

THE WEEKLY COURIER

A weekly newsletter brought to you by Cheshire United Methodist Church

VOL. 9 ISSUE 29

JULY 19, 2026

Coming soon to our Sanctuary:



Sunday Worship, 10:00am



Pickleball Meet-Up,
7/19, 4:00 p.m.



Booklettes, 7/21,
7:00p.m.



Safety Task Force,
7/23, 7:00 p.m.



Check out our YouTube
Channel-link on website



From Our Pastor:

Openness in Times of Disorientation

I have a confession to make: I am not quite sure how to make sense of this season of my life.

The World Cup is happening. Another innocent life has been taken in the name of the policy. The world at multiple wars. Daniel is playing in his summer baseball playoffs. Permanent daylight saving time may no longer be a possibility. Playing pickleballs. Sermonizing and meeting peoples of God. I am spending nearly every hour of every day at home with my children. All these things—and many more—are happening at once.

I am not sharing this to brag about my life or to show how well I can manage everything during this stressful yet exciting time. There is no sarcasm here. I am simply trying to be honest about what I am experiencing.

In his Transformative Learning Theory, Jack Mezirow explains that adults often begin to change how they understand themselves and the world after experiencing a “disorienting dilemma.” This is an experience that unsettles us because it challenges what we have long believed or assumed to be true.

To make a long story short, I am experiencing a disorienting dilemma—or at least that is what it feels like. My present circumstances do not give me a sense of control. Instead, they often leave me feeling confused and surrounded by chaos. Yet I choose to call these experiences “disorienting dilemmas” because I want to see them as opportunities to grow more deeply in faith and in my love for God and others.

Why do I feel so uneasy about my current situation? Is it because I am not in control? Is it because I am nearing exhaustion? Is it because I fear that I am betraying my beliefs about what it means to be a Christian in the world? Is it because I am trying too hard to say and do what others consider politically correct? Or is it something else entirely?

I believe that the moment I stop asking these difficult questions may be the moment I stop growing in Christ. I am not suggesting that we must always change or that we should seek out disorienting experiences. I am suggesting that when they come, we need to be honest and open about them.

In 2019, I attended the National Workshop on Christian Unity. There, Lutheran, Episcopal, United Methodist, and other Protestant clergy came together to bear witness to one God and one Christian Church. During a dinner conversation, I quickly learned that Lutherans often emphasize grace and Episcopalians often emphasize liturgy. But I could not decide what United Methodists were known for—although “eating and singing” crossed my mind! The Lutheran and Episcopal clergy at the table quickly stepped in to ease my anxiety. They told me that United Methodists are known for “openness.”

Perhaps our disorienting dilemmas—whether we invite them into our lives or not—reveal that we are still open. We are open to asking questions, examining our beliefs, listening to others, and growing in faith. When such moments come, will we see them as opportunities for growth, or will we ignore them?

As for me, I am still living in the dilemma—and I am trying to remain open.

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



Our Week at a Glance . . .



July	19	Worship, 10:00 a.m.
July	19	Pickleball, 4:00 p.m.
July	21	Booklettes, 7:00 p.m.
July	23	Safety Task Force, 7:00 p.m.

Our Church Family Celebrations



20	Justin Van Wie
22	Taylor Bond
22	Lucian Ferraiolo
22	Karan Myers
23	Jason Dioses
23	Joe Attanasio

Pickleball Meet-up:



There will be a **pickleball meet-up** on Sunday, 7/19, at 4:00 p.m. at Cheshire Park. Please see Tiffany Russo for more details.

Booklettes:



The **Booklettes** will be meeting on Tuesday, July 21st, at 7:00 p.m. in the Faithful Thomas Room. They will be discussing Iona Iverson's Rules for Commuting by Claire Pooley. You can find the Booklette's schedule [here](#).

Safety Task Force:



The **Safety Task Force** will be meeting on Thursday, July 23rd, at 7:00 p.m. in the Faithful Thomas Room.

Supporting Bryan as he leaves for Canada:



As many of you know, our friend **Bryan Sijabat** from Indonesia, has been working locally as a greenhouse worker for the last few months. He has chosen to worship with us during his time here, and you have welcomed him warmly. He recently interviewed to stay in the program and his current boss drove him to Canada yesterday to connect with an affiliated greenhouse business. With Steve's blessing, I am **collecting contributions** from anyone who would like **to help Bryan out** as he relocates. (We did the same for Wadzie when she left for Canada). This is totally voluntary. If possible, please have your contributions to me by Sunday. Once he is established there, I will wire the donation to him. Thank you. - Carolyn Kelly

Clothesline Fundraiser:



Our **Clothesline Fundraiser** is running now through Labor Day. During our first week, we raised **\$2,002!!** Wow, what a start! How it works: Choose any of the **150 numbered envelopes** (plus children's decorated envelopes). The number is the **minimum donation** placed inside. Please provide your name so we can give you credit for your donations. Pastor Steve will share weekly updates as we work to "clear the line!" Filling every envelope would raise **\$11,325** for our church! What a blessing that would be.

Pastoral Emergency:



Pastor Steve will be away from 7/20-7/30. In the event of a **pastoral emergency**, Rev. Ahn from the First United Methodist Church in Wallingford will be on call. He can be reached by email at soon. Ahn@nyac-umc.com or by mobile phone: 203-500-1119. For non-emergencies, please reach out to the office.

Chair lift to give:



Do you know someone who could use an **Acorn stairlift** for their home? Carolyn Kelly is offering a complete, fully disassembled lift **free to anyone in need**. There are a few product-specific details, so please connect with Carolyn if you're interested.

Promise Kids Update:

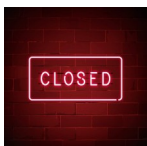


Last Sunday, we explored the Big Question, “**Who is Jesus?**” We learned that just as Jesus had a birth, a home, and a baptism, we do too. Jesus understands what it means to be human because He lived among us. At the same time, He is God’s Son. Through His life, death, and resurrection, Jesus showed us the way to eternal life with God. Everyone who trusts in Jesus has the promise of living with God forever in His Kingdom.

Our Big Questions journey continues! This Sunday, we’ll explore another important question: **Who is the Holy Spirit?** We look forward to discovering together how the Holy Spirit is God’s presence with us, guiding, comforting, and helping us every day.

We can’t wait to worship and learn with your family this Sunday. See you at Promise Kids!

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!



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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