

The Messenger

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

January 2024



“God’s Continuing Creation and the People of God”

We are living in the world God created. Here, I used the past tense, “created,” but I actually think that it would be more appropriate to use the present progressive tense, “is creating,” to express God’s creation. God is creating the world. This is because God is still working for us in this world, maintaining all lives in the order of the universe. In this continuing creation, where is our position? We are clearly the objects of that creation. And at the same time, we are the subject of the creation with God. It means that God is creating the world with us. We are participating in God’s creation, realizing, and practicing God’s loving and gracious will. When we believe in God, we follow the way of Jesus Christ, and we walk with the Holy Spirit, we co-create the world with God according to God’s willingness.

In 2024 we are here at another starting point for our faithful journey. Here, we are not just the object of God’s creation, but also, we are the active participants of God’s continuing creation. What should we do in this continually creating world? God gives us another chance to co-create the world in which we can spread out God’s love and grace and we can realize God’s justice and peace. I hope all our First & Wesley family will become co-creators of God’s world through the actualization of God’s willingness of love and grace toward God’s justice and peace.

For our participation in God’s continuing creation, our church will be:

- a worship community in which God’s Word is bravely proclaimed**
- a ministerial community in which God’s love and grace are deeply experienced**
- a missional community in which God’s justice and peace are practically realized through the people of God**

This is how we realize the kingdom of God in this world. For this vision, we need the people of God who strongly believe in God, faithfully follow the way of Jesus Christ, and sincerely walk with the Holy Spirit. This is the reason why we need you as the people of God. Amen.

Pastor Jinha Choi
First & Wesley United Methodist Church

Lectionary Readings for January



January 7, 2024

- [Genesis 1:1-5](#) • [Psalm 29](#) •
- [Acts 19:1-7](#) • [Mark 1:4-11](#)

January 14, 2024

- [1 Samuel 3:1-10, \(11-20\)](#) • [Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18](#) •
- [1 Corinthians 6:12-20](#) • [John 1:43-51](#)

January 21, 2024

- [Jonah 3:1-5, 10](#) • [Psalm 62:5-12](#) •
- [1 Corinthians 7:29-31](#) • [Mark 1:14-20](#)

January 28, 2024

- [Deuteronomy 18:15-20](#) • [Psalm 111](#) •
- [1 Corinthians 8:1-13](#) • [Mark 1:21-28](#)

Healing Prayer Circle

When: Tuesday, January 2nd

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 alter, 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.

Columbus House

We will be doing our annual sock and underwear drive for the Columbus house during January and February.





First & Wesley United Methodist Church

2024

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 New Year's Day	2 7p Healing Prayer Service in sanctuary	3 "	4 10a-12p "K" Café No Choirs	5	6
7 11:00a Family Worship Service, Communion, Birthday/Anniversary celebration and Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon) 12:30p "The Chosen" viewing	8 7p Adult Monday school 7p Cooperative Parish Council	9 7p Finance	10 7p Adult Group Study - "The Chosen"	11 10a-12p "K" Café 5p Youth Choir 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	12 7p Mission & Outreach	13
14 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon) 12:30p "The Chosen" viewing	15 7p Adult Monday school	16 7p SPR	17 7p Adult Group Study - "The Chosen"	18 10a-12p "K" Café 5p Youth Choir 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	19	20 10a Worship 5p Agape Meal (Free) All Welcome <i>*Articles Due for the February Messenger</i>
21 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon) 12:30p "The Chosen" viewing	22 7p Adult Monday school	23 7p Trustees	24 7p Adult Group Study - "The Chosen"	25 10a-12p "K" Café 1p Prayer Shawl at Edith Mulligan's home 5p Youth Choir 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	26	27 9:30a - 10 Craft Corner Bingo Night
28 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon) 12:30p "The Chosen" viewing 7p Church Council on Zoom	29 7p Adult Monday school	30	31 7p Adult Group Study - "The Chosen"		Bread & Soup Orders due January 31. Pick Up February 11.	

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

FROM THE LAYLEADER

Helen Smith

“...but those who wait upon the Lord, shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”

– Isaiah 40:30-31

Happy New Year!

Below is a list of our all the people in our church who serve on committees to enable the mission and ministry of our church. I will be the Council Chairperson next year and Mary Rolfe will be the Layleader – she will be awesome! I would like to thank the many people who were so helpful to me as Layleader as we went through the pandemic together and are now back to our regular ministries plus more.

If you look at the list below, we could use three more people to be on trustees, a couple more to be on Staff Parish and a couple more people to operate the camera. If you would like to help on those committees or be a part of any of the committees below, please let Pastor Choi or Mary Rolfe know.

MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Chairperson	Helen Smith
Secretary	Becky Baker
Lay Leader	Mary Rolfe
Annual Conference Lay Members	Jim Stuhlman 2024
Trustees Chair	Jim Stuhlman
Finance Chair	Jim Jerrell
Financial Secretary	David Smith
Church Treasurer	Peggy Jerrell
Staff-Parish Relations Chair	Will Arhin
Worship Committee Chair	Christine Chan
Missions & Outreach Chair	Jenny Werle
Music Director	Christine Chan
Church School Superintendent	Gail Bartozzi
Assistant Church School Super.	Jenny Werle
Youth Representatives	Jayden Abekah

Members at Large

Josephine Amos	Becky Baker	Evelyn Briandt	Myrna Clinton
Walter Clinton	Kathy Hulse	Judy Jennette	Judy Juzwiakowski
Ruth Kreyoh	Abe McKim	Jacki McKim	Edith Mulligan
<u>Laurie Simone</u>	Jim Stuhlman		

The following 3 committees are divided into classes. One class is elected for one year, one class for two years, and one class for 3 years. Each class will begin on January 1, 2024, and end December 31st of the class year.

COMMITTEES & COMMISSIONS

Board of Trustees Chair: Jim Stuhlman (Chair for 3 years, Members for 6 years: our church policy)

Class of 2024	Judy Jennette, Eric Singleton, Abe McKim
Class of 2025	Jim Stuhlman , Helen Smith, - [REDACTED]
Class of 2026	Shelby Poe, [REDACTED], - [REDACTED]

Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development Chair: Pastor Choi
Lay Leader, ex officio: Mary Rolfe

Class of 2024	Rev. Cynthia Dodd, Mary Rolfe, Edith Mulligan
Class of 2025	Myrna Clinton, Keshia Hammond, David Smith
Class of 2026	Josephine Amos, Andrea Latham, Kathy Hulse

Staff Pastor Parish Relations Chair: Will Arhin

Lay Leader, ex officio: Mary Rolfe, Lay Delegates, ex officio: Mary Rolfe & Jim Stuhlman

Class of 2024	Will Arhin, Keshia Hammond, Jackie McKim
Class of 2025	Josephine Amos, Walter Clinton, Peggy Jerrell
Class of 2026	Hanna Werle, [REDACTED], [REDACTED]

Finance Chair: Jim Jerrell

Treasurer: Peggy Jerrell

Reporting Financial Secretary

Members

Assistant Treasurer: Judy Juzwiakowski

David Smith

Mary Rolfe (Lay Leader), Helen Smith (Council Chair), Jacki McKim, Jim Stuhlman (Trustee Representative), Will Arhin (SPR Chair)

Stewardship

Committee Chairs

Lead Counters

Mary Rolfe, Jacki McKim, Jim Stuhlman,
David Smith

Assistant Counters

Kathy Hulse, Peggy Jerrell, Judy Juzwiakowski,
Carmella Quinones, Laurie Simone, Stephanie
Wilson

Youth Group Advisors

Pastor Choi, Helen Smith, Jim Stuhlman,
Jenny Werle

Lay Servants

Nathaniel Amos, PaaKow Amos, Christine
Chan, Myrna Clinton, Walter Clinton, Cynthia

Geissler, Peggy Jerrell, Jim Stuhlman, Wendy Memmott, Helen Smith

Worship Committee

Josephine Amos, Paakow Amos, Gail Bartozzi, Myrna Clinton, Rev. Cynthia Dodd, Peggy Jerrell, Mary Levy, Mary Rolfe (Lay Leader), Helen Smith (A/V), Laurie Simone, Jim Stuhlman

Hospitality & Nurture

Myrna Clinton, Walter Clinton, Edith Mulligan, Peggy Jerrell, Evelyn Briandt

Altar Guild/ Flowers

Mary Rolfe, Myrna Clinton, Shirley Pyrdol

Ushers/Greeters

Myrna Clinton, Walter Clinton, Mary Rolfe, Abe McKim, Will Arhin, PaaKow Amos, Doris Hunter (alternate), Judy Juzwiakowski

Communion Stewards

Myrna Clinton, Walter Clinton

Memorial Committee

Chair: Judy Juzwiakowski

Doris Hunter, Christine Latham, Abe McKim, Jacki McKim

Safe Sanctuary Committee

Mary Rolfe, Gail Bartozzi, Peggy Jerrell, Chris Latham, Helen Smith, Jenny Werle

Missions & Outreach Committee

Chair: Jenny Werle

Gail Bartozzi, Myrna Clinton, Rev. Cynthia Dodd, Peggy Jerrell, Christine Latham, Mary Levy, Bettina Youngs, Kel Youngs

Membership Committee

Chair: Peggy Jerrell

Kathy Hulse, Edith Mulligan

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Leader: Linda Kopec

Shelby Poe, Sharon Ewen, Susan Hackett Edith Mulligan, Amy Sablone, Joan Sablone

Audio Visual Team

Chair: Helen Smith

Jayden Arhin, Gail Bartozzi, Jian Chan, Rev. Cynthia Dodd, Mary Rolfe, Abe McKim, David Smith, Jen Werle, Chamique Young

Archives Committee

Chair: Peggy Jerrell

Kathy Hulse, Peggy Jerrell, Jacki McKim Edith Mulligan

Communications

Myrna Clinton, Bill Hunt, Peggy Jerrell, Kathy Hulse, Helen, Smith, Jian Chan, Jacki McKim

Webmaster

Jian Chan (July 2022)

BIBLE STUDY

Wednesday night, 7pm – ONLINE

Starting on January 10th, we will be doing a Bible Study on the 1st season of “The Chosen”. The format for this is to watch the episode for the Wednesday night discussion BEFORE Wednesday night.

The episodes are free on several streaming services and on YouTube.com. Also, at <https://watch.thechosen.tv/#carousels>.

If you do not have access to any of the above, we will be streaming it live from our church Sanctuary every Sunday, starting January 7th, at 12:30pm. This is the Zoom link (same as for our worship service) <https://zoom.us/j/147691027>.



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

There will be NO meeting in the Month of December.

Our meetings will resume in January 2024

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

Finance Corner

Thank you to all of you who have answered our prayers with your support of our missions and ministries for this new year.

I want to thank the Finance committee for all their hard work and support while I was committee chair. They are a great crew. Jim Jerrell is now the committee chair. I look forward to continuing to meet with them as they move into the new year.

Thanks also for all your support of our monthly fund raisers.

Our next fundraiser will be our “Soup”er Bowl stuffed breads, chili, and soup. Thanks to Shelby we will have the same baker making our scrumptious breads. Dave will be making his Famous Chili and Peggy will be making her Delicious Soups. The detailed flyers/order forms will go out the beginning of January. Orders are due by January 31, 2024. Pickup will be on February 10, 2024, and the Super Bowl is on Sunday February 11th. See the flyer in this newsletter for more details. Stay warm and stay tuned for more Finance Corner reports!



January 27th

6:00 – 7:00

Doors will open at 5:30

Dining room at First & Wesley, 89 Center Street, West Haven

Light snacks served

Free event! Come join us for a fun evening!



**WIN
PRIZES!**

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.



Dave's Famous Chili
Peggy's Delicious Soup

Order Your **Stuffed Breads, Soups and Chili!!!**

The stuffed breads flyer and the Chili/Soups flyer will be online and on the ushers table in church in the New Year.

If you need one mailed to you please let Mary know at (475)988-7666 or call the church office.

Order forms will be due by January 31, 2024

Pickup will be on Saturday, February 10, 2024.

The Super Bowl is on Sunday, February 11, 2024

January Birthdays

- 1 - Neil Thomas
Macie Franson
Frank Osei-Sarpong
3 - Emma Franson
7 - Christine Latham
Walter Clinton
10 - Paul Franson
Israel Young
14 - Lauren Simone
16 - Melissa Santamauro
Marissa deNicolo
Julianna deNicolo
Emmanuel Henoun
19 - Mary Ann Hawkes
24 - Jen Werle
Gail Pells
27 - Eleanna Ormazabal
30 - Elizabeth (Liz) Levy

January Anniversaries

- 9 - Walter and Myrna Clinton

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, do 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

“THE CHOSEN” BIBLE STUDY

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If you do not have access to any of the above, we will be streaming it live from our church Sanctuary every Sunday, starting January 7th, at 12:30pm. This is the Zoom link (same as for our worship service) <https://zoom.us/j/147691027>

Schedule:

Jan. 7th View Season 1, Episode 1 (12:30 pm) – sanctuary/online

Jan 10th Bible Study (7:00pm) - Online

Jan. 14th View Season 1, Episode 2 (12:30 pm) – sanctuary/online

Jan. 17th Bible Study (7:00pm) - Online

Jan. 21st View Season 1, Episode 3 (12:30 pm) – sanctuary/online

Jan. 24th Bible Study (7:00pm) - Online

Jan. 28th View Season 1, Episode 4 (12:30 pm) – sanctuary/online

Jan. 31st Bible Study (7:00pm) - Online

Feb. 4th View Season 1, Episode 5 (12:30 pm) – sanctuary/online

Feb. 7th Bible Study (7:00pm) - Online

Feb. 14th ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Feb. 18th View Season 1, Episode 6 (12:30 pm) – sanctuary/online

Feb. 21st Bible Study (7:00pm) - Online

Feb. 25th View Season 1, Episode 7 (12:30 pm) – sanctuary/online

Feb. 28th Bible Study (7:00pm) - Online

Mar. 3rd View Season 1, Episode 8 (12:30 pm) – sanctuary/online

Mar. 6th Bible Study (7:00pm) - Online



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www.firstwesleyumc.org

Email: firstwesleyumc@gmail.com

Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/firstwesleyumc.

Pastor Jinha Choi

“Sunday Worship Time: 11:00am”

The January 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!