

THE WEEKLY COURIER

A weekly newsletter brought to you by Cheshire United Methodist Church

VOL. 9 ISSUE 3

JANUARY 18, 2026

Coming soon to our sanctuary . . .



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



The Booklettes will meet on Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.



The Safety Task Force will meet on Thursday at 7:00pm



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

From Our Pastor

The way of life.



At our first Church Council meeting of 2026, I shared a short devotion by **Howard Thurman** titled *“The Work of Christmas,”* from *The Mood of Christmas and Other Celebrations*:

When the song of the angels is stilled, When the star in the sky is gone, When the kings and princes are home, When the shepherds are back with their flock, The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music from the heart.

I return to this reflection every New Year, when many of us start making resolutions or setting intentions about who we hope to become in the months ahead. Most of us know this rhythm well. We begin with energy and hope, and if we are honest, we also know the quiet disappointment that comes when those plans do not last as long as we imagined.

What strikes me about Thurman’s devotion is what it does *not* say. It offers no advice on managing failure, stress, or crisis. Instead, it names a way of living through simple, outward-facing actions: to find, to heal, to feed, to release, to rebuild, to bring peace, and to make music from the heart. This is not a checklist or a productivity plan. It is a reminder that weariness does not always come from trying and failing. Often, we grow tired because the world itself feels cold—both literally and spiritually. We grow complacent because staying comfortable can feel safer than staying engaged.

As we honor Martin Luther King Jr. Day, I also recall one of Rev. Dr. King’s sermons, *“The Drum Major Instinct.”* In it, MLK speaks honestly about our human desire to be noticed and to lead. He challenges us not to deny that impulse, but to redirect it—toward serving others, seeking justice, and working for peace. His vision invites us to become “drum majors for justice,” not for recognition or shallow rewards, but for the flourishing of our neighbors and the healing of the world.

Together, these voices call us beyond resolutions and toward a way of life shaped by compassion, courage, and steady love in action. Will you join me?

Our Week at a Glance . . .



January 11 Worship, 10:00 a.m.
 20 Booklettes, 7:00 p.m.
 22 Safety Task Force, 7:00 p.m.

Our Church Family Celebrations



22 Keith Trumbo
 22 Kaitlin Heuser

Missions Opportunities: THIS IS THE LAST WEEK FOR COLLECTION

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

The 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

Safety Task Force — January 22



The Safety Task Force will be meeting in the Faithful Those Room at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 22nd.



Valentine's Candy Collection



It's almost Valentine's Day and time to send our college-age kids a box of sweet treats just to remind them that we're thinking of them and how much we love them. There is a box in the narthex labeled "CAMPUS CANDY" for your donations of candy and other sweet treats (non-perishable please). The deadline is February 6. Please see Ginny Ludwig for more information. Thank you for helping to support this ministry.

From our Technology Committee



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.

Chicken Pot Pie Orders



Pre-orders for Chicken Pot Pies are due on Sunday, January 25th. The pies will be assembled on Saturday, February 7th at 9 a.m. See Dot Mattson for more info. Please find a link for the order form [here](#).



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.

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