

The Messenger

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

February 2024



“God Calls All of Us”

We are currently having our Wednesday Bible Study with our topic a famous Christian TV Show Series, ‘The Chosen.’ Through the show, we view the stories of the people who were chosen by God in Jesus’ time. Especially, we observe whom God has chosen, how they were transformed, and how they lived in God’s Kingdom with Jesus Christ. I love to watch the episodes in the show. However, there is just one thing that I would like to complain about here. It is about the title, ‘The Chosen.’ In my mind, the word, ‘chosen,’ has a nuance that God particularly chose some people or group and gave them something special and meaningful for God’s purpose. In some sense, it is right because God chose the twelve disciples and other specific people of the Gospels and used them for God’s salvation story in Jesus Christ. I also agree with this idea. Nevertheless, I am still hesitant about that title because I do not think that God’s love and grace is limited to a special person or a particular people. I do not think that God used only some chosen people for the realization of God’s Kingdom. I do not think that God chose few special people, but I believe that God calls all people who are created in the image of God. I believe that God gives all of us, not some of us, God’s love and grace. I believe that God invites all humankind to God’s heavenly banquet. We have many different gifts, abilities, shapes, and characteristics, so that God uses us in different areas according to those differences. We are all different, but we are all joined in God’s love and grace. There is no one who is outside of God’s choice and calling. We are all called by God. We are all chosen by God for God’s Kingdom in Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit. So, our church ministry and mission are not only the work realized by few selected people like a pastor, missionaries, or some church leaders, but our faithful duty that all Christians practice together. This is because God chooses and calls all of us. There is no exception in God’s grace. So, we need to live our life in accordance with that grace. It is our faith. In this understanding, I want to invite all of our church family to our worship experiences, our loving connections, and our social holiness as responses to God’s calling. Today, God calls each of us, not some of us. Amen.

Pastor Jinha Choi
First & Wesley United Methodist Church

Lectionary Readings for February 2024

February 4, 2024

- [Isaiah 40:21-31](#) • [Psalm 147:1-11, 20c](#) •
- [1 Corinthians 9:16-23](#) • [Mark 1:29-39](#)



February 11, 2024

- [2 Kings 2:1-12](#) • [Psalm 50:1-6](#) •
- [2 Corinthians 4:3-6](#) • [Mark 9:2-9](#)

February 18, 2024

- [Genesis 9:8-17](#) • [Psalm 25:1-10](#) •
- [1 Peter 3:18-22](#) • [Mark 1:9-15](#)

February 25, 2024

- [Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16](#) • [Psalm 22:23-31](#) •
- [Romans 4:13-25](#) • [Mark 8:31-38](#) or [Mark 9:2-9](#)



REMINDER!

Pick-up for your Stuffed Breads, Soup and/or Chili is
Feb 11th, 5-6 pm at the church





First & Wesley United Methodist Church


February

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10a–12p “K” Café 5p Youth Choir 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	2	3
4 11:00a Family Worship Service, Communion, Birthday/Anniversary celebration and Sunday School (begins after Children’s Sermon) 12:30p “The Chosen” viewing	5 7p Adult Monday school	6 7p Healing Prayer Service in sanctuary	7 7p Adult Group Study – “The Chosen	8 10a–12p “K” Café 5p Youth Choir 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	9	10 4p Pick up Soup/Bread orders
11 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children’s Sermon)	12 7p Adult Monday school 7p Cooperative Parish Council	13 7p Finance	14 Lent Begins Valentine’s Day 7p Ash Wednesday Service	15 10a–12p “K” Café 5p Youth Choir 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	16	17 5p Agape Meal (Free) All Welcome
18 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children’s Sermon) 12:30p “The Chosen” viewing	19 Presidents’ Day 7p Adult Monday school	20 *Articles Due for the March Messenger	21 7p Adult Group Study – “The Chosen	22 10a–12p “K” Café 1p Prayer Shawl at Edith Mulligan’s home 5p Youth Choir 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	23	24 9:30a - 10 Craft Corner
25 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children’s Sermon) 12:30p “The Chosen” viewing	26 7p Adult Monday school	27 7p Trustees	28 7p Adult Group Study – “The Chosen	29		

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

LENT

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			2/14	2/15	2/16	2/17
			<u><i>I John 1:5</i></u> +2 cents for each candle in your home	<u><i>Gal. 5:22-23</i></u> +1 cent for each piece of fruit in your house	<u><i>Luke 8:11-15</i></u> +2 cents for every plant in your house	<u><i>Psalm 150</i></u> +10 cents for every musical instrument in your house
2/18	2/19	2/20	2/21	2/22	2/23	2/24
First Sunday In Lent	<u><i>Matthew 11:15</i></u> +25 cents if you do not wear a hearing aid	<u><i>Rev. 3:20</i></u> +3 cents for each door in your house	<u><i>Matthew 6:21</i></u> +25 cents if you have a healthy heart	<u><i>Rev. 1:7</i></u> +10 cents if you wear glasses +25 cents if you do NOT!	<u><i>Proverbs 22:6</i></u> +5 cents for each of your children	<u><i>Proverbs 17:6</i></u> +10 cents for each of your grandchildren
2/25	2/26	2/27	2/28	2/29	3/1	3/2
Second Sunday In Lent	<u><i>Rev. 21:4</i></u> +5 cents for each box of Kleenex in your home	<u><i>John 6:48</i></u> +5 cents for every loaf of bread in your house	<u><i>Romans 13:8</i></u> +5cents for each credit card you own	<u><i>I Peter 2:21</i></u> +1 cent for each step in you house	<u><i>Mark 6:56</i></u> +2 cents for each coat you own	<u><i>Psalm 51:7</i></u> +10 cents if it snowed today +25 cents if it did not snow today
3/3	3/4	3/5	3/6	3/7	3/8	3/9
Third Sunday In Lent	<u><i>Psalm 20:7</i></u> +15 cents for each car you own or lease	<u><i>Psalm 23:2</i></u> +25 cents if you wore green today!	<u><i>Joshua 2:21</i></u> +2 cents for each window in your home	<u><i>I Cor. 13:12</i></u> + 5 cents for each mirror in your home	<u><i>Ecclesiastes 3:1</i></u> +1 cent for each DVD or videotape you own	<u><i>John 13:5</i></u> +1 cent for each towel in your home

LENT

		<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
3/10	3/11	3/12	3/13	3/14	3/15	3/16
Fourth Sunday In Lent	<u>2 Kings 4:9-10</u> +2 cents for each chair in your home	<u>Ecclesiastes 11:3</u> + 25 cents if it was cloudy today	<u>Eph. 6:17</u> + 5 cents for each bike helmet +50 cents if you own a bike but do NOT have a helmet!	<u>II Cor. 3:3</u> + 1 cent for each pen in your home	<u>Matthew 16:19</u> +2 cents for each key in your pocket or purse	<u>Psalms 45:7</u> +25 cents for each bottle of oil
3/17	3/18	3/19	3/20	3/21	3/22	3/23
Fifth Sunday In Lent	<u>Exodus 20:12</u> +25 cents if your parents are still alive	<u>Mark 14:3</u> +4 cents for each bottle of perfume that you own	<u>Titus 1:3</u> +4 cents for every clock or watch you own	<u>I Cor. 9:24</u> +3 cents for every medal or trophy in your home	<u>John 14:2</u> +3 cents for each room in your home	<u>Matthew 5:13</u> +1 cent for each spice in your cupboard
3/24	3/25	3/26	3/27	3/28	3/29	3/30
Sixth Sunday In Lent	<u>Hebrews 4:12</u> +1 cent for each knife in your home	<u>Psalms 4:8</u> +5 cents for each bed in your home	<u>John 4:14</u> +10 cents if you drank water today +25 cents if you did not	<u>Proverbs 3:3-4</u> +1 cent for each year you've been married	<u>Romans 13:7</u> +10 cents if you sent your taxes already +30 cents if you haven't done that	PAID IN FULL!

4/12

Christ is Risen!
Alleluia!



*Please count your
coins and place a
check with the
amount you
collected in the
offering!*

*All money
collected will be
donated to
WHEAT.*

2024

Sock & Underwear Drive Collection

(For Columbus House)

We will continue this collection through February 12th and the socks and underwear will be blessed during our worship service on Feb. 12th before delivering them to Columbus House.

Women of 1st and Wesley United Methodist Church:

Some women from 1st and Wesley have been attending United Methodist Women regional meetings, now called **United Women of Faith**, held at Mary Taylor United Methodist Church, on the green in Milford. Here are the meetings for the next few months--

Tuesday, February 14, at Noon

Tuesday, March 4th at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 11 at Noon

Tuesday, May 9th at 6:30pm Mother-Daughter Dinner

All meetings are held in Dodd Hall, behind the Sanctuary, at Mary Taylor United Methodist Church, on the green in Milford. You may bring lunch to the noon meetings. Drinks are provided. Chris McGregor and Deb Dubien are co-chairs.

United Women of Faith purpose statement:

"The organized unit of United Women of Faith, (Formerly United Methodist Women) shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship, and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church."

No money from the church budget goes toward supporting this group. If you need a ride or would like to car-pool, please contact Pastor Cindy Dodd at 203 933-7674.

Shout Outs and Thank Yous

Dear Friends at First & Wesley Methodist Church,

I have the privilege of working with Ms. Wilson and she gave me the generous gift of a gift card to help with groceries this holiday season. As a single mom of three kids, this has definitely helped me this holiday season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Katie H

Thank you so much for the gifts. And please thank the church for me too. --Shanata G., mother of 7, with 2 special needs children and 2 teens.

Blessings and Happy New Year!

February Birthdays

1 - John Paul Thompson
5 - Jeremy Soule
7 - Linda Kopec
James Ewen
10 - Andy Whitley
11 - Ruth Kreyoh
15 - Sofia Bobko
17 - Stephen Baker
Gregory Baker
18 - Ashton Danz
21 - Catherine Bartozzi Gigola
22 - Edward Sperry
23 - Brett Dzikas
Karl Kiesinger
25 - John Bobko
26 - Jason Jerrell
27 - Ashley Hulse

February Anniversaries

17 - Lori and Paul Franson
21 - Florence and Joseph Dzikas

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.



Prayer Shawl Ministry
First and Wesley United Methodist

Our next meeting will be February 22, 2024 - 1PM in person. Home of Edith Mulligan – 65 Messina Drive Apt A761 East Haven, CT (203) 821-7533

We would like to welcome our new member. Judy Holcomb ... So nice you have joined us Judy.

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.

Have you visited our Church Website lately?
It is truly beautiful and informative. The Church calendar is updated as needed and you can check on dates and times of meetings and events.

Website is firstwesleyumc.org
Check it out!



KOINONIA CAFÉ
& FIRST & WESLEY UMC

Free Coffee & Refreshments

OPEN TO COMMUNITY!

THURSDAYS, 10 AM - 12 PM

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Native American Pennies Collection

We continue to collect pennies for the Native American Ministries.

We would like to send many thanks to our Church Family for helping us to continue with this Ministry.

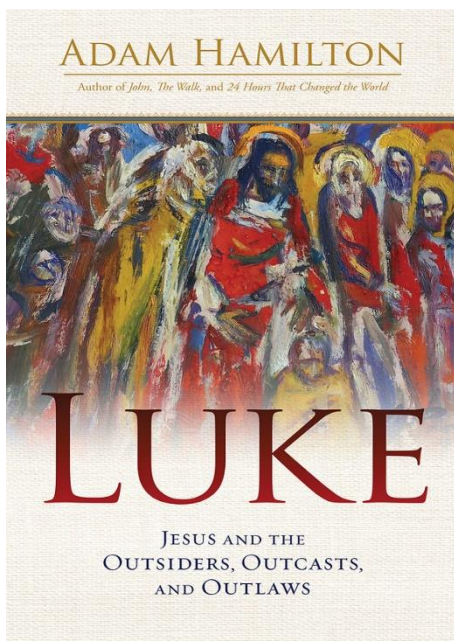


Celebrate Wonder

It's time for Sunday School. 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 learn Bible stories, make art projects, sing songs, play games, and spend time together.

- E-mail or call Gail Bartozzi (gbartozzi@yahoo.com or text (203)747-6039) for questions about Sunday School.
- Register for Sunday School <https://www.firstwesleyumc.org/ministries/childrens-ministry/>

Adult Group Study – 2023 Lent



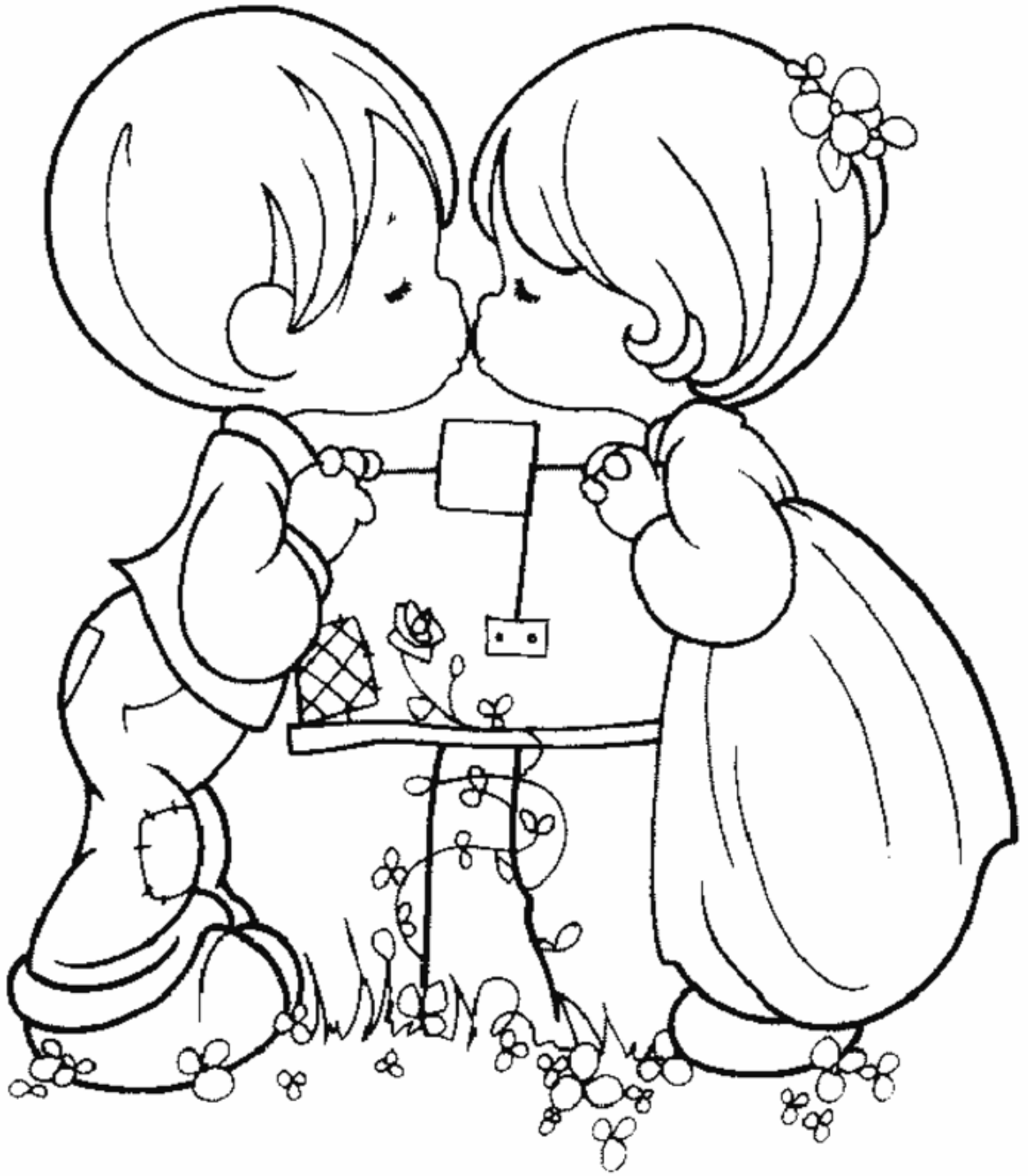
: Every Wednesday 7pm via ZOOM for 6 Weeks
from Mar. 1 to Apr. 5

Jesus came to lift up the lowly. Throughout his ministry to his final days on the road to the cross, we find stories of his relationships with ordinary, flawed, and unexpected people. He met, dined, and traveled with people who were not perfect. Many of them were struggling, some were outsiders or even outlaws. Whoever they were, from those he healed to the outlaws with him at his crucifixion, Jesus brought the good news of God's kingdom to those who most needed to hear it.

In *Luke: Jesus and the Outsiders, Outcasts, and Outlaws*, pastor and bestselling author Adam Hamilton explores the life, teachings, death, and resurrection of Jesus as told in the Gospel of Luke. Through Luke's stories we find Jesus' care and compassion for all as he welcomes sinners and outcasts. As we

study Luke and see Jesus' concern for those who were considered unimportant, we hear a hopeful and inspiring word for our lives today.

Happy Valentine's Day





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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 February 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!