

# 'THE WEEKLY COURIER

A weekly newsletter brought to you by Cheshire United Methodist Church

VOL. 7, ISSUE 8

3.3.2024

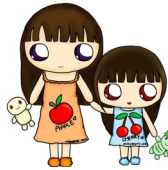
## Coming soon to our sanctuary . . .



Lenten Study: Max Lucado's "In the Footsteps of the Savior". Continues today.



How about a short term musical commitment? See page 3.



Secret Sister Sign-Up. See page 2.



An opportunity for our children to contribute to the Worship Service. See page 2.

## From Our Pastor



My beloved church family,

I used to think that Lent was a time of waiting – waiting for Easter so I could return to doing whatever it was I was doing before I gave it up for Lent; waiting to be forgiven for all the ways in which I have strayed from both the flock and the Shepherd; waiting to finally shed the old life of sin and darkness and receive the new life offered in the resurrection of Jesus.

But after what I experienced this week, I now understand that Lent is a time of weighting.

David, a pickleball partner of mine, loaned/gave me one of his paddles to try (a \$250 value!). He's a bigger and stronger guy than me, so the paddle part was a bit heavier than I was used to. Well, after trying it out for an early-morning session, I was unusually exhausted – my hands and wrists and forearms (plural because I'm ambidextrous – and evidently weak as a 63-year-old kitten!) bore the brunt of the burden.

Upon closer examination, I noticed that Big Dave had specially modified the paddle. He had added 2 strips of weighted tape to the neck of the paddle to better suit his larger frame. Granted, each piece of tape weighed only a single ounce, but over time, the extra burden had simply worn me out.

I was in a bit of a "pickle". I could either wait for the sticky strips to just miraculously fall off, or I could take the initiative and purposely remove the burdensome and exhausting weight myself. Hmmm.

During this season of Lent, we can either wait unrepentantly for God to miraculously forgive us for the things that we have done (and/or left undone) that were ungodly, OR we can take the initiative and purposely remove the burdensome and exhausting weights (our sins) through repentance today.

The ball is in your court, partner.

## This Week at a Glance . . .



- 3/3 Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.  
 Sunday School meets  
 ~ nursery available  
 Children's Choir meets after Worship  
 Lenten Supper Study Series 5:00 PM
- 3/5 Board of Trustees 7:00 PM
- 3/8 Pastor's Sabbath

## Happy Happy!



## Birthdays this week:

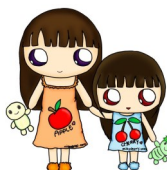
- 5 Caitlyn Desmond  
 8 Jim Long

## Children's Choir



All children wanting to sing during our Palm Sunday Worship Service are asked to meet after Worship Service today, March 10th and March 17th to rehearse for about 15 minutes. Please have your child attend at least two of the three rehearsals. (Of course, attendance at all three is the best!).

## Secret Sisters Sign-Up



Secret Sisters is an opportunity to pray for, think of and let another woman know that she is special. Shower her with notes, cards, and surprises- in your own unique way- throughout the year and on her special days, without letting her know it's you. A new year of Secret Sisters will begin in March. Complete the form found [here](#) and place in the SECRET SISTER box at the Welcome Center in the church narthex through Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. The Secret Sister assignment will take place immediately following, and you will be notified of your Secret Sister via email/snail mail if you don't have an email.

## CONGRATULATIONS!!!



Congratulations to Dee Popolizio for successfully completing the Lay Servant Ministries basic course (Jan-Feb 2024) offered by the CT District of the UMC.

## Lenten Supper Series Continues Today



On this the fifth anniversary of our trip to the Holy Land, Pastor Ken is leading a 6-part video Bible study, "In the Footsteps of the Savior", presented by NY Times bestselling author and renowned pastor, Max Lucado. On 6 successive Sundays, we'll be "visiting" Capernaum (Jesus' HQ), the Sea of Galilee, the Mount of Beatitudes, the Temple Steps, the Garden Tomb, and Caesarea by the Sea - all without leaving the Fellowship Hall! Our Lenten journey continues at 5:00 p.m. today and will continue for the 3 subsequent Sundays in Lent. (from 5:00-6:30 p.m.)

"This year, Jerusalem!"

---

## From a Student



Hi Everyone!  
 I wanted to reach out and say thank you so much for the Valentine's Day candy! My roommates and I have almost gone through the entire box :) I appreciate you sending this box of candy and goodies on special occasions. It really does mean a lot to me and is something I truly look forward to. I hope everything is going well with everyone and I miss church!!  
 Thank you again!  
 Best,  
 Lexi Ferraiolo

---

## After Service Brunch — March 24



Our first **After Service Brunch** is being planned for Palm Sunday, March 24th. Mark your calendars for a time of togetherness.

---

## Shelter Now



Shelter Now in Meriden: making breakfast for the men, women, & children staying at the shelter. Please contact Jennifer Roeder at 203-444-4067 or [jlynnroeder@aol.com](mailto:jlynnroeder@aol.com).

---

## Make a Joyful Noise— Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.



Did you ever want to be an active part of the Easter musical festivities? Join us for rehearsal (bells at 6:30 and/or choir at 7:30). Maybe a short time commitment is just what you need! We don't JUST sing. . .we laugh, cry, rejoice, pray. All, as J. S. Bach said, Soli Deo Gloria—"To God alone, the glory".

---

## Connecticut Resource News



Please see the [link](#) to access information regarding upcoming mini clinics available in the Connecticut District.

---

## CUMC Keepsake



This CUMC Keepsake is available to all. The price is \$10 and you can get from Mara Weed. If writing a check, please note that it is for the Keepsake. This is a wonderful remembrance for present and past members and friends of

---

## Nursery Volunteers



We are always looking for more volunteers for this important ministry, so if you'd like to help, please contact Barb Heafy, our nursery coordinator. Thank you!

---

## Altar Flowers and Fellowship Hour Sign-ups for 2024



New sign-up sheets for altar flowers and coffee hour hosts are up and waiting for you!

---

## Cheshire Food Pantry Collection



On the first Sunday of the month, please bring non-perishable donations to church for donation to the Cheshire Community Pantry.

---

## Booklettes — March 19



Booklettes Women's Book Club will meet on March 19 at 7:00 pm in the Faithful Thomas Room to discuss Hello Beautiful by Ann Napolitano. All welcome! Please see [here](#) for the book choices for the year so you can get ahead on your reading.

---

## Pastor's Sabbath



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 Ken Kieffer (203) 699-6322  
 205 Academy Road, Cheshire, CT 06410  
 (203) 272-4626  
 Mailing address: P.O. Box 851, Cheshire, CT 06410