

THE WEEKLY COURIER

A weekly newsletter brought to you by Cheshire United Methodist Church

VOL. 9 ISSUE 35

AUGUST 30, 2026

Coming soon to our Sanctuary:



Sunday Worship, 10:00am



Trustees, 9/1, 7:00p.m.



Check out our YouTube
Channel-link on website



From Our Pastor:

Good-bye, or See You Soon?

There are different ways we bring a season to a close.

Sometimes we say, "Good-bye." The word carries a sense of ending. Something has come to completion, and we pause to honor what has been.

At other times, we say, "See you soon." The moment still marks a change, but it leaves the door open. The relationship continues, even when the role or season changes.

This coming Sunday, we will hold both of these meanings together as we celebrate Mara Weed's retirement as our Music Director.

We are saying good-bye to a particular chapter of Mara's ministry among us—the rehearsals, Sundays, special services, countless details behind the scenes, and all the ways she has helped our congregation pray, praise, grieve, rejoice, and worship through music.

But we are not simply saying good-bye to Mara.

Perhaps "see you soon" says it better.

Retirement changes a role; it does not erase a relationship. A title may come to an end, but the music, memories, friendships, and gifts shared over the years remain part of who we are. The church knows something about this kind of ending. In our faith, endings are rarely only endings. God continually takes what has been faithfully offered and carries it into something new.



So this Sunday, we will give thanks.

Good-bye to a season faithfully served.

See you soon to a beloved friend whose song remains part of ours.

And most of all: Thank you, Mara.

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

Our Week at a Glance . . .



August 30 Worship, 10:00 a.m.
September 01 Trustees, 7:00 p.m.

Our Church Family Celebrations



1 Calleigh McLean
5 Phelan Maruca-Sullivan



30 Mark and Christina Gilleylen

Volunteers for Worship 8/30:

Usher: Creighton Myers

Ambassador: Jim Jackson

Fellowship: SPR

Member Outreach: Carolyn Kelly

Prayer Cards: Susan King

Nursery and Promise Kids: Rose Kim, Caroline Veleber

Visual Arts Creator: Rhonda Pattberg

Visual Arts Engineer: Mark Gilleylen

Livestream Tech: Matt Heafy

Counters: Michele Bloom, Dave Wendt

Fellowship Time this Sunday:



Fellowship Time this week will be provided by SPR in honor of Mara Weed's final Sunday as our music director. While we will miss Mara directing the choir, we look forward to seeing her singing in the choir!

Trustees:



Trustees will be meeting on Tuesday, September 1st, at 7:00 p.m. in the Faithful Thomas Room.

LAST WEEK!!!:



This is the last week of our **Clothesline Fundraiser!!** If you wish to contribute and have not yet, now is the time! We have already raised **\$7,519!!** 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.

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!

Promise Kids Update:



Last Sunday was a very special day! Some of our Promise Kids took the pulpit and shared messages with the congregation, reminding us that our God is bigger than our problems and that we are the Church, called to share God's love with our neighbors.

What a joy to see our children speak, lead, and share their faith! We certainly have future leaders among us, and our Children's Ministry Team will continue to encourage and nurture the next generation as they grow in faith.

For the next two Sundays, it's ULTIMATE FUN TIME! Before we begin our new school year, Promise Kids will enjoy two Sundays filled with fun, friendship, and joyful time together.

This is also a perfect opportunity to invite a friend or neighbor! Bring someone along and let's celebrate the final days of summer together with lots of fun and joy.

See you Sunday, Promise Kids!

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!

Free Stairlift!:



Do you or someone you know struggle with navigating stairs at home? **Lifeway Mobility** is generously donating a brand-new 2026 Pinnacle SL300 **chairlift** to a person in need. To make this gift fully accessible, Lifeway Mobility is providing completely free professional installation.

If you are interested contact Leean Spalding for more information at 203-767-1164

Please share this information with friends and neighbors!

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:

Thursday September 10, 6:00–7:30 PM

Saturday September 12, 6:00–7:30 PM

Sign-up & additional details: <https://tacticalfocusmedia.pixieset.com/booking/scripture-reading-video-session>

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 **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.



Please keep in mind that Fridays are the Pastor's Sabbath. 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
office@cheshireumc.com
 Pastor, Steve Kim (203) 231-9037
 205 Academy Road, Cheshire, CT 06410
 (203) 272-4626