

THE WEEKLY COURIER

A weekly newsletter brought to you by Cheshire United Methodist Church

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Coming soon to our sanctuary . . .



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



May the New Year bring you health, safety, happiness and peace.



. . . see page 2 to meet our new Admin Assistant



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

From Our Pastor



After Christmas: Canal, Reservoir, or Swamp?

Here we are again, after Christmas. We've been here before. The pace slows. We pause. Maybe we are catching our breath. Maybe we are beginning to turn our attention toward the New Year. This quieter stretch of days seems to invite reflection.

Yet the story of the Holy Family after Christmas tells a different truth. It is not a story of rest, but of movement—perhaps even displacement. Mary, Joseph, and the child Jesus are forced to flee, escaping real danger. Their story echoes the fears and uncertainty that still follow many families with young children around the world today.

In times like this, I often return to the wisdom of Rev. Dr. Howard Thurman, a theologian, mystic, pastor, and mentor to MLK. In a 1958 reflection titled *“Canal, Reservoir, Swamp?”* Thurman offers a simple but powerful way to think about how we live our lives.

He describes three ways of being. Some people live like canals, helping life and connection flow between others. Some live like reservoirs, taking in what is life-giving, holding it with care, and then offering it back when it is needed. Others become like swamps, constantly taking in but never giving out, where energy and purpose grow stagnant.

Thurman encouraged people to live as reservoirs, to develop inner depth, wisdom, and compassion so they can offer strength and blessing to the world. After Christmas, as the noise fades and a new year approaches, his question gently stays with us: what kind of life are we becoming—canal, reservoir, or swamp?

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

Our Week at a Glance . . .



December 28 Worship, 10:00 a.m.
 January 1 New Year's Day — office closed

Our Church Family Celebrations



Dec 28 Joe Driscoll
 Jan 1 CJ Strand
 3 Michele Bloom
 3 Adam Napolitano



29 Peter & Karen Bunting

From SPPR — WELCOME!!



SPRC is pleased to announce that Kaitlin Heuser has been hired as our new Administrative Assistant effective January 1st. She will be training with Mara in the month of January but any communication can be addressed to Kaitlin at the church office email address, office@cheshireumc.com.

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 December meeting are [here](#).

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.

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.



Our Education Department is in need of one additional Sunday School teacher. The requirement is one Sunday a month you will work with an experienced teacher to help provide the foundation of Christian Education for our young children. Please speak with Brian Sullivan, Lianne Adamczyk or Steve with your interest.

Missions Opportunities:

Winter Warmth Collection — December 28th-January 18th

We are collecting new & gently used **winter clothing items & blankets** for men, women, & children:

Blankets, throws, comforters, quilts

Coats, gloves/mittens, scarves, hats

Winter clothes: long sleeve shirts, sweatshirts, sweaters, heavy-weight pants, long johns, warm socks, boots

Cheshire Creation Care Event—Jan. 12



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