

# *The Messenger*

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

**May 2023**



“God’s Love: Motherhood”

Happy Mother’s Day again!

I would like to introduce a dedicated poem for all our great mothers here and in remembrance of them. The title is “*A Mother’s Love*” and the poet is Helen Steiner Rice.

A Mother’s love is something that no one can explain,  
It is made of deep devotion and of sacrifice and pain,  
It is endless and unselfish and enduring come what may,  
For nothing can destroy it or take that love away,  
It is patient and forgiving when all others are forsaking,  
And it never fails or falters even though the heart is breaking,  
It believes beyond believing when the world around condemns,  
And it glows with all the beauty of the rarest, brightest gems,  
It is far beyond defining, it defies all explanation,  
And it still remains a secret like the mysteries of creation,  
A many splendored miracle man cannot understand  
And another wondrous evidence of God’s tender guiding hand.

In this poem, the poet says that we cannot explain how great the love of a mother is. This is because we cannot measure the devotion, sacrifice, and pain in a mother’s love. It is endless. Nothing can destroy it. It never fails. It is like something mysterious in creation. Even though we cannot understand it, a mother’s love is a wondrous evidence of God’s tender guiding hand. How marvelous an expression is this! Because of a mother’s love, we can see God’s guiding hand. I totally agree with the poetic verses in this poem, because a mother’s love gives us an important clue to understanding the love of God.

In May, Mother’s Day comes to us again. I hope all our church families appreciate our mothers, we are blessed to still have with us, and make the day special and meaningful, enjoying the moment together. And I hope that we all experience the love of God through our mothers in the world. Amen.

Pastor Jinha Choi

# Lectionary Readings for May 2023



## May 7, 2023

- [Acts 7:55-60](#) • [Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16](#) •  
• [1 Peter 2:2-10](#) • [John 14:1-14](#)

## May 14, 2023

- [Acts 17:22-31](#) • [Psalm 66:8-20](#) •  
• [1 Peter 3:13-22](#) • [John 14:15-21](#)

## May 21, 2023

- [Acts 1:6-14](#) • [Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35](#) •  
• [1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11](#) • [John 17:1-11](#)

## May 28, 2023

- [Acts 2:1-21](#) or [Numbers 11:24-30](#) • [Psalm 104:24-34, 35b](#) •  
• [1 Corinthians 12:3b-13](#) or [Acts 2:1-21](#) • [John 20:19-23](#) or [John 7:37-39](#)

An advertisement for Koinonia Café & First & Wesley UMC. The background is a light gray. On the left is a white coffee cup with a latte art smiley face. On the right is a white plate with three chocolate chip cookies. The text is centered and reads: "KOINONIA CAFÉ & FIRST & WESLEY UMC" in large, bold, brown letters. Below that, in a smaller, brown, handwritten-style font, it says "Free Coffee & Refreshments". Underneath that, in large, bold, yellow letters, it says "OPEN TO COMMUNITY!". At the bottom, in a dark brown rounded rectangle, it says "THURSDAYS, 10 AM - 12 PM". At the very bottom, there is a red logo of a cross and the text: "First & Wesley United Methodist Church", "89 Center St., West Haven, CT 06516", "(203) 933-8795 • firstwesleyumc@gmail.com", and "www.firstwesleyumc.org".

 **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  
www.firstwesleyumc.org



# First & Wesley United Methodist Church

# 2023

## May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>Plant orders due April 30th.</b>	<b>1</b> 7p Adult Monday School	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 7p Adult Group Study	<b>4</b> 10a-12p "K" Café  6p Bell 7p Adult Choir	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 10a Worship
<b>7</b> 11:00a Family Worship with Communion & Birthday/Anniversary Celebration & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon)	<b>8</b> 7p Adult Monday School  6p Dinner with Bishop 7p Bishop' Day with Connecticut First UMC of Meriden	<b>9</b> 6:30p Women of Faith Potluck dinner at Mary Taylor UMC  7p Finance	<b>10</b> 7p Adult Group Study	<b>11</b> 10a-12p "K" Café  6p Bell 7p Adult Choir	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 8a -12p Pancake & Plant Sale  Free Mother's Day dinner at St. Andrews UMC 4pm
<b>Free14</b> 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon)	<b>15</b> 7p Adult Monday school  7p Cooperative Parish Council	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 7p Adult Group Study	<b>18</b> 10a-12p "K" Café  6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 5p Agape Meal (Free) All Welcome  Craft Corner 9:30 to 10:30am  <b>*Articles Due for the June Messenger</b>
<b>21</b> 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon)  12:15 p Church Council in person & on Zoom	<b>22</b> 7p Adult Monday school	<b>23</b> 7p Trustees	<b>24</b> 7p Adult Group Study	<b>25</b> 10a-12p "K" Café  <b>Note change:</b> 1p Prayer Shawl at Edith Mulligan's home  6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>  9:30 - 10 Craft Corner
<b>28 Pentecost Sunday</b> 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon)	<b>29 Memorial Day</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> 7p Adult Group Study			

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

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

## *Finance Corner*

The May fundraiser flyer is included in this Newsletter. 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

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

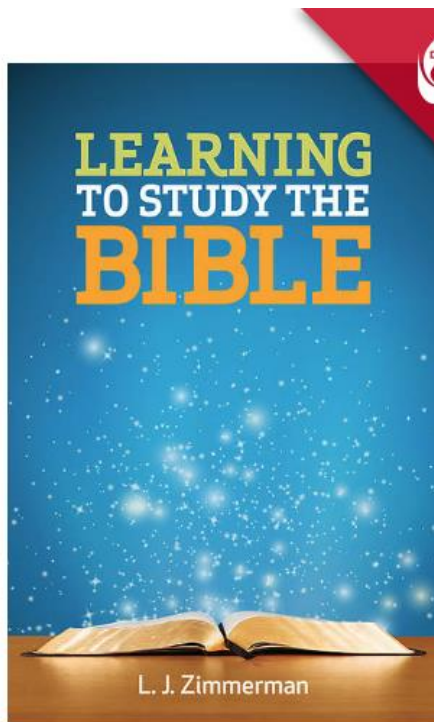
4th Monday of month - Helen Smith

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.

**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!**

## Wednesday Group Bible Study



<2023 Adult Group Study>

### “*Learning to Study the Bible*”

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.

Books are available in the church office.

## 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/>

## May Birthdays

- 6 - John Poe III  
Nana Osei-Sappong
- 7 - Geoffrey Hulse
- 8 - Jodi Memmott
- 10 - Ralph Lawson III
- 12 - Alisha Braacker
- 17 - Rachael Memmott
- 19 - Cindy Geissler
- 20 - Audie Jackson Hollister
- 21 - Steven Rockwell  
Al Bartozzi
- 27 - Mary Rolfe
- 28 - Douglas Hunter
- 30 - Garrett Argentino

## May Anniversaries

- 5 - Michele and Edward Gertsch
- 16 - Elaine and Matt Schwag
- 18 - Gail Pells & Fred Rubino

**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*



Prayer Shawl Ministry  
First and Wesley United Methodist

### PLEASE NOTE:

**This month we will meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday.**

Our Prayer Shawl group will be meeting on Thursday May 25<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

**Anyone wishing to join is more than welcome to come.**



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](mailto: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)

## 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  
Jim Stuhlman 203-435-1790  
Peggy Jerrell 203-641-0929

Layleader  
Trustee Chair  
Church Council Chair

# Flower Fundraiser order form - (subject to availability)

**ORDERS DUE BY MAY 7<sup>th</sup>, 12PM**

**PICKUP ORDER ON MAY 13<sup>th</sup>, 8AM – 12PM / (during Pancake Day)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

(Flat = 8 packs)

			#	#	<u>COST \$</u>	
Tomatoes:	Easy Girl	\$3 a pack(3 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(24 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
	Big Boy	\$3 a pack(3 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(24 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
	Beefsteak	\$3 a pack(3 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(24 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
	Cherry	\$3 a pack(3 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(24 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
	Roma	\$3 a pack(3 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(24 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Peppers:	Green Bell	\$3 a pack(3 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(24 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
	Red Bull	\$3 a pack(3 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(24 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
	Jalapeno	\$3 a pack(3 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(24 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

**FLOWERS**

Color (if available)

Ageratum _____	\$3 a pack(4 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(32 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Asters _____	\$3 a pack(4 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(32 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Alyssum _____	\$3 a pack(4 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(32 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Begonias _____	\$3 a pack(4 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(32 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Coleus _____	\$3 a pack(4 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(32 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Cosmos _____	\$3 a pack(3 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(24 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Dahlias _____	\$3 a pack(4 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(32 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Dianthus _____	\$3 a pack(4 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(32 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Dusty Miller _____	\$3 a pack(4 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(32 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Impatiens _____	\$3 a pack(4 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(32 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Lobelia _____	\$3 a pack(4 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(32 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Marigolds _____	\$3 a pack(4 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(32 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Nicotiana _____	\$3 a pack(4 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(32 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Petunias _____	\$3 a pack(4 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(32 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Portulaca _____	\$3 a pack(4 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(32 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Salvia _____	\$3 a pack(4 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(32 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Verbena _____	\$3 a pack(4 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(32 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

4" - Geraniums _____	\$4 each	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 ½ doz	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
New Guinea Impatiens _____	\$4 each	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 ½ doz	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Vinca Vine _____	\$4 each	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 ½ doz	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Spikes (if available) _____	\$4 each	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 ½ doz	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

GRAND TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Mary Rolfe at 203-530-9858(call or text) or [crazycrafts.mary@gmail.com](mailto:crazycrafts.mary@gmail.com) you have any questions no later than **May 1st at 12 PM.**



**First & Wesley United Methodist Church**  
**Annual Church Evaluation**  
**2023**

Hello, First & Wesley United Methodist Church family members. Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. This year has been an unusual one, and thank you to everyone for your support, leadership, hard work, strong faith, and understanding.

It is that time of the year for the Annual Church Evaluation. As you know, the Staff Pastor Relations Committee (SPR) is committed to supporting our staff and working with you and our team towards the best possible ministry and service. We need your input and your help to do this task. Please complete the form below and mail it to First & Wesley United Methodist (89 Center St., West Haven, CT 06516) with attention to SPR or email it back to wilarhin@yahoo.com **by Sunday, June 4, 2023**. Remember, filling out the forms is entirely anonymous, so you do not need to sign or put your name on it. We would greatly appreciate your response to help do our ministry and service job.

**Ways to return this form:**

1. Download survey, fill out, and send to the church (89 Center St., West Haven, CT 06516) with attention to SPR.
2. Fill out the survey, save it as a pdf, send it to Will Arhin, wilarhin@yahoo.com
3. Request a paper copy to be sent to you if you have not already received one and send it back to church (89 Center St., West Haven, CT 06516) with attention to SPR.

Thank you very much for your help.

SPR

**SURVEY**

**CHURCH (Here are some of the ministries of our church):**

Koinonia Café

Community Breakfasts (Easter, Christmas) & Agape Dinner Outreach programs

Adopt-a-Social worker (Covenant to Care)

VBS, Children/Adult Sunday School

UMARMY

WHEAT collections

Halloween Outreach program

Pastor's Discretionary Fund

Regular Bible Study groups

Special Sunday offerings (UMCOR, Native American Sunday, Human Relations Sunday, etc.)

Mission Collections (collects items based on needs)

1. What do you consider the five most significant ministries of our church of the list above? Rank from 1 to 5, with 1 being the highest from the list above. Feel free to include items not mentioned in the above list.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

2. Which of the following are the most significant challenges facing our church now, or in the next 5-10 years? Rank from 1 to 5, with 1 being the most significant. You may assign the same ranking to more than one item if you deem it appropriate.

- \_\_\_ Increasing membership,
- \_\_\_ Increasing attendance at church services and other church activities,
- \_\_\_ Getting more children involved in church activities,
- \_\_\_ Getting more involved in our community,
- \_\_\_ Getting the “next generation” prepared to “run” the church,
- Other (be specific)

### **PASTOR**

1. Which of the following are the most appreciated talents and skills of our pastor? Rank from 1 to 7, with 1 being the highest. You may assign the same ranking to more than one item if you deem it appropriate. Feel free to include items not mentioned in this list.

- \_\_\_ Good rapport with members of the congregation
- \_\_\_ Good sermons/services
- \_\_\_ Being open to ideas and suggestions
- \_\_\_ Being involved in the community
- \_\_\_ Being available for counseling/visitation with church members/non-Church members
- \_\_\_ Knowledge of the Bible
- \_\_\_ Knowledge of Wesley traditions
- \_\_\_ Other (be specific).

2. What areas of growth/improvement should our pastor focus on? Use any of the items listed above, or feel free to add your own.

3. What do you want the pastor to make as a priority in our ministry together? Use any of the items listed above, or feel free to add your own.

### **MUSIC DIRECTOR**

1. Which of the following are the most appreciated talents and skills of our music director? Rank from 1 to 4, with 1 being the highest.

- \_\_\_ Choice of music
- \_\_\_ Skill in playing the piano
- \_\_\_ Enthusiasm
- \_\_\_ Other (be specific)

2. What areas of growth/improvement should our music director focus on?

## **SEXTON**

1. What are the most appreciated qualities of our Sexton?
2. What areas of growth/improvement should our Sexton focus on?

## **OTHER**

1. What suggestions can you offer to:
  - Increase church attendance
  - Increase church membership
  - Increase participation in church committees
  - Increase participation in Bible studies and other educational activities
  - Increase participation in church outreach events
  - Increase participation in church social events
2. What is your overall experience with Zoom on:
  - Church Ministry
  - Suggestions
3. Any other comments/suggestions you would like to convey to the Staff Parish?



## *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 May 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!**