

THE WEEKLY COURIER

A weekly newsletter brought to you by Cheshire United Methodist Church

VOL. 9 ISSUE 27

JULY 5, 2026

Coming soon to our Sanctuary:



Sunday Worship, 10:00am



Trustees, 7/7,
7:00p.m.



Shelter Now, 7/11,
8:30-10:00 a.m.



Check out our YouTube
Channel-link on website



From Our Pastor:

Birthday and Breath

Between the birthdays of family and friends and our nation's 250th birthday, I have found myself thinking about birthday cakes and the tradition of blowing out candles.

Breath is both ordinary and sacred. In the creation story, God breathes the breath of life into the first human. Every breath we take is a reminder that life itself is a gift.

The birthday tradition of cake, candles, and making a wish traces back to 18th-century Germany and a children's celebration known as *Kinderfest*. A child received a birthday cake with one candle for each year of life, plus one extra "life candle" representing hope and God's blessing for the year ahead. At the end of the celebration, the child would try to blow out every candle with a single breath. Some believed the rising smoke carried prayers and hopes heavenward.

In two days, the United States will mark its 250th birthday. Imagine, just for a moment, that everyone in this country gathered around one enormous birthday cake—sanitary concerns set aside for the sake of imagination!—and together took one deep breath to blow out 251 candles.

What would it look like if we could breathe together?

I have always loved birthday celebrations because they invite people to gather around a shared gift: life. They remind us that every person belongs at the table. Birthdays are not about who is worthy of celebrating, but about celebrating together.

As our nation marks this milestone, perhaps the greatest gift we could offer one another is not perfect agreement, but a shared breath—a renewed commitment to live together with gratitude, hope, and care for one another.

One breath. One people (of God). One shared future.

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



Our Week at a Glance . . .



July	05	Worship, 10:00 a.m.
July	05	Pickleball, 4:00 p.m.
July	07	Trustees, 7:00 p.m.
July	11	Shelter Now, 8:30 a.m.

Our Church Family Celebrations



5	Sarah Champagne
9	Claire Strand
10	Ellie Draper
10	Dick Lau
11	Peter Weed



6	Creighton & Karan Myers
10	Barbara & Michael Foster

Trustees:



The Trustees will be meeting on Tuesday, July 7th, at 7:00 p.m. in the Faithful Thomas Room.

Shelter Now:



Shelter Now in Meriden: making breakfast for the men, women, & children staying at the shelter. The time commitment is from 8:30-10:00 a.m. We will next be serving on July 11th. Contact Jennifer Roeder for more info or to sign up. Cell: 203-444-4067; Email: jlynnroeder@aol.com.

Clothesline Fundraiser:



Our **Clothesline Fundraiser** begins THIS SUNDAY, **July 5**, and runs through **Labor Day**. Choose any of the **150 numbered envelopes** (plus children's decorated envelopes). The number is the **minimum donation** placed inside. Add your name/address if you want it recorded toward your pledge; anonymous gifts are also welcome. Pastor Steve will share weekly updates as we work to "clear the line!" Filling every envelope would raise **\$11,325** for our church!

Pick-Up Choir Opportunity:



This Sunday, July 5, Rose Kim will be filling in at the piano bench for Mara AND will lead a **pick-up choir** for Special Music, singing *This Is My Song*. All are welcome to join. There will be a brief run-through at 9:35 a.m. before worship. Come and lift your voice!

Church Office Closed on Fridays:



For the summertime, the church office will be **closed on Fridays**. This means that for July and August, Fri-mail will be “Thurs-mail.” We will return to Fri-mail in September! If you have an announcement to include in the *Courier*, please be sure it reaches the office by **Wednesday**. Thank you for helping us stay organized during these summer months!

CUMC Summer Sports:



Tiffany Russo is spearheading some summer fun for us! If you're interested in playing **co-ed pickleball or softball**, this info is for you! **Pickleball** meet ups will be held 7/5, 7/19, 8/2, 8/16, and 8/30. **Softball** meet ups will be held on 7/26 and 8/9. All meet ups will be at 4:00 p.m. at Cheshire Park. **All skill levels are invited, kids, too!** Let's have some fun and friendly competition. Please see **Tiffany** for more information!

Promise Kids Update:



We are deeply grateful to Mara and Dee for their generous VBS scholarship, which fully covered the registration costs for all **11 of our Promise Kids** who attended Vacation Bible School. Their kindness made it possible for every child to participate in this wonderful week of faith, friendship, and fun.

This Sunday, we will begin a new lesson as we explore one of the biggest questions of our faith: **Who is God?** Through Bible stories, discussion, and activities, our children will discover more about God's character and His love for each of us.

As many of our families travel throughout the summer, we invite you to keep them in your prayers. May God grant them safe travels, meaningful time together, and opportunities to continue growing in faith wherever they go.

Church Website Update:



We're refreshing our church website! Please send any church or event photos to **eamused@gmail.com**.

Website designers—I'd love to connect.

Committee chairs: please send a brief description and yearly highlights.

– Rhonda Pattberg



Please keep in mind that Fridays are the Pastor's Sabbath. The office will also be closed on Fridays throughout the summer. Unless it's a pastoral emergency, please leave a message at 203-272-4626 or email office@cheshireumc.com, and it will be addressed on Monday. Thank you!



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