

The Messenger

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

September 2023



Autumn: The Season of Transformation



September marks the onset of autumn which is the season of transformation. As we step into September, we face many changes. First, the temperature is gradually decreasing, as we already feel it in the morning and evening nowadays. Then, the colors of fields, forests, and mountains are changed. The green of the summer becomes yellows and browns of the fall. It means that the time of the harvest is coming. Because of the harvest, the minds of people also change at ease. In fact, people eagerly waited for the time of harvest in agricultural culture before the industrial revolution. And then, in order to celebrate and give thanks to God for their harvest, traditionally and culturally, there are many holidays and festivals in autumn around the world. This is all because autumn is the season of change.

Although we find ourselves stepping into the season defined by transformation, it seems that many of us are hesitant to embrace changes happening in our life. We have a tendency to pursue something stable, familiar, and predictable. We want things to stay familiar and we don't want to try something unpredictable. However, transformation is a necessary element of our life. We have to remember that the reasons we are waiting for autumn are also based on its transformative characteristic. Change is a very natural process of our life. We don't need to be worried about something new, creative, and challenging. Here, I suggest you try to change your life to grow your faith in God in this season of transformation. September is the month we re-start our church. Please be a part of our Sunday worship service, Monday School, and Wednesday Bible Study. Bring the children to Sunday School. It will be a great chance to learn about the word of God, to be aware of God's love and grace, and to feel the living God in our lives. Also, please join our church missions such as Koinonia Café, Agape Dinner, and other monthly and seasonal mission events. It will help you understand how God works in this world. In this season of transformation, may we change ourselves by God's will and moreover, may we change this world into the kingdom of God through our transformation. Amen.

Pastor Jinha Choi
First & Wesley United Methodist Church

Lectioary Readings for September 2023



September 3, 2023

- [Exodus 3:1-15](#) and [Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b](#) • [Jeremiah 15:15-21](#) and
 - [Psalm 26:1-8](#) • [Romans 12:9-21](#) • [Matthew 16:21-28](#)

September 10, 2023

- [Exodus 12:1-14](#) and [Psalm 149](#) • [Ezekiel 33:7-11](#) and [Psalm 119:33-40](#) •
 - [Romans 13:8-14](#) • [Matthew 18:15-20](#)

September 17, 2023

- [Exodus 14:19-31](#) and [Psalm 114](#) or [Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21](#) • [Genesis 50:15-21](#) and
 - [Psalm 103:\(1-7\), 8-13](#) • [Romans 14:1-12](#) • [Matthew 18:21-35](#)

September 24, 2023

- [Exodus 16:2-15](#) and [Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45](#) • [Jonah 3:10-4:11](#) and
 - [Psalm 145:1-8](#) • [Philippians 1:21-30](#) • [Matthew 20:1-16](#)



Prayer Shawl Ministry First and Wesley United Methodist Church

Our Prayer Shawl group will be meeting on Thursdays.

PLEASE NOTE: We will continue meeting the 4th Thursday of the Month:

September 28, 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

September

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 11:00a Family Worship with Communion & Birthday/Anniversary Celebration	4 Labor Day	5	6	7 10a–12p “K” Café 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	8	9 12p – 1p Free Community Picnic
10 Rally Day 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon)	11 7p Adult Monday school 7p Cooperative Parish Council	12 7p Finance	13 7p Adult Group Study	14 10a–12p “K” Café 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	15	16 10a Leadership Meeting Zoom 5p Agape Meal (Free) All Welcome
17 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon)	18 7p Adult Monday school	19 7p Staff Parish	20 7p Adult Group Study *Articles Due for the October Messenger	21 10a–12p “K” Café 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	22 7p Mission & Outreach	23 9a – 4p Apple Fest 9:30a – 10:30a Craft Corner
24 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon)	25 7p Adult Monday school	26 7p Trustees	27 7p Adult Group Study	29 10a–12p “K” Café 1p Prayer Shawl at Edith Mulligan's home 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	29	30

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

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.



1) Fundraiser – Saturday October 7, 2023

Spaghetti & Meatball dinner in will be eat in or take out

Take out will be pick up at 4pm

Eat in will start at 5pm in the dining room of Kendall Hall

Dinner will include the entrée - spaghetti with meatball, salad, bread, beverage, and dessert.

Please let us know if you need gluten free pasta or if you would like meatless sauce.

Online ordering at <https://www.firstwesleyumc.org/spaghetti/>

All orders need to be in by Sunday October 1, 2023

Cost: Adults \$12, children 5-10 \$5, under 5 free

Join us in fellowship to celebrate fall!

A flyer is included in the messenger and will be on the usher's table in the back of the church.

You can email us at mary.kate527@icloud.com or call/text to 475-988-7666.

2) We are preparing for the Harvest Fair coming November 11, 2023

It will be a special day as we will be honoring our Veterans along with the usual fair goodies.

Keep in mind we will be looking for donations for our raffle baskets. Over the years we have had many great donations thanks to all of you! Please contact Mary Rolfe to discuss ways to make our raffle a success again this year.

We will also continue our cookie walk and bake sale through donations from our wonderful church bakers. Donations for the tag sale will be accepted in October on dates to be announced.

We are also going to be asking for help in mid-October to set up the tables and bring down the boxes for the tag sale, date to be determined soon!

FROM THE LAYLEADER

I hope everyone had a great summer and you are raring to go! As we resume our regular scheduled activities starting on September 10th, below is a preview of things to come. Please look for details in the rest of this newsletter.

Zoom link for all meetings is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/147691027>

September 9 th , 12-1 pm	Free Community cookout with children's games
September 10 th , 11 am	Rally Day - Family worship with in-person children's Sunday School
October 1 st , 11am	World Communion Sunday at our church
October 7 th , 5pm	Spaghetti and Meatball Dinner – In person and take out (take-out orders are due Sunday, October 1st)
October 31 st , 6-8pm	Halloween program for community children
November 11 th , 8am-3pm	Harvest Fair (Veterans receive a free Pancake breakfast)

Every Monday (starting 9/11)	7 pm Adult "Monday" School on Zoom
Every Wednesday (starting 9/13)	7 pm Bible Study on Zoom
Every Thursday	10am-12pm Koinonia Cafe
	5pm Youth Choir rehearsal for ages Kindergarten and up (starts Sept. 14 th)
	6 pm Bell Choir rehearsal
	7 pm Adult Choir rehearsal
Every 3 rd Saturday of the month	FREE Community dinner followed by games.

SHORELINE AND HAVENS COOPERATIVE PARISH HAPPENINGS

Branford UMC – September 15th & 16th – "100+ Quilt Show and Sale" – There will be over 100+ quilts on display and available for purchase as well as other craft items, baked goods, food court and demonstrations on Saturday. This is a fundraiser so Admission is \$10 – Adult; \$7 - Senior; Children over 5 - \$5; children under 5 – FREE.

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

Thank you to everyone who donated items and money for our summer mission projects. The value of the peanut butter, sunflower butter, and jelly that we collected was about \$335. The estimated value of the 58 backpacks that we filled with supplies is about \$810. This was supported as well by items you purchased, money that was donated and through money we designate in our church budget for mission projects. Your support = PRICELESS!

YOU can serve YOUR church and serve GOD!

Your church needs YOU!!! In the month ahead your Committee on Nominations will be working on filling positions for next year. Please consider where you can serve and let Pastor Choi know how you can help. If you would like to know more of the work of a particular committee, what they do and when they meet, please check with the leaders for that committee listed below. Prayerfully hoping to hear from you and add you to our Leadership Positions for 2024.

Altar Guild/Flowers – Prepare and maintain the altar for changes in the liturgical seasons and for all worship services. Leader: Mary Rolfe

Audio Visual Team – Consists of operating sound & visual media aids to enhance our worship service. Leader: Helen Smith

Board of Trustees – Manage the Property, Equipment & Investments. Leader: Jim Stuhlman.

Church Council – Plans, coordinates, and implements the administration and ministry of our church in areas of nurture, outreach, witness, and resources. Leader: Peggy Jerrell

Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development – Responsible for making a list of people to fill positions and submitting them for acceptance by the governing body. Leader: Pastor Choi

Finance Committee – Develops and implements strategies that will generate funds necessary to achieve the budget. Monitors Income and Expenses. Leaders: Mary Rolfe, Jim Jerrell, or David Smith

Lay Leader – Responsible for communications with the laity of the church and to serve as a liaison between the clergy and members of the congregation. Lay Leader: Helen Smith

Memorial Committee – Monitors funds received, recommends, and keeps records of memorial items purchased in honor or in memory of loved ones. Leader: Judy Juzwiakowski

Missions Committee – Educate, inform, and motivate the congregation about mission outreach and their part in it. Leader: Jen Werle

Staff Pastor Parish Relations – Encourages, strengthens, nurtures, and supports, and respects the pastor and staff and their families. Leader: Will Arhin

Worship Committee – Work with the Pastor and Music Director to provide vital and alive worship experiences for the congregation. Leader: Christine Chan

Sunday School teachers – you would teach once every 4-5 weeks.

Children's sermon – this is on a rotating schedule and you would be asked once a month or so to do this. Christine Chan or Helen Smith would be happy to give you tips on where to find ideas.

Fundraiser workers – For Spaghetti Dinner, Harvest Fair

Again, thank you for sharing your time and talents!

Music Ministry News

It is that time of year again when our choirs will begin rehearsing and preparing music for Sunday services. We would love to have more singers and ringers, so if you are interested in learning to play handbells or singing with the adult choir (ages 12 and up), please contact Christine Chan (203) 927-4679. If you have any children (ages 5 and up) who would like to sing with the Youth Choir please contact Helen Smith (203) 444-2362.

Rehearsals will start on August 31st and will continue weekly on Thursdays. The schedule is as follows:

Youth Choir: Thursdays 5:00pm-5:45pm (starts September 14th)

Handbell Choir: Thursdays 6:00pm-6:45pm

Adult Choir: Thursdays 7:00pm-8:30pm

We welcome anyone who is interested in making music, regardless of skill level or experience! We look forward to another year of making music in praise of our Lord!

In Harmony, Christine Chan, Music Director

Worship Committee News

We have many ministries and working parts for each Sunday worship service in our church! We are always happy to have more people serve in some way that helps our worship services and programs continue to thrive and be a blessing to those who walk through our church doors. We currently have a need for more people who are willing to learn to do the following: Children's moments, Sound, Video, and Acolytes. Please contact Christine Chan (203) 927-4679 if you are interested (or even curious!) to learn more about any of these ways to serve so our weekly services can continue to thrive.

In Christ, Christine Chan, Worship Committee Chair

West Haven's Apple Festival

Last year we joined the Apple Fest on the West Haven green to invite people to visit our church on Sunday mornings and during the events we hold each year. It is on September 23 from 9am to 4 pm. We need cheerful volunteers to man our booth handing out popcorn, water and brochures and extending this invitation. We had a fun time last year and it was a wonderful opportunity for Pastor Choi and his family to meet the community. If you have an hour or so to help with this outreach ministry, please see Peggy Jerrell to sign up. Volunteer hours needed are from 11 am to 4 pm.





Spaghetti & Meatballs Fundraiser

Sat. Oct. 7, 2022

In person and takeout

Dinner at 5pm

Kendall Hall - First & Wesley UMC

89 Center St West Haven

Cost \$12 adults \$5 kids 5-10

to order email [mary.kate527](mailto:mary.kate527@icloud.com)

@icloud.com or call/text

475-988-7666

September Birthdays

5 - Sharon Stuhlman
6 - Tom Baker
10 - Evelyn Brandt-Arhin
14 - Nana Dondorful-Amos
16 - Shelby Poe
 Laurie Simone
18 - Richard Pyrdol, Jr.
 Kathy Hulse
20 - Nicole Danz
25 - Paakow Amos
30 - Jamie Jerrell

September Anniversaries

17 - Mary Ann and David Hawkes
27 - Barbara and Matt Heafy

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

West Haven Elks Soup Kitchen

We invite our veterans, seniors, and anyone in need of a free hot meal, to join us the

1st Wednesday of every month from
5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Open to West Haven residents
265 Main Street



It's time for Sunday School. We will begin Sunday, September 10th. 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 listen to stories, make art projects, sing songs, and spend time together.

- You may register for Sunday School in person or online

<https://www.firstwesleyumc.org/sunday-school-registration>

The Craft Corner



The Craft Corner Group meets to make cards once a month on Saturday mornings. We have some Get Well and Thinking of You cards to send to people. 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

FREE
COMMUNITY COOKOUT
Saturday, Sept. 9th
12-1 pm
**Open to all - includes a hot dog or a
hamburger or a cheeseburger,
chips, drink and & dessert**
Lawn games for children
First & Wesley UMC
89 Center Street, West Haven, CT
<https://www.firstwesleyumc.org>

"We have books leftover from Bible study groups throughout the years. These books will help you in your journey to understand God's love for all of us. If you want a free book, please contact the Pastor, Helen or me, Peggy. On Sept 9 at the free community cook out (for community and the congregation), the remaining books are going to be offered to our community as part of our outreach mission: to invite people to join our community of faith and tell them of God's great love for them.



First & Wesley UMC Invites You All...



**SUNDAY
SEPT. 10**



**2023 RALLY DAY &
SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF**

**11:00 am Family Worship Service
& Children's Sunday School**

RECOMMENCEMENT

- **Children's Sunday School Classes (Ages 4 & Up)**
Sunday Sept. 10 Starts Mid-Service – Classroom
- **Adult Monday School – Weekly - On ZOOM**
Starting Monday Sept. 11 @ 7:00 pm
- **Bible Study – Weekly - On ZOOM**
Starting Wednesday Sept. 13 @ 7:00 pm
- **Adult Choir Rehearsals**
 - Bell Choir – Weekly, Starting Thursday Aug. 31 @ 6:00 pm
 - Singing Choir – Weekly, Starting Thursday Aug. 31 @ 7:00 pm
- **Youth Choir**
Weekly, Starting Thursday Sept. 14 @ 5:00 pm



NOW



**Please check our Church Website,
www.firstwesleyumc.org**

To learn more about our ministries,
up-coming events, and the latest
news at First & Wesley United
Methodist Church



The Messenger

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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 September 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!