



WEST CHELMSFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
242 Main Street, North Chelmsford, MA 01863
Pastor: Rev. A. Mack Hagins
Tele. # 978-251-4834 email: office@wcumc.us
Church website: www.wcumc.us

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

APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER

From the Pastor's Desk

What a month it has been! When the month of March began the coronavirus as a glimmer on the horizon. It was something in China and Italy; we in this country were more concerned with primary elections for president and preparations for the March Madness Basketball Tournament, and whatever was going on in your personal life then. It seems so long ago now. But here we are, a month later, staying in our homes, most of us not working, and not spending time with people outside a small orbit of family and close friends.

Our lives have been dramatically changed, at least for now. And that's part of the problem – how long will we need to do this? And what damage will it do to the economy – that is, to our livelihoods? Where will the money come from to pay our bills? And lurking behind those concerns is the virus itself, which is highly contagious and for some it can be deadly.

In the face of all of this anxiety and uncertainty our church and our faith remain constant. At the church we have transitioned to an online form of worship on the Zoom meeting app. We know it is not perfect and cannot meet all needs, but for now it seems to be the best we can offer, and it was welcomed by the many families who gathered with us last Sunday morning on Zoom. We are preparing for a Holy Week and Easter without being together physically, yet bound together by God's Spirit as we celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Throughout its history the church of Jesus Christ has endured the calamities that affected its people, whether it was other pandemics, war, natural disasters and whatever else life can throw at humanity. But always the church has been a beacon of hope during those times. I believe it will be a beacon of hope during these times as well. So, as we say these days, stay safe – and stay faithful to the God who will be with us through this time.

Rev. Mack

Worship Services in April



Sunday April 5th – Palm Sunday
9:30 am – Worship Service via Zoom

April 9th – Holy Thursday
7:30 pm – Worship Service via Zoom



April 10th – Good Friday
7:30pm – Worship Service via Zoom

April 12th - Easter Sunday
9:30 am – Worship Service via Zoom



April 19th – 2nd Sunday of Easter
9:30 am – Worship Service via Zoom

April 26th – 3rd Sunday of Easter
9:30 am – Worship Service via Zoom

Church Office Information

- The Church Office is currently closed due to the Corona Virus situation. The office staff is working from home on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. You can call the office (978-251-4834) and leave a voicemail message. The voicemail is checked every hour and any messages are sent via email to the appropriate person.
- **We have 6 E-mail addresses:** office@wcumc.us – for general church business.
revmack@wcumc.us – e-mail for Rev Mack only
music@wcumc.us – for Karen Leonard, Music Minister
sarah.laflamme@gmail.com – for Sarah Laflamme, Christian Ed Director
treasurer@wcumc.us – for Bill Benedum, Church Treasurer
trustees@wcumc.us – for the Trustees
- **Items for the church bulletin insert are due in the church office by Wednesday morning.**
- Items for the monthly Newsletter are due in the church office on the **third Monday of each month.** All articles must be signed.
- Church website: www.wcumc.us

Our Giving During These Times

In these extraordinary times it is important for us to be generous in responding to the increasing needs of people both in our area and around the world. Many of you are already doing that, and already finding ways to help.

Our ministry together as a congregation also still needs to be supported financially. Though a few of our expenses are lower because of this situation, most of our expenses remain the same. We still have salaries to pay, utilities and other building-related costs to pay, missional outreach to pay, and our fair share of the ministry of our annual conference to pay.

We are also aware that some of you will have fewer resources out of which to give. Some will lose jobs or at least lose some of your income. We offer our sympathy and support to you and your families during this time. We just ask that you do what you can to continue to give so that we can continue to do God's work through this church. We have often sang, "The church is not a building – the church is a people." Now we are living out that truth in a new way.

As far as the practical side of giving, all we are losing is the Sunday morning passing of the offering plates. Some of you currently give with direct deposits from your bank accounts; that can continue. (Anyone else who wants to set up that kind of arrangement with the church can do so by contacting our Financial Secretary, Steve Kirby.) Some of you give by mailing a check to the church office; that can continue as well. Of course, we don't want you to mail cash to the church office.

I believe this congregation will continue to generously support our ministry together to the best of our abilities. That is all God asks of us.

Rev. Mack

Scholarship Applications



Graduating High School Seniors who are continuing their education have an opportunity to apply for scholarship assistance from the Ian Macpherson Scholarship Fund of the West Chelmsford Methodist Church. Students are eligible if they have been active in Sunday School and/or the Senior High UMYF program or a visible participant in the life of the church in general. Scholarship applications are available in the church office, the literature table in the Education Building entrance, or from a Sr. MYF leader.

Deadline for submission of application form: Friday, May 1st.

Scholarship Committee

UMC Members: Undergraduate Scholarships Available

Each year the New England Conference Scholarship Committee seeks applications from United Methodist Church members (adults or recent high school graduates) who are pursuing undergraduate education at any accredited two- or four-year college, university or technical school. Deadline to apply is April 30, 2020.

To apply go to <https://www.neumc.org/newsdetail/conference-scholarships-12769518>

Inspirational Corner

The following story was submitted by Angela McAlister.

Be Not Afraid, He Goes Before You Always

As a college student attending Saturday 4:00 PM Catholic mass, I was drawn to John Michael Talbot's soothing lyrics which we sang while dusk settled. Together we felt comforted as we gave the music and words voice: "Be not afraid I go before you always. Come follow me and I will lead you home". Many of us sang seeking courage. We were far from home, unsure of our paths, and terrified we would make a mistake. Of course, mistakes were made, paths were created and best of all, homes were discovered.

Today Talbot's comforting refrain rooted in text from Deuteronomy moves through my mind often reminding me that I stand on firm ground. As the music wells up, whatever troubles me is set aside for a moment and I realize (again) that God's strength is with me. I am able to run the next mile, I am able to answer the next five phone calls, I am able to listen one more time to the story I've heard 10 times already. I am able to invest 15 minutes more to complete a task, and yes, I am able to feel at peace with a task which will not be completed today. I do not need to be afraid.

The writer's words exhort us to trust. We are sometimes afraid, but even in our fear we can be confident that the resources available to us are greater than our moment of terror. We are not alone. You walk your path supported by Faith, protected by Grace, and enveloped in Love. Be not afraid.... go forward for He will lead you home.

Deuteronomy 31:8 "He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged."

"Be Not Afraid", John Michael Talbot

Annual Rummage Sale



Spring cleaning time is here! While you are cleaning out your closets, remember to set aside all those items you do not need any more for our annual rummage sale – Especially kid's clothes. **Mark your calendar for mid October 2020!**



Spring Church Maintenance Day



Save the Date!

On Saturday, May 16th, the Board of Trustees is holding the annual Spring Church Maintenance Day from 9am to noon. A list of projects that we wish to accomplish is below:

- Replace shutoff valves for outside faucets
- Repair cracked windows
- Closed of door in Fellowship Hall needs new trim
- Replace shade in Fellowship Hall
- Door won't latch
- Vestry door needs to be sanded to allow it to close correctly
- Repair gutter on back ramp
- Bees near lobby door and under eaves
- Paint exterior wood
- Recycle old TV's and Computers
- Paint the cross in entry
- Wash windows
- Weed planting beds
- Switch Sanctuary fan direction

We would also appreciate some baked goods such as cookies or breakfast breads as well as a volunteer to prepare the coffee/tea. If you have any questions, feel free to talk to any member of the Board of Trustees or e-mail us at trustees@wcumc.us.

Hope to see you all there.

Thank you on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

Adrienne Kielsing

Faith Works

Due to the current situation regarding the Corona Virus, the date of Faith Works will be determined at a later time.

Any questions please feel free to call Lori Evans. 978-319-5690

From the Missions Committee



For the next couple of weeks, we will be having a spring in gathering for the Lowell Transitional Living Center. There will be a box outside near the FedEx/UPS delivery box for you to drop-off your donation.

Hunger and homelessness happen for a number of reasons – job loss, illness, disability, trauma, and poor choices, to name a few. Whatever the cause, the LTLC provides meals, emergency shelter, and transitional and supportive housing to those who are hungry, homeless, or who need support to remain in their homes.

For so many who have lost hope, the LTLC people and programs help restore dignity and self-respect. With the help of our case managers, individuals take important steps toward self-sufficiency by confronting the reasons they are homeless, and then work to make the changes necessary to find housing and live independently.

The West Chelmsford Methodist Church has been helping by sponsoring an annual in gathering as well as giving monetary donations.

This year we are asking for deodorant, laundry detergent, socks (new and both male and female), bath towels- new or very gently used. Of course, monetary donations are always needed, please make checks out to WCUMC, and make a note that it is for Lowell Transitional Living Center.

Thank you, Missions Committee

Christian Education News

Coming Soon!

Easter Egg Hunt

While we are unable to host our Easter Egg Hunt in the traditional in-person format, we are working on ways to still engage the kids in an Easter Egg Hunt that they can take part in from home or while practicing physical distancing. Please stay tuned to your email for more information.



Annual Women's Retreat

Our Annual Women's Retreat was to take place on May 2nd from 9am – 4:00pm. However, with the extension of the stay-at-home advisory from Gov. Baker through May 4th we will be unable to meet in person. Instead, we will gather for a portion of our time to be in fellowship with each other and to engage in theological discussion, much like our online Lenten Church dinners. More information will be sent out later this month so please keep the morning of May 2nd open in order to participate.

What's happening in SS?

Continuation of Virtual Sunday School

Our trial run of virtual Sunday School went well on Sunday March 29th, so we will continue to have lessons at 11am on Sundays including Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

Connecting with Christ

Too worried to pray?

This may sound funny to some of you, but I think that often times our anxiety and worry can get the best of us and we forget to lean on God. However, during this time of isolation from other humans is a perfect time to deepen your relationship with God through daily prayer. Here are some suggestions that can help us move toward a deeper prayer life during this time of uncertainty:

- Make prayer a priority – “Those hoping to find time for prayer will likely fail. You have to make time.”
- Find a sacred space – In addition to making time to pray, it is suggested that we have a sacred place to pray in.
- Remove distractions – During your chosen prayer time turn off the T.V., the cell phone, the computer, etc.
- Pray with others – Praying as a family or having a prayer partner can keep you motivated.
- Use resources – The Upper Room provides resources like daily devotions and the online Living Prayer Center.
- Use different methods – Remember there is no right way to pray including silent prayer, musical prayer, etc.
- Keep going! – Change takes time, when you fall short, forgive yourself and keep going!

If you have any questions or comments about our Christian Education Program please contact:

Sarah Laflamme
Christian Education Director
Christian-ed@wcumc.us
978-320-4090

Harry Johnson
Chairperson, CE Committee
hjohns24@csc.com
978-251-8587



Prayer List

In the Sunday bulletin under “Let us remember these people in our prayers,” we list those with more acute needs. Our Monthly Newsletter carries a list of more “on-going” concerns to bring to God in Prayer.

We will keep the description you provide as general or specific as you indicate. Please let us know what you would like included. We also 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:

Edna Macpherson – At home
Lenore Reynolds – Sunny Acres, Chelmsford
Lorraine Anderson – 2 Technology Dr., N Chelmsford
Mitzi Curry – D'Youville Senior Care Center, 981 Varnum Ave. Lowell

Prayer list for on-going health needs:

Ken Weinbeck
Judi Hill
Elsie Wilson
Jen Weinbeck's friends, Mike and Sarah
Rebecca Markey's brother, Dennis Woodruff

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Submission Deadline

...for the May 2020 Newsletter is:

April 20, 2020

Please send your articles by email to office@wcumc.us

Thanks.



2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:00pm-Lenten Dinner via Zoom	2	3	4
5 Palm Sunday 9:30am-Worship via Facebook Live	6 7:30pm-AA	7 7:30pm-Missions Committee Mtg. via Zoom	8	9 Holy Thursday 7:30pm-Holy Thursday Service via Zoom	10 Good Friday 7:30pm-Good Friday Service via Zoom	11
12 Easter Sunday 9:30-Worship Service via Zoom	13 7:30pm – AA	14	15	16	17	18
19 9:30am-Worship Service via Zoom	20 7:30pm – AA 7:30pm-Admin Board Mtg. via Zoom	21	22	23	24	25
26 9:30 am-Worship Service via Zoom	27 7:30pm – AA	28	29	30		