

The Messenger

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

May 2024



God the Father and Mother's Day

Traditionally, God is expressed as an image of Father that was formed in patriarchal cultures and systems of Ancient Near East and Medieval Europe. We can find many places in the Bible that describe God as Father. In theology, the traditional doctrine of Trinity also tries to explain God through the image of Father as the head of a family. So, we are also used to calling God as Father in our prayers.

However, if we read the Bible more carefully and responsibly, we can also find many other examples that God is expressed as the image of Mother. In Deuteronomy 32:18, God is the One who gave birth. In Isaiah 66:13, God gave us the image of a comforting Mother. In Isaiah 49:15, God compared Godself to a nursing Mother. In Hosea 11:3-4 and Psalm 131:2, God is portrayed as a Mother who takes care of her child. Here, we can notice that God could be understood not only as the image of Father, but also as the image of Mother. Actually, we cannot fully understand God in our limited human ability. We can only recognize God as much as our capacity allows. The term, Father (or Mother), is like a window to help us to see God. We can see God as much as the frame of the window opens. So, we can understand God through the image of Father (or Mother).

Mother's Day comes in May. It is the day that we express our appreciation for our mothers. They gave birth to us; they brought us up; they took care of us; and they sacrificed themselves for us. This is a mother's love that we have to remember. In this meaning, I strongly believe that Mother is the perfect word to show who God is and how God loves us. When you celebrate this Mother's Day, I hope you have a chance to think about God too as our Mother who endlessly and unlimitedly loves us. Amen.

First & Wesley United Methodist Church
Pastor Jinha Choi



Lectionary Readings for May 2024

May 5, 2024

- [Acts 10:44-48](#) • [Psalm 98](#) •
- [1 John 5:1-6](#) • [John 15:9-17](#)



May 12, 2024

- [Acts 1:15-17, 21-26](#) • [Psalm 1](#) •
- [1 John 5:9-13](#) • [John 17:6-19](#)

May 19, 2024

- [Acts 2:1-21](#) or [Ezekiel 37:1-14](#) • [Psalm 104:24-34, 35b](#) •
- [Romans 8:22-27](#) or [Acts 2:1-21](#) • [John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15](#)

May 26, 2024

- [Isaiah 6:1-8](#) and [Psalm 29](#) •
- [Romans 8:12-17](#) • [John 3:1-17](#)

Contemporary Praise and Worship Service

Sunday, May 5th will be our next Contemporary Praise and Worship Service and will include holy communion. Come worship with us and receive the love of Jesus Christ!

Christine Chan
Worship Committee Chair

An advertisement for Koinonia Café & First & Wesley UMC. The ad features a smiling coffee cup, cookies, and text: "Koinonia Café & First & Wesley UMC", "Free Coffee & Refreshments", "OPEN TO COMMUNITY!", "THURSDAYS, 10 AM - 12 PM", and contact information for the church.

KOINONIA CAFÉ
& FIRST & WESLEY UMC
Free Coffee & Refreshments
OPEN TO COMMUNITY!
THURSDAYS, 10 AM - 12 PM
First & Wesley United Methodist Church
89 Center St., West Haven, CT 06516
(203) 933-8795 • firstwesleyumc@gmail.com
www.firstwesleyumc.org



First & Wesley United Methodist Church

2024

May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Worship ? Spr ? Taskforce ? Mission ?			1 7p Adult Group Stu	2 National Day of Prayer 10a–12p “K” Café 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	3	4 District Conference
5 11:00a Family Worship Service, Communion, Birthday/Anniversary celebration and Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon)	6 7p Adult Monday school	7 7p Healing Prayer Service in sanctuary	8 7p Adult Group Study 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	9 10a–12p “K” Café	10	11 8a-12p Pancake Day
12 Mothers' Day 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon)	13 7p Adult Monday school 7p Cooperative Parish Council	14 7p Finance	15 7p Adult Group Study	16 10a–12p “K” Café 1p Prayer Shawl at Edith Mulligan's home 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	17 7p Missions & Outreach	18 9 :30 Craft Corner Church Clean up 5p Agape Meal (Free) Sponsored by Prayer Shawl Ministry All Welcome
19 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon)	20 7p Adult Monday school *Articles Due for the June Messenger	21 7p VBS Planning meeting	22 7p Adult Group Study	23 10a–12p “K” Café 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	24	25
26 Peace with Justice Sunday 11:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon) Bells	27 Memorial Day	28 7p Trustees	29 7p Adult Group Study	30 10a–12p “K” Café 7p Adult Choir	31	

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

A Big Thank You

Thank you to Carmelita Quiones for acquiring the chairs in Kendall and Fellowship Halls. And also thank you for organizing and taking the lead and setting out a lot of stuff for bulk trash pickup this month. She is looking for volunteers to help clean the third floor later this summer.

Graduations

Parents, Grandparents, Aunts & Uncles

Please let the church office know of any 8th Grade, High School, and College graduates for this year so we can celebrate their accomplishments. Please list the name of the student, date of graduation from what school, and school will be attending. College graduates please note degree.

Memorial Day

Memorial Day is observed each year and is set aside to honor and remember [military servicemen](#) and women whose lives were lost while serving their country. Every year we list those service members in our bulletin. This year Memorial Day is on May 27th. If you have a family member or friend who you would like to name, please send the names to the church office by May 15th.

Afterschool Program Information

The church has applied for and was awarded a grant of \$20,000 from the conference Parish Development committee to establish an After School Program to start in September. A Taskforce was established to set up the program and has been hard at work to do so. We are ready to post a job description for two paid positions to help lead this effort. During the last council meeting, the members voted to allocate \$5,000 from the Whitley estate for program supplies for the program. The basic program is free, grades K-6, follows the public-school calendar and offers bilingual (English/Spanish) staff. Volunteers from the church will also help with the actual program. All will be Safe Sanctuary trained and First Aid/CPR certified. As the Taskforce completes its work, information will be forthcoming.

Agape Meal

The community meal (Agape Meal) this month on May 18 is sponsored by the Prayer Shawl ministry. They will attend the meal so plan to attend also to thank them for their Prayer Shawl ministry and sponsorship.

From the District Superintendent

All are invited to the Connecticut District Conference, **Saturday May 4th, 2024, Trinity Church (Windsor) 180 Park Ave, Windsor, CT.** Join us, **8:30 AM to 9:00 AM** for a delicious continental breakfast and an insightful session with our facilitator, Dr. Leonard Sweet. It is a wonderful opportunity to kickstart the day with nourishment for both body and mind. Continue to be enlightened and inspired by Dr. Sweet, as our keynote speaker at **1:00 PM. Registration required. Contact the church if you would like to attend.**

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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A Loving Bequest In Support Of Our Ministry!

Thurmon and Wilma Whitley were both very active in our church and were participants in many of our programs and committees at First & Wesley United Methodist Church. Wilma passed away in December of 2021 and Thurmon passed away in December of 2022. They have continued their support of First and Wesley by providing a generous bequest in Thurmon's will. We are thankful and honored that First and Wesley has been remembered in this way to help continue our ongoing ministries*. The United Methodist Church Book of Discipline requires a church to have a Special Charge Conference to accept any bequest. On April 21st, we had this conference and formally accepted this generous remembrance.

*We are starting a new Outreach Afterschool program at the end of August, which we received a grant of \$20,000 fund from the New York Annual Conference. In the grant application, we were asked how much the church was contributing to the program and we put in \$5,000. It was voted yesterday to use \$5,000 of this bequest for the Afterschool program. An interesting point is we received the grant approval and the check from Thurmon's estate in the same week.

Thanks

Thanks to all my church family for the wonderful celebration luncheon you gave me.

It was very much appreciated by me and my family. My work as secretary was truly a 'labor of love' giving me the opportunity to get to know and work with so many. With all the help and support given, the job was a joy and kept me active. Sometimes more so than not!!!

Love to you all, Kathy Hulse

From Kathy Hulse





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 May 7, Tuesday June 4th at 7pm

Branford Wed May 8th & Wednesday June 12; 1 pm

Hamden Plains Wednesday May 22 and Wednesday June 26; 1pm

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





Flower Fundraiser order form

(subject to availability)



ORDERS DUE BY MAY 5th, 12PM
PICKUP ORDER ON MAY 11th, 8AM – 12PM
(during Pancake Day)

Name: _____

Phone number _____ e-mail _____

(Flat = 8 packs)

			#	#	<u>COST \$</u>
Tomatoes: Easy Girl	\$3 a pack(3 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(24 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Big Boy	\$3 a pack(3 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(24 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Beefsteak	\$3 a pack(3 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(24 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Cherry	\$3 a pack(3 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(24 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Roma	\$3 a pack(3 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(24 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Peppers: Green Bell	\$3 a pack(3 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(24 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Red Bull	\$3 a pack(3 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(24 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Jalapeno	\$3 a pack(3 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(24 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

FLOWERS

Color (if available)

Ageratum _____	\$3 a pack(4 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(32 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Asters _____	\$3 a pack(4 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(32 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Alyssum _____	\$3 a pack(4 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(32 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Begonias _____	\$3 a pack(4 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(32 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Coleus _____	\$3 a pack(4 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(32 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Cosmos _____	\$3 a pack(3 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(24 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Dahlias _____	\$3 a pack(4 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(32 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Dianthus _____	\$3 a pack(4 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(32 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Dusty Miller _____	\$3 a pack(4 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(32 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Impatiens _____	\$3 a pack(4 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(32 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Lobelia _____	\$3 a pack(4 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(32 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Marigolds _____	\$3 a pack(4 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(32 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Nicotiana _____	\$3 a pack(4 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(32 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Petunias _____	\$3 a pack(4 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(32 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Portulaca _____	\$3 a pack(4 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(32 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Salvia _____	\$3 a pack(4 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(32 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Verbena _____	\$3 a pack(4 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 flat(32 plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

4" - Geraniums _____	\$4 each	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 ½ doz	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
New Guinea Impatiens _____	\$4 each	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 ½ doz	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Vinca Vine _____	\$4 each	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 ½ doz	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Spikes (if available)	\$4 each	<input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 ½ doz	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

Contact Mary Rolfe at 475-988-7666(call or text) or crazycrafts.mary@gmail.com have any questions no later than **May 5th at 12 PM.**

The Diaper Bank of West Haven

We will be collecting diapers for newborns through adults for the month of May. Drop off times are Thursday & Sundays from 10am – 12pm at the church. Diapers collected will be donated to the West Haven diaper bank. Please join us in helping our community with this important need.

Diaper Drive

for Newborns through Adults

During the month of May, First & Wesley is collecting diapers to be donated to the diaper bank in West Haven.

Drop off times are:

Thursdays & Sundays, 10am-12pm

First & Wesley UMC

89 Center Street, West Haven

**Let's make a difference in
the community!**



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

FIRST & WESLEY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

89 Center Street, West Haven <https://firstwesleyumc.org/>

“THE CHOSEN” BIBLE STUDY

“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. 3rd 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. 10th 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. 17th NO BIBLE STUDY

Apr. 24th 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 1st 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 8th 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 15th 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 22nd 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 29th 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>.

It's time for VBS!

We hope you can join us for our Camp Firelight VBS from July 7th to 11th. There will be a simple meal at 5:30pm followed by the program from 6-8:30pm. We have leaders for almost every station of this outreach program, but we need three more leaders, a photographer, video/sound person and several support staff for each area.

If you want to be part of this exciting week, please contact **Helen Smith at 203-444-2362.**



We will be holding Safe Sanctuary training on Thursday, June 20th at 7PM on Zoom and Sunday, June 23rd at 12:15(after church) in-person. Safe Sanctuaries is a program/policy of the United Methodist Church to ensure the safety of children and at risk adults. Anyone involved in working with children and at risk adults as part of our ministry need to have the training. It takes a little over an hour and needs to be done every three years.

If you have questions and/or are willing to help, please let Helen know! Our next meeting will be on Zoom, Tuesday May 21st at 7pm.

So far, this is what we have:

Leaders:

Bible - Cynthia Dodd
Music - Christine Chan
Crafts - Jen Werle & Gail Bartozzi
Science - Chris Latham
Puppeteer - Cynthia Geissler
Opening/Closing leader - Christine Chan?
Snack - Mary Rolfe, Andrea Latham
Dinners - Dave Smith, Peggy Jerrell
Publicity - Jian Chan, Helen Smith
Decorations - Jen Werle

Group leaders (this involves walking the children from station to station and helping there if needed)

K-2 -

3-5 -

6-8 -

Photographer -

Video/Sound operator -

May Birthdays

- 2 - Amana Medina
- 6 - John Poe III
Nana Osei-Sappong
- 7 - Geoffrey Hulse
- 8 - Jodi Memmott
- 10 - Ralph Lawson III
- 12 - Alisha Braacker
- 17 - Rachael Memmott
- 19 - Cindy Geissler
- 20 - Audie Jackson Hollister
- 21 - Steven Rockwell
Al Bartozzi
- 27 - Mary Rolfe
- 28 - Douglas Hunter
- 30 - Garrett Argentino

May Anniversaries

- 5 - Michele and Edward Gertsch
- 16 - Elaine and Matt Schwag
- 18 - Gail Pells & Fred Rubino

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-



Native American Coin 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**

Check it out!



Prayer Shawl Ministry First and Wesley United Methodist

Our next meeting will be May 16, 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.**



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 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

Lenten Calendar Fundraiser:

A big thank you to everyone that participated in the Lenten calendar fundraiser. We were able to raise \$302.98 that was given as a monetary donation to WHEAT.

VBS Decorating Day

VBS decorating day has been set for June 29th from 10am to 2pm. Please come share your talents and help decorate for VBS this year. You can come help for a bit or stay for the duration; any help is appreciated. We have a really cute theme this year!





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Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/firstwesleyumc.

Pastor Jinha Choi

“Sunday Worship Time: 11:00am”

The May 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!