

THE WEEKLY COURIER

A weekly newsletter brought to you by Cheshire United Methodist Church

VOL. 9 ISSUE 34

AUGUST 23, 2026

Coming soon to our Sanctuary:



Sunday Worship, 10:00am



Something New, 8/25,
11:00 a.m.



Check out our YouTube
Channel-link on website



From Our Pastor:

It is back-to-school shopping season.

Families are walking through stores with lists in hand—shoes, shirts, pants, backpacks, and all the things children somehow outgrow over one summer. And this week in Connecticut, there is a little relief: Sales Tax-Free Week.

Seeing all the “tax-free” signs made me think of another familiar phrase: duty-free.

We usually see it while traveling internationally. Duty-free sounds wonderful: you cross a border, and certain duties no longer apply.

That made me wonder: As Christians, are we ever duty-free?

Paul writes, “our citizenship is in heaven” (Philippians 3:20). We belong ultimately to God’s kingdom. We live here, but our deepest allegiance is there. Christians have often described this as living in the already and not yet—God’s kingdom has already come near in Christ, yet we still wait for its fullness.

So does being a citizen of heaven exempt us from our duties here on earth?

I believe it does exactly the opposite.

Our heavenly citizenship does not exempt us from responsibility here.

Rather, it deepens it.

Jesus calls us to be salt and light, to love our neighbors, seek justice, care for our communities, and work for the well-being of others.

We live in the already and not yet of God’s kingdom—belonging to heaven while still faithfully living on earth.

So yes, we may be tax-free for a week.

But as Christians, we are never duty-free from love.

Citizens of heaven. Residents of earth.

Tax-free sometimes. Duty-free? Never.

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



Our Week at a Glance . . .



August 23 Worship, 10:00 a.m.
August 25 Something New, 11:00 a.m.

Our Church Family Celebrations



24 Colin Strand
28 Jane Quinn



23 Steve and Rose Kim

Something New:



Something New will be meeting on Tuesday, August 25th, at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Clothesline Fundraiser Update:



Our **Clothesline Fundraiser** is running now through Labor Day. We have already raised **\$7,027!!** 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.

NEW Media Ministry Opportunity:



Sign-up for a Scripture Reading Video Session with Cole Jackson for CUMC's Media Ministry!

Are there any bible verses that stand out to you as particularly meaningful or memorable? Do you have a favorite? Is there a moment in your life reflected in scripture? Was there a particular verse that changed your life? Let's share it with our community and help build a critical part of CUMC's Media Ministry!

Each filming session takes only 10 to 20 minutes of your time. No experience necessary and the scripture need not be memorized. Bring yourself, your scripture, why it is important to you, and of course, bring your faith!

Time slots are still available:

Friday August 21, 1:00–2:30 PM

Thursday August 27, 6:00–7:30 PM

Thursday September 10, 6:00–7:30 PM

Saturday September 12, 6:00–7:30 PM

Sign-up & additional details: <https://bit.ly/cheshire-umc-scripture-reading>

Promise Kids Update:



Last Sunday was another special moment for Promise Kids as our string players used their musical talents to praise and glorify God! It was wonderful to see our children sharing their gifts in worship. We will continue to encourage our Promise Kids to discover their gifts and use them to praise God in many different ways.

This Sunday, we will praise God in another way—by sharing what we have learned!

We will not have our regular Promise Kids session during worship. Instead, some of our Promise Kids will share short messages with the congregation, reflecting on what we learned together throughout June and July.

I have also prepared a special **worship worksheet** for the children to use during the service. And there's a little extra motivation! Every child who completes the worksheet and returns it will receive a small prize the following Sunday.

Whether we play, sing, speak, listen, or learn, we can use all that we have to praise God!

Cooperative Parish Bake Off!:



SAVE THE DATE: Cooperative Parish Dessert Bake Off:

Where: Asbury UMC, 90 Church Ave, Bristol

****Carpooling options will be available if you would like to go.**

When: Sunday, September 27th, 1-3pm

Cost: Free Will Donation

Money going to Heifer International for our collective fundraiser.

Come for a fun afternoon of fellowship, sampling lots of delicious desserts, and of course, voting on your favorites!

Looking for bakers:

Do you love to bake? Have a favorite recipe to make? When you serve it, does everyone always want seconds? Come bake for us!!

- 2 to 3 bakers from each church. There will be a Sign Up Genius coming soon.
- Recipes should be able to be divided into small servings for tastings.
- Bring 10 copies of your recipe.
- Fun prizes to be awarded. Plus bragging rights for the winners!

Save the Date:



We will be celebrating **Rally Day** on Sunday, September 13th, following worship! Hotdogs, burgers, and drinks will be provided. There is a sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall for those interested in bringing a side or dessert to share!

Lector sign-ups:



Have you ever thought about being a **lector**? We're filling the lector schedule through the end of the year, and we'd love to include you. The role is simple—just reading Scripture in front of your church family. You'll find the schedule attached [here](#) and another posted outside the sanctuary. Please write your name next to a date that works for you, or reach out to the office if you'd like help signing up. Also, please note that dates that have been filled are marked with a "X."

From the office:



A **new large wall calendar** is now hanging in the church office just behind the desk. As you plan meetings, appointments, special services, fellowship gatherings, or any time the building will be in use, please stop by and add them to the calendar. Keeping everything in one shared place helps us stay organized and support one another's ministries. If you're unable to add to it yourself, just let the office know! In this particular instance, oversharing is encouraged.

CUMC Summer Pickleball:



One last opportunity for some church pickleball fun! If you're interested in playing **co-ed pickleball**, this info is for you! The **LAST Pickleball** meet up will be held on 8/30. It will be held at 4:00 p.m. at Cheshire Park. Invite a friend! **All skill levels are invited, kids, too!** Let's have some fun and friendly competition. Please see **Tiffany** for more information!

PowerPoint Help Needed:



Dear Congregation— It takes 'many hands to make light THE work'...as you all know. This church currently has 3 people who **embellish the PowerPoints** to supplement our worship. 2 of the 3 will be unavailable for much of the summer, leaving only one person able to create them. If you can utilize this fun application called PowerPoint, **please reach out to Pastor Steve, Rhonda or Mara NOW**. The current PowerPoint personnel are more than willing to work with you as you learn.

Volunteers for Worship 8/23:

Usher: Joe Bogacki

Fellowship: Rhonda Pattberg, Renee Poet

Member Outreach: Elizabeth Thomas

Prayer Cards: Kathy Esposito

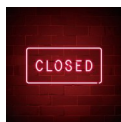
Visual Arts Creator: Rhonda Pattberg

Visual Arts Engineer: Mark Gilleylen

Livestream Tech: Natalie Missakian

Counters: Carol Hotz, Diane Gaborc

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!



Cheshire United Methodist Church

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