo for more information.

ADVENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:



It's hard to believe Advent is almost here! As we begin preparing for the season, sign-up sheets for **Advent Candle Lighting** will be available on the table outside the sanctuary. The dates are 11/29, 12/6, 12/13, and 12/20.

Whether you'd like to light a candle or participate as a family, we invite you to sign up and help make our Advent meaningful and welcoming for all. Please consider which date or time would work best for you. If you are unable to sign up in person, please call or email the office!



Please keep in mind that Fridays are the Pastor's Sabbath. Unless it's a pastoral emergency, please call the office at 203-272-4626 or email office@cheshireumc.com and it will be addressed ASAP. Thank you!