

The Messenger

First & Wesley
United Methodist Church
89 Center Street
West Haven, Connecticut 06516
203-933-8795



March 2022



It is hard to believe that 7 and a half years have already passed since my wife Hyeonjin and I moved to our church. In doing ministry at our church, I have tried to accumulate trust in our relationship as pastor and congregation because I believe that without trust we cannot do ministry effectively even with a lot of talents and enthusiasm. Now I can say, we have *trust* as pastor and congregation, each of us feeling a good family member. I am really thankful for God's blessings that we may support and love one another in doing ministry together.

In January, our Staff-Parish Relations Committee and Church Council had passed the motion to apply for an endowment clergy renewal program. The proposal is based on the policy of the New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church: "A pastor who has served at least six years in a full-time appointment may request a spiritual renewal leave of up to six months while continuing to hold an appointment in the local church."

I was aware of this policy, but I did not even think about it, because I did not want to give the congregation a financial burden to cover the expenses during the spiritual leave. I thought that the policy was only for a pastor at a big congregation that has extra financial resources for the leave. Yet, in December last year when I heard from a colleague of mine about an endowment clergy renewal program, I felt that we could apply for it. He and his church that belong to the New York Annual Conference had received the grant, and he and his family were on the spiritual leave last year.

I am so grateful that during my potential 4-month spiritual leave (March 1, 2023–June 30, 2023), Pastor Kim Cartwright, Pastor Cynthia Dodd, and Pastor Art Yost are willing and happy to serve our church as interim pastors. The grant is to support the pastor and the pastor's family in the renewal program. And it may also be used to help the congregation to fulfill pastoral duties during the pastor's absence and to support activities that enable the congregation to be renewed in its ministry. All this can happen at our church only when our grant application is chosen. The application result will be given by the end of August this year.

Our grant applying team met last month three times and agreed that we would inform the whole congregation that our church will apply for the grant. I would like to invite you to attend the all-church administrative meeting on March 27th, so that you may know better about the clergy renewal program that our church applies for. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact our grant applying team, Will Arhin, Peggy Jerrell, Mary Rolfe, David Smith, Helen Smith, and myself. Amen.
Sungmu Lee

Lectionary Readings for March 2022

March 6, 2022

- [Deuteronomy 26:1-11](#) • [Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16](#) •
- [Romans 10:8b-13](#) • [Luke 4:1-13](#)

March 13, 2022

- [Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18](#) • [Psalm 27](#) •
- [Philippians 3:17-4:1](#) • [Luke 13:31-35](#) or [Luke 9:28-36, \(37-43a\)](#)

March 20, 2022

- [Isaiah 55:1-9](#) • [Psalm 63:1-8](#) •
- [1 Corinthians 10:1-13](#) • [Luke 13:1-9](#)

March 27, 2022

- [Joshua 5:9-12](#) • [Psalm 32](#) •
- [2 Corinthians 5:16-21](#) • [Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32](#)



Important All Church Meeting

The All Church meeting on March 27th after church will be to get input about the church's grant application for a spiritual renewal for our Pastor Sungmu Lee and our church. At the same time of his retreat, we, the church will also go on a journey of spiritual renewal so together we may continue and enhance carrying out Jesus' work in West Haven. Please plan to attend this very important meeting either in person or on line. This is the only business that will be conducted. Information will be available in the coming weeks. Your input and support is very important and we want to hear from you. Thank you.

Easter Altar Flowers 2022

Order Your Easter Plant(s)

I (We) wish to order _____ Easter Plant(s) for the Altar at a suggested donation of \$10.00 each. Please make check out to First & Wesley United Methodist Church and write "flower fund" in the memo section on the check.

PLEASE PRINT

In Memory of: _____ and/or

In Honor of: _____

Given by: _____

Telephone # _____

Taking Plant(s) home: Yes _____ Plant(s) give to Shut-in: _____

Orders must be received by Sunday, March 27th. Please leave the completed form in the offering plate or mail to the church.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>All Worship Services are held both in-person and online (via Zoom).</p> <p>*All Worship Services & Weekly Lenten Prayer Vigil – Link: https://zoom.us/j/147691027 / Call-in: 1-646-876-9923 *Meeting ID: 147691027#</p> <p>*Monday Adult School – Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88207725653 / Call-in: 1-646-876-9923 *Meeting ID: 88207725653#</p> <p>*Wednesday Group Study – Link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81010488582 / Call-in: 1-646-876-9923 *Meeting ID: 81010488582#</p> <p>*Virtual Koinonia Café – Link: https://zoom.us/j/337822774 / Call-in: 1-646-876-9923 *Meeting ID: 337822774#</p>						
		1	2 Ash Wednesday 7p Ash Wednesday Service	3 10:30-11:30 Koinonia Café 7p SPR Meeting	4	5
6 First Sunday in Lent 10:30 Worship & Communion Birthday/Anniversary Celebration 1p Children's Sunday School *Grab & Go "Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner" & "Frosted Sugar Cookies" Pre-order Due **"UMCOR Hygiene Kits" Drive	7 7p Monday Adult School	8 7p Finance Meeting	9 7p Lenten Group Study	10 10:30-11:30 Koinonia Café 1p Prayer Shawl Meeting (124 Bluff Ave, West Haven)	11 5p Decorating "Frosted Sugar Cookies" (Kendall Hall) 7-7:30p Lenten Prayer Vigil (Testimony: Jim Stuhlman)	12 5-6p Preordered "Corned Beef Dinner" & "Cookies" Pickup (Church Parking Lot)
13 Daylight Saving Time Starts 10:30 Family Worship Service 1p Children's Sunday School **"UMCOR Hygiene Kits" Drive	14 7p Monday Adult School	15	16 7p Lenten Group Study	17 St. Patrick's Day 10:30-11:30 Koinonia Café 6:30p Missions & Outreach Meeting	18 7-7:30p Lenten Prayer Vigil (Testimony: David Smith)	19
20 10:30 Family Worship Service 1p Children's Sunday School *Messenger Articles Due **"UMCOR Hygiene Kits" Drive	21 7p Monday Adult School	22 7p Trustees Meeting	23 7p Lenten Group Study	24 10:30-11:30 Koinonia Café	25 7-7:30p Lenten Prayer Vigil (Testimony: Carmelita Quinones)	26
27 UMCOR Sunday 10:30 Family Worship Service 12p All Church Meeting 4p Children's Sunday School **"UMCOR Hygiene Kits" Drive	28 7p Monday Adult School	29	30 7p Lenten Group Study	31 10:30-11:30 Koinonia Café	April 1 7-7:30p Lenten Prayer Vigil (Testimony: Jacki McKim)	

For further updates, visit www.firstwesleyumc.org/calendar.

March Birthdays

3 - Janet Francois (Lentini)
5 - Amy Sablone
7 - Timothy Geiger
9 - Jennifer Shove-Sisson
12 - Mason Argentino
19 - Karen McGregor
20 - Susan Cascio
24 - Alex Lynn Simone
27 - Doris Hunter
28 - Anna Bartozzi
29 - Rose Cook Ali
30 - David P Smith

March Anniversaries

25 – Hyeonjin Kim and Sungmu Lee

If you do not see your birthday or anniversary listed, please let the church office know so we can update our list and make sure you are not missed.

If you would like to include someone for birthdays or anniversaries, please see below. Example- name change, address change, marriage, birth, death, etc. Email: firstwesleyumc@gmail.com or send to church office.

Native American Pennies Collection

We continue to collect pennies for the Native American Ministries even though the Pandemic has slowed things down. We would like to send many thanks to our Church Family for helping us to continue with this Ministry.

Native American Ministries Sunday is on May 1st. Join us for our 10:30 worship service as we lift up and celebrate our Native American sisters and brothers through worship and music.



Please join us to learn about God's love. In the month of February we are talking about stories from Jesus' life. We listen to stories, make art projects, peek into a Wonder Box, sing songs, and spend time together on Zoom. Materials will be ready for you to pick up each Saturday.

- Sunday School starts at 1:00 on Zoom.
- E-mail or call Gail Bartozzi (gbartozzi@yahoo.com or text (203)747-6039) for questions about Sunday School.
- Register at http://www.firstwesleyumc.org/Children_&_Youth

The Craft Corner



We have some Get Well and Thinking of You cards. Contact Gail Bartozzi if you would like a card sent to someone or have questions about the group. You can call the church office or e-mail Gail at gbartozzi@yahoo.com.

Average Weekly Church Attendance

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
November	59	65
December	59.5	67
January	2021:60	2022:64
Christmas Eve, 6:00	78	71
Christmas Day, 6:30 am	25	24

Note: Christmas Eve and Christmas Day numbers are the actual totals, not average. Also recall that we became “virtual” again from December 24 onward.

Ways to support the Church with no cost to you!

Amazon Smile

The church is now registered on Amazon Smile. Amazon Smile is a way for customers to support their favorite charitable organization every time they shop with Amazon. For the church to get the .5% from Amazon, make sure you start your shopping using <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/06-0681807>. If you have any questions, please contact Helen Smith.

Stop & Shop Fundraiser

(Gift cards)



If you shop at Stop & Shop, please consider getting gift cards from Dave Smith (203-415-6092). Our church receives 5% of the value of the cards sold as a donation from Stop & Shop. Checks are made out to "Dave Smith".

ShopRite Fundraiser (Gift cards)



This program is the same as our Stop & Shop program. The church receives 4% for each card sold. If interested, call Helen Smith at 203-444-2362. Checks made payable to "FWUMC".

We appreciate your continued support!

Remember you would be spending money at these stores anyway and now the church can receive a percentage. Share with your family and friends this opportunity.



Pastors Discretionary Fund:



Please consider giving a "Love Offering" to Pastor's discretionary fund. You may place your gift in the container on the back table of the sanctuary. If you wish to write a check to the church, please write "Pastor's Discretionary Fund" in the memo section.

Tell us if you have a member information change: example-name change, address change, marriage, birth, death, etc. Email: firstwesleyumc@gmail.com or send to the Church office.

Being Alone in the Church

For those of you who need to go into the church, do not forget to sign in each time you enter the church. Trustees have implemented a new policy and a sign in sheet.

2022 contact numbers

Helen Smith	203-444-2362	Layleader
Jim Stuhlman	203-435-1790	Trustee Vice-Chair
Peggy Jerrell	203-641-0929	Church Council Chair
Sungmu Lee	631-456-1713	Pastor

Adult Monday School Class

Class meets via Zoom each Monday evening from 7:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. (Check the church web site or e-mail announcements for the link.) We have enthusiastic, energetic, and enlightening discussions on topics designed to help us use our Christian faith in dealing with the challenges daily life brings. We are currently studying a four-part series on the parables of Jesus by the renowned pastor and author James W. Moore. We are currently studying the fourth book in the series Jesus' Parables About Making Choices. The topics studied in this book are "Choosing to Grow Up", "Choosing to be Humble", "Choosing to Listen", "Choosing to Help", "Choosing to Try", and "Choosing to Prepare". The class is open to anyone over the age of 0 and under the age of 275 that would like to join us. If you would like a copy of our study book or would like more information, please contact Thurmon Whitley. We look forward to seeing you.

Lenten Prayer Vigils

During Lent we will be having a **virtual** prayer vigil every Friday evening starting on March 11th from 7:00 – 7:30 pm. This is a good time for focusing after a busy week on God and how He is at work in our Lenten Journey. We did this last year and it was a great start to the weekend!

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/147691027>

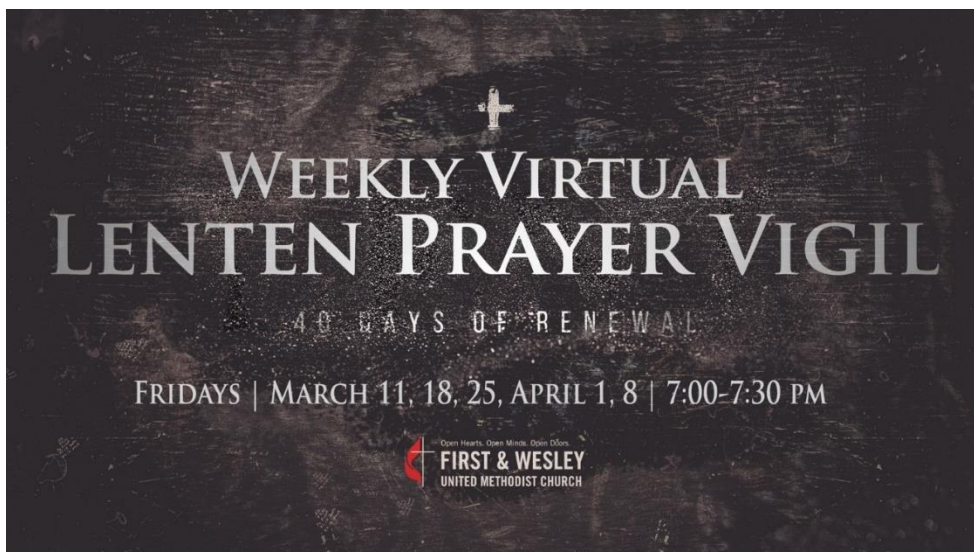
Call-in: 1-646-876-9923 Meeting ID: 147691027#

Lenten Group Study

Our Wednesday Group study book with 7 Chapters will be *24 Hours that Changed the World* by Adam Hamilton. He explores the profound, life changing impact the last day of Jesus's life had on human history. Adam Hamilton combines biblical story, historical detail, theological analysis, spiritual insight, and pastoral warmth to retell the narrative of Jesus' last and greatest hours. Shared leadership will be by Rev. Cynthia Dodd, Rev. Sungmu Lee and Rev. Art Yost. Please consider being a part of great discussion and fellowship. Everyone is welcome!

- (1.) The Lord's Supper led by Pastor Lee. (Began February 23. ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE, March 2 at 7:00pm (In-Person & Virtual)
- (2.) The Garden of Gethsemane led by Pastor Art on March 9.
- (3.) Condemned by the Righteous led by Pastor Sungmu on March 16.
- (4.) Jesus, Barabbas, and Pilate: led by Pastor Art on March 23.
- (5.) The Torture and Humiliation of the King: led by Pastor Sungmu on March 30. (6.) The Crucifixion: led by Pastor Cynthia on April 6.
- (7.) Christ the Victor: led by Pastor Cynthia on April 20.

Please consider being a part of great discussion and fellowship. Everyone is welcome!





Prayer Shawl Ministry First and Wesley United Methodist

Our Prayer Shawl group will be meeting Thursday March 10 - 1:00 pm at Linda Kopec house. All are welcome.

If you cannot come to a meeting you can do what some do called “Knitting on the Go”. Your prayers are no less effective if you're knitting in your dentist's waiting room than a designated knitting place. Being in a quiet or meditative space is not always practical or conducive to completing a shawl, especially when a knitter has little spare time. Are prayers or intentions any less effective if they are offered on the run? Absolutely not! Prayer shawl making can be taken along with you anywhere. In fact, it may add a bit of spirit to an otherwise ordinary setting. We have one member who knits in church. God is listening no matter where you are.

Our shawls are in the Church Office. Please contact Linda Kopec or Edith Mulligan if you would like to pick one up.

Anyone wishing to join is more than welcome to come. The more the merrier. If you can't knit and want to contribute money for yarn please get in touch with Linda Kopec 203-804-2522.

FROM THE LAYLEADER

Helen Smith

Reopening Committee

First & Westley has reopened for in-person worship starting on Feb. 27th. Streaming of the service will be continued. We will be singing.

COVID protocols that will be in place are as follows:

- Masks are optional
- Attendance will be taken for contact tracing purposes
- Cleaning will continue on a regular basis

Reminders:

- Wash your hands/ use hand sanitizer
- Remember to socially distance

We have dealt with this virus for a very long time, so let us be mindful as we take this next step and be in prayer that the numbers continue to go down.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Reopening Committee Members

(Will Arhin, Christine Chan, Peggy Jerrell, Judy Jennette, Sungmu Lee, Mary Rolfe, Jim Stuhlman, Helen Smith)

Small Group studies:

Every Sunday – Children’s Sunday School, 1 pm

Every Monday – Adult Sunday School, 7 pm

Every Wednesday – Bible Study, 7:30 pm

Meeting reminders:

Finance committee – Tuesday, Mar. 9th, 7 am

Missions committee – Thursday, March 17th, 6:30 pm

Trustees meeting - Tuesday, Mar. 23rd 7 pm

Fellowship:

Every Thursday - Koinonia Café, 10:30-11:30 am

Missions Update

Thank you to all who donated socks, underwear and/or money for Columbus House. On February 27th we blessed 540 items to donate!

UMCOR Hygiene Kits

United Methodist Committee On Relief provides hygiene kits - basic necessities - to people who have been forced to leave their homes because of human conflict or natural disaster. Hygiene kits are also used as learning tools in personal hygiene, literacy, nutrition, and cooking classes.

From March 6th through April 17th, we will begin collecting the following items to try to put together as many kits as possible to send to UMCOR for when there is an emergency need.

Donations may be brought to church on Sundays. Also, monetary donations may be made on our website – firstwesleyumc.org/give

Items needed:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Hand towels (15 x 25 –17 x 27 inches) | - No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels |
| Washcloth | - No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels |
| Comb | - Must be sturdy with at least 6 inches of teeth |
| | - No pocket combs or picks |
| | - Rattail and combs without handles are acceptable but must have at least 6 inches of teeth |
| Toenail or fingernail clipper | - No emery boards or metal nail files |
| Bath-size soap (3 oz. bar or larger) | - No Ivory or Jergen’s soap |
| | - Do not remove from packaging |
| Adult toothbrush | - Do not remove from packaging |
| | - Personal advertising not acceptable |
| Adhesive bandages (¾ by 3 inches) | - Common household bandages acceptable |
-



Here is another way to support First & Wesley UMC

This is another way to support the church purchasing gift cards.

To make use of this fundraising tool, follow the directions below.

1. Join the program
First, download the RaiseRight mobile app from the app store using your smartphone or tablet.
2. Tap on "Join a Program"
Then, enter the enrollment code to join: L69BE9A369839
3. Set up your account
4. Buy gift cards and earn for your organization
5. Browse bonuses, search for a specific brand, shop categories, and more.
6. When you're ready to check out, sign up for secure online payments. You can link a bank account, add a credit card, or both. Do **not** select "Pay Coordinator directly"
7. The brand gives back to your organization the moment you buy a gift card
8. Get and use your gift cards
 - eGift cards are delivered to the app within minutes—view them in your Wallet of the RaiseRight App
 - Physical gift cards can be mailed directly to you (Extra fee for shipping)
Many are reloadable so you can keep earning with the ones you have.

Pros to using this:

You get e-cards for use immediately

You can get physical gift cards sent directly to you.

***Please note** – there is a fee associated with using this app

For e-cards

- If you link the account you set up to your bank account, there is a \$.15 charge per transaction
- If you use a credit card, there is a 2.6% charge per transaction

For physical cards

- Same fees as for e-cards plus a shipping charge to send to your address

Contact Helen Smith, 203-444-2362, if you have any questions.

Flowers on Easter

We again will be placing flowers on the Cross that is on the lawn of the church. Individuals can bring flowers to place on the cross all day Easter Sunday. The "flowering" of the cross is a beautiful way to symbolize the new life that emerges from the death of Good Friday and is an outward and joyful showing to the community that the hope that God has brought to the world through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

You may also order flowers for the altar on Easter Sunday that you may take home after the service. Please fill out the enclosed order form to order and submit it with payment to Kathy Hulse.



IN-PERSON & ONLINE
ASH WEDNESDAY
SERVICE @ FWUMC
 March 2, 2022 at 7 pm


First & Wesley United Methodist Church
 89 Center St., West Haven, CT 06516
 (203) 933-8795 • firstwesleyumc@gmail.com
 www.firstwesleyumc.org

UMARMY

We will be selling shamrock cookies to raise money for UMARMY. Please see the order form in this newsletter. All orders are due by March 6th and pick-up will be on March 12th at the church from 5-6pm. If you can help decorate the day before (March 11th) at 5pm, please contact Helen Smith at 203-444-2362.

Corned Beef & Cabbage ~ Grab & Go Dinner

This dinner includes corned beef & cabbage with potatoes and carrots, Irish soda bread and a dessert. See the order form in this newsletter or on our website <https://www.firstwesleyumc.org> Place your orders by March 6th and you may pick it up in our church parking lot between 5-6pm on March 12th. This fundraiser is to support the ongoing ministries of First & Wesley. Thank you for all your support!

Below is an order form for two fundraisers:

1. Corned Beef & Cabbage - Grab & Go Dinner - supports on ongoing ministries of First and Wesley United Methodist Church
2. Frosted Shamrock cookies - supports youth mission program called UMARMY (United Methodist Action Reach-out Mission by Youth)

Orders for both are due by March 6th and pick-up for both is on March 12th from 5-6PM in the church parking lot.

Ways to order are:

- You may fill out the order form and bring or mail it to church (Mail it before March 6th so we get it before the order deadline)
- Online order: www.firstwesleyumc.org/stpatsfundraiser
- Email order: fundraiser@firstwesleyumc.org
- Phone/text order: Helen Smith at (203) 444-

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Here are what the shamrock cookies look like.....



FWUMC'S ST. PATRICK'S DAY "GRAB & GO" FUNDRAISERS

CORNER BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER + FROSTED SUGAR COOKIES

Preorder by: Sunday, March 6, 2022

Pickup: Saturday, March 12, 5 - 6 pm

@ Church Parking Lot



Call/text order: (203) 444-2362 / Email order: fundraiser@firstwesleyumc.org
Online order: www.firstwesleyumc.org/stpatsfundraiser

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

CORNER BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER

*potatoes, carrots, Irish soda bread, and a dessert included

COST: \$12 Adults; **\$6** Kids (5-10)

Adult - Qty _____ Kid - Qty _____

FROSTED SUGAR COOKIES

A fundraiser for UMARMY mission program at FWUMC

COST: \$6 1/2 Dozen; **\$10** 1 Dozen


1/2 doz Shamrocks: Frosting only - Qty _____ / With Non Pariels - Qty _____

1 doz Shamrocks: Frosting only - Qty _____ / With Non Pariels - Qty _____

Total: _____

*Pay at pickup by cash or check

(make out your check to "First & Wesley UMC" with "stpatsfundraiser" in the memo line).

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Phone (203) 933-8795

www.firstwesleyumc.org

Email: firstwesleyumc@gmail.com

Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/firstwesleyumc.

Reverend Sungmu Lee

“Sunday Worship Time: 10:30am”

The March Newsletter



STRONGER TOGETHER

“We can do all things
through Christ who strengthens us.”
(Philippians 4:13)

IN-PERSON & ONLINE SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:30 AM

COME JOIN OUR CHURCH FAMILY!

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT: WWW.FIRSTWESLEYUMC.ORG