

The Messenger

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

March 2023



“V-Formation”

I like to look at the sky. I like to see the various shapes of clouds, airplanes and birds in the sky. Even at night, I like to see the moon and stars in the sky. In March, the beginning of spring, we can see wonderful movement of migrating birds. They may fill the sky with their sounds. What is interesting here is that they fly together in V-formation. The reason they maintain the V-formation in their migration is because they can save their energy and fly farther at the same time in formation. According to scientists, the wind from the flapping of the first bird at the apex of the V-formation is greatly helpful for the flight of the next birds. So, the next birds can save their energy

for their long trip. And when the first bird is exhausted by their leading role, one of the next birds switches their roles. So, the first bird becomes the last bird of the formation and it can help to restore its physical strength through the rotation of the role. In this cooperation of the V-formation, the birds can arrive at their destination where they want to go. Because they fly together, they accomplish their goal.

Nowadays, we call this cooperation as “synergy effect.” According to a dictionary, synergy effect is the result of two or more things interacting together to produce an effect that is greater than something individually produced. There are many examples of the synergy effect around us in business areas, academic areas, and our human relationships, too. And moreover, we can also find it in our Bible. We can see it in God’s creation story, Moses and Aron, Exodus story, Jesus and John the Baptist, Jesus and his disciples, etc. John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement, also organized various groups of faith communities and worked through them. And our cooperative parish is deeply rooted in the tradition of Wesleyan connectionism. This is all because we are one church in the name of Jesus Christ. There may be something that an individual church cannot deal with. But if our churches gather our resources and our prayers together, we can surely do that. So, we worship together. We work for our ministry and mission together. And finally, we build up the kingdom of God together in this world. I hope we all go together in mutual-dependence and cooperation in order to realize God’ will, as the migrating birds fly in the V-formation. Amen.



Pastor Jinha Choi
First & Wesley United Methodist Church

Lectionary Readings for March 2023

March 5, 2023

- [Genesis 12:1-4a](#) • [Psalm 121](#) •
- [Romans 4:1-5, 13-17](#) • [John 3:1-17](#) or [Matthew 17:1-9](#)

March 12, 2023

- [Exodus 17:1-7](#) • [Psalm 95](#) •
- [Romans 5:1-11](#) • [John 4:5-42](#)

March 19, 2023

- [1 Samuel 16:1-13](#) • [Psalm 23](#) •
- [Ephesians 5:8-14](#) • [John 9:1-41](#)

March 26, 2023

- [Ezekiel 37:1-14](#) • [Psalm 130](#) •
- [Romans 8:6-11](#) • [John 11:1-45](#)



Friday Lenten Bible Reading Challenge

In order to think about Jesus' life suffering, and death for 40 days of Lent, we will have a "Lenten Friday Bible Reading Challenge". We will read chapters of Luke's Gospel and share our reflections together every Friday for 6 weeks during Lent. We will be using the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible for our meetings. After the first meeting on Friday, February 24th we will continue in March each Friday evening. We will begin at 7:00pm via Zoom with each session lasting 30 minutes. Please join this Lenten Friday Bible Reading Challenge. This is a great way to start your weekend.

Wednesday Group Bible Study

Wednesday, March 1st at 7:00pm via Zoom we will study the book "Luke" by Adam Hamilton. Through Luke's stories we find Jesus's care and compassion for all as he welcomes sinners and outcasts. As we study Luke and see Jesus's concern for those who were considered unimportant, we hear a hopeful and inspiring word for our lives today.

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

Check it out!



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| <p>All Worship Services will be held both in-person and online (via Zoom). Worship Service begins at 11:00 am. All Worship Services and meetings – Link: https://zoom.us/j/147691027 / Call-in: 1-646-876-9923 *Meeting ID: 147691027#</p> | | | | | | |
| | | | <p>1 7p Adult Group Study</p> | <p>2 10a–12p “K” Café 6p Bell 7p Adult Choir</p> | <p>3 7p Lenten Bible Reading Challenge" via ZOOM at 7pm</p> | <p>4</p> |
| <p>5 11:00a Family Worship with Communion & Birthday/Anniversary Celebration</p> | <p>6 7p Adult Monday School</p> | <p>7 7p United Women of Faith at Mary Taylor</p> | <p>8 7p Adult Group Study</p> | <p>9 10a–12p “K” Café 1p Prayer Shawl at Edith Mulligan’s home) 6p Bell 7p Adult Choir</p> | <p>10 7p Lenten Bible Reading Challenge" via ZOOM at 7pm</p> | <p>11</p> |
| <p>12 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (In-person Sunday School begins after Children's Sermon</p> | <p>13 7p Adult Monday School 7p Cooperative Parish Council</p> | <p>14 7p Finance</p> | <p>15 7p Adult Group Study</p> | <p>16 10a–12p “K” Café In-person 6p Bell 7p Adult Choir</p> | <p>17 7p Lenten Bible Reading Challenge" via ZOOM at 7pm</p> | <p>18 10a Worship 5p Agape Meal (Free) All Welcome</p> |
| <p>19 Special UMCOR Offering 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (In-person Sunday School begins after Children's Sermon) Easter flower orders due</p> | <p>20 7p Adult Monday school *Articles Due for the March Messenger</p> | <p>21 7p Mission & Outreach</p> | <p>22 Chicken Pot Pie orders due 7p Adult Group Study</p> | <p>23 10a–12p “K” Café 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir</p> | <p>24 7p Lenten Bible Reading Challenge" via ZOOM at 7pm</p> | <p>25 10a Worship Committee 5p Chicken Pot Pie Fundraiser -in person & grab and go</p> |
| <p>27 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School(In-person Sunday School begins after Children's Sermon)</p> | <p>27 7p Adult Monday School</p> | <p>28 7p Trustees</p> | <p>29 7p Adult Group Study</p> | <p>30 10a–12p “K” Café 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir</p> | <p>31 7p Lenten Bible Reading Challenge" via ZOOM at 7pm</p> | <p>April 1 Breakfast & Crafts 10a & 11a Egg Hunt</p> |

For more information go to the church website at www.firstwesleyumc.org

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.

From The Layleader

Helen Smith

"When we get together, I want to encourage you in your faith, but I also want to be encouraged by yours." - Romans 1:12

You have encouraged me! As most of you know, I found out at the end of December that I had uterine cancer, I had a full hysterectomy two weeks later and had to wait a month for any results. I found out on Valentine's Day that they caught it early, and they were able to remove everything AND I do not need radiation or chemo! I would like to thank my church family for all your prayers, prayer shawl, cards, food, and outpouring of love. I am so blessed to have all of you in my life.

What Is A Cooperative Parish?

The Mission Statement for the New York Annual conference of the United Methodist Church is "We strive to share God's love by creating safe places where all are accepted and welcomed, connecting the needs of people to the presence of God, and transforming the world through Christ."

When Methodism started in the United States, a pastor was not assigned to any particular church but to a parish. The pastor went from church to church and on the Sundays that the pastor was not at one church, the laity (church members) were in charge of the service. Due to a declining number of pastors, the NYAC is using the model of a Cooperative Parish to address this and to help our churches help each other in ministry. (It's actually in the United Methodist Church Book of Discipline that we should be using Cooperative parishes and there are different models we can use). I recently attended the Laity Convocation and listened to Bishop Bickerton and Doris Dalton explain why we are going to this model and how to move forward. I will be sharing more in the next newsletter or you may call me or catch me after church to talk if you have any questions.

As many of you may know, First & Wesley is part of the Shoreline and Havens Cooperative Parish. This consists of our church plus 7 other churches – Branford, Clinton, Faith (North Haven), First & Summerfield (New Haven), Hamden Plains, St. Andrew's (New Haven) Westville (New Haven). We are planning some joint activities so that we can worship and minister and get to know each other better as United Methodists. I hope you can come and get to know our neighbors.

Three things coming in March and April are:

Sat., March 4th – 6:30 pm

18 & older Game Night at Faith United Methodist Church

81 Clintonville Road, North Haven, CT

Bring your favorite snack to share and a game if you wish

Thursday, April 6th – 7PM

Joint Maundy Thursday Service at First & Wesley

Friday, April 7th – 7PM

Joint Good Friday Service at St. Andrew's

St Andrews United Methodist

1230 Townsend Ave, New Haven, CT 06513

(corner of Forbes & Townsend)

Below is what has been planned for March and April. Also, please note the two flyers in this newsletter. We are having a Pot Pie dinner fundraiser on March 25th (orders due by March 22nd). Also, on April 1st is our Community Continental Easter Breakfast, Crafts and Egg Hunt. If you can help with any of these, please let Peggy Jerrell (Pot Pies) or Jen Werle (Community Breakfast) know.

Lenten Bible Study

March 1st- April 5th, 7pm (virtual) (this is joint with St. Andrew's)

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.

Lenten Prayer Vigil

We have started having a Lenten virtual prayer vigil every Friday evening as of February 24th through March 31st 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 have done this for the past two years it is a great start to the weekend!

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

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

Small Group studies:

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Every Monday | Adult Sunday School, 7 pm (virtual) |
| Every Wednesday | Lenten Bible Study, 7 pm (virtual) (joint with St. Andrew's) |
| Every Thursday | Bell Choir, 6 pm |
| | Adult Choir, 7 pm |
| Every Friday (during Lent) | Lenten Prayer Vigil, 7 pm (virtual) |

Meeting reminders: (all virtual)

| | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Finance committee | Tuesday, Mar. 14th, 7 pm |
| Missions committee | Tuesday, March 21st, 7 pm |
| Worship Committee | Saturday, March 25th, 10am |
| Trustees meeting | Tuesday, Mar. 28th, 7 pm |

Fellowship:

Every Thursday - Koinonia Café, 10am-12pm

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--

Tuesday, March 4th at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 11 at Noon

Tuesday, May 9th at 6:30pm Mother-Daughter Dinner

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.

Adult "Monday" School

Our Adult "Monday" School meets every Monday from 7:00-7:45 PM on Zoom. For years Thurmon Whitley was the leader of this. If anyone is interested in being the leader each week, please speak to Pastor Choi or Gail Bartozzi (Sunday School Superintendent). For now, four of us will be the leader once a month as follows:

- 1st Monday of month - Myrna Clinton
- 2nd Monday of month - Jim Stuhlman
- 3rd Monday of month - Mary Rolfe
- 4th Monday of month - Helen Smith

We are using the book "Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection" and are about 1/2 of the way through the book. If you would like to join us, you can get the book on Amazon <https://www.amazon.com/Good-Enough-40ish-Devotionals-Imperfection/dp/0593193687> for \$14.27.

If there is a 5th Monday in the month, we will not have "Monday" school that night.

* * * * *

ORDERS FOR EASTER ALTAR FLOWERS 2023

I (we) wish to order _____ plants for the altar at a cost of \$10.00 each.

Please make checks payable to First & Wesley United Methodist Church and write "Flower Fund" in the memo section of the check.

PLEASE PRINT

IN MEMORY OF _____

OR IN HONOR OF _____

GIVEN BY _____

TELEPHONE # _____

PLANTS TO BE TAKEN HOME ON EASTER SUNDAY

ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 19TH

PLEASE MAIL ORDER TO CHURCH, OR PLACE IN THE OFFERING PLATE.

Missions

We will be doing a special offering collection for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) on March 19th. With this special offering we will be able to provide hope for communities and individuals whose lives have been upset by storms, wars, fires, displacement, and climate change.

You will be able to select whether the donation to UMCOR is to be dispersed as needed or specify that you would like it donated to UMCOR for the Turkey/Syrian disaster relief. Our next mission meeting will be held Tuesday, March 21st at 7:00. Please let Jenny Werle know if you have any questions.

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.

We recently received this thank you letter thanking us for our donations.

PARTNERSHIP WITH NATIVE AMERICANS
16415 Addison Rd Sure 200 * Addison, Texas 75001
www.NativePartnership.org • 800-416-8102

February 2, 2023

Mr. & Mrs. Walter A Clinton, 38 Maple St, West Haven, CT 06516-3826

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Clinton,

On behalf of the Native American children, families, Elders, and communities we serve, thank you for your generous \$250.00 contribution to Partnership with Native Americans which we received on 01/30/2023 from First & Wesley United Methodist Church.

Partnership with Native Americans is committed to championing hope for a brighter future for Native Americans living on remote and isolated reservations. Through our services, we are contributing both immediate relief from day-to-day hardships and working with tribal communities toward long-term solutions for sustainable living. PWNA's role is to provide resources that support community driven efforts toward lasting change.

Please accept my enormous gratitude for your support. Without you, we cannot work with tribal communities to improve the quality of life for Native Americans. Thanks for being part of our mission, "Serving immediate needs. Supporting long-term solutions." Your friendship means a lot!

Once again, I thank you for your support to our services that provide vital help the Native American people. Your support will help provide opportunities year-round that help many Reservation Program Partners meet immediate needs and develop long - term solutions that better serve their communities.

Mi-gwetch (Thank You),



Joshua Arce, J.D., Prairie Band Potawatomi, PWNA President/CEO

POT PIE DINNER

6" Individual pie with salad,
dessert (Helen's famous cookies)
Pick-up or Eat-in on March 25th

PICK-UP: 4-5PM

EAT-IN: 5PM

Place orders by March 22nd



\$10 each for each dinner

NAME _____

PHONE # _____

E-MAIL _____

___ Chicken Pot Pie dinner(s) @\$10 each

___ Beef Pot Pie dinner(s) @10 each

TOTAL DUE _____

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.

Ways to support the Church with no cost to you!

ShopRite
Fundraiser
(Gift cards)



In this 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 might be spending money at this store 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.

2023 contact numbers

Helen Smith 203-444-2362 Layleader
Jim Stuhlman 203-435-1790 Trustee Chair
Peggy Jerrell 203-641-0929 Church Council Chair



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

COMMUNITY CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST



Easter crafts,
photos* with Easter Bunny
& Egg Hunt



Ages 1-10

*Free photos with the Easter Bunny
(Please bring your own camera)

SATURDAY, April 1, 2023

BREAKFAST & CRAFTS: 10-11 AM

EASTER EGG HUNT: 11 AM

First & Wesley United Methodist Church
89 Center Street, West Haven, CT 06516
203.933.8795 | firstwesleyumc@gmail.com

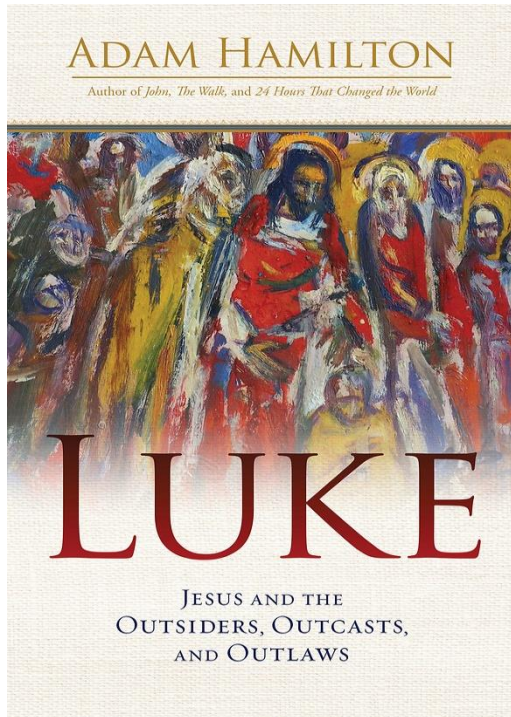
www.firstwesleyumc.org

*People with disabilities accessible



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.



Prayer Shawl Ministry
First and Wesley United Methodist

Our Prayer Shawl group will be meeting on Thursday, March 9th, 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. Anyone wishing to join is more than welcome to come.





The Messenger

First & Wesley United Methodist Church

89 Center Street, West Haven, CT 06516

Phone (203) 933-8795

www.firstwesleyumc.org

Email: firstwesleyumc@gmail.com

Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/firstwesleyumc.

Pastor Jinha Choi

“Sunday Worship Time: 11:00am”

The March 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!