



CHESHIRE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

205 Academy Road, Cheshire, CT 06410

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**Welcome to the Cheshire United Methodist Church.
All are welcome (all means all)!**

The Reverend Kenneth J. Kieffer, *Pastor* pastor@cheshireumc.com

Mara Weed, *Music Director*

Mara Weed, *Admin. Assistant* office@cheshireumc.com

Lisa Moran, *Sexton*

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

10:00 A. M.

PRELUDE

Mara Weed

OPENING PRAYER

WORDS OF WELCOME

The Pastor

♦CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Leader: Rejoice with me, says the Lord, for the lost are found.

People: We come, ready to celebrate God's searching love.

Leader: God is like a shepherd who will not rest until every sheep is safe.

People: God is like a woman who sweeps every corner until the coin is found.

Leader: Come, beloved of God—no one is forgotten, no one is left behind.

All: Together we rejoice in God's unending love!

♦OPENING HYMN #400

"Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND ADORATION (unison)

Gracious God, You are the One who seeks and saves. You search for the lost with relentless love, You rejoice over every child who returns home, and You call us to share in the joy of heaven. We praise You for being a shepherd who carries us on Your shoulders, a woman who sweeps until every coin is found, a God who will not rest until we are safely in Your care. Receive our worship today, O Lord. Let our voices join the chorus of angels celebrating Your mercy and grace. In the name of Jesus Christ, who came to seek and to save the lost, we pray. Amen.

CONVERSATION WITH THE CHILDREN & THE LORD'S PRAY "This Little Light of Mine"
(ushers collect green prayer cards while children go to Sunday School)

♦CHILDREN'S HYMN #191

"Jesus Loves Me"

♦FIRST LESSON (p. 468-469 OT)

Psalms 14

♦GOSPEL LESSON (p. 73 NT)

Luke 15:1-10

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

"THE GOD WHO WON'T GIVE UP"

- SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM #39-43
- Hymn #611 (v.1)

“Child of Blessing, Child of Promise”
- CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM

“Morning Has Broken”

Cat Stevens
- PASTORAL PRAYER
- OFFERTORY
- ♦Doxology #95, Prayer of Dedication and Altar Call
- ♦CLOSING HYMN #348

“Softly and Tenderly”
- ♦THE BENEDICTION
- ♦PASSING OF THE PEACE

<i>Usher:</i> Dave Wilkinson	<i>Visual Arts Creator:</i> Carl Strand
<i>Ambassador:</i> Jim Jackson	<i>Visual Arts Engineer:</i> Mark Gilleylen
<i>Nursery:</i> Janis Evancha, Jenn Roeder	<i>Livestream Tech:</i> Steve Trumbo
<i>Member Outreach:</i> Dot Mattson	<i>Counters:</i> Michele Bloom, Dave Wendt
<i>Fellowship:</i> The Grant Family	<i>Prayer Cards:</i> Jean Roeder
<i>Sunday School:</i> Gerry Connelly, Jerry Howard	<i>Lector:</i> Mara Weed

Announcements

The **altar flowers** are given to the Glory of God by Joyce McSwain, great-grandmother of Gianna Renée Weed, in celebration of Gianna’s baptism.

Being baptized today is Gianna Renée Weed, born to Greg Weed and Dhaybeth Gonzalez.

The Chosen study begins on Monday at 7:00 p.m.

There will be a **Missions Committee** meeting following worship on Sunday, September 21. Members please meet in The Faithful Thomas Room.

Thank you to those who signed up for Child Care. If you’re interested in adding your name to this very important ministry, see Barb Heafy or Sue Trumbo.

Trustees request that you save the date of November 8th for a **Church Cleanup Day**. There’s a job for everyone – inside and outside!

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.

Welcome!

This is a Welcoming, Reconciling congregation. We embrace diversity and affirm the dignity and worth of every person because we are all created by a loving God. We seek to live Christ's call for compassion, justice, healing and wholeness. Therefore, we welcome into our faith community persons of every race, gender, age, sexual orientation, nationality, ethnicity, marital status, mental and physical ability, economic and social position, gender identity and expression, level of education and family structure. We believe we can all love alike, even if we don't think alike. We invite all to share in the life, leadership, lay and ordained ministry, worship and sacraments, the covenant of committed love in holy matrimony, fellowship, blessings and joys of our congregation as we seek to grow together in faith and love.

Who We Are . . .

We are a church family that welcomes everyone through our doors no matter the political affiliation, no matter which forms of Christian thought you hold, no matter what - you are welcome here because we are all members of the family of God.

Like other families, we may not always agree on everything, but we are called to love one another enough to forgive one another, respect our differences, and work and minister together as we spread and live out the Gospel message of God's love offered to this world in the form of Jesus Christ, our risen Lord and Savior.

To this end, we aspire to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God (Micah 6:8).