

The Messenger

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

April 2023



“The Cross”

When we travel to some famous places, we often stop by a gift shop to buy something to remember where we have been. It is something we can decorate our home with or wear. Some of us may collect refrigerator magnets. So, when we visit their home, we can see the refrigerator all covered by the gift shop magnets of Florida, California, or other countries. Then, we can see where they spent their vacations. Also, there are people who collect t-shirts. They buy t-shirts with colorful drawings of city names, such as New York, Philadelphia, or Washington D.C. So, in the summer season, we can easily notice where they visited in past summer vacations through their wearing t-shirts. I believe that you also have your own collections you took from your vacations or travels. And the reason

why we collect those things is because we want to remember and memorialize the enjoyable moments of our vacations. So, when we open the refrigerator, we can see and recall the memories from the magnets. Or whenever we wear the t-shirts, some good memories may come up. Therefore, through those collections, we can always remember where we went, what we did there, and how we enjoyed it there. They are small items but have a big meaning in our life.

As these collections work for us, we also have a great symbol in our faithful journey, which reminds us of the love of God and awakes us how God works for us. It is the cross that we can see anywhere in our church. It is very simple but has unforgettable meaning for all of us. Through the cross, we can think about Jesus’ death to save us from our sin and Jesus’ resurrection to give us a new hope for eternal life. During Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday in April, I hope we all think about Jesus’ love and grace for us, which is revealed through the cross. Amen.

“My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:20 (NLT)

Pastor Jinha Choi
First & Wesley United Methodist Church

Lectionary Readings for March 2023



April 2, 2023

- [Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29](#) • [Matthew 21:1-11](#) • [Isaiah 50:4-9a](#) •
- [Psalm 31:9-16](#) • [Philippians 2:5-11](#) • [Matthew 26:14-27:66](#) or [Matthew 27:11-54](#)

April 9, 2023

- [Acts 10:34-43](#) or [Jeremiah 31:1-6](#) • [Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24](#) •
- [Colossians 3:1-4](#) or [Acts 10:34-43](#) • [John 20:1-18](#) or [Matthew 28:1-10](#)

April 16, 2023

- [Acts 2:14a, 22-32](#) • [Psalm 16](#) •
- [1 Peter 1:3-9](#) • [John 20:19-31](#)

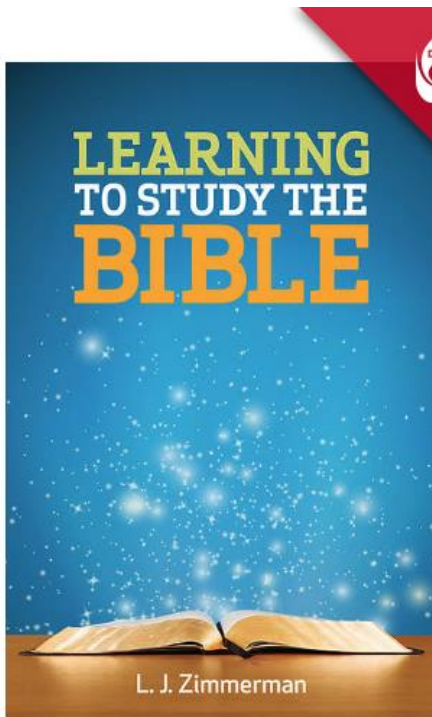
April 23, 2023

- [Acts 2:14a, 36-41](#) • [Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19](#) •
- [1 Peter 1:17-23](#) • [Luke 24:13-35](#)

April 30, 2023

- [Acts 2:42-47](#) • [Psalm 23](#) •
- [1 Peter 2:19-25](#) • [John 10:1-10](#)

Wednesday Group Bible Study



<2023 Adult Group Study>

“Learning to Study the Bible”

: Apr. 12 – May 31

(Every Wednesday 7pm for 8 Weeks via ZOOM)

Anyone can understand the Bible with the right tools. And discovering those tools is the foundation of L. J. Zimmerman’s, *Learning to Study the Bible*. By the end of this eight-week class, your small group will have learned about biblical genres, historical contexts, the *Revised Common Lectionary*, and how to use resources including study Bibles, commentaries, and maps. Each session invites exploration, application, and practice; provides reflection questions; and includes a space to journal—all of which will strengthen your personal relationship with God.



April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10a Free Community Continental Breakfast & Crafts 11a Egg Hunt
2 Palm Sunday 11:00a Family Worship with Communion & Birthday/Anniversary Celebration & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon) Coffee Hour with Crafting Crosses from the Palms	3 7p Adult Monday School	4 6p Bell 7p Adult Choir	5 7p Adult Group Study	6 Maundy Thursday No "K" café today 7p Maundy Service	7 Good Friday 7p Good Friday Service	8 .
9 Easter Sunday 6:am /Easter Sunrise Service at Bradley Point 11:00a Family Worship Service Flowering of the Cross on front lawn of Church	10 7p Adult Monday School	11 12 noon United Women of Faith at Mary Taylor 7p Finance	12 7p Adult Group Study	13 10a–12p "K" Café 1p Prayer Shawl at Edith Mulligan's home 6p Bell 7p Adult Choir	14	15 5p Agape Meal (Free) All Welcome
16 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon)	17 7p Adult Monday school 7p Cooperative Parish Council	18 7p Staff Parish	19 7p Adult Group Study	20 10a–12p "K" Café 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir <i>*Articles Due for the May Messenger</i>	21	22 10a Trustee Clean Up Day
23 Native American Sunday 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon)	24 7p Adult Monday School Baked Potato orders due	25 7p Trustees	26 7p Adult Group Study	27 10a–12p "K" Café 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	28	29 Baked Potato Grab & Go Fundraiser 4 -5p Pick Up District Conference 12-2 :30p
30 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon) Plant orders due for Pancake Day				Coming Events : Pancake Day May 13. Plant orders due April 30th.		

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

From The Layleader

Helen Smith

This month, I just wanted to share a quote from John Wesley:

“Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.”

STAY CONNECTED

Small Group studies:

Every Monday – Adult Sunday School, 7 pm

Every Wednesday – Bible Study, 7 pm

Meeting reminders:

Finance committee - Tuesday, Apr. 11, 7 pm

Trustees meeting - Tuesday, Apr. 25, 7 pm

Fellowship:

Every Thursday - Koinonia Café, 10am -12pm

Musical talents!

Every Thursday - Bell Choir, 6 pm - Adult choir, 7 pm

Upcoming fundraisers (**if you can help, please talk to Mary Rolfe or Peggy Jerrell**):

BAKED POTATO GRAB & GO LUNCHEON

April 29th 12-1pm pickup (pre-order by Monday April 25th)

For details see flyer/order form in this newsletter

PANCAKE DAY!

May 13th 8am – 12pm

All you can eat pancakes plus books, plants & baked goods. Also, you can preorder flowers and some will be available for purchase on May 7th.

For details see the flyer and plant order form in this newsletter.

Three things coming in April are:

On April 1st is our Community Continental Easter Breakfast, Crafts and Egg Hunt. If you can help with this please let Jen Werle know.

Thursday, April 6th – 7PM Maundy Thursday Service - both in-person and streamed at First & Wesley

Friday, April 7th – 7PM Good Friday Service - both in-person and streamed at First & Wesley.

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.

Starting Wednesday, April 12th, we will be starting a new Wednesday Night Bible Study (see p. 2 for details).

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

Finance Corner

We have finished up our 3rd month of the year. We have paid all apportionments to date. We are current on all bills. We will be reviewing our budget in June as there will be a few minor changes needed. Thank you to all of you who have answered our prayers with your support of our missions and ministries thus far this year.

Thanks too for all your support of our monthly fundraisers. Our next fundraiser will be our Baked Potato Grab & Go on April 29th. See the flyer in this newsletter for all the details.

The May fundraiser flyer is included in this Newsletter as well. It is our Annual Pancake Day! with plants to order for Mother's Day and to spruce up your planter boxes and gardens for spring/summer. We will also have our books and baked goods available for sale for your reading and relaxing pleasure. Join us Saturday May 13th to celebrate May!

United Women of Faith

The United Methodist Women has become **United Women in Faith**, and we are now a regional gathering, with people from many churches meeting at Mary Taylor United Methodist Church on the Green in Milford once a month, on the 2nd Tuesday.

April's meeting is on Tuesday, April 11th at **12:00 Noon** in Dodd Hall. If you like, you may bring lunch and a beverage will be provided. The meeting runs till around 1:30.

May will close out the year with a mother-daughter Potluck dinner on Tuesday, May 9th at **6:30 pm**. Please note that, according to the Unit President, Christine McGregor:

"Even if you can't attend with your mom or your daughter, or maybe you don't have a daughter, everyone **has** a mother, and everyone **is** a daughter, so all United Methodist women are invited to this closing Mother-Daughter Banquet."

Please call the 1st & Wesley church office for info about car-pooling or questions.

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.

Flowers on Easter

We invite you to place flowers on the Cross in the church yard on Easter Morning. Individuals can bring flowers to place on the cross all day Easter Sunday. There will also be some flowers at the base of the cross for your convenience. The "flowering" of the cross is a beautiful way to symbolize the new life that emerges from the death on Good Friday and is an outward and joyful showing to the community the hope that God has brought to the world through the death and resurrection of Jesus.



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



April Birthdays

- 8 - Lori Franson
- 9 - Mary Levy
- 10 - Andrea Latham
- 11 - Cecilia Dondorful-Amos
 - Tom Hollister
- 15 - Alexia Medina
- 16 - Wendy Memmott
- 17 - Holli Skipper
- 18 - Lena Carbone
 - Holli Skipper Dapp
- 20 - Tyler Moscato
- 21 - Raymond Memmott
- 22 - Joseph Dzikas
 - Joseph Maltese
- 23 - Andrew Nevin
- 24 - Peggy Jerrell
 - Sheri Hulse
 - Myrna Clinton
- 25 - Nathaniel Dondorful-Amos
- 26 - Phyllis Hunt

April Anniversaries

- 7 - Tim and Kimberly Geiger

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



SUNDAY SCHOOL
Celebrate Wonder

Join us 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

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



Prayer Shawl Ministry
First and Wesley United Methodist

Our Prayer Shawl group will be meeting on Thursday, April 13, 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.

DELICIOUS FUNDRAISER @ FIRST & WESLEY UMC

PANCAKE DAY!

Unlimited Pancakes!
(sausage, fixings, beverages included)



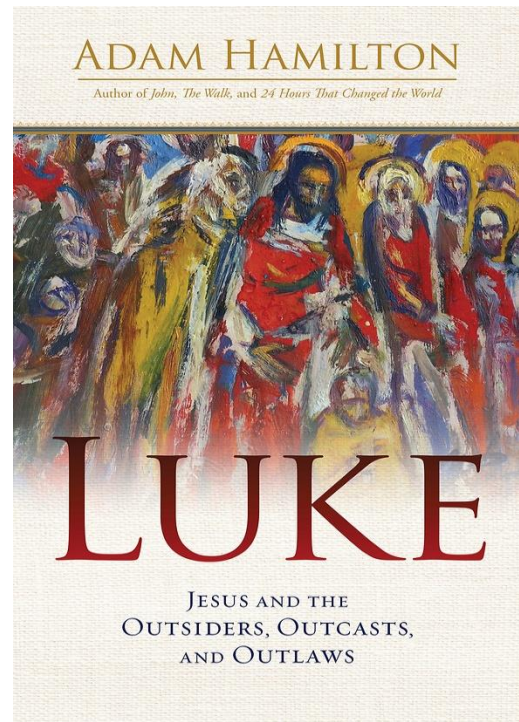
**PLANTS, BOOKS
BAKED GOODS
SALE**

Saturday, May 13th
8am-12pm

Donation: \$10 Ages 11+
\$5 Ages 5-10
\$30 Family of 4+

89 Center Street, West Haven

For more info or to preorder plants go to:
www.firstwesleyumc.org



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.

Native American Ministry Sunday

On April 23rd we will have our annual Native American Sunday. There will be a full service with Native American music followed by a Native American display. We will be taking a special offering for scholarships for our Native American friends.

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.

Connecticut District Conference

Our 2023 Connecticut District Conference is on Saturday, April 29, 2023
Lunch 12-1pm Business 1-2:30pm

This will be at West Hartford UMC, 1358 New Britain Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06110

I hope we can get a good representation from our church. We will carpool from the church leaving at 11am. (Remember, you don't have to cook that night if you order a Grab & Go baked potato dinner!)

The Keynote speaker is Priscilla Pope-Levison, author of Models of Evangelism.

**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!**



KOINONIA CAFÉ
& FIRST & WESLEY UMC

Free Coffee
& Refreshments

OPEN TO COMMUNITY!

THURSDAYS, 10 AM - 12 PM

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Diaper Drive

for Newborns through Adults

During the month of May, First & Wesley is collecting diapers to be donated to the diaper bank in West Haven.

Drop off times are:

Thursdays & Sundays, 10am-12pm

First & Wesley UMC

89 Center Street, West Haven

**Let's make a difference in
the community!**



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

FIRST & WESLEY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

89 Center Street, West Haven <https://firstwesleyumc.org/>



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Email: firstwesleyumc@gmail.com

Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/firstwesleyumc.

Pastor Jinha Choi

“Sunday Worship Time: 11:00am”

The April 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!