

The Messenger

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

July and August 2023



“Stronger Together”



A year gives us many memories in our lives. When we live through a year, many stories arise. During that one year, we meet many people; we eat many foods; we do many good jobs; sometimes, we make some mistakes. Accumulating them layer by layer, a lot of stories are forming in our life. When we meet a friend after a year, we will need tons of time to share those stories.

It's already been a year since I met you. It means that there are many stories we can share together in our church community. You welcomed me and my family from the very first time through every meeting. In our first summer, the Ice-Cream Social made us to be closer to each other. We have been together in our Sunday worship services, Bible studies, Koinonia Café, and Agape Dinner. I have visited some of you for prayer, consolation, and encouragement. We have had many committee meetings for Trustees, Worship, Finance, Mission, Education, Nomination, and SPRC. We have spent special days such as Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter together. We have fundraised and gathered many items for God's mission together. We have celebrated many Joys among our church family. Also, we have prayed for our family, friends, neighbors, and all children of God in the world together. Those memories are so meaningful because we did them all together.

As of July, this year, another year has again allowed for us to worship God and to do our mission for our local community. Many people say that Christianity is in crisis. Their diagnosis may be partially

right. However, I saw a new hope for our church because we are one body of Jesus Christ to love God and to love our neighbors. I already saw our church family in Worshipping together, taking care of each other together and reaching out our helping hands together to people who are in need. When we are together, we can be a church that God wants us to be; we can be disciples whom Jesus wants us to follow; and we can do our mission that the Holy Spirit guides and empowers us to do. Although we are all different, but we are one in the name of Jesus Christ. Last week, our Annual Conference gathered under the title, “Stronger Together.” I firmly believe that we can be stronger when we are together. I already saw it from First & Wesley UMC. So, I will be more positive and active as part of our church community next year. Let us go together for the kingdom of God here and now. Amen.

Pastor Jinha Choi



Lectionary Readings for July 2023

July 2, 2023

- [Genesis 22:1-14](#) and [Psalm 13](#) • [Jeremiah 28:5-9](#) and [Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18](#) •
• [Romans 6:12-23](#) • [Matthew 10:40-42](#)

July 9, 2023

- [Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67](#) and [Psalm 45:10-17](#) or [Song of Solomon 2:8-13](#)
- [Zechariah 9:9-12](#) and [Psalm 145:8-14](#) • [Romans 7:15-25a](#) • [Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30](#)

July 16, 2023

- [Genesis 25:19-34](#) and [Psalm 119:105-112](#) • [Isaiah 55:10-13](#) and [Psalm 65:\(1-8\), 9-13](#)
• [Romans 8:1-11](#) • [Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23](#)

July 23, 2023

- [Genesis 28:10-19a](#) and [Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24](#)
- [Wisdom of Solomon 12:13, 16-19](#) or [Isaiah 44:6-8](#) and
- [Psalm 86:11-17](#) • [Romans 8:12-25](#) • [Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43](#)
• [Genesis 28:10-19a](#) and [Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24](#)

July 30, 2023

[Genesis 29:15-28](#) and [Psalm 105:1-11, 45b](#) or [Psalm 128](#)

- [1 Kings 3:5-12](#) and [Psalm 119:129-136](#)
- [Romans 8:26-39](#) • [Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52](#)

Lectionary Readings for August 2023



August 6, 2023

- [Genesis 32:22-31](#) and [Psalm 17:1-7, 15](#) • [Isaiah 55:1-5](#) and [Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21](#) •
 - [Romans 9:1-5](#) • [Matthew 14:13-21](#)

August 13, 2023

- [Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28](#) and [Psalm 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b](#) • [1 Kings 19:9-18](#) and [Psalm 85:8-13](#) •
 - [Romans 10:5-15](#) • [Matthew 14:22-33](#)

August 20, 2023

- [Genesis 45:1-15](#) and [Psalm 133](#) • [Isaiah 56:1, 6-8](#) and [Psalm 67](#)
 - [Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32](#) • [Matthew 15: \(10-20\), 21-28](#)

August 27, 2023

- [Exodus 1:8-2:10](#) and [Psalm 124](#) • [Isaiah 51:1-6](#) and [Psalm 138](#) •
 - [Romans 12:1-8](#) • [Matthew 16:13-20](#)



**Prayer Shawl Ministry
First and Wesley United
Methodist**

Our Prayer Shawl group will be meeting on Thursdays: 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.



First & Wesley United Methodist Church

2023

July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 11:00a Family Worship with Communion & Birthday/Anniversary Celebration	3	4 Independence Day Happy Birthday USA!	5	6 10a–12p “K” Café	7	8
9 11:00a Family Worship Service Blessing of Diapers	10 7p Cooperative Parish Council	11 7p Finance	12	13 10a–12p “K” Café	14	15 5p Agape Meal (Free) All Welcome
16 11:00a Family Worship Service	17 Combined VBS – Faith UMC North Haven 5:30p- 8:30p	18 Combined VBS – Faith UMC North Haven 5:30p- 8:30p	19 Combined VBS – Faith UMC North Haven 5:30p- 8:30p	20 Combined VBS – Faith UMC North Haven 5:30p- 8:30p 10a–12p “K” Café	21 Combined VBS – Faith UMC North Haven 5:30p- 8:30p	22
23 11:00a Family Worship Service Baptism Class	24	25	26	27 10a–12p “K” Café 1p Prayer Shawl at Edith Mulligan’s home	28	29
30 11:00a Family Worship Service Baptism	31					

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



First & Wesley United Methodist

2023

August

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.</p> <p>All Worship Services and meetings – Link: https://zoom.us/j/147691027 / Call-in: 1-646-876-9923 *Meeting ID: 147691027#</p> <p>Koinonia Café is now in Person.</p>						
		1	2	3 10 – 12p Koinonia Café	4	5 10a Worship Committee Jello-o-bration 2p-4p
6 11:00 Worship & Communion Birthday/Anniversary Celebration	7	8 7p Finance Meeting	9	10 10 – 12p Koinonia Café	11	12
13 11:00 Family Worship Service	14 7p Cooperative Parish Council	15	16	17 10 – 12p Koinonia Café	18	19 Agape Meal (free) All Welcome
20 11:00 Family Worship Service *Articles Due for the September Messenger	21	22 7p Trustees Meeting	23	24 10 – 12p Koinonia Café 1p Prayer Shawl at Edith Mulligan's home	25 Parish Council Picnic	26 5:30p – 8p Family Bingo
27 11:00 Family Worship Service	28	29	30	31 10 – 12p Koinonia Café 6P Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir		

* For further updates, visit www.firstwesleyumc.org/events

From the Lay Delegates

“I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: ⁴ there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.”

Pastor Choi, Mary Rolfe and I attended the New York Annual Conference last week. It is the first time the conference delegates have been able to meet in person since 2019. It was great to see everyone in person. This is a 2½ day conference of worship and business meetings. Since the Methodist tradition is connectional, it is necessary to meet to coordinate and plan upcoming ministries.

We voted on Trustees for the conference, next year’s budget, mission programs, our apportionments are remaining the same. Apportionments is how we as a connectional church support other Methodist churches and also support our mission programs worldwide. The theme of the conference was “Stronger Together”, and Bishop Bickerton shared the importance of moving forward as we come out of the pandemic and disaffiliation of some churches.

Our conference had 6 out of our 400+ churches vote to disaffiliate. Our church is waiting until the General conference of the United Methodist Church, which includes churches from 130 countries, meets next May and it is put in writing what exactly the changes will be regarding LGBTQ marriage and ordination of pastors before we as a church address this. If you have questions about this or anything else, please talk to Pastor Choi, Peggy Jerrell, Mary Rolfe or Helen Smith.

Shoreline-Haven Cooperative Parish Events

- July 17-21 5:30-8:30 pm
Collaborative VBS at Faith United Methodist Church in North Haven, CT
-see flyer in this newsletter if you wish to register your child or register to volunteer
- August 5 2-4pm
Jell-o-bration hosted by First & Wesley. Everyone bring your favorite Jello recipe and a game you would like to play with others. We have some games but are always interested in more ideas! Drinks and whipped cream will be provided.
- August 25 Connecticut District Cooperative Parishes picnic on the Hamden Green – more details will be sent out as we get them.

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#)

Fellowship:

Every Thursday – Koinonia Café, 10am-12pm **(in-person only)**

Please note: If you would like to help Myrna Clinton with this, please contact her.

Every 3rd Saturday of each month – 5pm

FREE Agape meal followed by games.



Baptism is coming soon...

Dates:

- **Baptism Class: Sunday, July 23, 2023, at 12:20pm (for 40 mins)**
- **the Baptismal Covenant: Sunday, July 30, 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.

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 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 leaving used books.

Thank you,
Jim Stuhlman,
Trustee Chair

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

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>





MISSIONS PROJECT
all supplies due by August 6th
BACKPACK SUPPLIES

During the month of July and the first week of August, the Missions and Outreach Committee is asking for donations for school backpacks. These will be a great help to low income families as they struggle with the high inflation rate and trying to make ends meet.

- Packages of #2 pencils with erasers
- Erasers
- Pencil sharpeners with reservoirs
- Red, blue, and black pens
- Boxes of 24 crayons (Crayola)
- Boxes of 8-12 colored pencils
- Student scissors
- Boxes of 8-12 markers
- Glue sticks
- Rulers with inches and centimeters
- Small bottles of white glue
- Spiral notebooks
- Folders with pockets
- Individual tissue packets
- Small bottles hand sanitizer
- Packaged snacks (no nuts/peanuts please)

Money is always welcome as well.
Any questions, please call the church office,
203-933-8795



Thank you,!



Peanut/Sunflower Butter and Jelly Collection

During the month of July the Missions and Outreach Committee is asking for donations of peanut butter or sunflower butter (for people with allergies) and jelly. All donations will be given to W.H.E.A.T to help families during the summer months while the kids are off from school.

Thank you very much for your help!

Any questions, please call the church office, 203-933-8795



July Birthdays

- 1 - Sam Werle
- 4 - Leah Burbridge
Melissa Simone
Robert Hunter IV
- 7 - Elaine Smith Schrag
- 9 - Art Yost
Laura Skipper Hindermeyer
- 10 - Dominic Moscato
Judy Jennette
- 12 - Jim Ammon
Joe DelFranco
- 14 - Richard Pyrdol
- 15 - Kim (Lentini) Moscato
Jacki McKim
- 17 - Vicki Soule
- 18 - Peggy Spagone
- 20 - Demari Foster
- 27 - Josephine Dondorful-Amos
Dorothy Codner
- 29 - Cynthia Dodd
- 30 - Richard Wetmore

July Anniversaries

- 15 - Gail and Al Bartozzi
- 20 - Raymond and Jodi Memmott
- 24 - Bill and Phyllis Hunt
- 26 - Chris and Jian Chan

August Birthdays

- 2 - Lisa Kiesinger
Evan Corbin
- 3 - Joan Sablone
- 8 - Kimberly Geiger
- 11 - Geoffrey Danz
- 13 - Derek Baker
Michele Gertsch
- 14 - Tricia Spagone
Ryan Abekah
- 15 - Tara Rapuano (Lentini)
Laura Marshall
Richard Memmott
- 16 - Marcelyn Danz
- 22 - Jim Stuhlman

August Birthdays ... continued

- 24 - Gail Bartozzi
- 25 - Michele Caron
- 26 - Edith Mulligan
- 28 - Helen Smith
- 31 - Robert Skipper
Brooke Moscato

August Anniversaries

- 2 - Amador & Emily Maldonado
- 8 - Dorothy & Gord Codner

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.

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



Sunday school will be on break during July and August until we resume in the fall. Please join us when we start Sunday School classes in the fall. E-mail or call the church office or Gail Bartozzi gbartozzi@yahoo.com to find out more information. Register for Sunday School on the church website under Children's Ministries.

***IT'S A
JELL-O-BRATION!***

August 5th

2-4pm



First & Wesley

United Methodist Church

89 Center Street

West Haven, CT

Come and join the fun! Bring your favorite Jello dish to share and games to play. Drinks and whipped cream will be provided.

Call Helen at 203-444-2362 if you have any questions



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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 July and August 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!