

THE WEEKLY COURIER

A weekly newsletter brought to you by Cheshire United Methodist Church

VOL. 9 ISSUE 11

MARCH 15, 2026

Coming soon to our Sanctuary:



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



The Bookettes will be meeting on 3/17 at 7:00 p.m.



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



From Our Pastor:

A Woodpecker, a War, and a Willing Remembering

During a brief stretch of warm weather, I began hearing a steady tapping outside the parsonage. When I stepped out to see what it was, I discovered a woodpecker striking the roof again and again(!).

Curious about why woodpeckers do this, I did a little research. Woodpeckers tap on trees (normally and supposedly) to find insects and life hidden beneath the bark. What sounds like noise to us is actually the bird's way of listening; searching for something alive beneath the surface.

Around the same time, the news once again carried stories of war in our world. War has a way of stripping away illusions and reminding us how fragile human life is. Seeing that small bird patiently searching for life while hearing news of destruction felt like a quiet but powerful contrast.

Lent enters our lives in a similar way. It does not arrive loudly. Instead, it gently taps at the surface of our routines and invites us to look deeper.

Ash Wednesday begins with a simple truth: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Beneath our differences, we share the same fragile humanity. War reminds us of this painfully. Lent invites us to remember it willingly.

Like that woodpecker, Lent keeps tapping; encouraging us to look beneath the surface of our hearts. It may uncover what is broken, but it also searches for life.

Because beneath the bark of our ordinary days, something living is still there.

And grace keeps knocking.

Tap. Tap. Tap.

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

Our Week at a Glance . . .



March 8 Worship, 10:00 a.m.
17 Booklettes, 7:00 p.m.

Our Church Family Celebrations



15 Cailin Rose
15 Natalie Missakian
15 Tom Russo
16 Angel Lins
17 Sergio Deganis
18 Mark DeVilbiss
19 Len Mecca
20 Sean Gilleylen

Booklettes:



The Booklettes will be meeting on Tuesday, 3/17, at 7:00 p.m. in the Faithful Thomas Room.

Palm Sunday Brunch:



Join us on Sunday, March 29th, for a special Palm Sunday Brunch immediately following worship. As we begin Holy Week with shouts of, "Hosanna!" and hearts full of praise, let us continue the morning in joyful fellowship around the table.



We are seeking donations of brunch food items (bacon, eggs, fruit juices, and other basics) to help make this gathering possible. If you'd like to contribute, please sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

Thank you for helping us celebrate this meaningful and hope-filled day together.

Welcome to our new Director of Christian Education:



The Staff Parish Relations Committee is pleased to announce the appointment of **Rose Kim** to the position of Christian Education Director. She will work alongside our dedicated church school staff and education committee to help lead our Sunday school in ways that nurture both our children and their families.

CCC Events:



Here are two upcoming events being hosted by Cheshire Creation Care (CCC) which CUMC is a part of:

Event 1: Saturday **April 11th**, 10am-1pm **Clothing Swap**

The **Coalition for a Sustainable Cheshire** is collaborating with **Cheshire Public Library** to host our **Spring 2026 Clothing Swap**. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to fight the gears of fast fashion and consumerism by donating your gently used or never worn clothing and refresh your wardrobe by finding a completely free new outfit for spring and summer!

We hope you can join us at the Cheshire Public Library on **April 11th from 10am-1pm** to find a new outfit.

Clothing donations will be collected on Thursday, April 9th 5pm-8pm and Friday, April 10th 1pm-4pm

Event 2: Saturday, **April 25th**, 10am - 1pm, there is a **Repair Cafe**.

Where: Cheshire Public Library

When: Saturday April 25, 2026

Time: 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Why a Repair Café? Our aim ultimately is to keep items out of our already overflowing landfills. Why throw away when we can reuse, recycle and repair!

Here's "who" is in our Repair Café tool box so far:

Sewing (no zippers),

Bike repair

Tool sharpener

Computer troubleshooting

Knitting/crocheting

Joanna Miller heads up our event, and she would love to see even more fixers this year! If you have a skill, come on and help the effort!

A Message from the Finance Committee:



Looking for a way to extend your giving in 2026 and beyond? The tax code has changed, if you do not itemize your federal income tax deductions and instead use the standard deductions, you will be allowed to additionally deduct up to \$1000 (filing single) or \$2000 (married filing jointly) in charitable contributions. This is in addition to your standard deduction. Check with your tax advisor for this opportunity.

THANK YOU!



Our Chicken Pot Pie fundraiser was a wonderful success. We made 144 pies and raised \$1,600 in profit! I'm deeply grateful for everyone who braved a very, very cold Saturday to help with the baking, as well as those who donated ingredients and purchased pies.

Love and blessings,
Dot Mattson

Passion Play:



St. Luke's Catholic Church in Southington will once again present its renowned annual Passion Play, with performances on Saturday, March 28 at 6:30 p.m.; Sunday, March 29 at 3:00 p.m.; Tuesday, March 31 at 7:00 p.m.; and Wednesday, April 1 at 7:00 p.m.

Widely cherished throughout the region, this production offers a powerful and deeply moving spiritual experience. It's a highlight of the Lenten season for many, and all are invited to attend and witness this inspiring tradition.

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.

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.

We're on YouTube!



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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