

WEST CHELMSFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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2nd Sunday in Lent March 16, 2025

Worship Service In-person and via Zoom 9:30 AM

Prelude – “Prelude on ‘St. Columba’” Chmura

Greeting

This is the day that the Lord has made

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Opening Hymn – “Only Trust Him”

Call to Worship

God is our light and our salvation.

We need not fear.

Christ is the stronghold of our life.

We need not be afraid.

When evil scatters us to the winds,

Christ gathers us with love and grace.

Be strong, beloved ones.

We are not alone.

Handbell Introit – “March” Keller

Opening Prayer

Mighty God, we come into your presence from many different places and situations. Light our way in this time of worship. Calm our hearts, focus our thoughts, and strengthen our faith, as we pray and praise this day. Amen.

Passing of Peace

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Silent Prayer

Call to Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us be in silent prayer.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer

Children’s Message

Offertory Reflection

Handbell Offering – “German Melody”

arr. Thompson

Doxology

Prayer of Dedication

Mighty God, bless these gifts, that they might bring strength to our faith, love to your world, and comfort to the forsaken. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

First Old Testament Reading – Psalm 1**

Hymn – “Nothing Can Trouble” (sing twice)

Second Old Testament Reading – Jeremiah 17: 5-10**

Sermon – “Blessings and Trust”

Closing Hymn - “As the Deer”

Announcements

Benediction

Be strong and take heart.

God goes before us on the road of life.

Go as beloved children of God.

We are sent with the Spirit’s power to love as we are loved.

And God’s people say:

Amen.

Postlude – “Sortie”

Blake

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\*\*After the scripture readings, please respond, "Thanks be to God."

We extend a warm greeting to all who are attending our worship service this morning in person or on Zoom or watching later via a video link.

**The Flowers on the altar** this morning are given to the Glory of God by Joanne and Elly Evans in honor of their parents.

**Today** – Occasional Ringers

Acolyte – Diana Woitowicz

Lay Reader – Nancy O’Neil

Minister of Music – Karen Leonard

Pastor – Reverend Geisa Matos

## THIS WEEK AT WEST CHELMSFORD UMC

### **Sunday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**9:30 AM, Worship Service In-person and via Zoom**

**10:00 AM, Sunday School in the Education Wing**

**10:30 AM, Coffee Hour in Fellowship Hall**

1:30 PM, MVR Rehearsal in the Sanctuary

3:00 PM, Westford Girl Scout Troop 70533 Meeting in the Education Wing, Classroom 1

Monday – 6:45 PM, Cub Scout Pack 70 Wolf Den Meeting in the Education Wing, Classroom 1

**7:30 PM, Occasional Ringers Rehearsal in the Sanctuary**

Wednesday – **7:30 PM, Festival Ringers Rehearsal in the Sanctuary**

Thursday – **7:30 PM, Senior Choir Rehearsal in the Choir Room**

Friday – **5:30 PM, Messy Church in Fellowship Hall**

### **Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

**9:30 AM, Worship Service In-person and via Zoom**

### Ongoing Prayer Requests

- Victims and their families of mass shootings in our country
- Victims and their families of the plane crashes in our country and around the world
- World peace and conflict in the Middle East and Ukraine
- All that are sick, mourning, and/or lonely

### Article Submission Due Dates

- Articles for the **mid-week email** are due in the church office by **9:00 AM Monday**.
- Articles for the **church bulletin insert** are due in the church office by **9:00 AM Tuesday**.
- **Articles for the April 2025 Newsletter** are due in the church office by **Monday, March 17, 2025**.

**Altar Visual** - The theme of our Lenten journey this year is "Which Path Will You Choose?" On the altar, there are two paths: one leading to the cross and one leading nowhere. On each Sunday during Lent, there will be objects on each path representing choices based on the scriptures of that day.

The second Sunday of Lent reveals a shield and a woven cloth on the path to the cross. The shield is a reminder of God's promise to Abram to protect him and his people. **Genesis 15: 1**, "*Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield, your very great reward.*" The cloth of woven fabric represents the pattern of our spiritual ancestry. **Philippians 3: 17**, "*Join with others in following my example and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you.*" On the other path is a spear, which represents conflict and aggression. The blue drape on the cross symbolizes loyalty.

## UPCOMING ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

**Continue to support our Organ Fund** – Don't forget to leave your donations in the organ pipe display.

**The sign-up sheet for the St. Paul's Meal** is now online. To volunteer, please click on the link below. The St. Paul's Meal will be served on **Wednesday, March 26, 2025**. Thank you for your support of this important mission.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040448A8AB28AAFF2-55395030-stpauls>

**Acts of Kindness Calendar for Lent 2025** - Acts of Kindness have a ripple effect! This year, for Lent, we invite you to focus on the power of acts of Kindness and Sharing their transforming power with others.

You will be offered an **Acts of Kindness Calendar** with 40 Acts of Kindness for you to reflect on and act on if you choose. We have provided a bible verse we felt supported the daily Act of Kindness.

Calendars are available on the Usher's Table and in the office. If you are unable to get a calendar at church, you can access this information on the [church webpage](#).

Remember...Kindness grows. Every small gesture you make, even if it feels like a drop in the ocean, creates a ripple that travels farther than we ever realize. Our hope is that this calendar brings moments of joy, laughter, and inspiration to Lent this year for you and that together, we'll create ripples of kindness that spread in wonderful, unexpected ways.

Invite others to join you by sharing a calendar.

Bless you on this journey!

Congregational Care and Worship team

**Envelope Fundraising for the WCUMC Ian MacPherson Scholarship Fund** – The board is up in the Education Building Lobby. Each envelope is pre-marked with dollar amounts on each one. Simply choose an envelope with a specific denomination from the board and return it by mail or drop it in the collection plate. As the envelopes are taken, the photos will be revealed. **The fundraiser will run during Lent, March 5<sup>th</sup> – April 17<sup>th</sup>.** Make this your devotion during Lent.

WCUMC has provided scholarships for graduating high school seniors planning to continue their education since 1972. Fundraising has not been done since 2019, pre-Covid, creating the need to keep this program alive. Please join us in showing our young church members that we care about their future by taking an envelope and returning it with your donation.

Many thanks,  
Sue Loiselle & Scholarship Committee, 2025

**WCUMC Silent Auction Fund Raiser for the Ian Macpherson Scholarship Fund** - The scholarship committee will conduct a silent auction as a way to replenish the funds needed to continue awarding scholarships to our high school graduates.

**The auction will run for five weeks, from April 13, 2025, to May 18, 2025.** The current nature of our worship and other church activities requires the auction to be done in a different way and to take advantage of the internet, which, to my knowledge, did not exist the last time our church held such an event.

The items up for auction, and the current bid will be posted in the weekly newsletter and on the bulletin board at the entry to the education building. There will be a link in the newsletter that will allow you to bid on any item. The link should send you directly to my e-mail address, which is [esquaremdi@aol.com](mailto:esquaremdi@aol.com). Please include the word auction in all e-mails. On May 18<sup>th</sup>, those with the highest bid will win.

To conduct the auction, we will need things for folks to bid on. These could include any type of goods or services. Examples of items from a past auction and newer ideas are:

- A weekend at someone's summer home
- A special meal for some number of people prepared and delivered to someone's home
- A ride to and from the Logan Airport or another Boston location
- Crafts – any type
- Small household repairs or yard work.
- Any other unique idea you may have, perhaps great grandma's soup taurine?

If you have something to contribute, please let me know what it is by e-mail, my address is [esquaremdi@aol.com](mailto:esquaremdi@aol.com). In addition, please include what should be considered a minimum starting bid.

Thanks for helping our deserving young folks,  
Elly Evans

**WCUMC Cookbook Project, “WCUMC TREASURED RECIPES”** - I have found a way to save all our treasured recipes to share. It's a website that allows everyone to email us their recipes in the proper format so that they can be added to the book.

Not only can we make a book with the recipes, they can be saved online for free access. Also, recipes can be added after the book is complete for online use and future cookbooks. Sounds good, doesn't it?

Now, we just need your help! I made a special Yahoo account so we won't miss any of your recipes. Please email us your “name” and “email” to [WCUMCcookbook@yahoo.com](mailto:WCUMCcookbook@yahoo.com) so we can send you the information you'll need to send us your favorite recipes. We look forward to completing this project for everyone to enjoy.

Thank you!  
Janice Rutter and Bea Stankard

## Summer Camp Information

- **Aldersgate** – Brochures are available in the Education Wing Lobby. To register for Aldersgate's Summer Camp, [click here](#).
- **Mechuwana** – For information and Camp Registration, [click here](#).
- **Wanakee** – For information regarding their Summer Schedule, [click here](#). To register, [click here](#).

**Lost and Found** – If either of the items below belong to you, please stop by the Church Office and pick them up.

- one pair of reading glasses in a floral case
- a black baseball-style hat with "Fresh Roots" embroidered on it

**Counters Needed** – We need a few people to join our counting teams after church. The time commitment is one Sunday per month for approximately twenty-five minutes. No experience is necessary, and the process involves preparing the bank deposit. Please get in touch with Ellen O'Neill at 978-649-9195 or send an email to [fin\\_sec@wcumc.us](mailto:fin_sec@wcumc.us) if you think you can help.

Thank you!  
Ellen O'Neill

**Easter Flowers** - Easter is on **Sunday, April 20, 2025**. The flowers for the altar have been preordered. Keep an eye out for the poster to sign up. If you have any questions, please get in touch with Diana Bard at 978-692-7668.

- Double Stem White Lilies are \$20.00 per pot
- 6" Tulips are \$10 per pot
- 7" Hyacinths (blue) are \$10.00 per pot

**Thank you!** - The Trustees and Finance Committees would like to thank everyone who has donated to the boiler replacement and organ repair projects. The new boiler was replaced last summer and was paid in full in December 2024. The organ's oboe rank has been repaired and reinstalled while additional work is ongoing. Your support and generosity is deeply appreciated!

Ellen O'Neill, Financial Secretary

## 4 Ways to Give to WCUMC

- **Mobile Giving** – Download the Tithely app. Fill out the Tithely secure donation transfer form. Enter donation and fee coverage (if desired)
- **QR Giving** – Using your phone's photo app, click the link after hovering over the QR code (see below). Fill out the Tithely secure donation transfer form. Enter donation and fee coverage (if desired)
- **Click "Give" or "Donate"** – Go to [www.wcumc.us](http://www.wcumc.us). Fill out the secure donation transfer form for PayPal or Tithely. For Tithely, remember the code number assigned for future login. Enter donation and fee coverage (if desired)
- **Cash or Check** – Place in the offering plate during the Worship Service or send your donation via the US Postal Service to WCUMC, 242 Main Street, North Chelmsford, MA 01863.

QR Giving Code:

