

# *The Messenger*

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

***April 2025***



## **Living in the Grace of God**

On March 18, two astronauts safely returned to Earth. Their return became a major topic because, originally, they were scheduled to stay in space for only eight days, but due to mechanical issues, their return was delayed. They ended up spending 286 days—almost nine months—in space. Such an extended period in space has a significant impact on the human body. Immediately after landing on Earth, these astronauts found it difficult to stand or walk on their own. To return to their normal daily lives, they must undergo several weeks of rehabilitation. Photos released to the media show them seated on EMS stretchers, unable to support their own weight. This is due to the difference in gravitational forces between space and Earth. In space, there is zero gravity, which means everything floats freely. However, on Earth, gravity—the force that pulls us toward the ground—is constantly at work. The remarkable thing is that we do not consciously feel this force. Gravity affects us every moment, allowing us to stand, dive into water, or slide down a playground slide. Though we live under the constant influence of gravity, we rarely recognize or think about it because our bodies have already adapted to it.

God's grace operates in a similar way. Just as we live under the force of gravity without being fully aware of it, we also live in God's grace without always recognizing it. Because God's grace feels so natural, we often take it for granted. God has given us the breath of life, the ability to think, unique talents that set us apart, and the gift of family and friends to journey through life with us. All these things—so familiar and ordinary—are actually gifts of grace from God. Even when we are unaware, we are already living within the grace of God. Moreover, it is through this grace that we come to know God, recognize our sinful nature, and accept Jesus Christ as our Savior. Without grace, we cannot truly live, and our lives lose their meaning. In April, we remember and experience the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Through His sacrifice and victory over death, we, too, have received the grace of salvation. My hope is that this April will be a time for us to realize and experience the grace that has always been with us—the grace of God that leads us to salvation through Jesus Christ.

Jinha Choi  
First & Wesley United Methodist Church

# *Lectioary Readings for January*



**April 6, 2025**

[Isaiah 43:16-21](#), [Psalm 126](#), [Philippians 3:4b-14](#), [John 12:1-8](#)

**April 13, 2025 (Palm Sunday)**

[Isaiah 50:4-9a](#), [Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29](#), [Psalm 31:9-16](#), [Luke 19:28-40](#)

**April 17, 2025 (Maundy Thursday)**

[Exodus 12:1-4, \(5-10\) 11-14](#), [Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19](#), [1 Corinthians 11:23-26](#), [John 13:1-17, 31b-35](#)

**April 18, 2025 (Good Friday)**

[Isaiah 52:13-53:12](#), [Psalm 22](#), [Hebrews 10:16-25](#), [John 18:1-19:42](#)

**April 20, 2025 (Easter)**

[Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24](#), [Acts 10:34-43](#), [1 Corinthians 15:19-26](#), [John 20:1-18](#)

**April 27, 2025**

[Psalm 118:14-29](#), [Acts 5:27-32](#), [Revelation 1:4-8](#), [John 20:19-31](#)

## **Healing Prayer Circle**

When: Tuesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>

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.



# First & Wesley United Methodist Church

2025

## April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b>  After School Prog  7p Prayer & Healing Service	2  After School Prog  5p Youth Choir 7p Adult Group Study	<b>3</b> 10a–12p “K” Café  After School Prog  6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	<b>4</b>  After School Prog	<b>5</b>  9a Community Easter Breakfast & Egg Hunt
<b>6</b> 10:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon)	<b>7</b>  After School Prog  7p Adult Monday school	8  After School Prog  7p Finance	9  After School Prog  5p Youth Choir 7p Adult Group Study	10  10a–12p “K” Café After School Prog  6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	11  After School Prog	12  8a Men's Fellowship Breakfast
<b>13 Palm Sunday</b> 10:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon)  Youth Group 11:15a	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	<b>16</b>  5p Youth Choir 7p Adult Group Study	<b>17 Maundy Thursday</b>  10a–12p “K” Café 7p Maundy Thursday Service	<b>18 Good Friday</b> <i>*Articles Due for the May Messenger</i> 12p Cooperative Parish service-Branford 7p Good Friday Service	<b>19</b>  5p Agape Meal (Free) All Welcome
<b>20 Easter</b> 10:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon)  Membership Sunday Flower the Cross	<b>21</b>  After School Prog  7p Adult Monday school	<b>22</b>  After School Prog  7 :30p Trustees	<b>23</b>  After School Prog  7p Adult Group Study	<b>24</b> 10a–12p “K” Café 1p Prayer Shawl at Edith Mulligan's home After School Prog  6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	<b>25</b>  After School Prog	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 10:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon)  11:15a Church Council	<b>28</b>  After School Prog  7p Adult Monday school	<b>29</b>  After School Prog	<b>30</b>  After School Prog  7p Adult Group Study			

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

## ADULT BIBLE STUDY

### "Digging Deeper into the Word Again"

Every Wednesday, 7 PM

- Do you have any questions about the Sunday Service sermons?
- Have you experienced something or have a story that connects with those sermons?
- Do you want to explore the texts, themes, or theology used in the Sunday Service?

If so, you're invited to join our Wednesday Bible Study!

This will be a time to dive deeper into the Scriptures preached in the previous Sunday's service.



### Prayer Shawl Ministry First and Wesley United Methodist

Our next Prayer Shawl meeting will be April 24, 2025 at 1PM  
in person at the home of Edith Mulligan – 65 Messina Drive, Apt A761, East Haven, CT 06512  
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

### "Flowering the Cross"



We will be "flowering" the cross on Easter Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. 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.

Flowers will be available at the base of the stairs on Center Street if you would like to grab one and place it on the cross. Also, please feel free to bring a flower or two from your garden if you would like!



**We hope you can join us for our Youth Group.  
Open to any youth from 6<sup>th</sup> grade and up!**

## **Youth Group Meeting**

**Every Second & Fourth Sunday  
11:15am - 12:15pm**

**April 13, Sun (11:15am) - Bible Study  
<10 Minute Bible Stories for Teens>**

**April 19, Sat (4pm) - Agape Dinner Volunteering**

**May 4, Sun (11:15am) - Craft Corner: Making Mother's Day Card  
(\* There will be the Church Council Meeting on April 27.)**



**EASTER ALTAR FLOWERS 2025  
Order Your Easter Plant(s)**



I (We) wish to order \_\_\_\_\_Easter plant(s) for the Altar at a cost of \$10.00 each.

Please make checks payable to First & Wesley United Methodist Church and write "flower fund" in the memo section on the check.

### **PLEASE PRINT**

IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_or

IN HONOR OF \_\_\_\_\_

GIVEN BY \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

**PLANTS TO BE TAKEN HOME ON EASTER SUNDAY**

## *Fellowship*



**Every Thursday – Koinonia Café,**  
10am-12pm

Please note: If you would like to help with this, please contact Judy Jennette or Myrna Clinton.

**Free Community Dinner**  
**Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month**  
5pm FREE Agape meal followed by games.

Please note: If you would like to help with this, please contact Judy Jennette or Dave Smith

## **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  
West Haven, CT

## **SAVE THE DATES**

Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> – District Conference

Monday, May 5<sup>th</sup> – Bishop's Evening with Connecticut District

More info will be forthcoming when we know!

## **MFB MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST**

Building Bonds Over Breakfast hosted  
by Kel Youngs

The Men's Fellowship Breakfast is a cherished tradition that brings together men from all walks of life to share a meal, engage in meaningful conversations, and strengthen their spiritual and personal bonds. This event is not only an opportunity for nourishment but also a time for camaraderie, reflection, and encouragement.

We are considering two important scriptures to guide our meetings.  
Psalm 119:11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Hebrews 12:1-13 Running the Christian race with perseverance.

We all gather at 8 am the **second Saturday** of each month and dismiss by 10 am.

Thanks to everyone for working to make this event a success!

## **Church Council Meeting** April 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am

This is our quarterly meeting to hear how how ministries are doing and look to the future. All are welcome to attend. Please note that if there is a vote on anything, only council members may vote.

## Finance Corner

Thank you to all who supported our Baked Potato Fundraiser. Thanks to Peggy Jerrell for organizing this and to all those who helped with everything!

Our next fundraiser is Pancake Day on May 10th. Please see the flyer in this newsletter. In addition to unlimited pancakes, there are baked goods, used books and a plant sale!

If you wish to make sure you can purchase the plants you would like, we encourage you to pre-order. An order form is included in this newsletter.

## MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

**Lenten Calendar** – Starting in March follow along with the Lenten calendar attached in the messenger for a fun way to help raise money for W.H.E.A.T!

**Free Annual Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt** Saturday April 5<sup>th</sup>. Breakfast and crafts from 9-11am with an Easter Egg hunt that begins at 11am. Bring the kids and take photos with the Easter Bunny! (please bring your own camera) – see attachment in this newsletter.

Next Mission meeting will be held on Zoom Friday May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00pm.



Your generosity is awesome! We were able to raise and send \$2,835 to UMCOR for the California Wildfire relief special offering! Because of UMCOR Sunday offering collection, 100% of this special offering goes to the wildfire victims!



## The Craft Corner

The Craft Corner Group meets to make cards once a month on Saturday mornings. (Note: we will not meet in April!) 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). Our next meeting is on May 17th from 9:30-10:30am.

## Sunday School



**Come learn about the character of God, the work of Christ, and the means of living in right relationship to God and all people. We meet Sunday mornings following the Children's Moment during the 10:00 service.**

**Our program is open to all kids ages 4 and up. Our youth are invited to rotate through as helpers. Please go to the church website to register your child/youth for Sunday school or ask a Sunday School teacher for a registration form.**

**THANK YOU!**

## April Birthdays 2025

8 - Lori Franson  
9 - Mary Levy  
10 - Andrea Latham  
11 - Cecilia Dondorful-Amos  
    - Tom Hollister  
15 - Alexia Medina  
16 - Wendy Memmott  
17 - Holli Skipper Dapp  
    - Lena Carbone  
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

## April Anniversaries

7 - Tim and Kimberly Geiger

*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.*

## Cooperative Parish News

Rev. Wayne Lavender, a former CT pastor, founded a charity to help orphaned youth in Mozambique. Originally focused on building orphanages, it has changed its focus. A U.N. study showed that children raised in orphanages never fully reintegrate back into their community. F4O, Foundation for Orphans, now provides job training and support for youth who are trying to raise their younger siblings.

Faith U.M.C. will be hosting a potluck lunch at 12:15 on Sunday, April 6th to learn how this exciting venture is progressing. This is open to the Shoreline and Havens Cooperative Parish, so please distribute this invite to any and all letting them know all are welcome.

Please let Alison Davie Lewis know how many are coming by April 1st so that we can plan for seating. Her number is 203-909-1984 and email is [alison.davie.lewis@gmail.com](mailto:alison.davie.lewis@gmail.com).

### COMMUNITY CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

Easter crafts,  
photos\* with Easter Bunny  
& Egg Hunt  
Ages 1-10

\*Free photos with the Easter Bunny  
(Please bring your own camera)

SATURDAY, April 5, 2025

BREAKFAST & CRAFTS: 9-11 AM

EASTER EGG HUNT: 11 AM

First & Wesley United Methodist Church  
89 Center Street, West Haven, CT 06516  
203.933.8795 [firstwesleyumc@gmail.com](mailto:firstwesleyumc@gmail.com)  
[www.firstwesleyumc.org](http://www.firstwesleyumc.org)

Handicap accessible



DELICIOUS FUNDRAISER @ FIRST & WESLEY UMC

### PANCAKE DAY!

Unlimited  
Pancakes!  
(sausage, fixings,  
beverages included)



PLANTS, BOOKS  
BAKED GOODS  
SALE

Saturday, May 10th

8am-12pm

Donation: \$10 Ages 11+

\$5 Ages 5-10


\$30 Family of 4+

89 Center Street, West Haven


For more info or to preorder plants go to:  
[www.firstwesleyumc.org](http://www.firstwesleyumc.org)



# LENTEN BLESSING CALENDAR

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

# LENTEN BLESSING CALENDAR

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>3/30</b>  Fourth Sunday In Lent	<b>3/31</b>  <u><i>2 Kings 4:9-10</i></u> +2 cents for each chair in your home	<b>4/1</b>  <u><i>Ecclesiastes 11:3</i></u> + 25 cents if it was cloudy today	<b>4/2</b>  <u><i>Eph. 6:17</i></u> + 5 cents for each bike helmet +50 cents if you own a bike but do NOT have a helmet!	<b>4/3</b>  <u><i>II Cor. 3:3</i></u> + 1 cent for each pen in your home	<b>4/4</b>  <u><i>Matthew 16:19</i></u> +2 cents for each key in your pocket or purse	<b>4/5</b>  <u><i>Psalm 45:7</i></u> +25 cents for each bottle of oil
<b>4/6</b>  Fifth Sunday In Lent	<b>4/7</b>  <u><i>Exodus 20:12</i></u> +25 cents if your parents are still alive	<b>4/8</b>  <u><i>Mark 14:3</i></u> +4 cents for each bottle of perfume that you own	<b>4/9</b>  <u><i>Titus 1:3</i></u> +4 cents for every clock or watch you own	<b>4/10</b>  <u><i>I Cor. 9:24</i></u> +3 cents for every medal or trophy in your home	<b>4/11</b>  <u><i>John 14:2</i></u> +3 cents for each room in your home	<b>4/12</b>  <u><i>Matthew 5:13</i></u> +1 cent for each spice in your cupboard
<b>4/13</b>  Sixth Sunday In Lent	<b>4/14</b>  <u><i>Hebrews 4:12</i></u> +1 cent for each knife in your home	<b>4/15</b>  <u><i>Psalm 4:8</i></u> +5 cents for each bed in your home	<b>4/16</b>  <u><i>John 4:14</i></u> +10 cents if you drank water today +25 cents if you did not	<b>4/17</b>  <u><i>Proverbs 3:3-4</i></u> +1 cent for each year you've been married	<b>4/18</b>  <u><i>Romans 13:7</i></u> +10 cents if you sent your taxes already +30 cents if you haven't done that yet	<b>4/19</b>  <u><i>John 3:16</i></u>  PAID IN FULL!
<b>4/12</b>  Christ is Risen! Alleluia!			<i>Please count up your coins and place a check with the amount you collected in the offering!</i>	All collected monies will be given to WHEAT!		



# Flower Fundraiser order form

(subject to availability)

**ORDERS DUE BY MAY 4<sup>th</sup>, 12PM**  
**PICKUP ORDER ON MAY 10<sup>th</sup>, 8AM – 12PM**  
**(during Pancake Day)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

(Flat = 8 packs)

			#	#	COST \$
Tomatoes:	Beefsteak	\$3 a pack(3 plants)		\$20 flat(24 plants)	
	Better Boy	\$3 a pack(3 plants)		\$20 flat(24 plants)	
	Big Boy	\$3 a pack(3 plants)		\$20 flat(24 plants)	
	Cherry	\$3 a pack(3 plants)		\$20 flat(24 plants)	
	Early Girl	\$3 a pack(3 plants)		\$20 flat(24 plants)	
Peppers:	Green Bell	\$3 a pack(3 plants)		\$20 flat(24 plants)	
	Red Bell	\$3 a pack(3 plants)		\$20 flat(24 plants)	
	Jalapeno	\$3 a pack(3 plants)		\$20 flat(24 plants)	

## FLOWERS Color (if available)

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

4"	Geraniums	_____	\$4 each		\$20 ½ doz	
	New Guinea Impatiens	_____	\$4 each		\$20 ½ doz	
	Vinca Vine	_____	\$4 each		\$20 ½ doz	
	Spikes (if available)	_____	\$4 each		\$20 ½ doz	

GRAND TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Helen Smith at 203-444-2362(call or text) or at [drsmith@snet.net](mailto:drsmith@snet.net) if you have any questions no later than **May 4th at 12 PM**.



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

Pastor Jinha Choi

“Sunday Worship Time: 10:00am”

The April Newsletter

# STRONGER TOGETHER



“We can do all things  
through Christ who strengthens us.”  
(Philippians 4:13)

IN-PERSON & ONLINE SUNDAY WORSHIP @ 10:00 AM

**COME JOIN OUR CHURCH FAMILY!**