

The Messenger

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

October 2023



“Charge Conference”

In October, there will be a very important church event. It happens annually for every United Methodist Church. It is a “Charge Conference (or Church Conference).” Charge Conference is an annual meeting in which church leaders and the district superintendent review the business and mission of the local church. At the conference, we review the previous year of ministry, checkup on essential church business, and affirm ministerial goals for the coming year. The Book of Discipline of UMC explains the Charge Conference as follow:

“The Charge Conference shall be the connecting link between the local church and the general church (§ 247) The primary responsibilities of the Charge Conference in the annual meeting shall be to review and evaluate the total mission and ministry of the church, receive reports, and adopt objectives and goals recommended by the church council that are in keeping with the objectives of the United Methodist Church (§ 247.3).”

For this annual event, all of our church leaders have a busy time scheduling their committees and preparing their reports reviewing what we’ve accomplished since our October 2022 Conference. Trustee committee reports on the condition of the church property. SPRC (Staff-Parish Relations Committee) reviews our ministry and mission we did in the previous year and discusses what we must do in the next year. The Nomination committee fills all church leadership positions for our church. The financial committee produces the financial reports and suggests the budget for the next year. Worship, Sunday School, Mission Committee etc. also review what they did and what they’ve focused on and offer their goals for next year. This is what we are doing for our Charge Conference.

Are they duties for only a few in our church leadership? What we must remember is that the things we are doing for the Charge conference are not only for our church leaders, but also for all of our church members. This is because we are the church. We worship God together in the church. We learn how to live as a Christian in the

church. We serve the world from the church. We are the body of Jesus Christ through the church. Therefore, the Charge Conference is not the event for only a few to prepare and join in, but a holy gathering in which all of our church family gather and confirm who we are, where we go, and what we do.

Our Charge Conference this year will be held in-person at Hamden Plains UMC on Sunday, October 22nd, at 3pm together with our Cooperative Parish churches. Also, our District Superintendent, Rev. Alpher Sylvester, will visit our church to talk with us regarding our ministry and mission, in-person and on zoom, on Thursday, October 26th, at 7:30pm. I hope all our church family will come to this special annual event and play a role as an essential part of our church. Amen.

First & Wesley United Methodist Church
Pastor Jinha Choi



Lectionary Readings for October 2023

October 1, 2023

- [Exodus 17:1-7](#) and [Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16](#) • [Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32](#) and [Psalm 25:1-9](#) •
• [Philippians 2:1-13](#) • [Matthew 21:23-32](#)

October 8, 2023

- [Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20](#) and [Psalm 19](#) • [Isaiah 5:1-7](#) and [Psalm 80:7-15](#) •
• [Philippians 3:4b-14](#) • [Matthew 21:33-46](#)

October 15, 2023

- [Exodus 32:1-14](#) and [Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23](#) • [Isaiah 25:1-9](#) and [Psalm 23](#) •
• [Philippians 4:1-9](#) • [Matthew 22:1-14](#)

October 22, 2023

- [Exodus 33:12-23](#) and [Psalm 99](#) • [Isaiah 45:1-7](#) and [Psalm 96:1-9, \(10-13\)](#) •
• [1 Thessalonians 1:1-10](#) • [Matthew 22:15-22](#)

October 29, 2023

- [Deuteronomy 34:1-12](#) and [Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17](#) • [Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18](#) and [Psalm 1](#) •
• [1 Thessalonians 2:1-8](#) • [Matthew 22:34-46](#)



First & Wesley United Methodist Church

October

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 World Communion 11:00a Family Worship with Communion & Birthday/Anniversary Celebration 12:15 p Church Council In sanctuary & on Zoom	2 7p Adult Monday school	3	4 7p Adult Group Study	5 10a–12p “K” Café 5p Youth Choir 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	6	7 Spaghetti Fundraiser 4p Take out 5p Dine In
8 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon)	9 7p Adult Monday school 7p Cooperative Parish Council	10 7p Finance	11 7p Adult Group Study	12 10a–12p “K” Café 5p Youth Choir 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	13	14 2-4pm Introduction to healing prayer
15 Laity Sunday 11:00a Praise Worship Service 12:15a Worship Meeting 7pm Safe Sanctuary Training on Zoom	16 7p Adult Monday school	17	18 7p Adult Group Study	19 10a–12p “K” Café 5p Youth Choir 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	20 *Articles Due for the November Messenger	21 5p Agape Meal (Free) All Welcome
22 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon) 3-5pm Charge Conference	23 7p Adult Monday school	24 7p Trustees 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	25 7p Adult Group Study	26 10a–12p “K” Café 1p Prayer Shawl at Edith Mulligan’s home 5pm Youth Choir 7:30p Charge Conference at our Church with District Superintendent	27	28 9:30a - 10 Craft Corner
29 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon)	30 7p Adult Monday school	31 Halloween 6p-8p Halloween Event				

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



HARVEST FAIR

@ FIRST & WESLEY UMC

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 8AM - 3PM

Veterans receive free breakfast!

BREAKFAST

8:00 AM - 10:30 AM
ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKES
ADULT: \$8.00
KID (5-11): \$4.00



LUNCH

11:30 AM - 2:00 PM
DAVE'S FAMOUS CHILI & MORE
BOWL OF CHILI: \$5.00
MEATBALL SUB: \$4.00



BOOTHS

CRAFT / COOKIE WALK / HOMEMADE BAKED GOODS / JEWELRY
USED BOOKS / HUGE TAG SALE / CHILDREN'S AREA / AND MORE



First & Wesley United Methodist Church
89 Center Street, West Haven, CT 06516
203.933.8795 / www.firstwesleyumc.org

Wheelchair accessible - back of parking lot

Come - Eat - Shop - Enjoy



FROM THE LAYLEADER

As we resumed 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.

October 7th	Homemade Spaghetti & Meatball Dinner (see flyer in newsletter)
October 16 th , 2-4pm	Laity Sunday
October 15 th , 7pm	Safe Sanctuary Training
October 22 nd , 22 nd , 3-5pm	Joint Charge Conference – Hamden Plains United Methodist Church
October 26 th , 7:30pm	First and Wesley Church Conference (at our church)
October 31 st , 6-8pm	Halloween program for community children
November 11 th , 8am-3pm	Harvest Fair (Veteran's will receive a free pancake breakfast)

What is Safe Sanctuaries?

In 1996, the General Conference of the United Methodist Church established a mandate requiring all United Methodist Churches to implement policies and procedures to prevent the risk of abuse of children, youth, and vulnerable adults. This is called Safe Sanctuaries. If you wish to be involved with teaching Sunday School or helping with youth events (including helping out at events such as breakfast with Santa/Easter Bunny or Halloween) we have a conference mandate and an insurance requirement that requires all adults involved to have this training and background checks. The training takes about 1 hour. This is to protect our children, vulnerable adults and adults involved in youth activities! Please contact Gail Bartozzi, Christine Latham, or Helen Smith if you have any questions.

Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. – I Corinthians 12:4-6

First of all, THANK YOU to everyone who has helped out in our church's ministries throughout this year. You are truly appreciated!!!

The Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development has started meeting. You may receive a call asking if you would be willing to help out in some way to help our church run smoothly. I would ask that you carefully consider saying "yes." If what is presented to you is not something of interest, then is there another area that you would enjoy using your talents? Please let us know.

Also, if you were not asked, please let one of the committee members know what you are interested in doing. The members of the committee are Pastor Choi, Myrna Clinton, Rev. Cynthia Dodd, Keisha Hammond, Kathy Hulse, Mary Rolfe, Dave Smith, and Helen Smith.

Below is a brief description of what the committees do:

Church Council – meets about 4 times a year to review ministries and reports of various committees.

Missions and Outreach – meets about 6 times a year to plan and implement mission programs and outreach programs.

Worship Committee – meets about 6 times a year to plan regular worship, special services, etc.

Staff-Parish Relations Committee – meets about 4-5 times a year. Establishes and reviews a survey sent to all members to help better our church's ministries. Members of this committee are the means for the pastor, the

staff to express what is working well and what isn't working well. The congregation can bring any concern to one of the members who will bring it up at the next SPR meeting.

Finance Committee – meets monthly to review where are finances stand and establish fundraisers as needed.

Trustees – meets 10 times a year to review what needs to be done to keep the church and parsonage in good physical condition.

Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development (CNLD) – meets a few times a year to line up people to take on different roles in the ministries of our church.

Below are areas (not committees!) that I know of right now where “many hands would make light work.”

*Flower Guild – Mary Rolfe needs people to help (especially at the holidays) 203-530-9858

*Sunday School teachers – Gail Bartozzi 203-747-6039

*Children's Sermon – Christine Chan 203-927-4679

*Sound or camera operation for Worship & PPT creation – Helen Smith 203-444-2362

*Halloween program - Christine Chan 203-927-4679

We need:

-Volunteers at least eight Safe Sanctuary Trained adults to be at different stations in the church from 5:30-8pm

-Volunteers to help decorate after church on Sunday, October 29th

-Donations of bite-size candy to give out. Donations may be brought to church on Sundays or on Thursdays between 10am-12pm.

*Harvest Fair – Mary Rolfe 203-530-9858

*Assistant Counters - about once a month or so, you would be scheduled to count the offering with a lead counter. – contact Dave Smith, 203-415-6092

Adult Monday School

We meet on Monday nights at 7pm on Zoom. We will be starting a new book on October 23rd. More information on the new book will be forthcoming. We welcome you to come and join in a time of study, reflection, and fellowship.

Adult Bible Study

We meet on Wednesday night at 7pm on Zoom. We are using the book Saving Grace: A Guide to Financial Health. This is a study to help people of faith create healthy relationships with money and possessions. Participants will move through six sessions covering such topics as saving, earning, giving, spending, and debt, along with helpful strategies for achieving a sustainable financial life.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

Missions would like to give everyone a snapshot of what we have been up to this year as well as what is planned for the rest of the year. We would like to extend our gratitude to everyone for your continued support that continues to make this Mission work possible. With your help and support we are able to continue to share the love of Jesus Christ making the world a better place!

- January/February - Sock and underwear collection for Columbus House,
- April - Free Community Easter craft & egg hunt

- May - Collection for Partnership With Native American's Breakfast-in-a-bag program
- May – Diaper Drive
- July/August – Peanut butter and Jelly Drive
- July- Joint church VBS
- July/August – backpack supplies for 50 backpacks
 - Backpacks for children our Covenant to Care social worker families, church families and families in the Hill area of New Haven
- August – Family Night Bingo
- September - Free Community Cookout & Ice cream in September

Upcoming (planned for year end):

- October - Halloween community event
- November - distributing fifty \$25 Stop & Shop gift cards for families in need.
- December - distributing Christmas gifts for Our Covenant to Care social worker.
- December - distributing fifty \$25 Stop & Shop gift cards for families in need at Christmas.
- Breakfast with Santa

We also continue the Koinonia Café on Thursdays, Monthly prayer shawl ministry, Native American penny collection as well as free monthly community dinners on the 3rd Saturday of each month.

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.





Spaghetti & Meatballs Fundraiser
Sat. Oct 7, 2023

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

@icloud.com or call/text

475-988-7666

October Birthdays

- 1 - Joshua Jerrell
Eulalee Miller
- 4 - Angel Medina
- 8 - Dennis Kopec
David Hawkes
- 15 - Sharon Ewen
- 18 - Beth Ammon
David Warner
- 27 - Eula Wilson
Jinha Choi
- 30 - Marisa Jerrell

October Anniversaries

- 3 - Catharine & Giovanni Gigola
- 14 - Cynthia & Ray Geissler

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 and if you are going to be alone in the church, call one of the numbers below. Thank you!

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



Please join us to learn about God's love.

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. 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

Bible Study Books

"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.



Prayer Shawl Ministry
First and Wesley United Methodist Church

Our Prayer Shawl group will be meeting on Thursday's.

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

October 26, 2023, at 1 PM in person at the home of Edith Mulligan, 65 Messina Drive,
Apt A761, East Haven, CT (203) 821-7533

**We will be having a Prayer Shawl Blessing November 5th, 2023
during Church Worship with Pastor Choi**

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.

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Email: firstwesleyumc@gmail.com

Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/firstwesleyumc.

Pastor Jinha Choi

“Sunday Worship Time: 11:00am”

The October 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!