

# THE WEEKLY COURIER

A weekly newsletter brought to you by Cheshire United Methodist Church

VOL. 8 ISSUE 46

12-14-2025

## Coming soon to our sanctuary . . .



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



Get your own Cheshire UMC ornament. \$10



Our choir will offer their musical Christmas gift to the Church at 10:00 a.m. this Sunday.



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

## From Our Pastor



Recently, a close friend sent Advent calendars to my children. The moment they received them, without any prompting, they began opening a window each day. Since the calendars arrived during Advent, they naturally started with Day One and moved forward day by day. Watching them was both delightful and a little revealing. There was a quiet eagerness in them, a simple trust that something good awaited them tomorrow.

That made me pause. Would they have opened all the days at once if the calendar had arrived earlier. Or does opening one day at a time deepen their sense of waiting and heighten the joy of Christmas itself. And once a day is opened and passed, does it fade quickly from memory. These thoughts may sound like overthinking, yet they touch something true about how easily we move on. (And frankly, how easily we don't move on.)

We forget things quickly. Sometimes it is something small, like where we left our keys. Sometimes it is something deeper, like memory, hope, or meaning. December comes every year. Advent returns. Christmas Eve arrives again and again. Yet when anticipation fades and participation grows thin, the season slips by almost unnoticed.

This Advent is an invitation not to forget what matters. To wait with intention. To show up with care. Joseph and Mary are still searching for a place to stay. Christ is still coming into the world. The question before us is simple and searching. Will we make room?

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



15 Ann Mazzone  
 18 Matt Heafy  
 19 Holly Carey  
 20 Bill Jordan

## 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.

## Apple Pie Update



On Saturday November 22nd there were 25 people working to make 60 apple pies. With all ingredients donated this gave us a profit of 900 dollars. My heartfelt thanks to all who gave of their time, donations and the purchase of pies. Love, Dot

## 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](mailto:bheafy58@gmail.com) or at 203-494-5542.

## From our Technology Committee:



We have a new YouTube channel and we 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.

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## 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.

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## Booklettes — January 20



Booklettes Women's Book Club will have their first meeting of the new year on January 20, meeting in The Faithful Thomas Room at 7:00 p.m. Our first book of the year is *Wonder* by R. J. Palacio. This is a contemporary children's novel with a great message. Join us as the Booklettes begin a new year.

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## Church Council — January 13



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.

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

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## Cheshire Creation Care Event—Jan. 12

# You're Invited! FREE Winter Seed Sowing Workshop

with Cheshire Pollinator Pathway &  
the Eco Action Team at  
First Congregational Church  
of Cheshire, 111 Church Drive



Monday, Jan. 12<sup>th</sup> 7pm

RSVP to <https://www.cheshirepollinatorpathway.org/events>

Soil, seeds & instruction provided. Participants bring (2-3) gallon milk jugs or  
half-gallon juice/milk carton/boxes. Class size is limited. RSVP Early!