

THE WEEKLY COURIER

A weekly newsletter brought to you by Cheshire United Methodist Church

VOL. 9 ISSUE 7

FEBRUARY 15, 2026

Coming soon to our sanctuary . . .



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



The Booklettes will meet at 7:00 p.m., on 2/17.



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



From Our Pastor:

Don't wait for ashes to practice love.

Valentine's Day is a simple human reminder placed in the middle of winter: love matters. What began with the witness of early Christians named Valentine slowly became a day of cards, flowers, and chocolate. Yet beneath the decorations is something deeper—the desire to be seen and chosen. Love, at its best, is not a grand display but steady attention. It is choosing to move toward one another. Science shows connection steadies us. Faith teaches that love is not just a feeling but a commitment to another's good. Real love grows through small, faithful acts—a thoughtful word, a patient conversation, forgiveness offered without pride. It includes romance, but also friendship, family, community, and even learning to treat ourselves with kindness. For some, the day brings joy; for others, it sharpens grief. Love always carries both gift and risk. February 14 is only a marker. The real work of love happens in the ordinary days that follow.

Just four days later comes Ash Wednesday, when we are reminded that we are dust and to dust we shall return. We are not limitless. We are not in control of time. Facing that truth can feel heavy, but it also clarifies what matters. Interestingly, love is remembered before we are marked with ashes, as if to say that within our limits, love is what makes us fully human. To know we are not God frees us to live honestly, humbly, and tenderly. Ash Wednesday begins the forty days of Lent—a season of reflection, prayer, and turning again toward God. *Yet we do not need to wait for ashes to practice love.* The invitation stands now. In the face of our limits, let love lead.

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

Our Week at a Glance . . .



February 15 Worship, 10:00 a.m.
17 Booklettes, 7:00 p.m.

Our Church Family Celebrations



16 Jim Jackson
19 Mary Bogrette
20 Xolani John
21 Debbie Eckert

Booklettes—February 17th



The **Booklettes** will be meeting in the Faithful Thomas Room on Tuesday, February 17th at 7:00 p.m. You can find the link for the Booklettes schedule [here](#).

Missions Project: Blessing Bags for the Homeless

Please consider donating to our collection of necessity items for the homeless. We will collect **through Sunday, February 22nd**. After services on the 22nd, everyone will be invited to pack gallon-size Zip-lock bags with several items and note of encouragement for members of the church to put in their car and hand out when they come across someone in need at a shopping plaza, near a highway exit, etc.. If you would like to support the effort but would prefer to give a **cash/check donation**, please give to **Jennifer Roeder**.

Suggestions for Donations:

Individually wrapped non-perishable food items:

- *Small Water Bottles
- *Beef Jerky
- *Peanut Butter Crackers
- *Tuna w/Crackers
- *Protein Bars
- *Dried Fruit, Raisins
- *Trail Mix
- *Ready to Eat Soup (w/pop top and a spoon)

Hygiene Items:

- *toothbrush, toothpaste
- *cloth or semi-cloth band-aids
- *Disposable wipes, Wet Ones
- *Sun screen (small bottles)
- *Nail clippers
- *Tissues
- *Hand lotion
- *Disposable Razors
- *Small note pad &Pen
- *Sandwich-sized Ziplock baggies
- *Gloves
- *Individual dose Aspirin, Tylenol, Advil

**Stay away from cans without pop tops, chocolate/sugary items, gum nuts, anything hard to chew (many homeless people develop dental issues)

Secret Sisters:

Secret Sisters 2026/2027

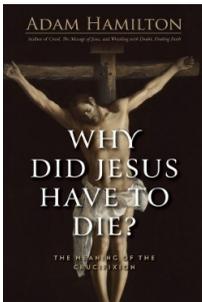
**TOP
SECRET**

Secret Sisters is an opportunity to pray for, think of and let another woman know that she is special. Shower her with notes, cards, and surprises- in your own unique way- throughout the year and on her special days, without letting her know it's you.

A new year of Secret Sisters will begin in March. Complete the form [here](#), and place in the offering plate through Sunday, March 1st. The Secret Sister assignment will take place immediately following, and you will be notified of your Secret Sister via email/snail mail if you don't have an email.

There will be a Secret Sister Reveal Dinner in February 2027! If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Roeder (jlynnroeder@aol.com or 203-444-4067). Secret Sister is an all-age inclusive opportunity for ALL sisters in Christ!

Lenten Study:



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.

We are looking for a Christian Education Director:



We are excited to introduce the new position of Christian Education Director at CUMC made possible by a very generous gift. This qualified individual will oversee the operation of developing our Sunday school/youth programming while working closely with our co-chairs and teachers.

We would like to offer the opportunity to those in our church family first before posting externally. If you are interested and have the skills and expertise necessary, SPR would love to hear from you as soon as possible. We will interview and fill the position with the most qualified.

For further details, please refer to the job description of Christian Education Director [here](#). Please contact Barb Heafy SPR Chair, heafy58@gmail.com or at 203-494-5542.

PowerPoint Help Needed!



We are in need of additional volunteers to assist with enhancing the PowerPoint presentation used in worship. This role primarily involves creative embellishment—bringing beauty, cohesion, and visual warmth to our slides. If you have a gift for design or visual presentation, or are even just willing to learn, we invite you to consider sharing your time and talents to help make our worship experience even more meaningful and engaging. Please see Matt Heafy or Pastor Steve for more information.

Pastoral Visitation:



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.

Nursery help needed:



Will you consider volunteering one Sunday in our CUMC nursery? This is an important ministry at CUMC, which Barb Heafy coordinates. The nursery needs to be staffed by two volunteers each Sunday. Please see Barb if you're interested in supervising of the nursery fun!

Sign ups for Altar Flowers and Fellowship:



We have many open sign up slots for Altar Flowers and Fellowship hour. Sign-up sheets for **altar flowers** can be found just outside the sanctuary and **coffee hour hosts** sign-ups can be found in Fellowship Hall. Ask someone to host fellowship time with you! Flower orders are \$65.



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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