

# *The Messenger*

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

**November 2023**



## **My First Thanksgiving Day**

Do you remember your first Thanksgiving Day? I think that you may not have any memory about that day, because you were just a baby on your first Thanksgiving Day. However, I definitely remember what happened and how I spent that day in the US. I remember it because I came to this country to study when I was 28 years old, not a baby. It was 2007. I became aware of how great the Thanksgiving holiday is because there was no class from Tuesday on during Thanksgiving week at my school. Anyway, my wife and I almost spent my first Thanksgiving holiday at my dorm, alone and bored. But one Korean American pastor who served at a United Methodist Church in White Plains, NY invited international students like me to Thanksgiving dinner. At their table, I experienced my first roasted turkey and other traditional Thanksgiving side dishes. It was a really thankful day with good people and good food.

At that time, I didn't notice, but now I realize that I experienced the real meaning of Thanksgiving at the table. On Thanksgiving Day, we have a grateful heart to God for what God did for us. Despite any difficulties and hard times in our lives, God is always with us, still loving us and showering us with grace. How can we express our grateful hearts? Thanksgiving Day is a time not just to enjoy our holiday, but also to share what we have from God. It is the day we pass the love and grace which came from God for our family, friends, and our neighbors. I believe that I experienced the passing of love and grace to me from God through the pastor on my first Thanksgiving Day. Now, we are looking forward to another Thanksgiving this year. I hope we all discern God's love and grace given to us in the past year. And furthermore, I hope we will pass them on to other people who need God's presence in their own situations. Amen.

Pastor Jinha Choi  
First & Wesley UMC

# Lectionary Readings for November



## **November 5, 2023**

- [Joshua 3:7-17](#) and [Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37](#) • [Micah 3:5-12](#) and [Psalm 43](#) •
  - [1 Thessalonians 2:9-13](#) • [Matthew 23:1-12](#)

## **November 12, 2023**

- [Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25](#) and [Psalm 78:1-7](#) • [Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16](#) or [Amos 5:18-24](#) and
- [Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20](#) or [Psalm 70](#) • [1 Thessalonians 4:13-18](#) • [Matthew 25:1-13](#)

## **November 19, 2023**

- [Judges 4:1-7](#) and [Psalm 123](#) • [Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18](#) and [Psalm 90:1-8, \(9-11\), 12](#) •
  - [1 Thessalonians 5:1-11](#) • [Matthew 25:14-30](#)

## **November 26, 2023**

- [Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24](#) and [Psalm 100](#) • [Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24](#) and [Psalm 95:1-7a](#) •
  - [Ephesians 1:15-23](#) • [Matthew 25:31-46](#)

## **Healing Prayer Circle**

When: Saturday, November 7th

When: 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Where: Sanctuary

Pastor Cindy Dodd will lead a time of healing prayer, with music and scripture, for you or a loved one. We will meet on the 1st Tuesday of each month. Bring your prayer concerns to God's altar, and those who gather will pray for you and those you are concerned about. You do not need to have a prayer concern to attend. We will also lift up the prayer concerns from our congregation. All are welcome for this time of intercessory prayer.

## **All Saints Sunday**

All Saints Sunday this year is on November 5th. We will be reading the names of those individuals who have passed away since last November 1st to honor them on this day. If you have a name you would like to submit (church member, family member or friend), you may send it to either Helen Smith ([drsmith@snet.net](mailto:drsmith@snet.net)) or Kathy Hulse ([khulse@live.com](mailto:khulse@live.com)). You may also include a picture of the person, just make sure you include their name. Please have your names (and pictures if you are including them) submitted by Sunday, October 29th so that our PowerPoint team has enough time to put it together. Thank you!



# First & Wesley United Methodist Church

2023

## November

			1 7p Adult Group Study	2 10a–12p “K” Café  5p Youth Choir 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	3	4
<b>5 All Saints Day</b> 11:00a Family Worship Service, Communion, Birthday/Anniversary celebration and Sunday School (begins after Children’s Sermon) Blessing of Prayer Shawls	<b>6</b> 7p Adult Monday school	7 7p Healing Prayer Circle in Sanctuary	8 7p Adult Group Study	9 10a–12p “K” Café  5p Youth Choir 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	10 8a Bake for Fair	<b>11 Veterans’ Day</b> 8a 3p Harvest Fair – free breakfast (8a- 10) for Veterans
<b>12</b> 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children’s Sermon)  Bless Mission Gift Cards	<b>13</b> 7p Adult Monday school  7p Cooperative Parish Council Free items to specific groups	<b>14</b> 7p Finance	<b>15</b> 7p Adult Group Study	<b>16</b> 10a–12p “K” Café  5p Youth Choir 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	<b>17</b> 7p Mission & Outreach	<b>18</b> 9a-noon Trustee Clean Up  5p Agape Meal (Free) All Welcome
<b>19</b> 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children’s Sermon)	<b>20</b> 7p Adult Monday school  *Articles Due for the December Messenger	<b>21</b> 6p Bell Choir Rehearsal  7p Adult Choir Rehearsal	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>Thanksgiving Day</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children’s Sermon)	<b>27</b> 7p Adult Monday school  9a-noon Decorate Church for Advent & Christmas	<b>28</b> 7p Trustees	<b>29</b> 7p Adult Group Study	<b>30</b> 10a–12p “K” Café 1p Prayer Shawl at Edith Mulligan’s home  5p Youth Choir 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir		<b>December 2</b> 9:30a Craft Corner  10 :30a Set-up Nativity on front lawn  Gift Card Fundraiser orders due Dec. 3rd

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

Wheelchair accessible - back of parking lot

*Come - Eat - Shop - Enjoy*

## FROM THE LAYLEADER

Thank you to everyone for all you do. Thank you to those who have agreed to work on one of our committees this coming year. Thank you to those who have and are volunteering to help in all our outreach programs, fundraisers, committees, etc. Together, we do make a difference. FYI, we still have two openings on Trustees and two on SPR. Please prayerfully consider if God is calling you to give of your time on one of these committees. Please contact Pastor Choi if you would be willing to serve on one of these committees or in some other area.

### **Halloween Outreach Program**

Thank you to all who helped decorating, being greeters, setting up food, games, monitoring the games to reach out to the community on October 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Volunteer help needed!** (come when you can, leave when you must)

Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>, 9am-12pm – Clean-up at church

Nov. 27-29, 9am-12pm – decorate the sanctuary for Advent & Christmas

Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> – Nativity set-up. We need several people to bring out all the figures and help with the set up.

### **Mission & Outreach Opportunities**

Covenant to Care Christmas gifts – Christine Latham will be coordinating this as we have done in past years.

Dec. 9<sup>th</sup> - Breakfast with Santa from 9-11am. We will have breakfast, a craft children can make, free mittens and hats for those who need them, and Santa who will give the children a toy. We will need people to help with this. If you see mittens and hats on sale at a store and wish to donate some, that would be great. Let Jen Werle, 203-430-7116, know if you can help.



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

Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday our Prayer Shawl group will be meeting the Thursday after Thanksgiving. November 30, 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.

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## The Trustee Committee

The trustee committee has scheduled our annual fall cleanup for Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am – 12:00 noon (weather permitting). We have several landscaping projects around both the church and parsonage planned. We may also be doing some off-site leaf raking. Volunteers are welcome to come and help out on any of the projects for the entire morning or any part thereof. Strong back and weak mind preferred (just kidding). Come and work up an appetite for our Agape dinner that evening. More details will follow if I can think of any, so listen/watch for future announcements. Feel free to call or text me at 203-435-1790 with any questions.

Jim Stuhlman, Trustee chairperson

## Veterans Day

At our church fair on November 11th, all veterans who come will receive a free pancake breakfast. We will also honor our veterans during our church service on November 12th. If you know a veteran and would like their name included in our list to be read during the church service, please give the name of the veteran(s) to Helen Smith ([drsmith@snet.net](mailto:drsmith@snet.net)) or Kathy Hulse ([khulse@live.com](mailto:khulse@live.com)) by Sunday, November 5th.

## Holiday Gift Card Fundraiser

This gift card fundraiser is going to provide a way for you to contribute to First & Wesley while spending what you normally spend on gift cards at Christmas. The way it works is very similar to the ShopRite gift card fundraiser we already do (if you would like to make use of this ongoing gift card fund raiser, please contact Dave or Helen Smith). You purchase the gift card and the church receives a percentage of the face value of what you bought.

### HOW TO ORDER:

1. You fill an order form (in this newsletter) to order the gift cards in advance. You order and pay for the gift cards ahead of time
2. On the order forms, there are 39 different retailers or restaurant choices:  
(Amazon.com, Apple.com, Buffalo Wild Wings, Barnes & Noble, Best Buy, Boscov's, Bob Evans, Carter's, Chili's, CineMark Theaters, Cracker Barrel, CVS, Dick's Sporting Goods, Dunkin Donuts, Game Stop, Home Depot, iTunes, Kohl's, Lowe's, Mobil, Olive Garden, On the Border, Outback Steakhouse, Panera Bread, Pet Smart, Shell, Staples, Starbucks, Subway, Taco Bell, Target, Texas Roadhouse, TGI Friday's, Walgreen's, Walmart).
3. On the order form is the % amount of the face value that the church will receive.
4. **Orders need to be submitted by December 3rd. (Order form is on next page)**
5. Ordered gift cards would be available on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

*Thank You For Supporting The Mission And Ministry Of FWUMC!*

## GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER

We are providing First & Wesley members and friends of the church an opportunity to buy gift cards for Christmas gifts and at the same time support the church financially. Simply fill out the form below & send form to First & Wesley Methodist Church, 89 Center Street, West Haven, CT 06516 or give to Helen Smith  
**ALL ORDERS need to be received by 12-3-2023**

RAISERIGHT  
ORDER FORM



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail (for confirmation) \_\_\_\_\_

# cards ordered \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

**Submit the order form to the church or Helen Smith by December 3rd**

**Email order: [fundraiser@firstwesleyumc.org](mailto:fundraiser@firstwesleyumc.org)**

Ordered gift cards will be available for pickup starting on Sun. 12/10(after church)

**All checks make payable to FWUMC - please put "gift card fundraiser" in memo line**

#	Store/Business	Amount	% earned	Subtotal	#	Restaurant/Food	Amount	% earned	Subtotal
	Amazon.com	\$25	1.70%			Bob Evans	\$25	10.00%	
	Amazon.com	\$100	1.70%			Buffalo Wild Wings	\$10	8.00%	
	Apple Store,Apple.com	\$25	5.00%			Buffalo Wild Wings	\$25	8.00%	
	Barnes & Noble	\$10	8.00%			Buffalo Wild Wings	\$50	8.00%	
	Barnes & Noble	\$25	8.00%			Chili's	\$25	11.00%	
	Best Buy	\$25	4.00%			Chili's	\$50	11.00%	
	Best Buy	\$100	4.00%			Cracker Barrel	\$25	8.00%	
	Bosco's	\$25	8.00%			Dave & Buster's	\$25	13.00%	
	Carter's	\$25	10.00%			Dunkin Donuts	\$10	3.50%	
	CVS	\$25	6.00%			Dunkin Donuts	\$25	3.50%	
	CineMark Theaters	\$25	4.00%			Olive Garden	\$25	8.00%	
	Dick's Sporting Goods	\$25	8.00%			Olive Garden	\$100	8.00%	
	Dick's Sporting Goods	\$100	8.00%			On the Border	\$25	11.00%	
	Game Stop	\$25	5.00%			On the Border	\$50	11.00%	
	Home Depot	\$25	4.00%			Outback Steakhouse	\$25	10.00%	
	Home Depot	\$100	4.00%			Outback Steakhouse	\$50	10.00%	
	iTunes	\$25	5.00%			Panera Bread	\$25	8.00%	
	Kohl's	\$25	4.00%			Panera Bread	\$50	8.00%	
	Lowe's	\$25	4.00%			Starbucks	\$10	4.50%	
	Lowe's	\$100	4.00%			Starbucks	\$25	4.50%	
	Mobil	\$50	1.50%			Subway	\$10	4.50%	
	Pet Smart	\$25	5.00%			Subway	\$50	4.50%	
	Shell	\$25	1.50%			Taco Bell	\$10	5.00%	
	Shell	\$50	1.50%			Taco Bell	\$25	5.00%	
	Staples	\$25	5.00%			Texas Roadhouse	\$25	8.00%	
	Target	\$25	2.50%			TGI Friday's	\$25	9.00%	
	Target	\$50	2.50%			Wendy's	\$25	6.00%	
	Walgreen's	\$25	5.00%						
	Walmart	\$25	2.50%						
	Walmart	\$50	2.50%						

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF  
FWUMC!**

## 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month – 5pm  
FREE Agape meal followed by games.



## Historical Notes of First and Wesley

by Edith Mulligan

Did you know –

- This beautiful Church was dedicated on Sunday evening on November 26, 1916, with a recital of a cello, violin and organ. Rev J.W. Felvus was the first pastor, serving from 1868-71. At the time there were 41 members. Donations from the congregation were from \$5.00 to \$1,000.
- Twenty-two items were taken from the cornerstone of the old church and placed in our new facility with 9 more added.
- The Bishop Earl Cranston was in attendance for this special occasion.
- On Monday November 27<sup>th</sup> there was a reception for past ministers.
- They celebrated with special events until December 10<sup>th</sup> ending with George Jones, D.D. Board of Ministries, from New York.
- As an aside which I found very interesting
  - In 1900 population of town was 5,000
  - In 1910 population was 10,000
  - At the time of laying cornerstone population was 14,000

I hope you found this interesting - imagine the Methodists have been in West Haven for 155 years.

Dear Friends,

This has been a very hard time for me, but my Church Friends have really helped me. I've received so many beautiful cards with inspiring notes on them. So many friends have called just to check up on me. Laurie Simone, Helen Smith and the minister visited me and of course our Prayer Shawl friends held their meeting in my home.

My daughter Sharon has done everything she can for me and I appreciate all she does for me.

A special thanks to my granddaughter Gina. While on vacation from teaching, she brought my great granddaughter Sophie to see me every week! She certainly made my day and week!

Thanks to all for everything you've done.

All good wishes, Edith Mulligan



## November Birthdays

- 1 - Jacob Jerrell
- 2- Sarah Santamauro
- 3 - Dolores Danz
- 4 - Sue McMillian
- 6 - Jim Jerrell  
Kelly Stuhlman Roaslet
- 8 - Renee Bobko
- 12 - Oliver Dougherty
- 13 - Emily Kopec  
Jennifer Kopec
- 14 - Ava Hollister
- 16 - Eric Dzikas
- 19 - Abe McKim  
- Tracy Hollister
- 21 - Ann Yost
- 22 - Becky Baker
- 25 - John Poe IV  
Jocelyn Moscato

## November Anniversaries

- 1 - Shelby and Louis Argentino
- 2 - Ann and Art Yost
- 11 - Audie and Tom Hollister
- 13 - Beth and Jim Ammon
- 25 - Sharon and Jim Stuhlman

**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 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

1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:gbartozzi@yahoo.com)



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First & Wesley United Methodist Church

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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 November 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!**