



WEST CHELMSFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

242 Main Street, North Chelmsford, MA 01863

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Pastor: Rev. Geisa Y. Matos

WCUMC Faith, Family, and Future are the Cornerstones of this nurturing community.

APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER

From the Pastor's Desk

From Passion to Resurrection

Two weeks ago, we concluded our sermon series on *Passion and Power* by Samuel Wells. This series challenged us to ask: How passionately do we love God? How willing are we to follow Christ, even when that love calls us into risk or weakness? Jesus' life, death, and resurrection redefine power—showing that true strength is revealed in humility, service, and self-giving love.

Paul writes, “*My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness*” (2 Corinthians 12:9). Jesus also teaches that the greatest among us must serve others, showing that God's kingdom operates through what the world calls weakness, inviting us into that radical, counter-cultural power.

A few weeks ago, this invitation to grow was visible in our church. After worship, two groups gathered simultaneously to deepen their faith. One studied *Simon Peter* by Rev. Adam Hamilton, walking with Peter through courage, failure, and restoration. Nearby, a group of men explored *The 5 Masculine Instincts* by Chase Replogle, reflecting on how God shapes and guides their lives. Seeing these gatherings during Lent reminds us that our desire to know God and grow in faith should never end.



Figure 1 Study Group/Simon Peter in the Library

Then came Palm Sunday and the Easter Cantata—moments that celebrated our Savior through special music and other liturgical rituals that call us to be witnesses of the Gospel in our daily lives.

So I wonder: How has this Lenten season met you? Where have you felt stretched or surprised? What has God been whispering to your heart? Some of you have embraced new spiritual practices. Some have simply held onto faith amid challenges. Some may feel Lent has passed almost unnoticed. Wherever you are, you're invited to be part of the Lenten journey as we enter Holy Week.

This week, we walk with Jesus into Jerusalem—not as spectators, but as companions. We stay at the table on Maundy Thursday. We stand at the foot of the cross on Good Friday. We don't rush past the pain, because love goes all the way.

If we walk the dark places of Holy Week with Christ, Easter will not just be a celebration we attend—it will be a joy we feel, a hope we carry, a promise we trust. In the resurrection, weakness is transformed into power, love triumphs over death, and eternal life is revealed. There's nothing more powerful than eternal life. Come celebrate with us, sing with full hearts, and let this Easter renew the way you see and live in the world.

Holy blessings,

Rev. Geisa Y. Matos

Prayer List



We encourage you to clip out these names and keep them in your prayers.

If you would like your name to be added or removed from any of the prayer lists, please contact the church office.

It's never too late for a note, a card, or a call

Those who are at home or in nursing homes:

Betty Chaput – at The Saab Center at D'Youville in Lowell
Alice Howard – at The Residence at Freeman Lake in North Chelmsford
Beverley Jones – at The Residence at Freeman Lake in North Chelmsford
Mary Lynn Weinbeck – at home



Prayer list for on-going health needs:

Judi and Bob Hill
Jen Weinbeck's friends, Mike and Sarah
Lisa Dushais

Inspirational Corner



“Just when the caterpillar thought the world was over, it became a butterfly.”
Anonymous

Do you have any favorite inspirational poems, short stories, or devotions? If so, please e-mail them to Roberta in the church office at office@wcumc.us. We want to share these in upcoming newsletters.

Spring Church Maintenance Day

Save the Date!

On Saturday, May 2, 2026, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM, the Board of Trustees will be holding the annual Spring Church Maintenance Day. We will be publishing a list of projects we hope to accomplish within the coming weeks. If you have notice anything that needs repairs or could use a little TLC at the church, feel free to contact any Trustees member or send an email to trustees@wcumc.us.



Thank you on behalf of the Board of Trustees.
Adrienne Kielsing

Massachusetts Spring Ring



Massachusetts Spring Ring 2026! - Handbell ringers and directors from across MA, NH, and beyond will gather on **Saturday, April 11, 2026**, at Tewksbury Memorial High School to rehearse and perform together for the annual Massachusetts Spring Ring. This will be the 38th Annual MA Spring Ring. The clinician and conductor for the day will be Kimberlee Strepka. Formerly known as the Merrimack Valley English Handbell Festival, this event brings together handbell enthusiasts to ring several

delightful pieces that have been rehearsed in advance. There will also be a few solo selections that have been prepared by some of the participating choirs. The day's activities will culminate in a 3:00 PM concert that is free and open to the public, followed by some light refreshments provided by the ringers. **Join the Festival Ringers and Jubilee Ringers at Tewksbury Memorial High School, 320 Pleasant Street, Tewksbury, MA, on Saturday, April 11, 2026, at 3:00 PM for the Massachusetts Spring Ring!**

Karen E. Leonard
Minister of Music

St. Paul's Meal

The sign-up sheet for the St. Paul's Meal is now online. To volunteer, please click on the following link. The St. Paul's Meal will be served on **Wednesday, April 22, 2026**. Thank you for your support of this important mission.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040448A8AB28AAFF2-63159980-april>

Ian MacPherson Scholarship

The WCUMC Ian MacPherson Scholarship was established for those students graduating from high school who have been active in Sunday School, MYF, youth mission work, youth choirs, or the church program in general.

The application will be available online as of April 1st at this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1pXWSSMZMkt-KzxTfyRWdBZvVb7ptOx_UCo6tJmhoPYs/edit

The deadline for submission is **April 30th** by midnight.

Lowell General Hospital's TeamWalk for CancerCare

I am walking in Lowell General Hospital's TeamWalk for CancerCare on **Sunday, May 3rd**. The money raised supports cancer patients by helping them pay for their treatments, wigs, nursing visits, medications, prostheses, rides to and from treatments, support groups, and nutritional supplements... The list goes on.

If you are interested in learning more about "TeamWalk for CancerCare" or would like to walk or volunteer at the event, go to www.teamwalk.org.

For anyone wanting to sponsor me online, go to my personal page at https://www.teamwalk.org/site/TR/Events/General?pg=personal&px=1014687&fr_id=1211. If the page does not come up, go to www.teamwalk.org, go to "Search Participants" on the left side of the page, and type in my name.

You can also donate by cash or check made out to "TeamWalk for CancerCare." I will be available at coffee hour over the next few Sundays for anyone who has questions or would like to sponsor me.

Thank you.
Adrienne Kielsing

Learning in Retirement Association (LIRA)

LIRA is presenting Immigration In The Merrimack Valley on **Monday, April 6th and Monday, April 13th** from 1:00 to 3:00 PM via Zoom. The presenter is Robert Forrant.

Immigrants and immigration are clearly in the news these days. In this two-part LIRA presentation, UMass Lowell History Professor Emeritus Robert Forrant will discuss the Merrimack Valley's immigration history from the 1820s to the 2020s, with a particular focus on the Greater-Lowell story. Before the Civil War, the Irish arrived, and they continued to arrive afterward. The next wave of French Canadian and German migrants swelled the population between 1870 and 1900. Between 1890 and the First World War, immigrants arrived from numerous southern and eastern European countries, including Italy, Greece, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Poland, Armenia, and Lithuania. In the 1920s, after decades of trying, those in favor of dramatically curtailing new arrivals carried the day, and a quota system was put in place. During the 1960s and again in the 1980s, reforms to the system opened its gates, leading to the most diverse migration to the U.S. in the nation's history. Today, people continue to arrive from all over the world despite the obstacles and barriers they face.

Zoom Link: <https://uml.zoom.us/j/97798393660>
Meeting ID: 977 9839 3660

News from Belinda Forbes *#StillInMission*

You are Invited to #StillInMission!

Please join me on **Thursday, May 7, 2026, at 12:00 PM EDT**, to hear updates from my missionary placement site with **AMOS Health and Hope**.

What happens on the call? The Zoom call lasts for one hour and includes a shared devotional, followed by breakout rooms where friends and supporters can engage in conversation with the missionary of their choice. Global Ministries will also bring updates and information.

Why #StillInMission? #StillInMission missionary episodes started during the COVID-19 pandemic and have continued as a valuable resource to connect local churches with United Methodist missionaries from different parts of the world.

#StillInMission is an opportunity to learn about the different ways missionaries answer God's call and how churches can extend their mission presence in the world through the Advance.

Registration is required. To join the #StillInMission May 7 Zoom call, please register by visiting umcmmission.org

I hope to see you there!

Belinda Forbes

Church Office Information

- The Church Office is open on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. The office phone number is 978-251-4835, and the email address is office@wcumc.us.
- We have six e-mail addresses:
 - office@wcumc.us – for general church business
 - pastormatos@wcumc.us – for Rev Geisa only
 - music@wcumc.us – for Karen Leonard, Music Minister
 - treasurer@wcumc.us – for Kimberly Stewart, Church Treasurer
 - fin_sec@wcumc.us – for Ellen O'Neill, Financial Secretary
 - trustees@wcumc.us – for the Trustees
- Church Website is www.wcumc.us
- Items for the church bulletin insert are due in the church office by **Tuesday morning**.
- Items for the **monthly Newsletter** are due in the church office on the third Monday of each month. **All articles must be signed**. The next submission deadline is **Monday, April 20, 2026, for the May 2026 Newsletter**.





2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:30PM-Simon Peter Book Study via Zoom 7:30PM-Missions via Zoom 7:30PM-Festival Ringers Rehearsal	2 Maundy Thursday 7:30PM-Worship Service 8:30 PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal	3 Good Friday 7:30PM-Worship Service	5 8:00AM-Easter Flower Altar Setup
5 Easter Sunday 7:00AM-Sunrise Service 7:30AM-Easter Breakfast 8:30AM-Easter Egg Hunt 9:30AM-Worship Service In-Person & via Zoom 10:30AM-Coffee Hour	6 7:30PM-Jubilee Ringers Rehearsal	7 10:00AM-Congregational Care in the Library	8 7:30PM-Festival Ringers Rehearsal 7:30PM-Trustees via Zoom	9 7:30PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal	10 7:30PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Webelos Den Mtg.	11 10:00AM-Przybylowicz/Mason Wedding Rehearsal 3:00PM-MA Spring Ring, Tewksbury, MA
12 9:30AM-Worship Service In-Person & via Zoom 10:00AM-Sunday School 10:30AM-Coffee Hour 11:00AM-Simon Peter Book Study 1:30PM-MVR Rehearsal 3:00PM, Westford Girl Scout Meeting	13 6:45PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Bear Den Mtg. 7:30PM-Jubilee Ringers Rehearsal	14 7:30PM-Finance via Zoom	15 6:30PM-Simon Peter Book Study via Zoom 7:30PM-Festival Ringers Rehearsal	16 6:30PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Wolf Den Mtg. 7:30PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal	17	18
19 9:30AM-Worship Service In-Person & via Zoom 10:00AM-Sunday School 10:30AM-Coffee Hour 11:00AM-Simon Peter Book Study 1:30PM-MVR Rehearsal 2:00PM, Cub Scout Pack 70 Tiger Den Mtg.	20 7:30PM-Jubilee Ringers Rehearsal	21 7:30PM-Church Admin Council via Zoom	22 St. Paul's Meal 6:30PM-Simon Peter Book Study via Zoom 7:30PM-Festival Ringers Rehearsal	23 7:30PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal	24 7:30PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Webelos Den Mtg.	25

26 9:30AM-Worship Service In-Person & via Zoom 10:00AM-Sunday School 10:30AM-Coffee Hour 1:30PM-MVR Rehearsal 3:00PM-Westford Girl Scouts Troop 70533 Mtg.	27 6:45PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Bear Den Mtg. 7:30PM-Jubilee Ringers Rehearsal	28 7:00PM-Christian Ed via Zoom	29 7:30PM Festival Ringers Rehearsal	30 7:30PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal		
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