

THE WEEKLY COURIER

A weekly newsletter brought to you by Cheshire United Methodist Church

VOL. 8 ISSUE 45

12-07-2025

Coming soon to our sanctuary . . .



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



Get your own Cheshire UMC ornament. \$10



Booklettes Christmas Party, Thursday, 6:30 p.m.
See page 4.



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

From Our Pastor



What can an apple teach you.

A few weeks ago, my family spent a morning making apple pies with members of CUMC. There was laughter, conversation, and the smell of cinnamon everywhere. Even though apple pie is not usually something I choose, I enjoyed it very much (with all honesty!). Now our table is still full of apples. Some are from that day, some are newly bought, and I keep looking at them with fresh eyes.

Those apples made me think of the story of Newton watching one fall and realizing how gravity works. Another phrase came to mind too. “The apple of God’s eye.” Both images point to a gentle pull. Something that draws us toward what matters. Something that brings us closer to God.

The theologian Jürgen Moltmann talks about this pull as the way God moves toward us and how we move toward God. The place where we meet is the future. The future draws us the way gravity draws an apple to the ground. If God’s future is peace, we start learning peace now. If God’s future is justice, we begin wanting justice now. If God’s future is joy, we practice joy even in hard times. Hope becomes a quiet force shaping our lives long before the future arrives.

Advent invites us to notice this pull. What is drawing us forward as we wait for God to come close? How does God’s coming this year remind us of the future shaping us even now? Kindness. Courage. Empathy. Compassion. Joy. Peace. Each one reaches for us in its own way.

It is amazing how a simple apple can teach something so ordinary and so sacred at the same time.

Happy Advent!

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

Our Week at a Glance . . .



December 7 Worship, 10:00 a.m.
 10 Bells, 6:30 p.m.
 Choir, 7:30 p.m.

Our Church Family Celebrations



9 Debra Bond
 11 Hope LaComb



13 Tiffany & Mark Stevenson

Save the Dates



Important Upcoming Dates at Cheshire UMC:

December 14 Choir Cantata, 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
 21 Christmas Pageant, 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
 24 Christmas Eve Service, 5:00 p.m.

Request from Education



After several years of service, Mara has decided to retire from her position of Administrative Assistant as of Jan 1, 2026. We thank her for her dedication and excellence serving in this important role. We are actively looking for someone to fill this position and would like to offer the opportunity to those in our church family first before posting externally. If you are interested and have the skills and expertise necessary, SPR would love to hear from you as soon as possible. We will interview and fill the position with the most qualified individual.

For further information, please refer to the attached [link](#) for the job description of CUMC Administrative Assistant. Please contact Barb Heafy SPR Chair, bheafy58@gmail.com or at 203-494-5542.

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.

Missions Opportunities:

Thank You's from Missions:

Thank you so much to everyone who donated shoeboxes filled with wonderful gifts to Operation Christmas Child. CUMC donated 33 boxes, and maybe 36 if several people brought their own boxes in to the Chapel. This is higher than ever! Thank you everyone! You will make many children and teens happy! Missions Committee.

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!!); 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.

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 9



Church Council meet Tuesday, December 9 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.

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