

Worship Participants

Rodney Gasaway, Randy Umfleet, Joy Barrett
Hengyi Ye, accompanist
The Sanctuary Choir

This QR code will take you
to the church events page on the website
to see events and classes.



This week

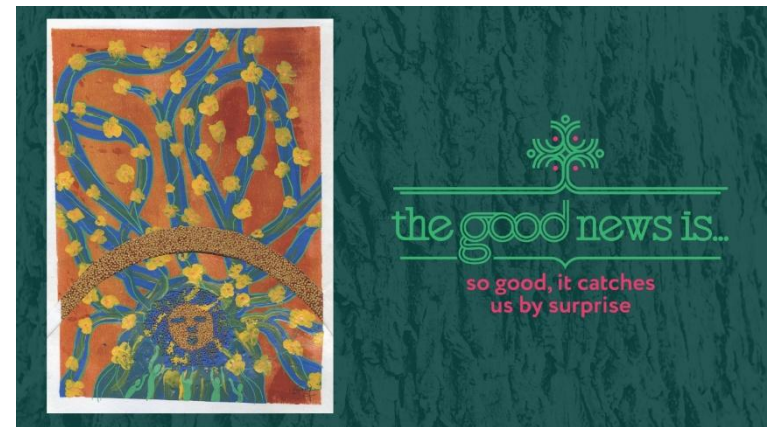
Sunday	10 am	Social Justice Discussion Group
	10:15 am	Confirmation
	12:15 pm	Rezound Handbell Practice
	3:30 pm	Town Hall
Monday	6:30 pm	Parent Group
	6:45 pm	Monday Night Bible Study
Wednesday	6:30 pm	Safety & Emergency Procedures Task Force
	7 pm	Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Thursday	1 pm	Women's Bible Study
	6:30 pm	Nominations and Leadership Development

Question of the day:

**What "good news" is God calling you to share in a world
often shaped by bad news?**



11 am Worship
February 22, 2026



Scripture: Matthew 13:31-32

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www.chelseaumc.org
<https://www.facebook.com/chelseafirstumc/>

Order of Worship

We invite you to participate in worship as we connect with God
and each other. You are welcome to remain seated, stand,
or move around, whichever you prefer.

Gathering Music

I'm Just a Poor Wayfaring Stranger
The Light of the World Is Jesus
Praise Him! Praise Him!

Welcome

**All: We are a vibrant, intentionally inclusive,
justice-seeking faith community.**

Prelude

Celebration of Praise

Call to Worship

Leader: *The good news of God's love is this:*

**All: God gives us what we need.
God brings joy when we are sad.
God forgives us when we mess up.**

Leader: *The good news of God's love is this:*

**All: God helps people who feel stuck.
God gives hope when things are hard.
God turns strangers into friends.**

Leader: *Come on in—everyone belongs here!
God's good news is for you.*

All: Let us worship God, who loves us all.

Opening Hymn

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee
red hymnal #89

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, somewhere along the way we picked up the
message that in order to be faithful, we have to be serious.
We have to pray on our knees without ceasing.
We have to be somber in worship and quiet in our studies.

We have to check our wiggles *and* our questions at the door
But then you say the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed—
unruly and untamed.

And all of a sudden, we wonder:

Can we be like that mustard seed?

Can we be faithful and unruly? Can we be playful and curious?

Can we be messy and still be yours?

We know the answer already.

The Spirit whispers: *of course, of course, of course.*

Forgive our doubt.

Pull us closer into your embrace.

With faith like a mustard seed, we pray. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

Leader: *Hear these words of forgiveness...
the answer is and always will be:*

All: of course, of course, of course.

Leader: *This is the good news of the gospel.*

All: Thanks be to God! Amen

Anthem

Unexpected Places

Message

Response in Song

In a Neat and Tidy Garden
see next page

Pastoral Prayer

Closing Hymn

Seeds of God's Garden, Tenderly Planted
see next page

Benediction

Postlude

Ain't-a That Good News!

In a Neat and Tidy Garden

Rev. Anna Strickland

Verse 1

In a neat and tidy garden grows a secret tiny seed
There among the planted barley will emerge a shocking weed
Growing quickly through the soil to break forth in vacant spot
What a joy when I discover God has planted in my plot!

Verse 2

Green and tender leaves I harvest from the mustard growing wild
To enrich and spice my dishes that were until now too mild
Unexpected and surprising, uncontrolled by human hand
See the reign of God is growing, taking root throughout the land!

Verse 3

Other gardeners may struggle and pretend they have control
Over land that God created but I'll tell you what I know:
I am not the Master Gardener, just a steward of this place
God has seeded every acre with surprising, wild grace!

Seeds of God's Garden, Tenderly Planted

Amanda Udis-Kessler

Verse 1

Seeds of God's garden tenderly planted
Hope of creation buried with care
Through our beholding slowly unfolding
Tended in patience nurtured in prayer

Verse 2

Seeds of God's garden tiny and fragile
Hope of creation cool in the earth
Easing our sadness bringers of gladness
Bearers of goodness showing our worth

Verse 3

Seeds of God's garden one day to blossom
Hope of creation bearing good fruit
Gently repairing all our despairing
Faith reaching outward love at the root