

THE WEEKLY COURIER

A weekly newsletter brought to you by Cheshire United Methodist Church

VOL. 8 ISSUE 44

11-30-2025

Coming soon to our sanctuary . . .



Join us on Sunday for worship at 10:00 a.m.



Get your own Cheshire UMC ornament. \$10



Check out page 3 and 4 for several Missions opportunities



Check out our new YouTube channel — link on our website.

From Our Pastor



Thanksgiving OR Givingthanks

I think back to my first Thanksgiving in the U.S. and how puzzled I was by the word itself. Why call it “Thanksgiving” and not “Giving Thanks”? It felt like one of those chicken-or-egg puzzles that keep philosophers entertained, yet the question stayed with me. Why *Thanksgiving*?

Over time, the answer became clearer. Gratitude has a way of moving outward. When we feel thankful for someone or something, we instinctively want to respond. We speak, we share, we reach out. Even brain science nods along. Gratitude lights up the parts of us tied to emotion and memory, releases the chemicals that help us feel joy, and quiets the stress that sits in our bodies. Those are helpful insights, yet even without the neuroscience, the heart of it feels simple. Thanksgiving is not just a holiday. It is a posture, a way of seeing the world with open eyes and an open spirit.

The more we practice it, the more it shapes us. Thanksgiving strengthens our capacity to give, not because we are full from the feast, but because gratitude widens the world inside us. And maybe that is the quiet wisdom hidden in the name itself. Without “thanks,” how would we ever learn to “give”? These days, I hold that memory close. It reminds me that gratitude not only changes how we feel. It draws us closer to one another and makes room for joy to grow.

Now we stand at the doorway of a new Christian year. Advent invites us into the promise of something meaningful and near. As this season begins, will you open that door with a spirit of “Thanksgiving” alongside me?

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

Our Week at a Glance . . .



November	30	Worship 10:00 a.m.
December	2	Trustees, 7:00 p.m.
	3	Bells, 6:30 p.m.
		Choir, 7:30 p.m.

Our Church Family Celebrations



3 Grace Hanke
3 Marge Jordan
6 Karen Kieffer

Cheshire UMC Ornament



If you are like this editor, you need, okay want, something new each year to add to your Christmas decorations. This is the perfect one! Ornaments are \$10 each. See Mara or Lilah, if interested.

From our Technology Committee:



We have a new YouTube channel and encourage you to check it out. Links will be available on our church's website to access both our worship services in real-time as well as archived services beginning this past July.

Thank You!

Dear CUMC,

Thank you so much for the Halloween treat box. It was a nice surprise and of course, me and my roommates loved the candy. Thank you for thinking of me all the way up here in Maine!

Love, Grace Hanke



Hi,

I wanted to say thank you for sending the Halloween candy, I always look forward to getting it very year! I appreciate you all thinking of me and taking the time to send it to my school. I hope everyone is well and I miss you all!

♥ Once again thank you so much,

Leah Ferraiolo

Missions Opportunities:

Thank You's from Missions: A special thank you to all of you who supported our special collections in November. We made sure that 18 Cheshire youth have NEW winter coats to keep them warm this winter; we helped 185 families to celebrate Thanksgiving with our donation of stuffing (we actually collected 247 boxes!!); and we sent 33 Christmas boxes off to children around the world through Samaritan's Purse's Christmas Operation Child. CUMC is full of generosity!!

500 Intentional Acts of Kindness: The Missions Committee would like to challenge CUMC to act as the hands, feet & voice of Jesus Christ during the 4 weeks of Advent to collectively & intentionally share kindness with our families, friends & neighbors (even the ones we don't know).

We will have a display board in the Fellowship Hall where you can add your intentional acts of kindness, and with all of us working together, we will work towards 500 ways that we made the world a little nicer during this holiday season.

Examples of Intentional Acts of Kindness:

- Bring your neighbors garbage cans up for the
- Compliment someone even if you don't know them
- Give up a good parking spot
- Call someone who lives alone
- Leave an encouraging note on a car
- Offer someone a ride
- Read to a sibling
- Write kind messages using sidewalk chalk
- Offer to babysit a friend's children
- Carry a \$5 gift card with you and give it someone randomly

Alternative Giving for Christmas:

Looking for a special gift for someone on your list? Tired of the old standards- a tie or another candle? Think Alternative Giving- give a donation to one of these non-profits in the name of your loved one. Fill out a Christmas card to let the person know about your gift. See one of the Missions Committee volunteers after church Dec 7st - 21st.

Cheshire Social Services- donation of grocery store gift cards for Cheshire families in emergency situations (members can either give a donation towards a gift card or purchase their own gift card and bring it in to church for our collection). Stop & Shop, Big Y, or Aldi's.

Hiefer International- Hiefer gives animals to people in different parts of the world to improve the standard of living for their family. That family is then asked to extend the gift by giving the offspring of the animals to another family. More info at Hiefer.org.

IRIS (Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services)- Organization in New Haven that assists individuals and families with supportive services through volunteer groups that provide housing, translators, rides, etc. The goal is to get these folks to self-sufficiency. More info at IRISct.org.

Water.Org- We believe water is the best investment the world can make to improve health, empower women, enable access to education, increase family income and change lives. Yet, 771 million people lack access to safe water. Water.org is a global nonprofit organization working to bring water and sanitation to the world.

Cont. next page

More Missions Opportunities

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) – As the humanitarian relief and development arm of The United Methodist Church, **the United Methodist Committee on Relief – UMCOR** – assists United Methodists and churches to become involved globally in direct ministry to persons in need. UMCOR comes alongside those who suffer from natural or human-caused disasters – famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events—to alleviate suffering and serve as a source of help and hope for the vulnerable. UMCOR provides relief, response and long-term recovery grants when events overwhelm a community's ability to recover on their own.

UMCOR also provides technical support and training for partners to address emerging and ongoing issues related to disaster relief, recovery, and long-term health and development.

CUMC – last, but not least. If a member would like to give a gift to our church, they can designate an amount that will go towards our operating budget to support the wonderful building that houses our spiritual home.

Booklettes — December 11 — Christmas Party



Booklettes Women's Book Club will celebrate Christmas on December 11 at the home of Mara Weed. All women of the church are invited. Please let Mara know that you will be attending. Desserts and beverages will be supplied. If you'd like to share an appetizer, that would be wonderful.

Church Council — December 16



Church Council meet Tuesday, October 14 at 7:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. All are invited to attend and see how decision making is done at Cheshire UMC. Minutes from the November meeting are [here](#).



Please keep in mind that Fridays are the Pastor's Sabbath. Unless it's a pastoral emergency, please call the church office (203-272-4626) if you are in need of something on Fridays. Thank you.

Cheshire United Methodist Church
office@cheshireumc.com
 Pastor, Steve Kim (203) 231-9037
 205 Academy Road, Cheshire, CT 06410
 (203) 272-4626