Reverend W. Alan Froggatt, Minister
Karli Gilbertson, Music Director and Organist
Post Office Box 383, Chester, Connecticut 06412 860-526-2697
E-mail: - unitedchester@uccchester.org web site: www.uccchester.org

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
July 12, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME — Jennifer Gill, Deacon

PRELUDE — *For All the Saints* — R.V. Williams (arr) Culli

INTROIT — *When We Sing* — M. Ochs
Diane Adams

CALL TO WORSHIP
That which was from the beginning, that which we have heard -
That which we have seen with our eyes, that which we have looked upon -
That which we have touched with our hands, concerning the Word of life -
That life was made manifest to us, and we saw it -
And we now proclaim this together, the eternal life which is come from God -
And this we proclaim that our joy may be complete. Amen.

*HYMN — *In The Bulb There Is a Flower* — 493

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise; butterflies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody; there's a dawn in every darkness; bringing hope to you and me. From the past will come the future; what it holds a mystery, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity; in our doubt there is believing; in our life eternity. In our death, a resurrection; at the last a victory, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Gracious God, we give you thanks for summertime with its roses and rains, for all that is green and alive and growing, for weddings and anniversaries, for reunions and times of remembering childhood days. All these rejoice our hearts, and we give you thanks. We also thank you for those assurances of faith that are beyond the changing of the seasons, for the promise of forgiveness and healing, for the resurrection and our trust in eternal life, for the scriptures of Israel's history and the gospel story of God's love made flesh in Jesus Christ. For all that blesses us, as a congregation and as individuals, we give you thanks and praise, Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Ecclesiastes 12.1-8 (p. 610)

ANTHEM *Pass It On* K. Kaiser

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Romans 6.3-11

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of God, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.

SERMON *"My Funeral"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."
(I Corinthians 15.55-57, King James Version)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY *If Not Now* C. Newcomer

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow / Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God for all that love has done / Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER *("trespasses")*

POEM *Thanatopsis* William Cullen Bryant (1794-1878)

*HYMN *I Am a Poor Wayfaring Stranger* 489

I am a poor wayfaring stranger while trav'ling through this world of woe, but there's no sickness, toil nor danger in that bright land to which I go. I'm going there to see my father, I'm going there to roam; I'm just a going over Jordan, I'm just a going over home.

I know dark clouds will gather round me, I know my way is rough and steep; and yet green pastures lie before me were God's redeemed no more shall weep. I'm going there to see my mother, she said she'd meet me when I come. I'm just a going over Jordan, I'm just a going over home.

I am a poor wayfaring stranger while trav'ling through this world of woe, but there's no sickness, toil nor danger in that bright land to which I go. I'm going there to see my Savior, to sing his praise forevermore; I'm just a going over Jordan, I'm just a going over home.

*BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *T'filat HaDerech* D. Friedman

(* those who are able may stand)

LOOKING AHEAD

July 12	**9:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** Soup Kitchen	July 16	8:30 am 5:00 pm	Yoga Irish Dance
July 13	5:00 pm	Irish Dance	July 17	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at Simon's Marketplace**
July 14	8:30 am 5:00 pm	Yoga Irish Dance	July 19	**9:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** Soup Kitchen
July 15	5:00 pm	Irish Dance			

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome! No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here at the United Church of Chester, an Open and Affirming Church and a member of the United Church of Christ. **The United Church of Chester is centered in Christ's love, embracing, nurturing, serving all, and committed to justice and peace**.

The Deacon for the month of July is **Jennifer Gill.** Chancel flowers were provided by **Peggy Phillips** in celebration of the beautiful summer days that have finally arrived! You were greeted this morning by **Peggy Phillips**. Coffee hour is being hosted by **Diane Lindsay**.

Please join us next Sunday, July 19th when we thank and honor our beloved Music Director, **Karli Gilbertson** for her many years of service to the United Church of Chester.

ALAN'S OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday – Friday 8:30 am – 12:30 pm or by appointment.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday – Thursday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm