

The Messenger

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

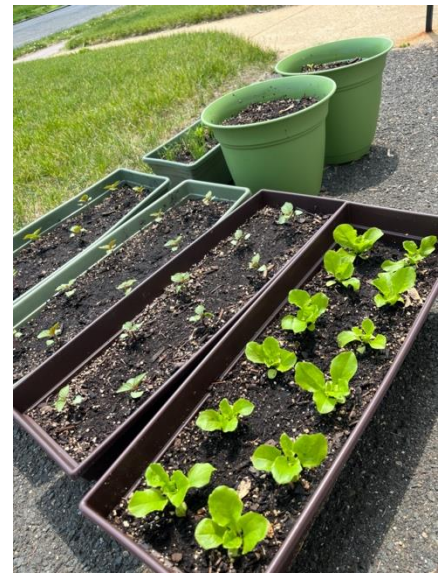
June 2023



Understanding God's Heart

This spring, I started gardening with several flowerpots. I planted seeds of lettuce, sesame leaves, Korean chili peppers, and chives. They are growing well except for the Korean chili pepper. (Actually, I might have planted the seeds of the pepper too early.) Anyway, it is a small pleasure to see their growth day by day. There is not much I can do for them. I just water the plants twice a day and

fertilize them once every few days. Sometimes, when a squirrel messes up the plant pots, I clean them and support the plants to help them to stand up well again. Then I just watch them grow and wait for the time to bear their fruits. I want them to be healthy and to grow up well and fast, but that is what I cannot fully control. What I can do here is to watch their growth carefully and help them to grow until they bear fruit.



Planting those vegetables, I contemplate how God works for us. Isn't God the same with us who are gardening? I believe that God has the same heart with us in gardening. As we plant the seeds, take care of them, help them to grow well and wait for them to bear their fruits, God also creates us, takes care of us, helps us, and waits for us to be the person who fully realizes God's will in the world. So, God is the farmer, and we are God's plants. Sometimes, the Sunshine is so strong; the wind is rough; there is a drought; there is an epidemic. But the farmer takes care of them. We also have some problems in our life. Our reality is that there are things we can handle, but there are many things we cannot handle. But we have a God that we can rely on. God watches us and waits for us to grow up well. And God helps and supports us when we are in trouble as the farmer does. This is because God loves us. It is the heart of God we can understand through the farmer and the plants. I hope we can all stand strong in the world, knowing that we are in God's care. Amen.

Pastor Jinha Choi

Lectionary Readings for June 2023



June 4, 2023

- [Genesis 1:1-2:4a](#) and [Psalm 8](#) •
- [2 Corinthians 13:11-13](#) • [Matthew 28:16-20](#)

June 11, 2023

- [Genesis 12:1-9](#) and [Psalm 33:1-12](#) • [Hosea 5:15-6:6](#) and [Psalm 50:7-15](#) •
- [Romans 4:13-25](#) • [Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26](#)

June 18, 2023

- [Genesis 18:1-15, \(21:1-7\)](#) and [Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19](#) • [Exodus 19:2-8a](#) and [Psalm 100](#) •
- [Romans 5:1-8](#) • [Matthew 9:35-10:8, \(9-23\)](#)

June 25, 2023

- [Genesis 21:8-21](#) and [Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17](#) • [Jeremiah 20:7-13](#) and [Psalm 69:7-10, \(11-15\), 16-18](#) •
- [Romans 6:1b-11](#) • [Matthew 10:24-39](#)



Baptism is coming soon...

Dates:

- **Baptism Class: Sunday, June 18, 2023, at 12:20pm (for 40 mins)**
- **the Baptismal Covenant: Sunday, June 25, 2023, at 11:00am (in our Sunday Worship Service)**

Baptism marks the beginning of our lifelong journey as followers of Jesus Christ. Through baptism, we are joined with God and become a part of God's covenant family through our local congregation. The water is a symbol of the work of the Holy Spirit, conveying God's saving grace, the forgiveness of our sins, and new life in Jesus Christ. Persons of any age may be baptized – infants, children, youth and adults. A person needs to be baptized only once in his or her life.

If you have a question about baptism or if you want to have your child (or grandchild) baptized, please contact Pastor Choi.



First & Wesley United Methodist Church

2023

June

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|---|-----------|---|
| | | | | 1 10a–12p “K” Café 7p Adult Choir | 2 | 3 |
| 4 11:00a Family Worship with Communion & Birthday/Anniversary Celebration & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon) | 5 7p Adult Monday School | 6 | 7 7p Adult Group Study | 8 10a–12p “K” Café 7p Adult Choir | 9 | 10 |
| 11 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon) | 12 7p Adult Monday school 7p Cooperative Parish Council | 13 7p Finance | 14 7p Adult Group Study | 15 10a–12p “K” Café 7p Adult Choir | 16 | 17 5p Agape Meal (Free) All Welcome |
| 18 Father's Day 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon) | 19 7p Adult Monday school | 20 7p Mission & Outreach <i>*Articles Due for the July/August Messenger</i> | 21 | 22 10a–12p “K” Café Note change: 1p Prayer Shawl at Edith Mulligan’s home 7p Adult Choir | 23 | 24 9:30a - 10 Craft Corner |
| 25 11:00a Family Worship Service Youth Celebration & Baptism | 26 | 27 7p Trustees | 28 | 29 10a–12p “K” Café | 30 | |

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

FROM THE LAYLEADER

I have been attending many webinars and listening to Bishop Bickerton and Rev. Doris Dalton about the cooperative parish. We are part of the Shoreline-Havens Parish which includes Branford UMC, Clinton UMC, Faith UMC (North Haven), First & Summerfield (New Haven), First & Wesley UMC, Hamden Plains UMC, St. Andrew's UMC (New Haven) and Westville UMC (New Haven).

The important thing to do right now in order to organize to start doing some ministries together is to build relationships. We are planning some getting-to-know-each-other activities.

July 17-21 Cooperative Parish VBS at Faith UMC in North Haven. Please see the flyer in our June Newsletter. This will be every night beginning with a meal at 5:30 pm and then the program goes from 6pm-8:30pm for five nights. We can arrange transportation up to North Haven, leaving at 5pm from our church parking lot for children who are attending or volunteers who are volunteering. To sign up to participate **OR** volunteer, go to the website or scan the QR code on the flyer. If you are volunteering (high school and up) you need to make sure your Safe Sanctuary training is up to date (contact Helen Smith)

Saturday, August 5

Jell-o-bration – time to be set (either 2-3pm or 3-5pm). This will be held at First & Wesley. Everyone is invited to bring their favorite jello dish and we will share the desserts while playing games, including using the gym for volleyball or pickleball. Our church will supply drinks and whipped cream.

Friday, August 25

Cooperative Parishes picnic on the Hamden Green – more details will be available later.

At the “Day With the Bishop”, the Bishop Bickerton talked about the need, more than ever, to be in cooperative ministry with other churches. Last year, the NYAC was short by 40 ministers to fill appointments. That has increased to 60.

Back when John Wesley started the Methodist Church in this country, we had circuit riders – ministers who would go to different churches in a parish on a rotating basis and the laity would cover for when the minister was not there. This has always been a part of the Methodism and we are getting back to our beginnings. **The Laity – YOU – are actually the hands, feet and voice of Christianity.** Were it not for the Peter, Andrew, John, Phillip, Thomas, Matthew, James, James the son of Alpheus, Batholomew, Simon, Simon, Paul, Matthais, and so many others, the Christian church and the Good News of Jesus Christ would not be known today.

For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot says, “Because I am not a hand, I am not a part of the body,” it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body. And if the ear says, “Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body,” it is not for this reason any the less a part of the body ~ 1 Corinthians 12:14-20

STAY CONNECTED

Zoom Link for all Worship Services and meetings (exceptions – SPR, CNLD, Children's Sunday School)

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

Call-in: [1-646-876-9923](tel:1-646-876-9923) Meeting ID: [147691027#](https://zoom.us/j/147691027)

Small Group studies:

- Every Sunday – Children’s Sunday School, 11am
 - June 18th will be the last class and we will take a break until September
- Every Monday – Adult Sunday School, 7pm (on-line only)
 - June 19 will be the last class until September
- Every Wednesday – Bible Study, 7pm (on-line only)
 - June 14 will be last class until September

Meeting reminders:

- Finance committee – Tuesday, June 13, 7pm (on-line only)
- Missions committee – Tuesday, June 20, 7pm (on-line only)
- Trustees meeting – Tuesday, June 27, 7 pm (on-line only)

Fellowship:

- Every Thursday – Koinonia Café, 10am-12pm **(in-person only)**
 - Please note: If you would like to help out Myrna Clinton with this, please contact her.
- Every 3rd Saturday of each month – 5pm
 - FREE Agape meal followed by games.

CONGRATULATIONS 2023 GRADUATES

MIDDLE SCHOOL

WILL ATTEND

| | |
|--|----------------------------|
| Gracie Bunnell - Orange Jr. High Middle School | Amity Regional High School |
| William Hulse - Bailey Middle School | West Haven High School |

HIGH SCHOOL

| | | |
|----------------|---|--|
| Taylor Hammond | Hamden High School | So. CT. St. University – Major – Business Management |
| Erica Stein | Lyman Hall High School & Educational Center of the Arts, New Haven | SUNY-Purchase – Visual Arts |
| Julia Werle | West Haven High School | |

COLLEGE

DEGREE

| | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|--|
| Derek Baker | Fairfield University | Bachelor’s Degree in Accounting |
| Anna Bartozzi | So. Ct. State University | BA-General Studies w/concentration in Health & Community Service |
| Hanna Werle | Paier College | Bachelor of Fine Arts – Graphic Design |

MASTER’S DEGREE

| | | |
|--------------|-------------------------|--|
| Jessica Reid | Albertus Magnus College | MBA-Finance Leadership Development Program |
|--------------|-------------------------|--|

Dropping Items At The Church

Please don’t arbitrarily drop off items without first letting us know why or what they are to be used for and also for us to determine where they are to be stored. We’ve worked very hard keeping our property uncluttered and safe. Please speak to Judy Jennette or Jim Stuhlman to let them know what you plan on dropping off so it can be scheduled for drop-off and accepted. Please speak with Judy Juzwiakowski to let her know if/when you plan on leaving used books.

Thank you,
Jim Stuhlman, Trustee Chair



Prayer Shawl Ministry First and Wesley United Methodist

Our Prayer Shawl group will be meeting on Thursdays:

June 22nd, 2023, at 1 PM in person

July 27th, 2023, at 1 PM in person

August 24th, 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.

Father's Day Sunday and Youth (Children's) Sunday

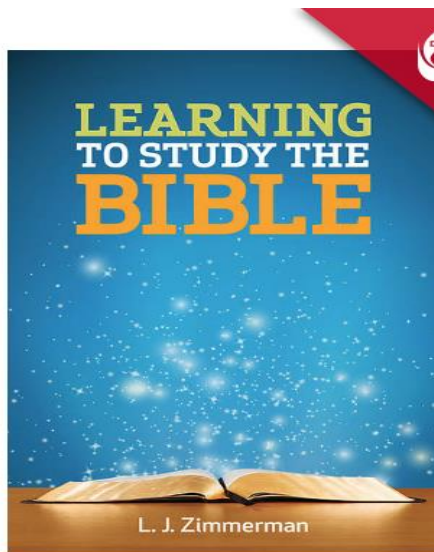
Our worship committee discussed two special Sundays that occur in June: Father's Day Sunday (June 18th) and Youth (Children's) Sunday (June 25th).

We invite all Fathers, Guardians, Mentors, and anyone who is in some way serving as a Father Figure to join us on Father's Day, June 18th so we may honor and recognize them during and after the worship service at 11:00am.

On Youth (Children's) Sunday, June 25th we invite all 2023 graduates (high school and beyond) to join us so we may honor and celebrate them during and after the 11:00am service for this accomplishment. We are proud of you all! In addition, our youth will be leading the church service as worship leaders. We look forward to celebrating all of our youth and young adults!

Thank you!

Christine Chan, Worship Committee Chair



Wednesday Group Bible Study

“Learning to Study the Bible”

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.

Wednesday Group Study subject stays the same starting at 7pm but will end June 14th with a new study Book in September.

Cooperative Parish VBS “Monumental”

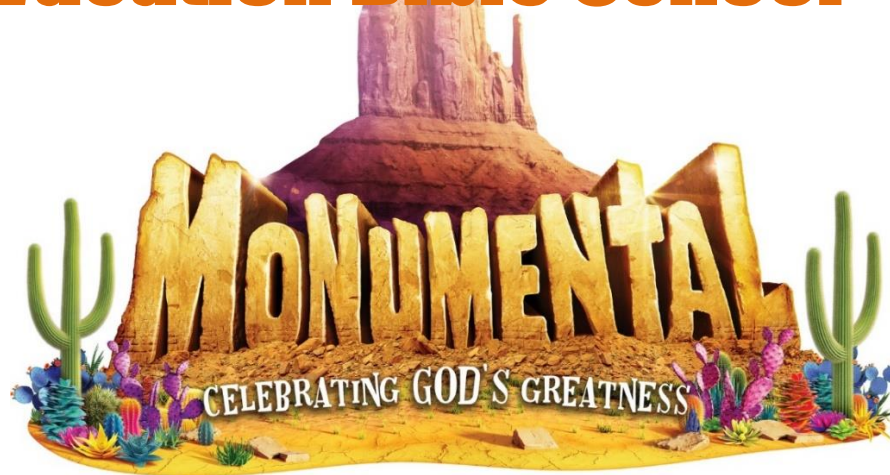
@Faith United Methodist Church

July 17-21 5:30-8:30pm

(carpooling from our church leaves at 5pm)

We hope you can join us to go off-road for a Monumental adventure through the colorful canyons and sunbaked trails of the southwest. By exploring God's awesomeness, kids form a rock-solid faith for the road ahead.

Vacation Bible School



July 17th – July 21st

5:30-8:30pm

K-Grade 6

(Dinner Included)

WHERE:

Faith United Methodist Church
81 Clintonville Road
North Haven, CT
203-239-2469

\$10

Enrollment

(\$25 Max/Family)

**Space Limited –
Register Today**

<https://vbspro.events/p/events/faithumc1955>



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 in 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
- _____ Enthusiasm
- _____ Skill in playing the piano.
- _____ 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 are your overall experience with Zoom on:

- Church Ministry
- Suggestions

3. Any other comments/suggestions you would like to convey to the Staff Parish?

June Birthdays

- 1 - Jian Chan
- 2 - Jenny Santamauro
Arlyn Memmott
- 8 - Shirley Pyrdol
- 9 - Courtney Skipper
- 14 - Greg Hulse
Phoenix Chan
- 16 - James McGregor
- 17 - David Smith
Eileen Choi
- 18 - Lauren Heafy
- 20 - Edward Gertsch
- 21 - Joshua Braacker
Julianna Rapuano
- 23 - Kelli Jackson
- 24 - Anthony Sablone
- 25 - Richard Reid
- 27 - Christine Chan
- 28 - Helen Amos
- 29 - Mary Kiesinger
Ama Amos

June Anniversaries

- 1 - Susan and Mark Cascio
- 4 - Jim and Sharon Ewen
- 17 - Cynthia Dodd and Joseph Maltese
- 27 - Jen & Kevin Werle

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



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 |

Our final Fundraiser until September!

For the month of June, we are holding a “Bakeless Bake Sale with a Twist” fundraiser.

Special angels have donated \$500 to match the first \$500 donated to this fundraiser.

No cooking, no baking but your generosity may raise \$1000 to carry us through the summer months. **See flyer below.**

Thank you for your continued support of First & Wesley’s mission and ministry!

BAKELESS BAKE SALE



with A TWIST!



A bit of news we have today

A MATCHING BAKELESS BAKE SALE is on the way!

**In these busy days, who has time to bake
Pies or cookies or even a cake!**

**You’d be surprised if you considered the cost
Of ingredients, heat and the time that you’ve lost
Baking for sales is extra work
But nobody really wants to shirk.**



**So we’ve thought of a plan that’s really grand
And feel quite sure you’ll understand.
In an envelope, if you like, please include the price...
Of a pie or a cake or anything nice!**

**This time we have added a new catch
We’ve some angels who have agreed to MATCH*
What you have given so generously
That way your gift doubles our ministry.**

**Without fuss or bother, you’ve done your part
We hope you’ll give with a willing heart.
On this idea we hope you’ll pounce
Just think, you won’t even gain an ounce!**



***Up to \$500 total available match**

Bible Wordsearch

Peals, Pearls & Plagues

Wordsearch 217

Rev.16:17 - Rev.17:6

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

ANGELS ACCOUNT
BEAST BABYLON
BLOOD COVERED
BORE LIGHTNING
BOWL FLASHES
CURSED GOLDEN
DESERT MOTHER
DRUNK MYSTERY
EARTH NATIONS
HORNS PLAGUE
ISLAND POUNDS
JESUS Poured
KINGS PRECIOUS
PEALS SAINTS
PEARLS SCARLET
QUAKE TEMPLE
SPIRIT THRONE
SPLIT WATERS
WINE WRATH

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

MORE PUZZLES AT:
<http://biblewordgames.com>

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www.firstwesleyumc.org

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Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/firstwesleyumc.

Pastor Jinha Choi

“Sunday Worship Time: 11:00am”

The June 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!