

# THE WEEKLY COURIER

A weekly newsletter brought to you by Cheshire United Methodist Church

VOL. 9 ISSUE 5

FEBRUARY 1, 2026

## Coming soon to our sanctuary . . .



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



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



Chicken Pot Pie Assembly will take place next Saturday at 9:00 a.m.



Check out our new YouTube channel — link on our website.



### From Our Pastor How Long?

“How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?  
How long will you hide your face from me?”

Psalm 13 opens in a place many of us recognize. Not with clarity or confidence, but with waiting that stretches on and silence that presses in. The psalmist does not rush past the pain or dress it up in careful language. He names what hurts. He speaks aloud what faith sometimes tries to keep quiet—the sense of being unseen, the fear that God has turned away, the exhaustion of praying the same prayer with no clear response.

“How long must I wrestle with my thoughts  
and carry sorrow in my heart day after day?”  
This is not faith falling apart.  
This is faith that refuses to pretend everything is fine.

In moments like this, the words of Psalm 13 feel painfully close. As many of us are aware, precious lives were taken in Minneapolis. I have been praying and discerning how to speak about this. Silence, however, can begin to feel like avoidance, and avoidance does not honor the human dignity at stake. There are explanations being offered and arguments unfolding, but beneath all of that are human lives. That reality must not be lost.

Psalm 13 gives us permission to tell the truth about what is happening inside us—the thoughts we replay, the grief we carry in our bodies, the fatigue that settles into our days. Lament is not the opposite of trust. Lament is trust that speaks honestly to God rather than turning away in quiet despair.

“Look on me and answer, Lord my God.  
Give light to my eyes...”

Here the psalm turns. The writer does not reason his way out of pain. He prays his way through it. He does not ask for everything to be resolved at once. He asks for light—enough light to keep going, enough light to stay awake to life, enough light to resist being swallowed by despair.

This coming Wednesday, February 4, at 6:00 PM, an interfaith prayer vigil will be held at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church on Main Street. I, along with clergy across Cheshire, hope to hold space for lament and sorrow, for frustration and healing, for understanding, hope, and love.

This is an invitation to stand together, to pray honestly, and to trust that even in the long “how long,” God’s light is still being given—often through one another.

## Our Week at a Glance . . .



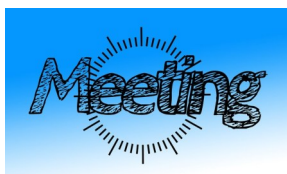
February 01 Worship, 10:00 a.m.  
 03 Trustees, 7:00 p.m.  
 07 Chicken Pot Pie Making, 9:00 a.m.

## Our Church Family Celebrations



2 Gerry Connelly  
 3 Meredith Napolitano  
 4 Hayden Wendt  
 5 Ned Connelly  
 6 Matthew Cameron  
 7 Eleanor Underwood

## Trustees—February 3rd



The Trustees will meet on Tuesday February, 3rd at 7:00 p.m.

## LAST WEEK FOR 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 your help with this ministry.

## Chicken Pot Pie Making—February 7th



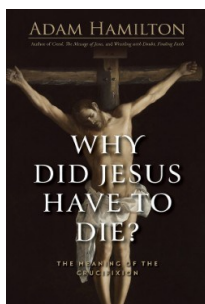
Now that we've ordered the pies, it's time to prep them! Many hands make light work! The pies will be assembled on Saturday, February 7th at 9 a.m. If you are interested in being part of the assembly team, see Dot Mattson for more info.



If you are interested in scheduling a pastoral visitation with Pastor Steve, you are invited to sign up for a time that is convenient for you! Please click [here](#) to view the available time slots. An additional sign-up sheet will also be set up outside of the sanctuary to fill in your desired slot. If you are unable to attend worship in person and would like to arrange a visitation, you may contact the church office or Pastor Steve directly.



Like many of us, you are probably wondering, “where is the love?” In response, we invite you to an interfaith vigil for peace on Wednesday 2/4, at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in Cheshire. Doors will open at 5 p.m. and the service will begin at 6 p.m. Please consider joining fellow community members in prayer as we come together to seek peace, love, and understanding in our country and, world.



Pastor Steve will be leading a Lenten Bible Study entitled “Why Did Jesus Have to die?” The study will meet on Monday evenings at 7 p.m., beginning February 23rd and concluding March 30th. The cost of materials is \$20. You may make checks payable to the Cheshire United Methodist Church with “Lenten Study” noted in the memo line. Registration is required and may be completed through the church office. Please note space is limited.

## 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.



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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