



# 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent



CHESHIRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

205 Academy Road, Cheshire, CT 06410

(203) 272-4626 [www.cheshireumc.com](http://www.cheshireumc.com)

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**Welcome to the Cheshire United Methodist Church.  
All are welcome (all means all)!**

The Reverend Doctor Steve Y.D. Kim, *Pastor* [pastor@cheshireumc.com](mailto:pastor@cheshireumc.com)

Mara M. Weed, *Music Director*

Kaitlin Heuser, *Admin. Assistant* [office@cheshireumc.com](mailto:office@cheshireumc.com)

Lisa Moran, *Sexton*

# FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

FEBRUARY 22, 2026

10:00 A. M.

PRELUDE

Mara Weed

OPENING PRAYER

WORDS OF WELCOME

The Pastor

♦ CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Leader: When the way feels uncertain and the path feels long,

**People: God meets us in the wilderness.**

Leader: When we are tempted to take the easy road,

**People: Christ shows us the faithful way.**

Leader: When hunger, fear, or pride pull at our hearts,

**People: The Spirit strengthens us to trust.**

Leader: We do not gather to prove ourselves.

**People: We gather because we are already loved.**

Leader: Come, let us worship the Lord our God.

**All: We will worship and serve God alone.**

♦ OPENING HYMN # 395

“Take Time to be Holy”

♦ PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION

Faithful God, You are steady when we are restless and constant when the world shifts beneath our feet. You led your Son into the wilderness not to abandon him, but to deepen trust. In hunger and testing, he chose your word and your way. We praise you for a kingdom shaped by obedience and love, for strength that endures rather than dominates. You sustain us when bread is scarce and certainty is thin. You alone give life that satisfies. Form our hearts in the wilderness. Teach us to trust you beyond comfort, applause, or power. We worship you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and always. Amen.

♦ CHILDREN’S HYMN      “I’ve Got the Love of Jesus, Love of Jesus Down in My Heart”

CONVERSATION WITH THE CHILDREN & THE LORD’S PRAYER

“Jesus Loves Me”

*(ushers collect green prayer cards)*

THE FIRST LESSON (p. 479-480 OT)

Psalm 32 (responsive)

♦ THE GOSPEL LESSON (p. 3 NT)

Matthew 4:1-11(responsive)

SERMON

“TESTED, NOT SHAKEN”

CHORAL ANTHEM

“Lenten Meditation”

Jay Althouse

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY

♦Doxology #95, Prayer of Dedication and Altar Call

♦CLOSING HYMN #377

“It Is Well With My Soul”

♦THE BENEDICTION

♦PASSING OF THE PEACE

♦Stand, if you are able

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*Usher:* Holly Carey

*Visual Arts Creator:* Carl Strand

*Ambassadoor:* Jim Jackson

*Visual Arts Engineer:* Mark Gilleylen

*Fellowship:* Cindy Decker, Ruth Casulla

*Livestream Tech:* Matt Heafy

*Member Outreach:* Elizabeth Thomas

*Counters:* Carol Hotz, Ruth Veleber

*Nursery:* Barbara Heafy

*Prayer Cards:* Chris Driscoll

*Sunday School:* Sue Trumbo, Kaitlin Heuser

*Lector:* Juanita Champagne

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## Announcements

The **altar flowers** are given to the Glory of God by Mrs. Hye Won Hong and Dr. Sung Whee Hong in honor of their February birthdays.

Please welcome our **newest members:** Matti Lilback, Melody Russell, Hye Won Hong, and Sung Whee Hong

**Something New** will be meeting on Tuesday 2/24 at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

The **Safety Task Force** will be meeting on Thursday, 2/26 at 7:00 p.m. in the Faithful Thomas Room.

We have a new **YouTube channel** and encourage you to check it out. Check the links on our church's website, [www.cheshireumc.com](http://www.cheshireumc.com).

## *The Lord's Prayer*

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever. Amen.

## *Welcome!*

We are a Welcoming and Reconciling congregation. Rooted in God's love, we affirm the dignity and worth of every person and seek to live Christ's call to compassion, justice, healing, and wholeness. We welcome people of all races, ages, genders, sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, nationalities, abilities, family structures, and social or economic backgrounds into the full life and leadership of the church. We believe we can love alike even when we do not think alike, and we invite all to share in worship, ministry, fellowship, and the sacraments as we grow together in faith and love.

## *Who We Are . . .*

We are a church family that welcomes all, regardless of political views or Christian perspectives, because we belong to the one family of God. Though we may not always agree, we commit to loving, forgiving, honoring our differences, and serving together as we live out the Gospel of God's love revealed in Jesus Christ. Guided by Micah 6:8, we strive to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.