



WELCOME TO

The Weekly Courier

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

From the Pastor:

Faith in the Midst of Unanswered Questions

Dear Beloved Community,

Nobel Prize-winning poet Anne Carson offers an unsettling portrait of the prophet in her poem "Book of Isaiah, Part I." Her Isaiah experiences anger, pain, and the struggle to hear God. His relationship with God is full of tension and longing. This portrayal invites us to consider a question of our own: Does believing require us to know all the answers?

There are moments when we wish faith could explain everything—why tragedy happens, why someone we love suffers, or why our prayers seem to meet silence. Yet faith can live alongside unanswered questions. We can bring our confusion, anger, and sorrow into our relationship with God. Sometimes the most honest prayer we can offer is, "Lord, I do not understand. Please stay near."

In Isaiah, we hear this promise: "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you." (Isaiah 43:2, NRSVUE) These words give us something to hold as we face what we cannot explain: the promise of God's presence.

This week, I ask our church family to surround a family enduring heartbreaking loss following a tragic car accident. A father is grieving the death of his daughter while his wife remains in a coma. Out of respect for the family's privacy, we will keep their names confidential. Please hold them faithfully in your prayers.

Pray for this father as he carries grief for his daughter and fear for his wife. Pray for his wife's healing and recovery, and for wisdom and steadiness for those caring for her. Pray for their loved ones and for people who can offer patient companionship and practical help in the days ahead.

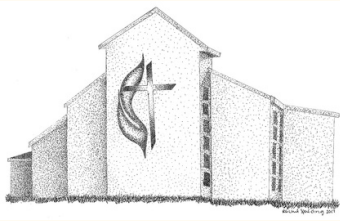
As a church, we can help carry sorrow that is too heavy for one person to bear alone. We can keep praying when words are difficult to find. We can make room for tears and questions, trusting that God receives them with love.

Let us pray:

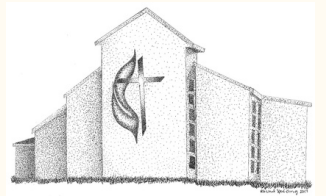
Loving Father, draw near to this family. Hold this grieving father tenderly as he mourns his daughter and waits beside his wife. Bring healing to his wife, guide her medical team, and surround their loved ones with compassionate care. Receive their sorrow, their questions, and every prayer that has no words. Teach us to love them faithfully and to remember them in the days and weeks ahead. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



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



This Week At CUMC



OCTOBER 18	WORSHIP, 10:00 A.M.
OCTOBER 18	PICKLEBALL MEET-UP, 4:00 P.M.
OCTOBER 20	SOMETHING NEW, 11:00 A.M.
OCTOBER 21	JUBILATE BELLS, 6:30 P.M.
OCTOBER 21	CHOIR REHEARSAL, 7:30 P.M.
OCTOBER 24	CHARGE CONFERENCE, 10:00 A.M. (GRACE UMC)

Our Church Family Celebrations:



OCTOBER 22	MALLORY JACKSON
OCTOBER 23	NADIA BAUER
OCTOBER 23	SHARON VANWIE



[FIND OUT MORE](#)

Volunteers for Worship 10/18:



Usher: Holly Carey	Visual Arts Creator: Rhonda Pattberg
Ambassador: Jim Jackson	Visual Arts Engineer: Mark Gilleylen
Fellowship: Claire Strand, Renee Poet	Livestream Tech: Natalie Missakian
Promise Kids: Kris Grant, Brian Sullivan	Prayer Cards: Jean Roeder
Nursery (0-5): Farai Grant	Member Outreach: Marge Jordan
Counters: Carol Hotz, Joe Driscoll	

PICKLEBALL MEET-UP



The **last Pickleball Meet-up** of 2026 will be this Sunday October 18th, at 4:00 p.m. at Cheshire Park.

SOMETHING NEW:



Something New will be meeting on Tuesday, October 20th, at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

CUMC CHURCH CONFERENCE:



There will be a **CUMC Church Conference** held at Grace UMC in Southington (121 Pleasant St.) on Saturday, October 24th from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. We will be meeting as a Cooperative Parish. All are invited to attend.

APPLE PIE SALES:



Apple pie sales will begin this Sunday! Orders must be in by Nov. 1st. Orders will be ready for pick up on Nov. 15th with pie making the day before, Nov. 14th. You won't want to miss out on CUMC's good, old homemade apple pie (If you know, you sang it just like in Lazarus)! Find the order form [here](#).

COOPERATIVE PARISH BOAT CRUISE!:

The Midsate Cooperative Parish will be hosting a **Boat Cruise** on the CT River for all churches in our cooperative parish!

Date: Saturday, November 7, 2026

Time: 11:30-2:30 (boarding begins at 11:15a.m.)

Where: Lady Kate Dock Location
Eagle Landing State Park
14 Little Meadow Rd.
Haddam, CT 06438

Cost: \$42 per person, included in the menu:

Passed Appetizers, Buffet Lunch, Beverages, and Dessert (You can see the full menu near the sign up sheet in the fellowship hall.)

Please sign up in the Fellowship Hall and make payment by 10/25 to reserve your spot! For further info, please speak with Dee Poplizio.



Cooperative Church Boat Cruise Aboard The Lady Kate



Date: Saturday, November 7, 2026

Time: 11:30a-2:30p (Boarding time starts at 11:15am. Boat departs at 11:30am)

Lady Kate Dock Location:
Eagle Landing State Park
14 Little Meadow Rd.
Haddam, CT 06438

Details: Boat Cruise on the CT River. Light food and N/A beverages included
Cost: \$42.00 per person (Adults & Children)

Please sign up by Sunday, October 25th and make payment to CUMC by that date for the number attending in your party. Sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall

MUSIC MESSAGE:

A decorative graphic of a musical staff with notes, curving upwards from left to right.

This Sunday, we will combine “**I’m Pressing on the Upward Way**” with “**Amazing Grace.**” Written by Johnson Oatman Jr., “I’m Pressing on the Upward Way” expresses the believer’s desire to keep growing in faith and moving toward a more Christlike life. John Newton, author of “Amazing Grace,” was once a sailor and slave-ship captain. After surviving a violent storm at sea, he began a long journey of repentance and transformation. He later became a pastor and spoke against the slave trade he had once supported.

Together, these hymns reflect our theme, “**Live Like Jesus.**” We press toward higher ground—not through our own strength, but through the amazing grace that forgives our past, transforms our hearts, and leads us home.

■ Please continue to fill out an **orange hymn-request** form and share a hymn you would like the congregation to sing. We look forward to including the songs that are especially meaningful to you.

🎵🔔 There is always room for more musicians! If you enjoy music and fellowship, please consider joining the **Jubilate Bell Choir** or the **Chancel Choir**. Whether you have many years of musical experience or are simply interested in trying something new, you are warmly invited to join us.

PROMISE KIDS UPDATE:



This Sunday, Promise Kids will continue our “**Live Like Jesus**” series by learning how Jesus showed humility and put others first. Through His example, the children will discover simple ways to care for, serve, and honor others in their daily lives.

We invite your family to join us for this meaningful lesson. We look forward to seeing you!

STEWARSHIP CAMPAIGN:



Our **2027 Stewardship Campaign** begins this month. What to expect: A launch letter from Pastor Steve has been mailed out. This week, you'll receive a mailing from our Finance Chair. From the launch and receiving your pledge packet, you'll have approximately one month to prayerfully consider your 2027 commitments of Time, Talent, and Treasure. All pledges and talent surveys are due by November 15.

Questions may be directed to Mark Gilleylen, CUMC Financial Chair at 06489nutmeg@gmail.com.

ONLY TWO MORE SUNDAYS TO COLLECT YAMS!!!:



CUMC is joining in a town-wide effort to support 160 Cheshire families, with a collective 359 people, enjoy Thanksgiving dinner.

We are in charge of **CANNED YAMS**. Our goal is 200 cans!! If you would like to help with this mission opportunity, please bring in your donation of 29 oz cans of yams by Sun, October 25th.

There is a collection bin in the narthex.

If you would prefer to give a monetary donation, please bring to church by October 18th & give it to Jennifer Roeder or write checks out to CUMC with a notation that it's for "Yams" and place in collection plate.

CLOTHESLINE FUNDRAISER:



Due to the success of our clothesline fundraiser, we will be keeping the donation period OPEN! We have already raised **\$9,414**! What a blessing for our church. Now, let's keep it going. Thank you for your continuous support for CUMC and its ministries.

TIME AND TALENT CONSIDERATIONS:



Looking ahead to 2027, we invite you to share where you feel called to serve at CUMC. Whether it's a committee, a new role, or a talent you haven't shared before, we'd love to know how you hope to contribute. Please fill out the **Time & Talent** form [here](#) and return it to Pastor Steve. Thank you for the many ways you support the life of our church.

SAVE THE DATE!



Trunk or Treat is coming back to CUMC, Mark your calendars! It will be held on Sunday, October 25th, from 3-4:30 p.m. here in the church parking lot. Please see the sign-up sheet [here](#). We need cars set up AND treats to hand out! If you are unable to participate in person, but would like to contribute treats for others to pass out, we would greatly appreciate it! Bring your favorite trick-or-treaters for an afternoon of fun!

TRUSTEES' WORK DAY:



It is time for the **Trustees' Annual Fall Work Day**! It will be held on Saturday, October 31st at 8:00 a.m. until completion. The Trustees will be working inside and outside of our building to do a clean-up/reorganization before winter. A list of items they're hoping to accomplish can be found [here](#). As we are a family, all are invited to lend a hand. Many hands make light work!

MEDIA MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY NEW DATE!!:



Sign-up for a Scripture Reading Video Session with Cole Jackson for CUMC's Media Ministry!

Are there any bible verses that stand out to you as particularly meaningful or memorable? Do you have a favorite? Is there a moment in your life reflected in scripture? Was there a particular verse that changed your life? Let's share it with our community and help build a critical part of CUMC's Media Ministry!

Each filming session takes only 10 to 20 minutes of your time. No experience necessary and the scripture need not be memorized. Bring yourself, your scripture, why it is important to you, and of course, bring your faith! **Please see the newest recording date below!**

Time slots are still available:

Saturday, November 14th 12:00-1:20 p.m.

Sign-up & additional details:

<https://tacticalfocusmedia.pixieset.com/booking/scripture-reading-video-session>

NEW WEBSITE!:



Our church website has a brand-new look! Visit cheshireumc.com to see the redesign and updated features. Many thanks to Rhonda for her time, care, and creativity in bringing our online presence up to date.



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!



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