

# THE WEEKLY COURIER

A weekly newsletter brought to you by Cheshire United Methodist Church

VOL. 1, ISSUE 48

12.2.2018

## Coming soon...



Hanging of the Greens  
This Sunday  
During Worship



Finance Board Meeting  
Tuesday at 7:30 p. m.



Road to Bethlehem  
Saturday; 5-8 p. m.



Candles and Carols  
December 24  
5 p. m.

## From Our Pastor



There is a LOT going on here at church! There's the Road to Bethlehem set-up this Saturday and the actual RTB next Saturday. Then we've got a couple dozen folks helping to decorate the church during our Hanging of the Greens service this Sunday. We've got Advent Study Group Sunday afternoon, a New Members class on Monday evening and New Members joining the following Sunday. On December 16, the choir will present their annual Christmas Cantata. And finally, we've got our traditional Candles and Carols service on Christmas Eve at 5 p.m.

With everything going on at church (and home, and work, and school), it's easy to lose track of what we're doing all of this for. Ultimately, all of this is in preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. Please join me this month in making sure that we remember the "why?" of Christmas.

## Helping out Sunday Morning, December 2nd...

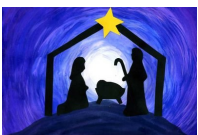
**Lector:** Paul Bellagamba  
**Ushers:** Cindy Decker, Jennifer Roeder  
**Counters:** Kim Ferraiolo, Joe Driscoll  
**Prayer Cards:** Ginny Ludwig  
**Member Outreach:** Carolyn Kelly  
**Sunday School:** Dot Mattson, Renée Poet  
**Fellowship:** Mara Weed and Karen Kieffer  
**PowerPoint:** Rachel Spalding

## This Week at a Glance...



12/02 - Hanging of the Greens service at 10 a. m.  
12/02 - Advent Study Group, 5 p. m.  
12/03 - New Members Class, 7:30 p. m.  
12/04 - Finance Committee Meeting, 7:30 p. m.  
12/05 - Choir Rehearsal 7:30 p. m.

## Road to Bethlehem



Volunteers are still needed for the Road to Bethlehem. We will be setting up the remaining backdrops on Saturday, December 1st at 8:30 a.m.

Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex for the cast and crew on Dec. 8, from 5-8 p. m. A few spaces are open.

## Amazon Shopping That Will Make You Smile!



AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Cheshire UMC every time you shop, at no additional cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to Cheshire UMC. You can read more about the program [here](#). So, before you buy what's in your cart, head over to [AmazonSmile](#) and choose "Cheshire United Methodist Church" under the 'Supporting' drop-down below the search field. (Update: [Our AmazonSmile account is not yet active](#). Please, stay tuned for the latest updates. Thank you for your patience.

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## Advent Study Group – begins November 25



Imagine Jesus from Mother Mary's point of view – proud of her son, in awe of his gifts and mission, guided by love for him as a person and so much more. In this Advent Study DVD series, we will travel back in time with Mary as she witnesses Jesus' life and ministry from the cradle to the cross.

This year, we begin our Advent and Christmas with Mary as we use Adam Hamilton's popular DVD study guide, "Not a Silent Night."

We'll meet in Fellowship Hall on 4 consecutive Sunday afternoons, beginning November 25, from 5:00-6:30 pm. Space is limited so get your copy of the book (\$10) from Ken today!

**SOLD OUT!**

## Explorers Group



Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. Beginning Dec. 2 Discover Islam will be our theme using a set of 6 DVDs. It may be interesting enhancement of our Christian faith to do this exploration in this season. As always, no preparation or background needed as we explore together. Hope to share with you as often as you can be with us. Sergio Deganis, Len Mecca, and Carolyn Hardin Engelhardt are the coordinators.

## Hanging of the Greens, Together...



This year, I'd like the entire church family to decorate God's house for Christmas!

So, during our worship service on December 2, we are going to break out the ladders and hammers and boxes of decorations and deck the halls with all the accoutrements of Advent TOGETHER. See you then.

Pastor Ken

## Fellowship Hour Opportunities...



Will you host a Fellowship Hour? We are requesting singles, couples, families to host or co-host a Fellowship Hour on **December 23**. If you are willing and available, please see Kim Ferraiolo or Karen Kieffer, use the "[Contact Us](#)" form on-line, or sign-up in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you!

## American Red Cross Blood Drive



Cheshire UMC is hosting the American Red Cross on Tuesday, December 11, from 1-6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Blood supplies are at a critical low and donations are needed more than ever. Call 1-800-733-2767 or visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) to schedule an appointment.

## Poinsettia Orders



Poinsettias add beauty to our sanctuary and stand as a living reminder to the grace of God and the memory and honor of loved ones. These gifts will be acknowledged in the bulletin on the Sunday of December 23rd and in the Christmas Eve bulletin. Flowers may be picked up following the Christmas Eve service or left for delivery to shut-ins and hospitalized members. Orders are due December 9th. See attached form.

## Holiday Giving



If you are looking for a really special gift for someone on your Christmas list, consider making a donation to one of the charities on the Cheshire UMC Alternative Giving List. For more information, please see the "Giving Table" in the fellowship hall throughout the month of December.

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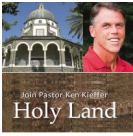
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## Trip to the Holy Land, May 2019...



Please join Pastor Ken, and other members from Cheshire United Methodist Church, on this once-in-a-lifetime trip to the Holy Land. This program will expand your knowledge of the Bible and His sacred land. A journey following in the footsteps of Jesus will change the way you read the Bible, and you will learn why scholars refer to it as the "Fifth Gospel". Please consider the attached brochure a personal invitation to be a part of this adventure in faith as we walk where Jesus walked! .

## The Cheshire Community Food Pantry—This Week's 'Wish List'...



We are currently in need of Pudding, Gelatin, Jelly – Strawberry & Other Varieties, Boxed Potatoes, Broth – Beef, Vegetable, Tuna, Cake Mix, Croutons, Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, Kleenex, Jar Sauce, Pancake Syrup, Pancake Mix.

175 Sandbank Road; Cheshire, CT 06410; (203) 699-9226

### Hours Of Operations:

Monday / Wednesday / Friday: 9am-12pm

Tuesday / Thursday: 3pm-6pm

## Shelter Now: Food Donations Needed



Looking for food donations to prepare for the residents at Shelter Now in Meriden. All donations should be left in the kitchen/refrigerator by Friday, December 7th, and marked "for shelter". Please let Jennifer Roeder know if you can help at [jlynnroeder@aol.com](mailto:jlynnroeder@aol.com) OR text/call 203-444-4067.

10 Dozen Eggs

4 Packages of Bacon

60 Slices of Cheese (American/Cheddar)

30 English Muffins

## School Supplies Collection



Our long-time member Carol Wilson's daughter has asked for our help to collection school supplies for a class in a New Haven school. Please see the bin in the vestibule for more details. Thank you.

## Toy Drive to Support the Ana Grace Project



Our own Kellie Moran is doing an internship with the Ana Grace Project this year, and has presented a great opportunity for Cheshire UMC to be in mission. Please bring your new, unwrapped toy donations by Sunday, December 9th and place them in the bin marked for the collection.

The items collected will be donated to New Britain Youth and Family Services, New Britain Schools, Maria's Place Food Pantry, and other agencies in the New Britain community. Everything that is collected will support children in the New Britain Community.

## Bookettes Book Club Meeting



Bookettes Women's Book Club will meet at the home of Mara Weed (38 Payne Drive) on Thursday, Dec. 13 at 6:30 pm for our annual Christmas Gathering. Please bring an appetizer. There is no book selection this month. All women are welcome whether you are a regular attender or not. Join us!

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## Helping out Next Sunday Morning, December 9th...

**Lector:** Sharon Coyner  
**Ushers:** Mark DeVilbiss, Steve Trumbo  
**Counters:** Karen Kieffer, Joe Bogacki  
**Prayer Cards:** Jean Roeder  
**Member Outreach:** Jeff Clark  
**Sunday School:** Jennifer Roeder, Sally LaRusso  
**Fellowship:** Elizabeth Thomas

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## December Anniversaries...



6 Kevin and Susan Warner  
13 Mark and Tiffany Stevenson  
27 Brian and Doreen Prentice  
28 Peter and Karen Bunting

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## December Birthdays...



1	Charl VanHeerden		
2	Chad Horning		
3	Grace Hanke	19	Ryan Shan
3	Justin Guerrero	19	Holly Carey
3	Marge Jordan	20	Bill Jordan
6	Karen Kieffer	21	Mark Eckert
9	Debra Bond	22	Rachel Zarra
11	Sophia Henderson	23	Tiffany Russo
11	Hope LaComb	28	Emily Horning
14	Casey Allen	28	Joe Driscoll
18	Matt Heafy	29	Erica Horning

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Cheshire United Methodist Church

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