

**February 8, 2026**

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

---

**The flowers are given by Elaine and Garth Brown in celebration of their  
45th Anniversary!**

---

**The 2026 Flower Chart is up. Please sign up for your special dates Feb 15, and 22<sup>nd</sup> as well as March 1, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> 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.**

---

### **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 - Today Sunday, February 8, after each service**

The senior youth group is selling Super Bowl Sub sandwiches today, after each service. We will have a few extra subs available, in case you forgot to place an order. Donations will go towards the youth mission trip this summer.

*Wear your favorite football or sports team jersey!*

---

### **Outreach - Today**

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 8<sup>th</sup>. Men’s, women’s and children’s underwear are all welcome.

---

### **Garden Club Meeting - Today**

**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.

## **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 want to understand the difference between a judicial warrant signed by a judge and an administrative warrant signed by ICE, or have any other questions or concerns, or 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 21<sup>st</sup> and April 18<sup>th</sup> 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](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org) and search under December 27<sup>th</sup> to schedule an appointment. For more information call or email Cate Lehan or Robin Dye or the church office.

---

### **Early Bird Bible Study**

Early Bird will not convene this week. The next gathering will be Tuesday 17 February.

## Our Lenten Journey Begins on Wednesday, February 18

The Ash Wednesday service is a joint service with our brothers and sisters at West Chelmsford UMC on Wednesday, February 18, at 7:30 pm at WCUMC, 242 Main St., Chelmsford. Pastor John will co-officiate with Pastor Geisa of West Chelmsford UMC.

The service will be available via Zoom be using the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85623639987?pwd=OEd2cnNYdUJWZGQreXorV0ZhNm5rZz09>

If you are joining the service by telephone, please use the following: Phone #: (301) 715-8592, Meeting ID: 856 2363 9987, Passcode: 799295.

Wednesday evening in-person soup suppers and worship led by one of our church family members will return this year, beginning on February 25. The suppers will be held at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall, followed by the ~ 30-minute service in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm. If you want to help provide soup for one or more weeks, please contact Betsey Driscoll ([betseylll@yahoo.com](mailto:betseylll@yahoo.com)). The worship theme this year is “Prayer.” If you are interested in offering one of the worship reflections, please contact Pastor John or the church office. Pastor John has resources available to help you prepare. Each week’s service will be live-streamed and recorded.

---

### 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

---

### 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!



---

### Junior Youth – St. Paul’s Feeding Ministry

**Wednesday, February 18, 3:30 – 6:00 p.m. 5<sup>th</sup>–7<sup>th</sup> grades.**

The junior youth group will help prepare and serve a meal at Elliot Church.

## Ashley Gilkie Community Service Trip

Ashley Gilkie, a nursing student at Endicott College and a family member of Aldersgate UMC, will be part of a ServeUp service trip traveling to New Orleans to support communities still recovering from Hurricane Katrina—especially in the Lower Ninth Ward. Ashley’s team will be working with local organizations to help rebuild homes, restore native ecosystems, and support families through environmental justice work. She is looking for support from Aldersgate to make the trip possible for her group. You can donate by February 27 to Ashley and the group at:

[DONATION LINK](#)

or entering the following URL in your browser

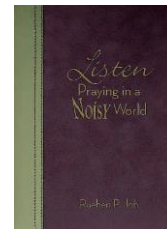
<https://www.givecampus.com/schools/EndicottCollege/serveup-team-trip-to-new-orleans/>

and click on Ashley’s picture to donate in her name. Let’s support Ashley on this faithful project.

---

### Lenten Study: an Invitation to the Whole Church Body

#### *Listen: Praying in a Noisy World*



“We live in a world of noise. Everywhere we go, we hear sounds that compete for our minds and hearts. Listening to God requires a deliberate choice to shut out the chaos around us and focus our thoughts.

*Listen: Praying in a Noisy World*, by Rueben P. Job, is a 40-day experience created to offer help to those new to prayer, those with a daily prayer routine, and those whose lives seem too busy to pray. With a focus on listening prayer and prayer as a two-way conversation, the experience will assist individuals and groups in building and deepening a personal prayer practice and spiritual discernment.

As we learn to listen, we find a new depth and fulfillment in our relationship with God and a new experience of God as guide and companion in our lives. The daily prayer pattern includes an invitation, silence, Bible reading, a story, guided time for reflecting and listening, and practical help for developing six specific prayer practices.” from Cokesbury Written for personal and group use, you can purchase your copy of *Listen* at any online retailer. You may find used books available as this study was written in 2014! Both the Sunday morning 9:45 class and Thursday 10:00 am class will be using this study and it may also inspire some of our Wednesday night service reflections. Classes start after Ash Wednesday, February 18. Grab a copy and jump into a whole new prayer experience this Lent!

**Senior Youth - Winter Break Fun!**

**Monday, February 16. 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades.**

Join us for late-night bowling at Bowlero! Watch for details to come.



**Senior Youth & 7<sup>th</sup> 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.



**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](mailto:aumc-education@verizon.net) by Tuesday, February 10.

**Scout Sunday and Troop 81 Pancake Breakfast on March 8**

We will celebrate Scout Sunday on March 8, and recognize the committed youth and adults involved in scouting organizations that day. Scouts and adult leaders are encouraged to wear their scout uniform. On Scout Sunday, Troop 81 will hold a pancake breakfast fundraiser in the Fellowship Hall 8:00 am – 11:00 am. They will be serving pancakes, butter/syrup, fruit, coffee, tea, and juice for a suggested donation of \$10 per person, \$8 for senior citizens/kids under 5. Those of us who just want to participate in our usual “Coffee Hour” that day are welcome to attend and enjoy coffee, tea, and juice for a voluntary nominal free-will donation. They hope you all enjoyed this event last year and look forward to having you join them again. Fundraising events like this help fund their scouting activities like attending summer camp and maintaining their equipment (trailer, camping kitchens, and Klondike derby sleds, just to name a few). Look for the flyers around the church for more info!

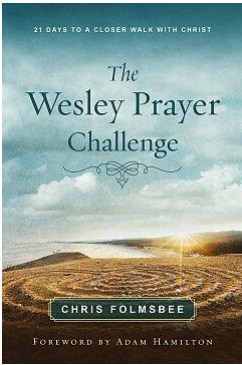
Note: You can buy tickets using the QR code, you don't need a physical ticket because there will be a list of the names who used the QR code. If you prefer to purchase the tickets before the event please see Betsy in the office or at the breakfast.



**Adult Education Classes**

**Today: Week 3- The 21 Day Wesleyan Prayer Challenge**

We will meet in the Concord Room and on Zoom at 9:45 am.



“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.” From Abingdon Press

**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 12th in the Concord Room and on Zoom. Pastor John will lead ‘an old fashioned Bible study of the daily lectionary reading’. Passages to read and discuss are: Psalm 27 or Psalm 74; 1 Kings 19:1-18; 2 Corinthians 4:1-12; Matthew 12:15-21**

**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