

The Grapevine

2026 NEWSLETTER

SUMMER EDITION



Sylvia, Polly and Nancy served up 138 plates for the hungry at Emmanuel Dining Room-We think they're great!

Music Notes

Angela Marie is one of our organist Carmella Lynch's piano students and she has graced us with her piano playing several times this year--thank you so much, Angela Marie! Thanks Carmella!



Single Board Voted in by Church

On June members of the church voted to adopt a new governance system in which all administrative and ministry coordination responsibilities are exercised by the Leadership Board between sessions of the Charge Conference. *read more p.3*



Thrift Shop Highlights

After a huge closing yard sale, our thrift shop has had a banner year for sales! Thanks to all our volunteers and especially Dora Greer and Sharon Racine . . . *see more p. 2*



Summer volunteer opportunities

Interested in helping out on your own schedule? Be part of the beautification crew by weeding, pruning, planting! *details on P. 4*





THRIFT SHOP NEWS

After a huge summer-closing yard sale, our thrift shop has had a banner year for sales! Well over \$60,000 was received in the first six months selling used clothing and household goods, all donated by the community and carefully sorted and priced by volunteers.

A BIG thank you to all our volunteers and, especially, to managers Dora Greer and Sharon Racine. Dora and Sharon are steadfast in their dedication and tireless in their work to make Chester Bethel Thrift Shop a destination for great deals, generous donations, and meaningful support to many charities. Many hands go to make the old serpentine church a place of service and good fellowship!



Prayer Requests

Sam-Brette's friend (H); Carmen Staino (H); Jay (O); Ed West (H); Nicole; Lorraine MacMillan (H); David D. (H); Dom D.(H); Millie Burke (H); Janet Canavan (H); Keith Saulsbury (H); Steve Schellberg (H); Donna (H); Joseph Glasgow (H); Bill Hazel (H); Linda Lyons(H); Andrew R.(O); Bill and Doreen Jones (H); Mary AnnBox(H); Ramona Harlow (LT); Holly Dorner (H); Donna McCormick (H); DeBrock Family (O); Kim Nally; Gail Kracyla (H); Dominic King (LT); Jill Brownback (LT); Nancy Walker (LT); MaryAnn Rumford (LT); Rick Browne (LT); all peoples impacted by war (LT)



Mission News

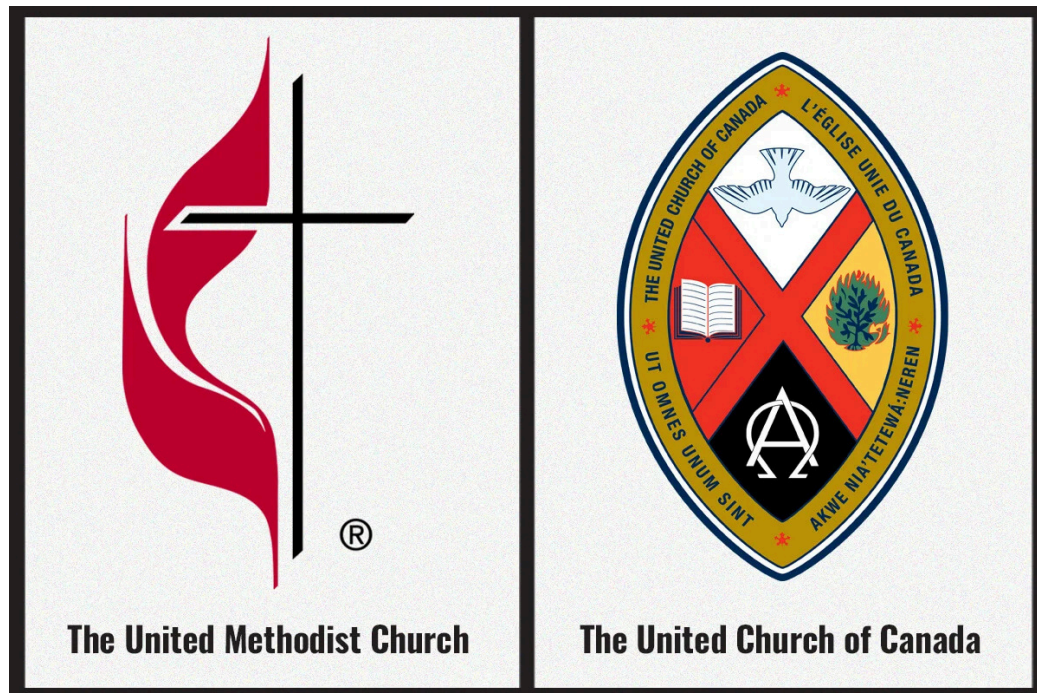
Our church has partnered with the Sunday Breakfast Mission to collect underwear, socks, and shower shoes for their clients. They are hosting increasing numbers of homeless people who come needing a bed and meal and who have literally nothing. Please be generous with your donations to the baskets!



July-Dec. 2026

For the final six months of 2026, Mission donations will be evenly split between 3 local charities: Pecometh Camp, Sojourner's Place and Good Samaritan.

United Methodists bolster ties in Canada



The United Methodist Council of Bishops and The United Church of Canada have approved an interim covenant. The agreement includes their intent to bring a full communion proposal to the United Methodist General Conference and the United Church's General Council, in 2028.

read [Story in UM News](#)

- The United Methodist Church and The United Church of Canada, which share Wesleyan roots, have formed an interim covenant as they work toward full communion.
- Adding urgency to the growing cooperation is migration of United Methodists to Canada.
- The move also comes as the Council of Bishops prepares to hold its Leadership Gathering in Canada with the blessing of The United Church.

*United Church of Canada's
affirmation of faith*

A NEW CREED

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.
We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and
risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond
death, God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.



Beautify Church Grounds!

Do you like to garden? Know the difference between a weed and a desired plant?

Consider spending an hour or two cleaning out the flower beds around the church where grapevines and thistles are jockeying for space with Rose of Sharon and various flowers. It doesn't take long and it makes such a difference! Let's send a message that we care how we look to preschool families, and to the community- you will be proud of the result!

Our Homeless Neighbors

City officials said talks are ongoing about bringing a tiny home village to Wilmington.



Federal funds helped to set up the Springboard Collaborative pallet village in Georgetown last year, which uses tiny homes in a housing first strategy. | PHOTO COURTESY OF SPRINGBOARD COLLABORATIVE

The Ordinary Becomes Extraordinary

by Rev. Kelly Conner

Recently, I was asked by a new family in the neighborhood (unaffiliated with Chester Bethel or Mt. Lebanon) to come out to their newly-bought home and do a blessing before the family moved in. When I told Edward (my fiancé) about this, he asked the same thing that I'm sure many of you are wondering: "Is that a United Methodist thing?" It's not. But it can be!

I drove around the corner to the family's new home, and I met the family: Dad, Mom, and two little boys. Together, we read some prayers, talked about a Scripture passage about the fruits of the Spirit by which we prayed that their home will be filled, and asked God to strengthen them in treating one another with love. Then, we asked God to bless some ordinary water.
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The Ordinary Becomes Extraordinary

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I showed the boys that the water was coming out of an ordinary plastic water bottle and flowing into my ordinary teacup. "See this water?" I asked them. "God can do amazing things with ordinary water. When we pray God's blessing upon it, God will make it help us to love each other and will bless every room in your home!" The boys led us all inside, and we made sure to use my ordinary blue silicone pastry brush to fling water droplets upon every nook and cranny. Each of the boys helped out, so did Mom and Dad. The boys even made sure to bless the stairs, and every single closet! (They also made sure that the toilets had extra blessing.)

God used the ordinary water to surround them with love in their new home, and God will continue to teach them how to love one another more effectively as they live there together.

In the Christian life, there are lots of ordinary elements that, with a bit of God's holiness, can help us to grow holier, too. We tend to think about that happening only when we partake in the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, when water and bread and grape juice become so much more. But the truth is that God can take a lot of other ordinary things, ordinary moments, and ordinary people and make them more powerful, effective, and useful than we ever dreamed they could be. You know this if you've ever brought a casserole to a friend or family in need: that casserole means so much more than just an offering of food! God uses it to bless and surround people in times of need.

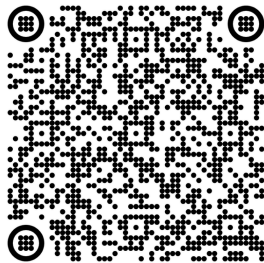
While you and I are just ordinary people, and we bring with us ordinary items (like casseroles) to serve, God's blessing precedes and follows us to help our offerings to bestow holiness in some way, too. The next time you wonder to yourself when offering your time or talent for a loved one, "I don't know if this is helpful or not," just pray that God will use you to bring comfort where there was only distress, and hope where there was only despondence. You'll find that God can do more with "ordinary" than we could even imagine!

Online Giving

Bonnie Wright, Chester Bethel's Financial Secretary has just set up online giving for the church.



The link to online giving is on the website chesterbethel.org, in weekly bulletins, and by scanning the QR code below



This option will allow you to give to the same categories as are on the current giving envelopes (general fund, missions, good samaritan, etc.) and you can set up automatic contributions on a weekly or monthly basis, if desired. (See instructions in the Narthex)

Sermon Series

Coming soon in July--you won't want to miss this new sermon series by Pastor Conner. It's called ***Uncharted: The Stories They Don't Tell You in Sunday School***

The series highlights how God uses unexpected people, strange circumstances, and little-known heroes to accomplish God's greatest plans.



Midwives Shiphrah and Puah show that everyday obedience to God requires more bravery than standing before an army (or the Pharaoh.)

Important Dates to Remember

July 6 - 6 pm Admin Council Mtg
August 3 - 3:30 SPRC meeting
August 22 - 6 pm Trustees Meeting
August 30 - 11 am worship at Mt.Leb.
Sept. 9-6 pm First Single Board Mtg