

# *The Messenger*

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



***April 2024***



## *General Conference*

In April, there is a very important event that we all should be concerned with and pray for. It is the “General Conference of the United Methodist Church.” The General Conference is the only body of UMC that can set our official policy and speak for us as the international denomination. It is the denomination’s highest legislative body having the authority to make revisions to the Book of Discipline which is the denomination’s governing document that contains its doctrine, constitution, church law, rules of organization and procedures. Also, the General Conference approves the four-year budget allocating apportionments for denomination-wide ministries around the world. In addition, the assembly of General Conference approves theological statements on subjects such as baptism and communion. This coming General Conference will consider adopting a theological statement of the United Methodist understanding of church titled “Sent in Love.” The General Conference also elects members of the Judicial Council, of the commission, and of other denominational leadership bodies.

So, United Methodists will gather for General Conference to plan the future of our denomination in Charlotte, North Carolina, from April 23 to May 3, with the theme, “Know that I am God (Psalm 46).” In this assembly, the lay and clergy delegates will deal with more than 1,000 legislative petitions including a Regionalization Plan, Revised Social Principles, Acts of Repentance, Amendments for Equality, Budget, Sent in Love and, etc. They are all very important issues that can affect our church because we are a necessary part of the connectional body of UMC. This is the reason why we need to be concerned and to pray for it. I hope there will be God’s love and grace, and God’s justice and peace in all sessions of General Conference. Also, I hope there will be outcomes that realize God’s loving willingness for all the people of God. Amen.

First & Wesley United Methodist Church  
Pastor Jinha Choi

P.S. If you want to see more information for General Conference, you can visit these links:

General Conference Q&A

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/a-beginners-guide-to-general-conference>

Proposals

<https://www.umnews.org/en/news/what-to-know-about-general-conference-proposals>

# *Lectionary Readings for April 2024*



## **April 7, 2024**

[Acts 4:32-35](#) • [Psalm 133](#) •  
[1 John 1:1-2:2](#) • [John 20:19-31](#)

## **April 14, 2024**

[Acts 3:12-19](#) • [Psalm 4](#) •  
[1 John 3:1-7](#) • [Luke 24:36b-48](#)

## **April 21, 2024**

[Acts 4:5-12](#) • [Psalm 23](#) •  
[1 John 3:16-24](#) • [John 10:11-18](#)

## **April 28, 2024**

[Acts 8:26-40](#) • [Psalm 22:25-31](#) •  
[1 John 4:7-21](#) • [John 15:1-8](#)

## *If You Ordered A Pot Pie Dinner*

"A reminder: if you ordered a Pot Pie dinner, pick-up is Saturday, April 6, 2024 from 4-5pm and eat-in is from 5-6pm. orders are due by April 1st so if you get this newsletter by then, you can still go on-line to order. Just click this link: [Pot Pie Dinner - First and Wesley United Methodist Church](#)

## *Native American Ministries Sunday*

On Sunday April 14, 2024, First & Wesley United Methodist Church will be honored to celebrate Native American Ministries Sunday. We will be fortunate to have our own Shadow Walker (Walter Clinton) and his lovely wife Firefly (Myrna Clinton) leading the worship. We celebrated the day with a special selection of Native American music.





# First & Wesley United Methodist Church

2024

## April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> Potpie orders due	<b>2</b> 7p Healing Prayer Service in sanctuary	<b>3</b> 7p Adult Group Study	<b>4</b> 10a–12p “K” Café 5p Youth Choir 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir 7 :15p SPR	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Pot Pie Fundraiser 5-6 pick up 5p Eat in
<b>7</b> 11:00a Family Worship Service, Communion, Birthday/Anniversary celebration and Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon)	<b>8</b> 7p Adult Monday school  7p Cooperative Parish Council	<b>9</b> 7p Finance	<b>10</b> 7p Adult Group Study	<b>11</b> 10a–12p “K” Café  6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	<b>12</b> 7p Taskforce Meeting	<b>13</b>
<b>14 Native American Ministries Sunday</b> 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon)	<b>15</b> 7p Adult Monday school	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 7p Adult Group Study	<b>18</b> 10a–12p “K” Café  6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 12 noon Youth Duckpin Bowling  5p Agape Meal (Free) All Welcome <b>*Articles Due for the May Messenger</b>
<b>21</b> 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon)  12:15p: Charge Conference followed by regular Council Meeting.	<b>22</b> 7p Adult Monday school	<b>23</b> 7p Trustees	<b>24</b> 7p Adult Group Study	<b>25</b> 10a–12p “K” Café 1p Prayer Shawl at Edith Mulligan's home  6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:30a – 10:30 Craft Corner  10a Worship Committee
<b>28</b> 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday - School (begins after Children's Sermon)	<b>29</b> No Adult Monday school	<b>30</b>				

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

**SAT., May 11, 8am-12pm**

# **PANCAKE DAY!**

## **FUNDRAISER**

**Unlimited Pancakes!**

*(sausage, fixings, beverages  
included)*



**PLANTS, BOOKS  
BAKED GOODS  
SALE**



**Adults (11 and up) \$10**

**Children 5-10 \$5**

**Under 5 FREE**

**Family of 4+ (live in same house) \$30**



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**203.933.8795 / [www.firstwesleyumc.org](http://www.firstwesleyumc.org)**

## *Easter Cross*

We again placed flowers on the Cross in the church yard on Easter Morning. The "flowering" of the cross is a beautiful way to symbolize the new life that emerges from the death on Good Friday and is an outward and joyful showing to the community the hope that God has brought to the world through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Insert Picture:

## *Reappointment*

Pastor Choi and his family have been reappointed to our church as a **fulltime** pastor as of July 1, 2024. We welcome you all to our continued shared ministry!

## *Grant Award*

First and Wesley UMC has been awarded a \$20,000 grant from the conference Parish Development Fund to begin an Afterschool Program for grades kindergarten to sixth grade. A special Taskforce has been working to set up policies and hire two bilingual staff members to meet this need in the community. The program this year is free. We will be taking applications in June. We also need volunteers from our church family to assist with this project. The next Taskforce meeting is April 12. Stay tuned for more details!

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## *Historical Notes of First and Wesley*

*by Edith Mulligan*

Dear Friends,

The following is a note from my memory. If I find an article about this event and there are corrections, I'll notify the Congregation.

### **Our Church History**

Did you know....

Our minister in the mid 60's was Rev Donald Rooney, a former Army officer, married to Hilda and dad to two adorable daughters.

Don joined a group of Pastors from New Haven for the march to Montgomery, Alabama. These protesters fought for voting rights for everyone.

Well, during the march many people were arrested and our Minister was one of those arrested.

Our Church was contacted and quickly took up a collection for bail money.

Within a few months voting rights for everyone was approved. It took many people from many states to help make a difference.

*We should all be very proud.*

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

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# Lay Leader Corner

## Special Charge Conference

There will be a Special Charge conference followed by a Church Council meeting on Sunday, April 21st after church (@12:15pm) This is both in-person and on-line and sandwiches will be provided for those staying for the in-person meetings.

The Special Charge Conference is to officially accept a bequest from Thurmon Whitley's estate. All members of First & Wesley may vote on this..

The Church Council meeting that will follow will hear reports and upcoming plans for ministry. All are welcome to attend, but only church council members may vote on any matters that may come up.

If you have questions, contact Helen Smith @203-444-3462.

## Duckpin Bowling Party

"There will be a Duckpin Bowling Party at Woodlawn Duckpin Bowling, 240 Platt Avenue, West Haven, CT on Saturday, April 20th at 12:00pm. This is a **free** event for children ages 5-18. If your child can come, please drop them off at Woodlawn Duckpin Bowling (see address above) at 12:00pm and pick them up at 2pm. Parents are welcome to stay and watch if they wish. Lunch is provided at the bowling alley. If your child can attend, please fill out the attached permission slip for off-premises church activities that is required by our Safe Sanctuary Policy. If your child plans on attending, please fill out the permission slip in this newsletter and return to Helen Smith.



*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/>

## *“THE CHOSEN” BIBLE STUDY*

We hope you can join us for this Study – the episodes are VERY interesting!

Below is a list links to view Season 2 of “The Chosen”, episodes 1-8.

If you enter or click the link, it will take you to the free streaming of each episode. We will discuss the episode on Wednesday evenings during our Bible study. Please try to view the episode before Wednesday evening Bible Study.

Apr. 3<sup>rd</sup> Season 2, Episode 1 - discussion

Link for “The Chosen” Season 2, Episode 1 <https://www.angel.com/watch/the-chosen/episode/4942ad03-6529-4101-b74c-2f0e331b8a5c/season-2/episode-1/thunder>

Apr. 10<sup>th</sup> Season 2, Episode 2 - discussion

Link for “The Chosen” Season 2, Episode 2 <https://www.angel.com/watch/the-chosen/episode/d4a7ed5d-2805-4879-90e7-c906a6fabea8/season-2/episode-2/i-saw-you>

Apr. 24<sup>th</sup> Season 2, Episode 3 - discussion

Link for “The Chosen” Season 2, Episode 3 <https://www.angel.com/watch/the-chosen/episode/129b6b15-903c-4f1a-a455-ba0b06f06c0b/season-2/episode-3/matthew-4-24>

May 1<sup>st</sup> Season 2, Episode 4 - discussion

Link for “The Chosen” Season 2, Episode 4 <https://www.angel.com/watch/the-chosen/episode/82250814-1158-45b4-aae3-119aa16dcc3e/season-2/episode-4/the-perfect-opportunity>

May 8<sup>th</sup> Season 2, Episode 5 - discussion

Link for “The Chosen” Season 2, Episode 5 <https://www.angel.com/watch/the-chosen/episode/4533b07d-e08f-4ee8-b32d-a265a9ffc72d/season-2/episode-5/spirit>

May 15<sup>th</sup> Season 2, Episode 6 - discussion

Link for “The Chosen” Season 2, Episode 6 <https://www.angel.com/watch/the-chosen/episode/63a3fec8-3f6c-470a-a5d9-f24c7952a445/season-2/episode-6/unlawful>

May 22<sup>nd</sup> Season 2, Episode 7 - discussion

Link for “The Chosen” Season 2, Episode 7 <https://www.angel.com/watch/the-chosen/episode/b48be13f-f64c-4ec4-8951-d673077ec0ef/season-2/episode-7/reckoning>

May 29<sup>th</sup> Season 2, Episode 8 - discussion

Link for “The Chosen” Season 2, Episode 8 <https://www.angel.com/watch/the-chosen/episode/2aa56a19-fad8-4947-87b5-d555eafbe24d/season-2/episode-8/beyond-mountains>





# POT PIE DINNER

Individual pie with salad

and dessert

Pick-up or Eat-in on April 6th

PICK-UP: 4-5PM

EAT-IN: 5PM

Place orders by April 1st



\$10 each for each dinner

Pick-up  Eat-in (please check one)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Pot Pie dinner(s) @\$10 each

# \_\_\_\_\_ Beef Pot Pie dinner(s) @10 each

TOTAL DUE \_\_\_\_\_

## April Birthdays

- 8 - Lori Franson
- 9 - Mary Levy
- 10 - Andrea Latham
- 11 - Cecilia Dondorful-Amos
  - Tom Hollister
- 15 - Alexia Medina
- 16 - Wendy Memmott
- 18 - Holli Skipper
  - Lena Carbone
  - Holli Skipper Dapp
- 20 - Tyler Moscato
- 21 - Raymond Memmott
- 22 - Joseph Dzikas
  - Joseph Maltese
- 23 - Andrew Nevin
- 24 - Peggy Jerrell
  - Sheri Hulse
  - Myrna Clinton
- 25 - Nathaniel Dondorful-Amos
- 26 - Phyllis Hunt

## April Anniversaries

- 7 - Tim and Kimberly Geiger

**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.*



## 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.

**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](http://firstwesleyumc.org)**

**Check it out!**

## 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 March 21, 2024  
1PM in person.**

Our next meeting will be April 25, 2024 - 1PM 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.



# Prayers for Hope and Healing

## Shoreline/Havens Cooperative Parish Healing Prayer Services

The Rev Cindy Dodd, retired UM Elder, will be offering intercessory prayer services at 3 churches within our Cooperative Parish.

1st Tuesday of each month, 7pm, at 1st and Wesley UMC, 89 Center Street, West Haven  
2nd Wednesday of each month, 1pm Branford UMC, 811 E Main Street, Branford  
4th Wednesday of each month, 1pm Hamden Plains UMC, 15 Church Street, Hamden

All are Welcome


Upcoming Dates:

1st & Wesley: Tuesday, March 5th and Tues April 2, 7 pm;

Branford: Wednesday March 13 and Wednesday April 10 at 1 pm;

Hamden Plains: NO SERVICE in MARCH (Holy Week); Wednesday April 24, 1 pm

If you have any questions please call or text Cindy Dodd (203) 889-6934





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Facebook Page at [www.facebook.com/firstwesleyumc](https://www.facebook.com/firstwesleyumc).

Pastor Jinha Choi

“Sunday Worship Time: 11:00am”

The April 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!**