



WEST CHELMSFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

242 Main Street, North Chelmsford, MA 01863

Rev. Geisa Y. Matos

978-251-4834 | www.wcumc.us | office@wcumc.us

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

OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

From the Pastor's Desk

This Sunday, October 4, we begin something special at West Chelmsford United Methodist Church (WCUMC).



We'll celebrate World Communion Sunday and join Christians worldwide at Christ's table. We'll also begin our four-week stewardship campaign, "Ride the Circuit: Fuel the Mission."

I love that these two things come together. On World Communion Sunday, we gather around one table, sharing the bread and cup and remembering that we belong to one another in Christ. We receive what God gives us, but we are also called to share what we have received.

That takes us back to the Circuit Riders in the early days of Methodism. Circuit Riders were Methodist preachers who traveled from community to community, often on horseback, to preach, lead worship, celebrate communion, and build new Methodist communities. They traveled long distances to carry something more important than what was in their saddlebags: the Good News of God's grace.

At a time when society was deeply divided by race, gender, wealth, and social status, the message that God's grace was available to everyone was radical. The Circuit Riders gave their time, energy, talents, comfort, and sometimes their very lives to carry that message. And they couldn't do it alone. People along the way shared what they had—homes, meals, supplies, money, and their own time. Their generosity helped keep the mission moving.

Today, we may not travel on horseback, but we are still called to carry God's grace into the world. When we give to WCUMC, our resources become ministry: caring for people, feeding our neighbors, nurturing faith, building community, and supporting work beyond our walls.

Therefore, during these next four weeks, I invite you to ask not only, "How much should I give?" but "What can my giving help make possible?" The Circuit Riders depended on people who were willing to share what they had. We are those people now.

Ride the Circuit. Fuel the Mission.

Let's see what God can do when we pool our resources together.'

Blessings,
Pastor Geisa

Prayer List

We encourage you to clip out these names and keep them in your prayers. Please contact the church office if you would like your name to be added or removed from the prayer list.

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

Carol Smith – at home

Mary Lynne Weinbeck – at home

Dave Wilson – at Carlyle Place in Bedford, NH



Prayer list for on-going health needs:

Judi and Bob Hill

Inspirational Corner

The Fox and the Grapes

A famished fox saw some clusters of ripe black grapes hanging from a trellised vine. She resorted to all her tricks to get at them but wearied herself in vain, for she could not reach them. At last, she turned away, hiding her disappointment and saying: “The Grapes are sour and not ripe as I thought.”

The moral of the story: If you think something is not worth having, ask yourself: “Is that only because I think I’m unable to achieve it?”

[*Aesop's Fables*](#)

Do You Have an Inspiration Story?

We are looking for people to share their faith in a short paragraph, poem, or story – it can be about something that has inspired you. Maybe you have encountered an experience this past summer while on vacation or maybe it was just in your own backyard. **Sometimes, it's just the littlest thing that can make you wake up and realize life is great!**

You may email your “inspiration” - to office@wcumc.us or drop it off in the church office. Thank you.

World Communion Sunday - October 4, 2026

World Communion Sunday celebrates the unity and diversity of the universal Christian community. As we gather around the Lord's table, we recognize our unity in Christ, joining with others worldwide in Holy Communion. Embracing this commitment, United Methodists are dedicated to nurturing diverse leadership within the church by allocating funds for scholarships and leadership training for underrepresented students. Each World Communion Sunday, we remember our oneness in Christ and invest in leaders for tomorrow. Your offering helps fund scholarships for racial-ethnic minority students and international scholars, as well as inclusion training across the church. We invite you to give generously and be part of this vital mission. Together, we can make a real difference!

On Sunday, October 4th, please place your gift in an envelope (provided by the ushers) marked "World Communion Sunday" to participate in this worthy offering.

St. Paul's Meal

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 **Thursday, October 29, 2026** (please note the date change). We have added slots for **bread**. After over 15 years, Panera Bread at Drum Hill has cut back on the availability of donations, especially bread. Thank you for your support of this important mission.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040448A8AB28A AFF2-66091664-octoer>

Altar Flowers - September 2026

Altar flowers for September 2026 were given to the Glory of God by the following people:

- September 6th – Steven and Kristen Kirby in loving memory of his father, John Kirby.
- September 13th – Margaret Wilkinson in loving memory of her niece, Christine.
- September 20th – Marilyn Parker in loving memory of her husband, Roger.
- September 27th – Nancy O'Neil in loving memory of her mother, Alice Robinson Eastwood.

Prayer Shawls

The supply of prayer shawls is getting low. If you crochet, knit, or both, I can use your help. I have the basic prayer shawl pattern if you need it. Books with more advanced patterns are available, and Ravelry (www.ravelry.com) is a good place to look for prayer shawl patterns.

If you have any questions, please see me in the church office, call me, or send me an email.

Roberta Stratton

Missions Committee



How Can We Help? - The Lowell Transitional Living Center (LTLC) is an emergency shelter for unaccompanied individuals over 18 years of age who are experiencing homelessness. With winter coming, the LTLC needs specific items for its guests. So how can we help? The easiest and fastest way to help is through the LTLC Amazon Wish List! Just click on the link below, or follow the QR Code, and select the items that you wish to donate. Then, annotate the Amazon Gift Order message box with WCUMC. It couldn't be easier! The items will be shipped directly to the LTLC!

Link for [LTLC Amazon Wish List](#)

LTLC QR Code:



Alternatively, you can bring in any of the following items and leave them in the designated bin in the lobby of the Education Building: Adult-size hats, gloves, mittens, clean, gently used jackets, sweatpants, and sweatshirts (men's & women's all sizes), foot and hand warmers, socks, wash cloths, and bath towels. ***Please note: We will suspend the in-person collection for LTLC from October 18th to October 25th to avoid any possible confusion with the Rummage Sale.***

This campaign will run until Friday, October 31, 2026. The Amazon Wish List will be posted on the WCUMC Website for future reference. If you have any questions, please get in touch with a member of the Missions Committee.

Vitality Team - Upcoming Activities

Halloween Messy Church is coming! – Friday, October 16, 2026, at 5:30 PM.

Bring your costumes and be ready for a fun evening of ghoulish activities, scary dinner treats, monster dancing, fun music sing-a-longs, and a revealing message how the love of Jesus is sweeter than candy! October is National Substance Abuse Prevention Month, and we will be collecting donations for the **Place of Promise** right here in Lowell, dedicated to rebuilding broken lives through Christ-centered programming. For donations, bring a Market Basket, Walmart, or Target gift card to give to those at the **Place of Promise**. For more information regarding **Place of Promise**, see their website, www.placeofpromise.org.

WCUMC Hockey Game Night Out

Let's Go Riverhawks! Last year we gathered close to 30 people to go to the **UMASS Lowell Riverhawks hockey game**. Let's plan another event for us all to experience a night out cheering for the Riverhawks. The game is against the University of Vermont Catamounts on **November 20th, at 7:15 PM, at the Tsongas Arena in Lowell**. It is sure to be a competitive battle. Group Ticket rates are **\$13** - just like last year; what a deal! Get your order and money in now to Bill Evans, [978-852-1456](tel:978-852-1456), or evans1818@verizon.net by **October 23rd**, when order will be sent in. Last-minute orders may be available but are not assured to sit together.

Save the Date! *Fall Church Maintenance Day*

Save the Date!

On Saturday, November 7, 2026, the Board of Trustees will hold the Fall Church Maintenance Day from 9:00 AM to noon. Project details will be announced soon.



Thank you on behalf of the Board of Trustees – Adrienne Kieldsing & Mark Smith

Fabulous Finds Rummage Sale



Fabulous Finds Rummage Sale: I hope you are organizing your donations for this sale. Things to keep in mind. Donation times will be very specific. Please adhere to these times only. If you need to drop off outside of these times, contact Holly Cerullo, hbcteach@comcast.net, 978-846-2203, or Abbey Ciardi, abbeyandri@yahoo.com, 802-345-8893.

Donation hours are:

- Sunday, October 18th, 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- Monday – Wednesday, October 19th -21st, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Items **not** accepted:

- Single mugs, dishes, or teacups without saucers.
- Water bottles, Stemmed Wine Glasses, and glassware with Logos
- Frames/Pictures over 8" x 10"
- Chipped or broken dishes, knick-knacks
- CDs, VCR tapes, cassette tapes
- Large furniture
- Textbooks
- Artificial flowers
- Wrapping paper, ribbon, bows

Jewelry Donations: Please donate any jewelry to the Fabulous Finds Rummage Sale. It will be set aside for sale at the Holiday Fair. We will also accept broken jewelry as it can be used for crafts. Thanks, Holly Cerullo, Lori Evans, Heidi Vaughn.

Fabulous Finds Rummage Sale Cafe

We Need Your Help! The **Fabulous Finds Rummage Sale Café** needs your help! We'll be offering snacks, soup, and hot dogs during the rummage sale on **Friday evening and Saturday**, and we'd love your help making it a delicious place to take a break from shopping.

Assorted Pastries & Sweets

Brownies, cookies, bars, and other goodies are welcome!

Please package in small baggies with 2–4 pieces per bag for quick and easy sales.

Hot Dogs & Buns

Homemade Soups

The following are suggestions, but other favorites are welcome too:

- Turkey Rice — Gluten Free
- Butternut Squash
- Spicy Chicken, Bean & Veggie
- Minestrone
- Vegetarian Chili
- Chili with Meat
- Veggie Soup — spicy or not
- Chicken Rice or Chicken Noodle

Volunteers Needed!

We'll also need help with **set-up, serving, and clean-up**.

If you're willing to lend a hand on **Friday, October 24, or Saturday, October 25**, please let Sue know what time you're available.

Please contact Sue Loiselle with what you can contribute or how you can help:

 loisellesue@gmail.com

 **978-337-2163**

Thank you for helping make the **Fabulous Finds Rummage Sale Café** a delicious success!

College Student Addresses Needed

All parents of college students, please send your son or daughter's college address to the Church Office (office@wcumc.us or call 978-251-4834.) We also need to know if there has been any change of address from last year or if it is still the same as last year. We do care about our college students. We specifically remember them on Halloween and Valentine's Day. Thank you!

Congregational Care Committee



Do you know how:

- **To request someone be added to the church prayer chain or to be added to the chain yourself?**
Email Beth Arnald at barnald@verizon.net
- **To get a prayer shawl to bring to someone you know?**
Email Roberta at office@wcumc.us and request a shawl. One will be put aside in the office for you
- **Concerned that someone in our congregation needs a call or a visit?**
Contact Rev. Geisa at geisa3matos@gmail.com
- **Ask for help with a meal delivery or a ride to an appointment?**
Email Roberta at the church, and she will send your request to the Congregational Committee who will help make the arrangements.
- **Would like to dedicate an Altar flower arrangement for a special person or event?**
Sign up is at the bottom of the stairs in the sanctuary, contact Diana Bard at forrest835@aol.com
- **Do you need help with something simple like remove an AC, replace light bulbs, look at computer, fix a railing....no job is too small!**
Contact Roberta or Lori from the Congregational Care team who will connect you with someone on the *Faithful Fixers*!!



HOLIDAY



*The WCUMC Annual Holiday Fair is returning!
Saturday, December 5th, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM*

Please come and shop in a stress-free atmosphere!

- Our **Professional craft vendors** will be offering a great selection of gifts this year!
We will have beautiful hand-made gifts, jewelry, and much more!
- Stop by our **breakfast bistro** for a hot cup of gourmet coffee & homemade treats.
- Take a break at our **luncheon** featuring hot, homemade lunch.
- As always, we'll have handmade **Candies, Breads & Treats, and White Elephant bargains!**
- **Church craft table**. These are crafts made by church members, with proceeds going directly to the church.
- **Christian Ed sponsored Kids Room** – Don't forget to bring the kids so they can have fun doing crafts and playing games – all while you shop!!

We Need Your Donations!

Craft Donations – We will be reaching out to individuals for help in this area to help us brainstorm ideas of what we can bring to the table. This will be a community effort, with a craft night to help fill the table to benefit the church.

Food Donations – We need your baked treats for our food table! Do you have a special bread, cookie, snack, cupcake, or squares recipe that you or your family enjoys during the holidays? Trail and snack mixes are also welcome! We need contributions from every family in the church! We would love a large selection of baked treats to sell. If you have a recipe that you like to make with your children or grandchildren, spend an afternoon baking it together and freeze it for the fair. Your support is greatly appreciated! Donations for the food table can be delivered to the church the week of the fair. Times for drop off will be announced later.

Candy Donations – Make your favorite candy recipe. Donations of chocolate (semi sweet or milk chocolate chips, nuts (walnuts, pecans) are also appreciated! Details to follow.

Jewelry Table – We need your donations! Go through your jewelry box to see what you don't want anymore.

WE NEED HELP

Evergreen Swag Table – Preorders for evergreen swags will be available at the end of November.

Set-up this year will be split over 2 days to allow more people to participate! 1st setup is Thursday evening from 5-7 pm (Upstairs). 2nd set-up is Friday morning from 9 am – noon (Downstairs).

Sales help, cashiers, greeters, food prep– Throughout the day on Saturday from 9 am until 3 pm!

Vendor help/Clean up – From 8-9 am or from 3-4 pm. Please consider helping the vendors unload in the morning, or helping at the end of the day to clean up the hall and put away tables/chairs.

Thank you for making our fair a success!

If You have any Questions How You Can Help at Our Fair

Please Contact:

Heidi Vaughan - hvaughan00@gmail.com

Lori Evans - levans45@verizon.net

<i>Thank you!</i>

Rev. Geisa Matos
West Chelmsford United Methodist Church
242 Main Street
North Chelmsford, MA 01863

Dear Rev. Geisa,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff at the Lowell Humane Society, I want to write and thank you for your recent donation of dog, cat, small animal, and bird food for the Lowell Humane Society Pet Pantry, as well as dog, cat, and small animal toys and treats, many bags of sheets, towels, blankets, newspapers, and raising monetary donations!

Because of your generosity, the Lowell Humane Society has been able to operate as a valuable community resource since 1873. Homeless pets find a safe refuge in our shelter receiving needed medical treatment, behavior training, spaying/neutering, and, of course, much love. Once ready for adoption, these pets are placed into new, loving, and responsible life-long homes.

Again, thank you for your kindness and support.

Kind Regards,

Crystal Arnott, Executive Director
Lowell Humane Society

I want to extend my thanks and gratitude to my church family for the thoughts, prayers, well wishes, and cards as I make my way through these 1st two to three weeks following my total hip replacement. As hindsight usually dictates, I should have considered this a year or more ago. I have had a blessed recovery and am essentially pain-free. Happy Autumn, and I'm looking forward to seeing everyone soon.

Lynne Gollands

Church Office Information

- The Church Office Hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The office phone number is 978-251-4834, 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 **mid-week email** are due in the church office by **Monday morning**.
- 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, October 19, 2026, for the November 2026 Newsletter**.





2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:30PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal	2 6:30PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 All Dens Mtg	3
4 <u>World Communion</u> <u>Sunday</u> 9:30AM-Worship Service In-Person & via Zoom 9:30AM-Sunday School 10:30AM-Coffee Hour 11:00AM-Budgeting Workshop 11:00AM-Acolyte Mtg. 1:30PM-MVR Rehearsal 3:00PM-Westford Girl Scout Meeting	5 7:30PM-Jubilee Ringers Rehearsal	6	7 5:00PM-Private Event in Fellowship Hall 7:30PM-Festival Ringers Rehearsal 7:30PM-Missions Committee Mtg via Zoom	8 7:30PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal	9	10
11 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	12 Columbus Day Church Office Closed 7:30PM-Jubilee Ringers Rehearsal	13 6:45PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Webelos Den Mtg. 7:30 PM-Finance Committee Mtg via Zoom	14 7:30PM-Festival Ringers Rehearsal 7:30PM-Trustees Mtg via Zoom	15 7:30PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal	16	17
18 9:30AM-Worship Service In-Person & via Zoom 10:00AM-Sunday School 10:30AM-Coffee Hour 11:00AM-Rummage Sale Set-up 1:30PM-MVR Rehearsal	19 10:00AM-Congregational Care Meeting 11:00AM-Rummage Sale Set-up 7:30PM-Jubilee Ringers Rehearsal	20 11:00AM-Rummage Sale Set-up 7:30PM-CAC Mtg via Zoom	21 St Paul's Meal 11:00AM-Rummage Sale Set-up 7:30PM-Festival Ringers Rehearsal	22 9:00AM-Rummage Sale Set-up 7:30PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal	23 3:00PM-Rummage Sale	24 10:00AM-Rummage Sale

25 9:30AM-Worship Service In-Person & via Zoom 10:00AM-Sunday School 10:30AM-Coffee Hour 1:30PM-MVR Rehearsal 2:00PM-Private Event in Fellowship Hall	26 6:45PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Webelos Den Mtg. 7:30PM-Jubilee Ringers Rehearsal	27 7:00PM-Christian Ed Mtg via Zoom	28 7:30PM-Festival Ringers Rehearsal	29 6:30PM-Cub Scout Pack 70 Bear Den Mtg 7:30PM-Senior Choir Rehearsal	30	31 
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