

# *The Messenger*

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

***January 2023***



Happy New Year!

Another new year is coming again as usual. And we greet each other, saying “Happy New Year!” It includes our hope that we all may be blessed well and healthy in the new year. We wish happiness for all of us in the new year, but we can ask ourselves this, “Were we really happy in the past year?” Some people may answer yes, but actually, for many of us, it is hard to say yes. This is because something especially happy and good has not happened well in our reality. We spent the year 2022 normally or some of us have had hard time due to our economic situation, health issues, or family loss. We hoped for happiness and blessing, but it is hard to find in our life. And the same pattern

may happen in this new year again. If so, is our greeting, “Happy New Year!” just meaningless wording for us?

I believe that we, as Christians, need a shift of our perspective on the happiness or blessing. What is real happiness? How can we understand the true blessing upon our life? The real happiness does not come from material wealth, social status, or physical health. Rather, we have to understand it in the relationship with God. That is to say, the real happiness of our life is only possible when we are in God and God is in us. There is no other blessing than knowing that God takes care of us, because God creates us, saves us, and leads us. Therefore, if we try to look for happiness in something other than God, we will surely fail to find it.

So, for a happy new year, we have to focus on our faith in God. Although we may experience some unexpected difficulties in our reality, we can rely on God and God will work for us through God’s people. It is a true blessing that God stands by our side. I hope we can all make the year 2023 a “Happy New Year” in our faithful journey.

“GOD, my shepherd! I don’t need a thing. You have bedded me down in lush meadows, you find me quiet pools to drink from. True to your word, you let me catch my breath and send me in the right direction. Even when the way goes through Death Valley, I’m not afraid when you walk at my side. Your trusty shepherd’s crook makes me feel secure. You serve me a six-course dinner right in front of

my enemies. You revive my drooping head, my cup brims with blessing. Your beauty and love chase after me every day of my life. I'm back home in the house of GOD for the rest of my life." – Psalm 23 (The Message)

Pastor Jinha Choi

## *Lectionary Readings for January 2023*

### **January 1, 2023**

- [Ecclesiastes 3:1-13](#) • [Psalm 8](#) •
- [Revelation 21:1-6a](#) • [Matthew 25:31-46](#)



### **January 8, 2023**

- [Isaiah 42:1-9](#) • [Psalm 29](#) •
- [Acts 10:34-43](#) • [Matthew 3:13-17](#)

### **January 15, 2023**

- [Isaiah 49:1-7](#) • [Psalm 40:1-11](#) •
- [1 Corinthians 1:1-9](#) • [John 1:29-42](#)

### **January 22, 2023**

- [Isaiah 9:1-4](#) • [Psalm 27:1, 4-9](#) •
- [1 Corinthians 1:10-18](#) • [Matthew 4:12-23](#)

### **January 29, 2023**

- [Micah 6:1-8](#) • [Psalm 15](#) •
- [1 Corinthians 1:18-31](#) • [Matthew 5:1-12](#)

## *Historical Notes of First and Wesley*

*by Edith Mulligan*

Did you know –

- Our wooden doors on the right side of our sanctuary opened up for our Christmas service, Palm Sunday and also Easter – the balcony would be filled, and folding chairs were set up adjoining Fellowship Hall. This again was in the 50's, 60's and 70's. On an Easter Sunday we could see as many people as 250.
- Remember our membership was 300.
- Women in the congregation make cookies and for years all our shut-ins got a box of cookies at Christmas time. What would we do without United Methodist women?



# First & Wesley United Methodist Church

## January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>All Worship Services will be held both in-person and online (via Zoom). Worship Service begins at 11:00 am.</b> <b>All Worship Services and meetings – Link: <a href="https://zoom.us/j/147691027">https://zoom.us/j/147691027</a> / Call-in: <b>1-646-876-9923</b> *Meeting ID: <b>147691027#</b></b>						
<b>1</b> 11:00a Family Worship with Communion & Birthday/Anniversary Celebration <b>Socks &amp; Underwear</b>	<b>2</b> 7p Adult Monday School	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 10a–12p Koinonia Café 6p Bell 7p Adult Choir <b>Socks &amp; Underwear</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (In-person Sunday School begins after Children's Sermon) <b>Socks &amp; Underwear</b>	<b>9</b> 7p Adult Monday School	10 7p Finance	<b>11</b> 7p Adult Group Study	12 10a–12p Koinonia Café 1p In-person Prayer Shawl at Linda Kopec's home (124 Bluff Ave, West Haven) 6p Bell 7p Adult Choir <b>Socks &amp; Underwear</b>	13	14
<b>15</b> 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (In-person Sunday School begins after Children's Sermon) <b>Socks &amp; Underwear</b>	<b>16</b> 7p Adult Monday school	<b>17</b> 7p Mission & Outreach	<b>18</b> 7p Adult Group Study	<b>19</b> 10a–12p Koinonia Café 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir <b>Socks &amp; Underwear</b>	<b>20</b> *Articles Due for the February Messenger	<b>21</b> 4p Agape Meal (Free All Welcome)
<b>22</b> 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (In-person Sunday School begins after Children's Sermon) <b>Socks &amp; Underwear</b>	<b>23</b> 7p Adult Monday School	<b>24</b> 7p Trustees	<b>25</b> 7p Adult Group Study	<b>26</b> 10a–12p Koinonia Café 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir <b>Socks &amp; Underwear</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (In-person Sunday School begins after Children's Sermon) <b>Socks &amp; Underwear</b>	<b>30</b> 7p Adult Monday School <b>Stuffed Bread &amp; Soup Fundraiser due</b>	<b>31</b> 7p Church Council on Zoom		<b>Pick up for Stuffed Bread &amp; Soup Feb 11</b>		

For more information go to the church website at [www.firstwesleyumc.org](http://www.firstwesleyumc.org)

**Happy New Year! God is Good!**

## *From The Layleader*

Helen Smith

**“For I am the Lord who takes hold of your hand and says to you  
Do not fear, I will help you.” – Isaiah 41:13**

This is a pretty long article from me but the scripture above is very appropriate! I repeated it two more times in the article because God is with us, helping us through everything!

I would like to thank all those who have work diligently this past year to make our church run and minister in so many ways (see the mission report!)

I am sharing the list below of those who have committed to help in all the various positions that help our church in its mission and ministry for the upcoming year. It is amazing to look at this list to see how many “moving parts” there are to our mission and ministry. Thank you for saying yes when you were asked to share your time and talents. If you have a talent that you wish to share on one of our committees or elsewhere, please let Pastor Choi or Helen Smith know.

Please look at this list and notice that Thurmon Whitley’s name is in five different places, not to mention he led our weekly “Monday Adult Sunday School”. Also, because of some physical limitations on my part, we need someone to be the coordinator for UMARMY and I would like us to do in person VBS this year. We need someone to be the coordinator for this as well. I will help anyone who is willing to step up and do these important mission/outreach programs.

**“For I am the Lord who takes hold of your hand and says to you  
Do not fear, I will help you.” – Isaiah 41:13**

### **MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL**

Chairperson	Peggy Jerrell
Secretary	Christine Latham
Layleader	Helen Smith
Annual Conference Lay Members	Mary Rolfe, Helen Smith
Trustees Chair	To be elected by Trustees in January 2023
Finance Chair	Mary Rolfe
Financial Secretary	David Smith
Treasurer	Jim Jerrell
Staff-Parish Relations Chair	Will Arhin
Worship Committee Chair	Christine Chan
Missions & Outreach Chair	Jenny Werle
Music Director	Christine Chan
Church School Superintendent	Gail Bartozzi
Assistant Church School Super.	Jenny Werle
Youth Representatives	Hannah Werle

## Members at Large

Nathaniel Amos	Becky Baker	Myrna Clinton	Walter Clinton	Kathy Hulse
Judy Jennette	Judy Juzwiakowski	Ruth Kreyoh	Abe McKim	Jacki McKim
Edith Mulligan	Laurie Simone	Jim Stuhlman	<b><u>Thurmon Whitley</u></b>	

## Committees & Commissions

**Board of Trustees** Chair: To be elected in January 2023

Class of 2023	Abe McKim, Shelby Poe, Helen Smith
Class Of 2024	Judy Jennette, Eric Singleton, [REDACTED]
Class of 2025	Jim Stuhlman, Kathy Hulse, Laurie Simone

**Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development** Chair: Pastor Choi  
(Members for 3 years: BoID) Lay Leader, ex officio: Helen Smith

Class of 2023	Myrna Clinton, David Smith, Keshia Hammond
Class of 2024	Rev. Cynthia Dodd, Mary Rolfe, Edith Mulligan
Class of 2025	<b><u>Thurmon Whitley</u></b> , [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

**Staff Pastor Parish Relations** Chair: Will Arhin (Chair for 3 years: our church policy,  
Members for 6 years: BoID) Lay Leader, ex officio, Lay Delegates, ex officio

Class of 2023	<b><u>Thurmon Whitley</u></b> , Jenny Werle, [REDACTED]
Class of 2024	Will Arhin, Keshia Hammond, [REDACTED]
Class of 2025	Josephine Amos, Walter Clinton, Peggy Jerrell

## Finance

Chair: Mary Rolfe	Assistant Treasurer: Judy Juzwiakowski
Treasurer	Jim Jerrell
Financial Secretary	David R. Smith
Members	Helen Smith (Lay Leader), Peggy Jerrell (Council Chair), Jacki McKim, Jim Stuhlman, (Trustee Representative), Will Arhin (SPR Chair)

## Stewardship Committee Chairs

**Lead Counters** Mary Rolfe, Jacki McKim, Jim Stuhlman, **Thurmon Whitley**, David Smith

**Assistant Counters** Kathy Hulse, Peggy Jerrell, Judy Juzwiakowski, Laurie Simone, Stephanie Wilson, **need more volunteers**

**Youth Group Advisors** Pastor Choi, Helen Smith, Jim Stuhlman, Jenny Werle

**Lay Servants** Nathaniel Amos, PaaKow Amos, Christine Chan, Myrna Clinton, Walter Clinton, Cynthia Geissler, Peggy Jerrell, Jim Stuhlman, Wendy Memmott, Helen Smith

<b>Worship</b> Chair: Christine Chan	Josephine Amos, PaaKow Amos, Gail Bartozzi, Myrna Clinton, Rev. Cynthia Dodd, Mary Anne Hawkes, Peggy Jerrell, Helen Smith (Layleader), Mary Levy, Laurie Simone, Jim Stuhlman
<b>Hospitality &amp; Nurture</b>	Myrna Clinton, Walter Clinton, Edith Mulligan, Peggy Jerrell, Evelyn Briandt
<b>Altar Guild/ Flowers</b>	Mary Rolfe, Myrna Clinton, Mary Anne Hawkes, Shirley Pyrdol
<b>Ushers/Greeters</b>	Myrna Clinton, Walter Clinton, Mary Rolfe, Abe McKim, Will Arhin, PaaKow Amos, Doris Hunter (alternate), Judy Juzwiakowski, <b><u>Thurmon Whitley</u></b>
<b>Communion Stewards</b>	Myrna and Walter Clinton
<b>Memorial Committee</b> Chair: Judy Juzwiakowski	Doris Hunter, Christine Latham Abe McKim, Jacki McKim
<b>Safe Sanctuary Committee</b> <b>Chair: Pastor Choi</b>	Gail Bartozzi, Peggy Jerrell, Chris Latham, Helen Smith, Jenny Werle
<b>Missions &amp; Outreach</b> Chair: Jenny Werle	Gail Bartozzi, Myrna Clinton, Rev. Cynthia Dodd, Peggy Jerrell, Christine Latham, Mary Levy
<b>Membership Committee</b> Chair: Peggy Jerrell	Kathy Hulse, Edith Mulligan
<b>Prayer Shawl Ministry</b> Leader: Linda Kopec	Shelby Poe, Sharon Ewen, Susan Hackett Edith Mulligan, Amy Sablone, Joan Sablone
<b>Audio Visual Team</b> Dodd Chair: Helen Smith	Jayden Arhin, Gail Bartozzi, Jian Chan, Mary Rolfe, Rev. Cynthia Abe McKim, Andrew Nevin, Laurie Simone, Julia Werle, Jen Werle, Chamique Young
<b>Archives Committee</b> Chair: Peggy Jerrell	Kathy Hulse, Peggy Jerrell, Jacki McKim, Edith Mulligan
<b>Communications</b>	Jian Chan, Myrna Clinton, Bill Hunt, Phyllis Hunt, Peggy Jerrell, Kathy Hulse, Helen Smith, Jacki McKim
<b>Webmaster</b>	Jian Chan

**“For I am the Lord who takes hold of your hand and says to you  
Do not fear, I will help you.” – Isaiah 41:13**

**Happy New Year! God is Good!**



## *Missions & Outreach*

The Missions and Outreach committee would like to thank all those who helped with our different drives and programs that we provided this year on top of all who donated to our church's budget. Last year, this is what we did as a church

- Blessed and gave out several prayer shawls throughout the year
- Sock & Underwear Drive for Columbus House
- Donated \$570 to Bronx fire victims in January
- Donated \$150 to Partnership With Native Americans for fuel assistance in January
- Collected and put together items for Emergency Hygiene Kits for UMCOR in March & April
- Special Collection for CONAM on Native American Sunday
- Provided a Free Easter Celebration and Egg Hunt
- During May, we collected money to give to Breakfast-in-a-bag program run by Partnership With Native Americans
- Collected and bought school supplies for 58 backpacks (25 to Covenant to Care, 25 to the Hill Area of new Haven and 8 for church families)
- Had a free community Ice Cream Social to welcome Pastor Choi and his family
- Had a booth at the Apple festival to hand out church information, popcorn & water
- Had a Free Halloween trick or treating event on October 31<sup>st</sup> – about 350 people from the community came in and enjoyed games, a video, cookies, and something to drink as well as getting candy
- Gave \$2000 in Stop and Shop gift cards to families in need at Thanksgiving and Christmas through our Covenant to Care social worker, to the Hill area of New Haven, and to families in the church
- Provided a Free Breakfast with Santa and gave out free mittens and hats (many of which were made by our Prayer Shawl ministry)
- Gave \$500 to Milford's Way to aid in the resettlement of a refugee family
- Gave \$200 to a family in New Haven seeking asylum
- Gave \$200 to North Haven Methodist Church (Faith United) to use for two families that have lost everything in a fire

Missions is going to have a Socks and Underwear Drive in January to donate to Columbus House. You may drop off any donations on any Thursday or Sunday morning. Thank you for your support!

Happy New Year! God is Good!



## January Birthdays

- 1 - Neil Thomas  
Macie Franson  
Frank Osei-Sarpong
- 3 - Emma Franson
- 7 - Christine Latham  
Walter Clinton
- 10 - Paul Franson  
Israel Young
- 14 - Lauren Simone
- 16 - Melissa Santamauro  
Marissa deNicolo  
Julianna deNicolo  
Emmanuel Henoun
- 19 - Mary Ann Hawkes
- 24 - Jen Werle  
Gail Pells
- 27 - Eleanna Ormazabal
- 30 - Elizabeth (Liz) Levy

## January Anniversaries

- 9 - Walter and Myrna Clinton
- 23 - Richard & Wendy Memmott

**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](mailto:firstwesleyumc@gmail.com) or send to church office.*

**Have you visited our Church Website lately?  
It is truly beautiful and informative. The Church calendar is updated as needed and you can check on dates and times of meetings and events.  
Website is [firstwesleyumc.org](http://firstwesleyumc.org)  
Check it out!**

## Ways to support the Church with no cost to you!

### Amazon Smile

The church is 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.**

### 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 Chair  
Peggy Jerrell 203-641-0929 Church Council Chair





Prayer Shawl Ministry  
First and Wesley United  
Methodist

Our Prayer Shawl group will be meeting on Thursday January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 1 PM in person. Home of Linda Kopec, 124 Bluff Ave., West Haven, CT, (203) 804-2522.

In December we met at Lorenzo's Ristorante for lunch in celebration of the Christmas Holiday Season. A good time was had by all.

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

All are welcome to join us.

### *Native American Pennies Collection*

We continue to collect pennies for the Native American Ministries.

We would like to send many thanks to our Church Family for helping us to continue with this Ministry.



*Celebrate Wonder*

Children will attend Sunday school during part of the service. They will go to their classrooms with their Sunday School teachers following the Children's Moment. Please join us to learn about God's love. We listen to stories, make art projects, peek into a Wonder Box, sing songs, and spend time together.

- E-mail or call Gail Bartozzi (gbartozzi@yahoo.com or text (203)747-6039) for questions about Sunday School
- Register for Sunday School <https://www.firstwesleyumc.org/ministries/childrens-ministry/>

## The Craft Corner



We have 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](mailto:gbartozzi@yahoo.com)

Only one of many decorated snowmen that can be seen on the West Haven Green.



## Adult Group Study – 2023 Winter

: Every Wednesday 7pm via ZOOM for 6 Weeks from Jan 11 to Feb. 15



“Most Christians know the Lord’s Prayer by heart. We pray it often, at different times and in different settings. We remember it as the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples. But do we really understand and appreciate the meaning and power of its words, what we ask of God each time we pray it? When the disciples asked Jesus how to pray, Jesus gave them this prayer. He likely taught it to his followers often, not just one time. He never intended the Lord’s Prayer to be a museum piece, framed and placed on a mantel or in a display case. It was Jesus teaching God’s people, through his disciples, how to pray.”



## KOINONIA CAFÉ & FIRST & WESLEY UMC

Free Coffee  
& Refreshments

**OPEN TO COMMUNITY!**

**THURSDAYS, 10 AM - 12 PM**

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



At First & Wesley UMC

# Delicious Stuffed Bread & Soup/Chili Fundraiser

Pre-order by: Jan 30, 2023

Pick-Up: Feb 11, 5-6pm @ Church

All Proceeds Benefit FWUMC & its Many Ministries



First & Wesley United Methodist Church  
89 Center Street, West Haven, CT 06516  
203.933.8795 | www.firstwesleyumc.org

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Stuffed Bread \$13 each (\*20 oz loaf)

\*Breads provided by Venice Bakery (Hamden, CT) & freezable for later use

- Meatball & Mozzarella: Qty\_\_  Spinach Plain: Qty\_\_  Sausage, Peppers & Mozzarella: Qty\_\_  
 Spinach, Sausage & Mozzarella: Qty\_\_  Broccoli Plain: Qty\_\_  Broccoli & Mozzarella: Qty\_\_  
 Broccoli, Sausage & Mozzarella: Qty\_\_  Eggplant Parmesan: Qty\_\_  Buffalo Chicken: Qty\_\_  
 Chicken Parmesan: Qty\_\_  Pepperoni & Mozzarella: Qty\_\_  Spinach & Mozzarella: Qty\_\_

## Homemade Soup & Chili \$10 each (\*16 oz & Crackers)

- Dave's Famous Chili: Qty\_\_  Chicken & Pasta: Qty\_\_  Lentil with ham: Qty\_\_

**Total:** \_\_\_\_\_

\*Please pay at pickup by cash or check

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



## *The Messenger*

First & Wesley United Methodist Church

89 Center Street, West Haven, CT 06516

Phone (203) 933-8795

[www.firstwesleyumc.org](http://www.firstwesleyumc.org)

Email: [firstwesleyumc@gmail.com](mailto:firstwesleyumc@gmail.com)

Facebook Page at [www.facebook.com/firstwesleyumc](https://www.facebook.com/firstwesleyumc).

Pastor Jinha Choi

“Sunday Worship Time: 11:00am”

The January Newsletter

# STRONGER TOGETHER



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

IN-PERSON & ONLINE SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 11:00 AM

**COME JOIN OUR CHURCH FAMILY!**