

THE WEEKLY COURIER

A weekly newsletter brought to you by Cheshire United Methodist Church

VOL. 9 ISSUE 1

JANUARY 4, 2026

Coming soon to our sanctuary . . .



Join us on Sunday for worship at 10:00 a.m.



Trustees meet on Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.



. . . see page 2 to meet our new Admin Assistant



Check out our new YouTube channel — link on our website. See page 3 for update.

From Our Pastor



Confetti, Snow, Petals, and Mercy

Confetti is a familiar sight on New Year's Eve, especially in places like Times Square. At parties, we toss it into the air. At birthday celebrations, it spills out when a piñata breaks open. I have even watched friends drop balloons down staircases for their children. When something drifts down from above, the moment feels celebratory, as if joy itself is floating around us.

On New Year's Day, a gentle snow covered our church parking lot in Connecticut. It felt like confetti falling just for us. As I stood watching it settle, I was carried back to a moment years ago, when I was ordained as an elder at the 219th Session of the New York Annual Conference. On that day, rose petals fell from above. Members of the cabinet had quietly prepared this surprise for those being ordained.

I still remember that moment vividly. There was the simple joy of receiving something beautiful and unexpected. There was also a sense of wonder about the people who made it happen. What were they feeling as they gathered those petals and let them fall? Care, anticipation, delight—likely all woven together.

There is an old Vacation Bible School song that says, "Mercy is falling." It describes mercy coming down like a gentle rain, covering everyone beneath it. When mercy falls, people do not remain unchanged. They move. They dance. They respond.

Whether it is confetti, snow, rose petals, or mercy itself, something shifts when we allow what is given from above to reach us. Falling things invite celebration not because they are loud or dramatic, but because they are received. And when something is truly received, joy finds its way into our bodies, our gratitude, and our praise.

Seen this way, mercy and grace are not offered reluctantly or at a distance. They flow from a heart shaped by generosity and delight, given with care and shared in love. This, I believe, reflects God's heart toward us as we step into the year 2026.

Rev. Dr. Steve (Young Dong) Kim
Senior Pastor
Cheshire United Methodist Church

Our Week at a Glance . . .



January 4 Worship, 10:00 a.m.
 6 Trustees, 7:00 p.m.
 10 Shelter Now

Our Church Family Celebrations



Jan. 4 Jean Roeder
 7 Aaliyah Diores
 8 Elaine Wilkinson
 10 Susan King

From SPPR — WELCOME!!



SPRC is pleased to announce that Kaitlin Heuser has been hired as our new Administrative Assistant effective January 1st. She will be training with Mara in the month of January but any communication can be addressed to Kaitlin at the church office email address, office@cheshireumc.com.

Church Council — January 13



Church Council meet Tuesday, December 9 at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. All are invited to attend and see how decision making is done at Cheshire UMC. Minutes from the December meeting are [here](#).

Blood Drive — January 15



We are holding a blood drive on Thursday, Jan. 15 from 12:30-5:30 p.m. Please contact Sue Trumbo for further details.

Booklettes — January 20



Booklettes Women's Book Club will have their first meeting of the new year on January 20, meeting in The Faithful Thomas Room at 7:00 p.m. Our first book of the year is *Wonder* by R. J. Palacio. This is a contemporary children's novel with a great message. Join us as the Booklettes begin a new year.

From our Technology



We have a new YouTube channel and we encourage you to check it out. Links are available on our church's website to access both our worship services in real-time as well as archived services beginning this past July. **Open YouTube, search Cheshire United Methodist Church, then hit Subscribe for easy access.** You can turn on Notifications to be notified when a new service is uploaded. Let's up our subscriber count.

From our Education Committee



Our Education Department is in need of one additional Sunday School teacher. The requirement is one Sunday a month you will work with an experienced teacher to help provide the foundation of Christian Education for our young children. Please speak with Brian Sullivan, Lianne Adamczyk or Steve with your interest.

Missions Opportunities:

Winter Warmth Collection — December 28th-January 18th

We are collecting new & gently used **winter clothing items & blankets** for men, women, & children:

Blankets, throws, comforters, quilts

Coats, gloves/mittens, scarves, hats

Winter clothes: long sleeve shirts, sweatshirts, sweaters, heavy-weight pants, long johns, warm socks, boots



Please keep in mind that Fridays are the Pastor's Sabbath. Unless it's a pastoral emergency, please call the church office (203-272-4626) if you are in need of something on Fridays. Thank you.