



WELCOME TO

The Weekly Courier

A weekly newsletter brought to you by the
Cheshire United Methodist Church

From the Pastor:

When the Twin Towers fell
through violence and fear,
our sense of security fell with them.

Our trust was shaken.
Our communities trembled.
Our relationships changed.

When first responders moved toward danger,
our hearts went with them.
Our prayers surrounded the rescued.
Our tears carried the names
of those who never came home.

Some of us saw it happen.
Some of us learned the stories later.
Some still carry vivid memories.
Some still carry losses words cannot hold.

Trauma does not move in a straight line.
Grief has no timetable.
Healing cannot be demanded.
Peace cannot be rushed.

So we make room—
for grief,
for silence,
for anger,
for memory,
and for hope when hope is possible.

And now we face a choice:

Restoration—
the dream of Beloved Community?

Or retaliation—
communities shaped by fear and defense?

Perhaps both impulses live within us:
the longing to heal
and the instinct to protect,
the desire for peace
and the weight of fear.

What a deep tension.
What painful dissonance.

The wounded heart says,
"Keep me safe."

The grieving heart says,
"Remember."

The weary heart says,
"I am not ready."

And the Gospel still invites:
Choose life.

Not to forget.
Not to rush forgiveness.
Not to silence justice.

But to seek a way forward
that does not require more people to be broken.

(CONTINUED)

From the Pastor continued:

Choose life that protects dignity.
Choose love that does not erase truth.
Choose mercy that walks with justice.
Choose peace that does not silence the wounded.

Choose Jesus—
who comes near to wounded bodies,
who honors tears,
who bears scars,
and who shows us
that resurrection does not erase what happened.

May God protect all who suffer
from violence that dehumanizes
and distorts the image of God in another.

May God restore without rushing,
comfort without silencing,

strengthen without demanding.

And may God hold us like kintsugi—
not hiding the cracks,
not pretending the wounds never happened,
but joining what has been broken
with grace, mercy, and love.

Gold does not erase the fracture.
Grace does not erase the wound.

The scar remains.
The story remains.
The person remains worthy.

We may be wounded.
And still, we may become healers.

Not because every wound is healed,
but because wounded people
can still offer presence,
compassion,
safety,
and care.

So go gently.

Where hatred has wounded,
practice love.

Where violence has broken trust,
create safety.

Where fear has divided,
make room for relationship.

Where grief remains,
do not rush it.

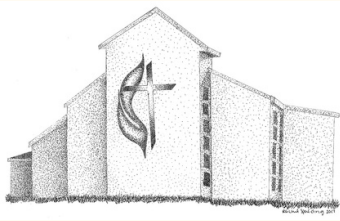
Where healing begins,
honor it.

Wounded healers we may become—
carrying our scars,
carrying one another,
walking toward peace
one faithful step at a time.

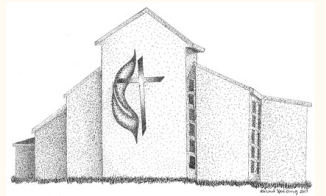
May it be so.
Amen.



REV. DR. STEVE (YOUNG DONG) KIM
SENIOR PASTOR
CHESHIRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



This Week At CUMC



SEPTEMBER 13	WORSHIP, 10:00 A.M.
SEPTEMBER 13	RALLY DAY PICNIC
SEPTEMBER 15	BOOKLETTES, 7:00 P.M. (FTR)
SEPTEMBER 16	CHOIR REHEARSAL, 7:30 P.M.

Our Church Family Celebrations:



- 13 GARY DEVILBISS
- 13 JOE PISANI
- 14 JEFF HANKE
- 15 JESSICA GILLEYLEN MILLER
- 18 LESLIE RUSSELL
- 19 CHRISTINE JACKSON



- 16 MICHELE & SCOTT BLOOM
- 17 DON AND MARY BOGRETTE

FIND OUT MORE

Volunteers for Worship 9/13:



Usher: Joe Driscoll	Visual Arts Creator: Chris Driscoll
Ambassadoor: Jim Jackson	Visual Arts Engineer: Mark Gilleylen
Fellowship: Rally Day Picnic	Livestream Tech: Matt Heafy
Member Outreach: Dot Mattson	Counters: Elaine Lau, Carol Hotz
Lector: Rose Bellagamba	Prayer Cards: Jean Roeder
Nursery: Caroline Veleber, Mallory Jackson	Promise Kids: Gerry Connelly, Jerry Howard

RALLY DAY PICNIC



We will be having our annual Rally Day Picnic following worship on Sunday! Burgers, dogs, and drinks will be provided by the Fellowship Committee. Please bring a side or dessert to share! We are looking forward to an official kick-off to the Sunday School season. All are invited to attend.

BOOKLETES:



The Booklettes will be meeting on Tuesday, September 15th at 7:00 p.m. in the Faithful Thomas Room. They will be discussing the book, Fresh Starts and Small Town Hearts by KC Hart.

JUBILATE BELL CHOIR:



The Jubilate Bell choir will begin rehearsals on Wednesday September 23rd at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. All are invited to give it a ring! Please see Rose Kim for more details

CLOTHESLINE FUNDRAISER:



Due to the success of the Clothesline Fundraiser, we will be keeping the donation period OPEN! We have already raised \$8,777. What a blessing church! Now, let's keep it going. Thank you for your continuous support of CUMC.

UPCOMING SPPR MEETING:



There will be a SPPR meeting following worship on September 20th in the Faithful Thomas Room. Please see Barbara Heafy for more information.

PROMISE KIDS UPDATE:



This Sunday, let's come together to celebrate Rally Sunday and the blessings of Backpack Sunday! Promise Kids is excited to kick off a brand-new season of learning, growing, and discovering God's love.

Our wonderful ministry team teachers are ready to welcome your children and begin this special year together.

We can't wait to see you and celebrate all that God has in store for our Promise Kids!

MUSIC MESSAGE:

🎵 Sing Your Favorite Hymn!

Do you have a favorite hymn you would love for us to sing together? Instead of choosing a hymn on the spot on the fourth Sunday morning, we're going to plan ahead and look forward to singing our congregation's favorite hymns!

You'll find Hymn Request Cards at the entrance to the sanctuary. Write down your favorite hymn and place your request in the offering basket. We will select from your requests and sing them together on the fourth Sunday of each month.

And our choir season has officially begun! We had our first rehearsal with a wonderful feast and fellowship! The choir will continue to meet every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m.

Interested in joining the choir or have questions? Everyone is welcome! Please contact Rose at dream2all2024@gmail.com.

Come, sing, and let's make a joyful sound together! 🎵



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!

CCC ANNOUNCEMENT:

Cheshire Creation Care (CCC) is sponsoring a talk as part of its mission to educate the community about the environment. Please mark your calendars for O! O! O! Opossums, Wednesday, September 23, at 6:30 at the First Congregational Church in Cheshire.



Pam and Bill Lefferts from the Ferncroft Animal Rescue will present their Backyard Wildlife: All About Opossums program complete with live, in-person marsupial ambassadors. This presentation is family friendly, geared for all ages not just children, and is guaranteed to increase your appreciation for these gentle and beautiful creatures. Learn about opossums' biology, habits, and rehabilitation and get a chance to touch one! (They are actually very soft!).

If you would like more information about the work of Cheshire Creation Care, contact Steve Trumbo (203-859-1670 or trumbo@uconn.edu).

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM WORSHIP COMMITTEE:



The Worship Committee is working to clean out their closet. In doing so, they've come across 6 long heavy duty tubes. They're approximately 7 ft long. They'd be great for storage of fabrics or papers, If you have a use for any of these tubes, please reach out to Dawn Deganis.

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:

Saturday September 12, 6:00-7:30 PM

Sign-up & additional details:

<https://tacticalfocusmedia.pixieset.com/booking/scripture-reading-video-session>



Please keep in mind that Fridays are the Pastor's Sabbath. Unless it's a pastoral emergency, please call the office at 203-272-4626 or email office@cheshireumc.com and it will be addressed ASAP. Thank you!



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