

The Messenger

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

May 2025



Citizens of Two Kingdoms

This past April, I had an experience that many of you may not have had—but it involved something you all already possess: U.S. citizenship. While most of you were born into it, I recently had the unique opportunity to receive it. After a long process and completing the civic test, I officially became a U.S. citizen.

One of the most striking lessons I learned in that process was this: Every citizen of this country is given certain rights and entrusted with certain responsibilities. Among our rights are freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, and the right to vote. At the same time, we are also responsible for obeying the law, paying taxes, participating in democracy, and even, when necessary, serving in defense of our nation. These rights and duties remind us that citizenship is not just a privilege—it is also a commitment.

But as followers of Christ, we are not only citizens of the United States. We are also citizens of the Kingdom of God. And like our earthly citizenship, the citizenship comes with both blessings and responsibilities. As people of God, we are given beautiful privileges: We can worship freely, pray boldly, and trust in God's presence, provision, and protection. We can call upon the Lord at any time, knowing that we are heard and loved.

Along with these blessings, come the responsibilities of faith. Jesus calls us to love our God with all our heart, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We are invited not only to know God's will, but to live it out. Jesus bore the cross in obedience to God's will. He healed the sick, uplifted the poor, welcomed the outcast, and served those in need. This same calling—to love, to serve, to be present for others—is now ours.

Being a citizen of God's Kingdom means living in the way Jesus showed us. It means worshiping sincerely, praying faithfully, and loving generously. And it means being mindful that our true identity isn't just defined by the nation we belong to, but by the God we serve.

As we journey together in faith, I pray that each of us will embrace the joy and the responsibility of living as faithful citizens—not only of this country, but of the Kingdom of God. Amen.

Pastor Jinha Choi
First & Wesley United Methodist Church

Lectioary Readings for January



May 4, 2025

Psalm 30, Acts 9:1-6 (7-20), Revelation 5:11-14, John 21:1-19

May 11, 2025

Psalm 23, Acts 9:36-43, Revelation 7:9-17, John 10:22-30

May 18, 2025

Psalm 148, Acts 11:1-18, Revelation 21:1-6, John 13:31-35

May 25, 2025

Psalm 67, Acts 16:9-15, Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5, John 14:23-29

Healing Prayer Circle

When: Tuesday, May 6th

When: 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Where: Fellowship Hall

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 altar, 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.



MEMORIAL DAY AND GRADUATES



On May 25th, for our Memorial Day remembrance, we will be remembering those who died while on active duty in the armed forces. If you have someone who needs to be added to our list of those who died while on active duty, please contact the church office, 203-033-8795

On June 22nd, we will be celebrating Children's Sunday and also, all those who have graduated. If you have a graduate, please contact the church office, 203-933-8795 so we can make sure we acknowledge their achievement!



First & Wesley United Methodist Church

2025

May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10a–12p “K” Café	2 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Adult Choir	3 District Conference Meriden
4 10:00a Family Worship Service, Communion, Birthday/Anniversary celebration & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon) *Plant preorders due 3-5pm Leadership meeting	5 3p-6p Afterschool Program 6p Evening with Bishop 7pm Adult Monday School	6 3p-6p Afterschool Program 7p Healing Prayer Service in sanctuary	7 No Afterschool Program	8 10a–12p “K” Café 3p-6p Afterschool Program 7p Mission	9 3p-6p Afterschool Program 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Adult Choir	8am-12pm Pancake Day with Plant Sale (Plant preorders due May 4th)
11 10:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon)	12 3p-6p Afterschool Program 5:45pm VBS meeting 7pm Adult Monday School	13 3p-6p Afterschool Program 7p Finance	14 3p-6p Afterschool Program	15 10a–12p “K” Café 3p-6p Afterschool Program	16 3p-6p Afterschool Program 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Adult Choir	17 9:00 – noon Church Clean-up Day 9:30am Craft Corner 5p Agape Meal (Free) All are Welcome!
18 Native American Sunday 10:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon)	19 3p-6p Afterschool Program 7pm Adult Monday School	20 *Articles Due for the June Messenger 3p-6p Afterschool Program	21 3p-6p Afterschool Program 7pm Bible Study	22 10a–12p “K” Café 1pm Prayer Shawl ministry 3p-6p Afterschool Program 6pm Bell Choir 7pm Adult Choir	23 3p-6p Afterschool Program	24
25 10:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday school (begins after Children's Sermon)	26 Memorial Day	27 3p-6p Afterschool Program 7p Trustees	28 3p-6p Afterschool Program 7pm Bible Study	29 10a–12p “K” Café 3p-6p Afterschool Program 7pm Adult Choir	30 3p-6p Afterschool Program	31

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

"Digging Deeper into the Word Again"

Every Wednesday, 7 PM

- 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!
We meet online - Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/147691027>

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 May 22, 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

Volunteers!

Thank you to all who volunteer their time and talents to help with all of our many ministries.

Below are some areas that could use your time and talent.

- people to help with **Pancake Day** – call Peggy Jerrell at 203-641-0929 – we have to have people for dining room clean-up, plant sale, baked goods, floaters, raffle table. – see Peggy Jerrell
- a volunteer to do the **monthly newsletter** – see Helen Smith
- **greeters** for Sunday morning worship – see Jacki McKim
- **PPT creation** (Thank you to Jayden and Ryan Abekah for learning how to program this!)
- **Run PPT** Sunday morning (Thank you to Jayden, Nia, & Ryan!) – see Helen Smith
- **Bell Choir & Adult Choir** – see Christine Chan
- **Youth Group** – see Pastor Choi or Marcie Medina
- **VBS** (July 13-17) – we need adults and senior high students! – See Marcie Medina

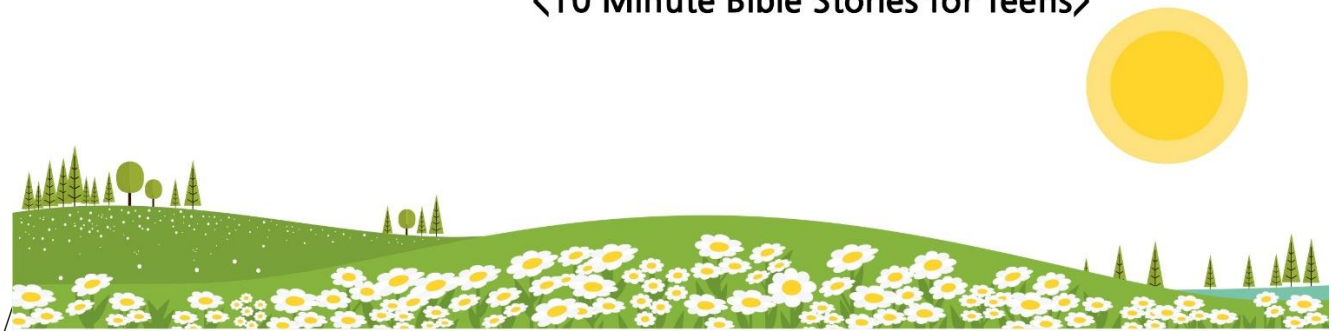
**We hope you can join us for our Youth Group.
Open to any youth from 6th grade and up!**

Youth Group Meeting

May 4, Sun (11:15am) - Craft Corner: Making Mother's Day Card

May 18, Sun (11:15am) - Bible Study

<10 Minute Bible Stories for Teens>



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 3rd 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 1st Wednesday of every month from 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm
Open to West Haven residents
265 Main Street
West Haven, CT

Cooperative Parish News

We will be meeting on May 12th online. We have been discussing doing a joint mission project with the other 7 churches. If you are interested in attending these monthly meetings (2nd Monday of the month) please contact Peggy Jerrell or Helen Smith!



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.

Next breakfast: June 14th, 8-10am!
There is no Men's Breakfast in May (Pancake
Day!) We usually 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!



Finance Corner

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, a plant sale, and a raffle of a
basket of 6 boxes of Girl Scout
Cookies!

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

Socks & Underwear – Thank you to
everyone who donated socks and underwear
for the Columbus House. These were
delivered on April 2 and were very much
appreciated!

Lenten Calendar – Thank you to all who
participated. As of April 27th, we collected
\$267.50 for WHEAT.

**Free Annual Easter Breakfast and Egg
Hunt** - about 50 people were there,
including 20 or so children who participated
in the Egg Hunt. Again, Thank you to
everyone who made this a success!

Next Mission meeting will be held on Zoom
Friday May 9th at 7:00pm.



May Birthdays 2025



2 - Amana Medina
6 - John Poe III
 Nana Osei-Sarpong
7 - Geoffrey Hulse
8 - Jodi Memmott
10 - Ralph Lawson III
12 - Alisha Braacker 1
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 2025

5 - Michele and Edward Gertsch
16 - Elaine and Matthew Schrag
18 - Gail Pells & Fred Rubino

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.

CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY

Saturday, May 17

9am-12pm

If you can spare an hour to do some yard clean-up and some minor repairs/fixes, we would appreciate it! See Jim Stuhlman, chairperson of the Trustees, if you can come or have any questions!



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 and we always need to create more!.

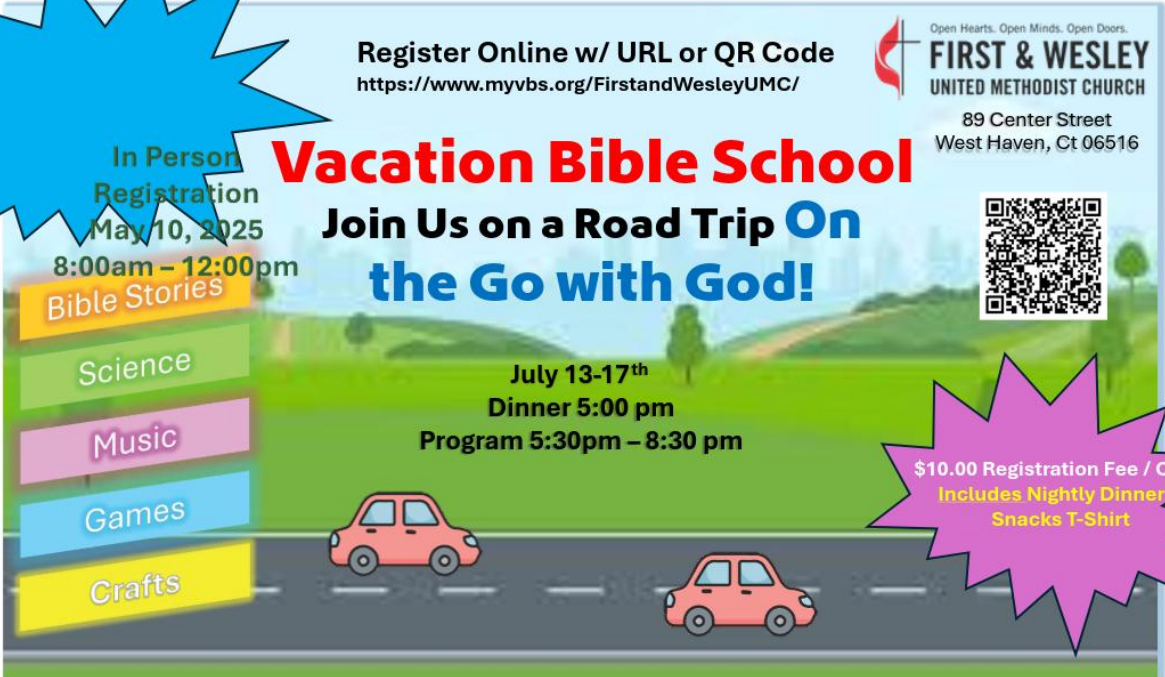
Contact Gail Bartozzi if you would like a card sent to someone or have questions about the group. You can call the church office (203-933-8795) or e-mail Gail at gbartozzi@yahoo.com. Our next meeting is May 17th.

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.



Register Online w/ URL or QR Code
<https://www.myvbs.org/FirstandWesleyUMC/>

FIRST & WESLEY
 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 89 Center Street
 West Haven, Ct 06516

Vacation Bible School
Join Us on a Road Trip On the Go with God!

In Person Registration
 May 10, 2025
 8:00am – 12:00pm

Bible Stories
Science
Music
Games
Crafts

July 13-17th
Dinner 5:00 pm
Program 5:30pm – 8:30 pm

\$10.00 Registration Fee / Child
Includes Nightly Dinner & Snacks T-Shirt

THANK YOU'S RECEIVED!

PARTNERSHIP WITH NATIVE AMERICANS

We received a thank you letter from Partnership With Native Americans for \$144.50 that was sent from our coin collection. With our ongoing help, last year they were able to provide

- 776 Take Home Thanksgiving Meals – enough to feed 4,656 people
- 4,345 Christmas Stockings for youth on 12 reservations
- 179 Native Elders with \$200 Winter Fuel Vouchers
- 274 Elders from 12 communities with Breakfast-in-a-Bag 5 times throughout the year
- 24,160 pounds of standard Food and Water supplies to serve 6,364 people in 23 communities

WHEAT

We received a thank you note from WHEAT (West Haven Emergency Assistance Taskforce) for our ongoing support of the food pantry.



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 e-mail:

firstwesleyumc@gmail.com



Flower Fundraiser order form

(subject to availability)

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

Name: _____

Phone number _____ e-mail _____

(Flat = 8 packs)

			#	#	<u>COST \$</u>
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 if you have any questions no later than **May 4th at 12 PM.**

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 Messenger

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CT 06516 Phone (203) 933-8795

www.firstwesleyumc.org

Email: firstwesleyumc@gmail.com

Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/firstwesleyumc.

Pastor Jinha Choi

“Sunday Worship Time: 10:00am”

The May 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!