

February 1, 2026

Our Vision—A beacon of God's love radiating faith, hope, and joy... Everywhere!

The flowers are given by Lee Williams in celebration of Zach's birthday on January 31st.

The 2026 Flower Chart is up. Please sign up for your special dates Feb 15, and 22nd as well as March 1, 22nd and 29th are available. Please let Betsy know if you would like her to order flowers for you. They are such a beautiful addition to our Altar. If you have vases from previous Sundays, please bring them in to be returned to our Florist.

Special Charge Conference

On Wednesday, February 4th at 7:00 pm, there will be a Special Charge Conference to review Victor Strama's Candidacy for Ministry during the Council Meeting in the Concord Room. All Church Members are invited to participate in the Charge Conference part of the meeting.

Confirmation Mentors Needed

We are looking for mentors for the youth in our upcoming confirmation class. A mentor doesn't need to be a trained theologian or someone who has all the answers. Rather, a mentor is an adult who is mature in the faith and can walk alongside a young person on the confirmation journey. If you are interested in serving as a mentor, please contact Pastor John or Lee Williams.

Super Bowl Sub Sale

Sunday, February 8, after each service

The senior youth group is selling Super Bowl Sub sandwiches on February 8, after each service. Wear your favorite football or sports team jersey!

Place your orders today in the basket located in the hallway or email your order to: aumc-education@verizon.net. Donations will go towards the youth mission trip this summer.



Outreach

The Outreach Committee invites you to celebrate Undie Sundie on Feb 8th. Please start bringing new underwear to fill the Long Johns in the narthex between now and Feb 8th. Men's, women's and children's underwear are all welcome.

Please continue bringing your Special Giving for the remainder of Jan.

Thank you all for supporting the Yambasu Agricultural Initiative as part of the UMC Global Ministries Agriculture and Food Ministry Program. We invite you to continue to bring your monetary gifts from the savings we have made and place them in the offering plate during the offertory or mail them to the church office if you are worshipping remotely. On Sunday, February 1, at the 10:45 a.m. service, we will welcome Rev. We Hyun Chang and present him with our gifts to the Yambasu Agriculture Initiative. Rev. Chang is the New England Conference Director of Connectional Ministries.

NE Conference Guidance Regarding Local Church Engagements with ICE

As a result of recent events, the Methodist denomination, along with many other religious denominations, has issued guidance on how local churches should interact with ICE officers. The Church Council wants to ensure the congregation is aware of this guidance. The New England Conference has a web page with resources at

<https://www.neumc.org/immigrant> that includes material from a webinar describing the rights and recommended responses to ICE engagements, along with checklists and other useful information that is periodically updated. You will see signage in the church building designating private areas that would require a warrant signed by a judge – not signed by an immigration agent – for ICE officers to enter. Staff and ushers will receive training on how to respond to ICE interactions, with an emphasis on knowing our rights, dealing peacefully with ICE officials, and de-escalating any confrontations. We encourage the congregation to use these resources to understand how to engage with ICE, both within the church building and out in the community. At a minimum, you have the following constitutional rights:

- Do not open a door if an immigration agent is knocking at the door unless they have a valid warrant to enter signed by a judge
- Do not answer any questions from an agent - you have the right to remain silent
- Do not sign anything

If you have questions or concerns, please contact Pastor John, SPRC chair Dan Ward, or Council co-chairs Peter Smyton and Roger Whitehead.

You can schedule your appointment for the next Blood Drives for Feb 21st and April 18th from 9am-2pm

Please sign up if you can help this important cause. There continues to be a national shortage! Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and search under December 27th to schedule an appointment. For more information call or email Cate Lehan or Robin Dye or the church office.

Worship at Aldersgate January – April 2026

Ash Wednesday service at W. Chelmsford UMC: February 18, 7:30 pm
Lenten Soup Suppers (6:00 pm) & Laity-led Lenten services (7:00 pm)

February 25, March 4, March 11, March 18, March 25

Palm Sunday March 29, 8:30 am and 10:45 am

Passover Seder Meal: April 2, 6:00 pm

Maundy Thursday service: April 2, 7:30 pm

Easter Egg Hunt: April 4, 10:00 – 11:30 am

Easter Breakfast: April 5, 7:30 am – 10:30 am

Easter services: April 5, 8:30 am and 10:45 am

Outreach Mission Projects

Undie Sundie February 8th

Red Cross Blood Drive: February 21, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

Red Cross Blood Drive: April 18, 9:00 am – 2:00 pm



Church School Valentines

The children's church school classes are making valentines and will mail them to those who would appreciate a card. If you know of someone who would like to receive a card, please e-mail Lee at aumc-education@verizon.net by February 10.

PANCAKE SUNDAY!

Sunday, February 15, 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Everyone is welcome to join us for a pancake breakfast in the Fellowship Hall as we prepare for the season of Lent. There will be pancakes, games and discussion about the season of Lent. There will be no church school classes downstairs for children and youth this Sunday. All are welcome!



Garden Club Meeting

Sunday, February 8, noon – 12:30pm, Concord Room

Join the garden club as we make plans for this year's church garden. All are welcome! We'll decide what to grow this season and which seeds to order. If you have any extra seeds to share or swap, bring them along. Please contact Lee Williams if you have any questions.

In Remembrance of Me - Communion Hymn TFWS 2254

1. In remembrance of me, eat this bread.

In remembrance of me, drink this wine.

In remembrance of me, pray for the time when God's own will is done.

3. In remembrance of me, search for truth.

In remembrance of me, always love.

In remembrance of me, don't look above, but in _____ your heart _____, look for God.

Do this in remembrance of me.

Junior Youth – Show Me Love!

Friday, February 6, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

We will talk about Christian Love, play games, and make Valentine crafts. We will need a parent helper for this meeting.



Senior Youth & 7th Grade - Super Bowl Sub Prep

Saturday, February 7, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

7th graders will join us as we prep the subs that we will sell on Sunday.



Senior Youth & 7th Grade - Super Bowl Sub Sale

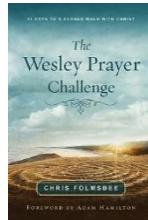
Sunday, February 8, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. (finish orders) & sell after both services

We will need help with finishing the sub orders and will also sell them after both services.

Adult Education Classes

Week 2- The 21 Day Wesleyan Prayer Challenge

"The Wesley Covenant Prayer has been used in Methodist services around the world on the first Sunday of the year since John Wesley introduced it in 1755. Wesley expected that people would pray this prayer as a way of remembering, renewing, and surrendering themselves in complete trust to God. When we pray it, we are to remember what living like Jesus looks like and what loving God with all our heart, soul, and mind and loving our neighbor as ourselves requires of us.



In The Wesley Prayer Challenge, author Chris Folmsbee invites readers to consider words from the Wesley Covenant Prayer each day for three weeks while reflecting on their meaning in the context of the larger piece.

Each day's reading will include scripture, prayer, and a challenge for daily life." From Abingdon Press

It is highly recommended to purchase *The Wesley Prayer Challenge* participant guide by Chris Folmsbee at your favorite online bookseller. It is available as e-book or paperback. Read each day's brief assignment, note the challenge for the day and your reflections and then join us to discuss the week as well as a short video on Sunday mornings. We will meet in the Concord Room and on Zoom at 9:45 am, between the services Feb 1 and Feb 8.

We invite you to take part in praying this prayer every day, even if you are not taking part in the class. As we head toward the Lenten season, may this prayer prepare your heart and spirit for a deeper faith and Lent experience ahead of Easter.

Thursday 10 AM class meets February 5th in the Concord Room and on Zoom to discuss Chapter 4 and finish *Truth in A Post-Truth World* by D. Stephen Long.

A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition

Father in heaven,
I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

John Wesley