

# *The Messenger*

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

***February 2023***



## “Tree Planted by Water”

When we buy electric appliances such as a TV or refrigerator, we find a manual in the box. The manual includes how to assemble the product, how to start it, and how it works. There are some tips and examples for using the product. And also, there is a very important and necessary part usually located in the last part of the book. It is troubleshooting. When the product has a problem or it doesn't work well, we can troubleshoot it. Some troubles are listed here and it suggests how we can solve the issue. If we cannot find a way to solve, there is also the contact information, so that we can find another way to solve the problem. The troubleshooting section in the manual is very useful and helpful for us. This is the reason why we have to carefully read the manual.

I think it would be wonderful to have something like a manual for our life. This is because we also experience many problems in our reality. Of course, we can solve some of them by ourselves, by our hands, and by our human ability. We can also have some support from other people, guide books, or YouTube. However, in many cases in our lives, there are problems that we cannot touch, we cannot handle, and we cannot solve. For example, we cannot fully manage our health issues. We cannot solve some global-wide issues related to justice and peace. Most importantly, we don't have any ability to handle our sinful nature. We need something that we rely on in our difficult situations. Where do the solutions come from? What can we rely on in the time of troubles? There is one ultimate way that we can go on. The prophet Jeremiah suggested the solution for us to solve the problems around us.

“Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse—who can understand it? I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways according to the fruit of their doings.” (Jeremiah 17:7-10)

Pastor Jinha Choi

# *Lectionary Readings for February 2023*



## **February 5, 2023**

- [Isaiah 58:1-9a \(9b-12\)](#) • [Psalm 112:1-9 \(10\)](#) •
- [1 Corinthians 2:1-12 \(13-16\)](#) • [Matthew 5:13-20](#)

## **February 12, 2023**

- [Deuteronomy 30:15-20](#) or [Sirach 15:15-20](#) • [Psalm 119:1-8](#) •
- [1 Corinthians 3:1-9](#) • [Matthew 5:21-37](#)

## **February 19, 2023**

- [Exodus 24:12-18](#) • [Psalm 2](#) or [Psalm 99](#) •
- [2 Peter 1:16-21](#) • [Matthew 17:1-9](#)

## **February 26, 2023**

- [Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7](#) • [Psalm 32](#) •
- [Romans 5:12-19](#) • [Matthew 4:1-11](#)

## *Historical Notes of First and Wesley*

*by Edith Mulligan*

Did you know –

- The Methodist Home was located on the site of the Elm Diner and Krauser's. There were 26 wonderful friends who resided there.
- In the 70's Bishop Wicke Nursing Home opened in Shelton, CT. Women in our church were responsible for helping these people move to the new facility.
- I helped Minnie Bagott move into her new apartment. I went to the home in West Haven at 6:30am – there was Miss Bagott sitting in a rocker – she had a little hat and her coat on. Next to her were little shoe boxes tied with string – she looked like a Norman Rockwell painting.
- Throughout the day we helped each person get situated in the new West Haven Pavilion. Later there was an Alzheimer's unit. Each person was comfortable, but it must have been a hard adjustment as many had lived in West Haven for more than 10 years. Our church ladies came together and we had a successful venture!



# First & Wesley United Methodist Church

## February

**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> 7p Adult Group Study	<b>2</b> 10a–12p Koinonia Café 6p Bell 7p Adult Choir <b>Socks &amp; Underwear</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 11:00a Family Worship with Communion & Birthday/Anniversary Celebration <b>Socks &amp; Underwear</b>	<b>6</b> 7p Adult Monday School	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 7p Adult Group Study	<b>9</b> 10a–12p Koinonia Café 1p Prayer Shawl at Edith Mulligan’s home) 6p Bell 7p Adult Choir <b>Socks &amp; Underwear</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> <b>Pick up for Stuffed Bread &amp; Soup 5-6p</b>
<b>12</b> 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School ( In-person Sunday School begins after Children's Sermon) <b>Socks &amp; Underwear Blessed</b>	<b>13</b> 7p Adult Monday School  7 p Parish Council	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 7p Adult Group Study	<b>16</b> 10a–12p Koinonia Café In-person 6p Bell 7p Adult Choir	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 10 a Worship 5p Agape Meal (Free) All Welcome
<b>19</b> 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School ( In-person Sunday School begins after Children's Sermon)	<b>20</b> 7p Adult Monday school  <b>*Articles Due for the March Messenger</b>	<b>21</b> 7p Finance	<b>22</b> 7p Adult Group Study	<b>23</b> 10a–12p Koinonia Café 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School(In-person Sunday School begins after Children's Sermon)	<b>27</b> 7p Adult Monday School	<b>28</b> 7p Trustees				

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

## From The Layleader

Helen Smith

First of all, thank you to everyone for your thoughts and prayers, cards, food. You are a wonderful family!

Last year, I put the scripture below in the newsletter in February.

### **We are the Body of Christ.**

*4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. 8 To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. – 1 Corinthians 12:4-11*

In last month's newsletter I placed a list of all the areas of mission and ministry at our church and who is helping facilitate all of this. If you have a talent or desire to help in one of the ministries and have not been asked, please don't be shy!

Below are some places where we need someone to use their talents. **If what you are interested in, feel called to do, is not listed, please let Pastor Choi or Helen Smith know. Also, even if someone is doing the job, we can always use more help.**

\*Assistant Counters for the offering (at least 1)

\*Adult Choir

\*Bell Choir

\*Coordinator for UMARMY mission trip

-There is a checklist that is provided for you so that you know exactly what you need to do and when. Basically, you would be responsible for deciding on the week you would like to go, registering the group, following up on communication with all participants, and hold one or two meetings before the event to discuss what is expected and for tool training. Lastly, attend the mission week. I (Helen Smith) am willing to help whoever volunteers for this mission opportunity to learn what to do.

\*Volunteers to go on UMARMY mission trip

\*Director for VBS

-The program comes with a list of what needs to be done and when to do them. Also, Helen Smith would be willing to assist someone willing to direct this ministry. There is a lot of support for whoever decides to do this.

\*Worship sound – need 1 or 2 more people

-We need people to operate the sound during worship service. This is fairly straightforward, and Jian Chan is willing to show you what you need to do. No experience is necessary.

\*Worship camera operator – need 1 or 2 more people

-If you are tech savvy, this is the job for you! If you are interested in learning how to stream the service, please contact Helen Smith at [drsmith@snet.net](mailto:drsmith@snet.net) or 203-444-2362

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Choi at 937-590-7525 or Helen Smith at 203-444-2362.

**Meeting reminders:**

Worship committee – Saturday, Feb. 18th, 10am - virtual  
Finance committee – Tuesday, Feb. 21st, 7am - virtual  
Trustees meeting – Tuesday, Feb. 28th, 7pm – *in-person*

**Fellowship/learning/mission:**

Every Monday, 7pm – Adult Monday school (virtual)  
Every Wednesday, 7 pm – Adult Group Bible Study (virtual)  
Every Thursday morning - Koinonia Café, 10:00-12:00 pm (In-person)  
Every 2nd Thursday, 1 pm – Prayer Shawl Ministry (in-person) Edith Mulligan's home  
Every 3rd Saturday, 5 pm – Free Community Agape Meal & games (In-person)



**REMINDER!**

Pick-up for your Stuffed Breads, Soup and/or Chili is.

**Feb 11<sup>th</sup>, 5-6 pm at the church**



**SOCK & UNDERWEAR DRIVE COLLECTION**

(For Columbus House)

We will continue this collection through February 12th and the socks and underwear will be blessed during our worship service on Feb. 12th before delivering them to Columbus House.

## *Women of 1st and Wesley United Methodist Church:*

Some women from 1st and Wesley have been attending United Methodist Women regional meetings, now called **United Women of Faith**, held at Mary Taylor United Methodist Church, on the green in Milford. Here are the meetings for the next few months--

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Tuesday, February 14, at Noon  
Tuesday, March 4th at 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, April 11 at Noon  
Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm Mother-Daughter Dinner

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All meetings are held in Dodd Hall, behind the Sanctuary, at Mary Taylor United Methodist Church, on the green in Milford. You may bring a lunch to the noon meetings. Drinks are provided. Chris McGregor and Deb Dubien are co-chairs.

### **United Women of Faith purpose statement:**

*"The organized unit of United Women of Faith, (Formerly United Methodist Women) shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship, and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church."*

No moneys from the church budget go toward supporting this group. If you need a ride or would like to car-pool, please contact Pastor Cindy Dodd at 203 933-7674.

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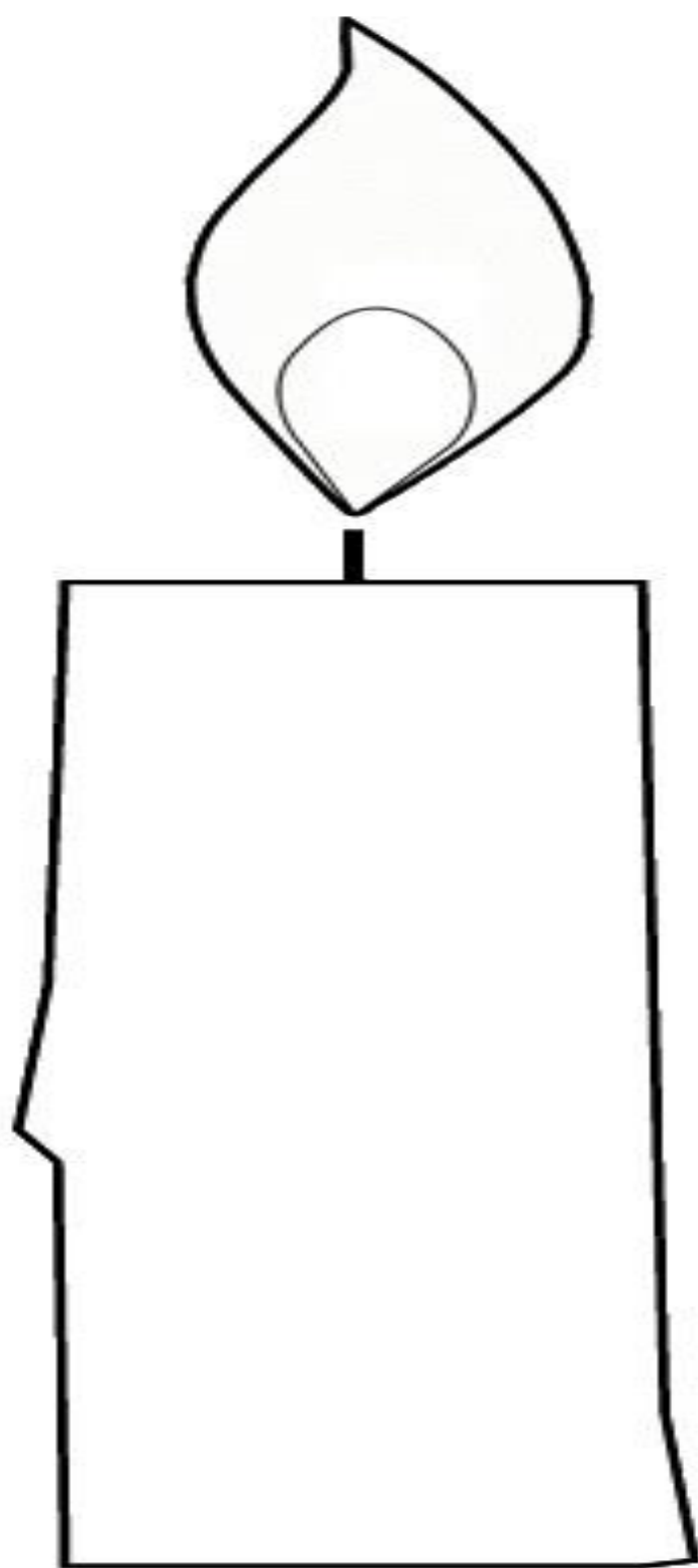
### *"this little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine!"*

Please pray as you look at this picture of a candle flame, or sing "this little light of mine, I'm going to let it shine!" Remember that God has reminded us, through Paul's letter to the Corinthians, (I Cor 1: 7) that we are not lacking in any spiritual gift. Please write on the candle picture what you would like to do in 2023 to let your light shine brighter for God and for God's children.

During the season of Epiphany, our task is to tell the story of Jesus, by letting Jesus shine his love brightly through us, so that those who walk in darkness will have a chance to see that God's love is real. We are making a bulletin board of all our candles, and our intentions, so we can inspire one another, and if you would like your light to be added to the others, please send your picture to the church and we will include it. Please don't put your name on it, as this is between ourselves and God. However, we can help this who read our words by giving them inspiration and courage to step out in faith.

Thank you! Even if you don't send your candle in to be included on our Shining Brighter bulletin board, please be sure to post it on your fridge or someplace where you can be reminded and inspired when days are heavy or long and without too much sunshine. In those moments, we have to make our own sunlight, by walking even closer with our Lord. Remember the footprints poem, in which Jesus reminds us: In those moments when we feel most alone, those are the moments I carried you. (Paraphrased from the poem Footprints in the Sand)

Pastor Cindy Dodd  
Retired UM minister



## February Birthdays

- 1 - John Paul Thompson
- 5 - Jeremy Soule
- 7 - Linda Kopec  
James Ewen
- 10 - Andy Whitley
- 11 - Ruth Kreyoh
- 15 - Sofia Bobko
- 17 - Stephen Baker  
Gregory Baker
- 18 - Ashton Danz
- 21 - Catherine Bartozzi Gigola
- 22 - Edward Sperry
- 23 - Brett Dzikas  
Karl Kiesinger
- 25 - John Bobko
- 26 - Jason Jerrell
- 27 - Ashley Hulse

## February Anniversaries

- 17 - Lori and Paul Franson
- 21 - Florence and Joseph Dzikas

**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 February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 1 PM in person. Home of Edith Mulligan, 65 Messina Drive, Apt A761, East Haven, CT (203) 821-7533.

Our Prayer shawls are in the Church Office if someone needs one. Be sure to sign your name and the person it will go to. You can also contact Edith Mulligan (203) 821-7533 or Linda Kopec (203) 804-2522.

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry has been a success thanks to these women:

Sharon Ewen, Edith Mulligan, Susan Hackett, Joan and Amy Sablone, and Linda Kopec

Anyone wishing to join is more than welcome to come.

## *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.



**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

*Celebrate Wonder*

It's time for Sunday School. 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 learn Bible stories, make art projects, sing songs, play games, 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/>

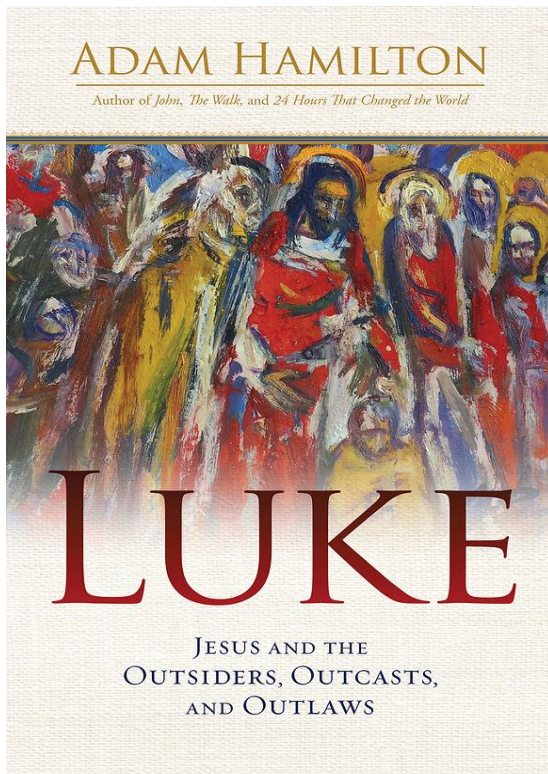
## **The Craft Corner**



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

## Adult Group Study – 2023 Lent

: Every Wednesday 7pm via ZOOM for 6 Weeks from Mar. 1 to Apr. 5



Jesus came to lift up the lowly. Throughout his ministry to his final days on the road to the cross, we find stories of his relationships with ordinary, flawed, and unexpected people. He met, dined, and traveled with people who were not perfect. Many of them were struggling, some were outsiders or even outlaws. Whoever they were, from those he healed to the outlaws with him at his crucifixion, Jesus brought the good news of God's kingdom to those who most needed to hear it.

In *Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws*, pastor and bestselling author Adam Hamilton explores the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus as told in the Gospel of Luke. Through Luke's stories we find Jesus' care and compassion for all as he welcomes sinners and outcasts. As we study Luke and see Jesus' concern for those who were considered unimportant, we hear a hopeful and inspiring word for our lives today.

The advertisement features a white background with a central graphic. On the left is a white coffee cup with a latte and a smiley face drawn on the foam. On the right is a white plate with three chocolate chip cookies. The text is arranged as follows: 'KOINONIA CAFÉ' in large, bold, dark brown letters with a small yellow circular logo containing a stylized leaf to its left; '&amp; FIRST &amp; WESLEY UMC' in a similar font below it; 'Free Coffee // &amp; Refreshments -' in a handwritten-style font; 'OPEN TO COMMUNITY!' in large, bold, yellow letters with a black outline; and 'THURSDAYS, 10 AM - 12 PM' in white letters on a dark brown rounded rectangular background. At the bottom left is a red and white logo of a cross with a flame, followed by the text: 'First &amp; Wesley United Methodist Church', '89 Center St., West Haven, CT 06516', '(203) 933-8795 • firstwesleyumc@gmail.com', and 'www.firstwesleyumc.org'.

# Mammals

All the words are hidden vertically, horizontally or diagonally—in both directions. The letters that remain unused form a sentence from left to right.

M A M M R I N G E D S E A L F  
A L S A L P I N E S H R E W I  
A R D O L P H I N Y E A W A E  
R E M H A R P S E A L H B L L  
O F E R R E T N O D E N D A D  
R F N I M A A L S T H I A T V  
A A R D V A R K I L U A S U O  
E R A L L Y G N I I G T L V L  
B I E T I B D I G O O N L R E  
R G T P A R H N T N R U I O S  
A E A U I R O L I E I O B B I  
L K D M D R P V E O L M N I O  
O S F D U U F A S P L K R S P  
P R A T E S K A N G A R O O R  
I N N B G E K A E S R O H N O  
N I D N L U R R R S E G T H P  
B E I R Y E O U A N G N W I T  
S U P Y T A L P H T M U I L K

GNU  
GORILLA  
HARP SEAL  
HORNBILL  
HORSE  
HYENA  
INDRI  
KANGAROO  
KUDU  
LION  
MOUNTAIN HARE  
MUSKRAT  
OKAPI  
PIG  
PLATYPUS  
POLAR BEAR  
PORPOISE  
RED DEER  
RINGED SEAL  
SABLE  
TARPAN

AARDVARK  
ALPINE SHREW  
BINTURONG

BISON  
DOLPHIN  
ELK

FERRET  
FIELD VOLE  
GIRAFFE





## *The Messenger*

First & Wesley United Methodist Church

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

Pastor Jinha Choi

“Sunday Worship Time: 11:00am”

The February 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!**