



CHESHIRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

205 Academy Road, Cheshire, CT 06410

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@CheshireUnitedMethodistChurch

Welcome to the Cheshire United Methodist Church.

All are welcome (all means all)!

The Reverend Doctor Steve Y.D. Kim, *Pastor* pastor@cheshireumc.com

Mara M. Weed, *Music Director*

Kaitlin Heuser, *Admin. Assistant* office@cheshireumc.com

Lisa Moran, *Sexton*

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 1, 2026

10:00 A. M.

PRELUDE

Mara Weed

OPENING PRAYER

WORDS OF WELCOME

The Pastor

◆CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Leader: We gather in a world of light and shadow.

People: We come seeking the light of Christ.

Leader: The wind of God's Spirit moves where it will.

People: Breathe on us, O Spirit, and make us new.

Leader: God so loved the world—not to condemn, but to save.

People: We receive that love with grateful hearts.

Leader: Let us worship the One who brings new birth and living hope.

All: We worship God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

◆OPENING HYMN # 301

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

◆PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION

Holy and life-giving God, We praise you for loving this world with a love that comes near, unafraid of our darkness and confusion. In Jesus, lifted up in grace, you reveal both our need and your mercy. Your glory is not power over us, but love given for us. You are the One who makes all things new. When we try to fix ourselves, you offer rebirth. When we cling to control, your Spirit moves like wind, bringing fresh life. Breathe on us again. Shine your light within us. Shape us to reflect your love. We glorify you for your saving grace and renewing power. In Jesus' name we worship. Amen.

◆ CHILDREN'S HYMN

“God is so Good”

CONVERSATION WITH THE CHILDREN & THE LORD'S PRAYER

“Jesus Loves Me”

(ushers collect green prayer cards)

THE FIRST LESSON (p. 539 OT)

Psalms 121 (responsive)

◆THE GOSPEL LESSON (p. 88 NT)

John 3:1-17 (responsive)

SERMON

“NEW BIRTH FOR MIXED-UP HEARTS”

CHORAL ANTHEM

“Pie Jesu”

John Rutter

HYMN OF PREPARATION #621 (Tune: Old 100th)

A SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE #17-18

PASTORAL PRAYER

OFFERTORY

◆Doxology #94, Prayer of Dedication and Altar Call

◆CLOSING HYMN #369

“Blessed Assurance, Jesus Be Mine”

◆THE BENEDICTION

◆PASSING OF THE PEACE

◆Stand, if you are able

Usher: Linda Pisani

Ambassador: Jim Jackson

Fellowship: Holly Hann

Member Outreach: Renee Poet

Nursery: Jim Jackson, Laurie Bellagamba

Sunday School: Sarah Champagne, Brian Sullivan

Communion Stewards: Dee Popolizio, Jim Jackson

Visual Arts Creator: Mara Weed

Visual Arts Engineer: Mark Gilleylen

Livestream Tech: Matt Heafy

Counters: Carol Hotz, Diane Gaborc

Prayer Cards: Kathy Esposito

Lector: Dee Popolizio

Announcements

Trustees will be meeting in the Faithful Thomas Room on Tuesday, 3/2 at 7:00 p.m.

We have a new **YouTube channel** and encourage you to check it out. Check the links on our church's website, 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.