

The Messenger

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

June 2025



Time to ...



- ¹ For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven:
- ² a time to be born and a time to die;
a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted;
- ³ a time to kill and a time to heal;
a time to break down and a time to build up;
- ⁴ a time to weep and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn and a time to dance;
- ⁵ a time to throw away stones and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing;
- ⁶ a time to seek and a time to lose;
a time to keep and a time to throw away;
- ⁷ a time to tear and a time to sew;
a time to keep silent and a time to speak;
- ⁸ a time to love and a time to hate;
a time for war and a time for peace. (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

The Book of Ecclesiastes reminds us that there is a time for everything under the sun. Three years ago, there was a time when you and I met for the first time. With both worry and anticipation, I began my ministry with you, and since then, we have shared many joyful and meaningful moments together. At first, things were a bit awkward, but over time, we grew closer and came to understand one another.

Now, the time has come for me to say goodbye to this beloved church and its dear members. When I first shared this news, many of you were surprised, saddened, and even upset. At this moment, we may not fully understand God's will. But I believe that if we continue to live faithfully, following the times God gives us, we will one day look back and begin to see glimpses of His purpose. So, to my First & Wesley family, I pray that each of you continues to live your life of faith wholeheartedly, wherever you are. And I especially ask you to warmly welcome and support Pastor Frank, who is coming to serve this church, so that together you may continue to build God's kingdom.

May God's grace and love always abound in this place.

Pastor Jinha Choi
First & Wesley United Methodist Church





Lectionary Readings for June 2025



June 1, 2025

[Psalm 97](#), [Acts 16:16-34](#), [Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21](#), [John 17:20-26](#)

June 8, 2025

[Psalm 104:24-34, 35b](#), [Acts 2:1-21](#), [Romans 8:14-17](#), [John 14:8-17, 25-27](#)

June 15, 2025

[Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31](#), [Psalm 8](#), [Romans 5:1-5](#), [John 16:12-15](#)

June 22, 2025

[1 Kings 19:1-15a](#), [Psalm 42](#), [Galatians 3:23-29](#), [Luke 8:26-39](#)

June 29, 2025

[2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14](#), [Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20](#), [Galatians 5:1, 13-25](#), [Luke 9:51-62](#)

Children's Sunday, Celebration of Graduates and special continental brunch for Pastor Choi and his family

Sunday, June 22nd is our Children's Day and a Celebration of Graduates. If you have not already done so, please get any graduate information to our church secretary, Helen Smith, by June 15th. There are two that she knows of – Cecilia Amos and Arlyn Memmott.

Also, on June 22nd we say good bye to the Choi family as they leave to begin their ministry in Westport. They have brought so much joy and enthusiasm to our church in the 3 years we have had together in ministry and friendship. We will miss them greatly and wish them well in Westport. Please join us as we have a special continental brunch in Kendall Hall (dining room) immediately following our worship service on the 22nd to thank them for all they have done!

AND, on July 6, we welcome Pastor Frank Sarpong as our new minister and his wife, Nana Amos Sarpong, to our church. Some of you will remember that Pastor Frank was in our congregation a few years ago and left to become the pastor of the Derby Ghana church. Nana was an active member of First & Wesley UMC when Wesley UMC and First UMC joined together in 2008.

Rev. Frank Sarpong or Pastor Frank as he wants to be called, is a dynamic and purpose-driven pastor, thoughtful leader and community advocate whose ministry is in compassion, transformation and inclusivity. His calling is centered on helping people experience the grace of God in practical ways, while equipping them to live with purpose, integrity and faith.

Welcome, Pastor Frank and Nana!



First & Wesley United Methodist Church

June



2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00a Family Worship with Communion, Birthday/Anniversary Celebration & Sunday School 11:15a Youth Group	2 3p-6p Afterschool Program 7p Adult Monday school	3 3p-6p Afterschool Program 7p Healing Circle	4 3p-6p Afterschool Program 7p Adult Group Study	5 10a-12p "K" Café 3p-6p Afterschool Program 7p Adult Choir	6 NYAC 3p-6p Afterschool Program	7 NYAC 10a Private Party set up
8 NYAC 10:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon) 4p Private Party	9 3p-6p Afterschool Program Last Day 7p Adult Monday school	10 7p Finance	11 7p Adult Choir	12 10a-12p "K" Café 7p Adult Choir	13 7p Adult Choir	14 8a Men's Fellowship Breakfast 10:30a VBS Painting Party
15 10:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon) 11:15a Youth Group	16 7p Adult Monday school	17 7p Trustees	18 7p Trustees	19 10a-12p "K" Café 7p Adult Choir	20 *Articles Due for the July/August Messenger	21 9:30a - 10 Craft Corner 11a Worship Committee 5p Agape Meal (Free) All Welcome
22 10:00a Family Worship Service Children's Sunday & Celebration of Graduates Farewell to Choi Family	23 7p Adult Monday school	24 7p Trustees	25 7p Trustees	26 10a-12p "K" Café 1p Prayer Shawl at Edith Mulligan's home 7p Missions	27 7p Missions	28 7p Missions
29 10:00a Family Worship Service	30 7p Adult Monday school					

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



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



News from the Trustees

The trustees held a clean up day in May where the landscaping was cleaned up and mulch laid. Thanks to Carmela Quinones, Shelby Poe, Laurie Simone, Judy Jennette and Pastor Choi for doing a wonderful job.

During the summer, we are asking anyone who stores anything in VBS room, gym, closets, etc. to take some time to sort through the items. Big trash pick up is in September and it is a good time to get rid of "stuff" we no longer use. Not only is it unsightly, it is probably a fire hazard. We did this a few years ago and it seems we have an abundance of "stuff" again.

We also are posting on Facebook market place that we have 3 oak pews that are free as long as they take them away. If anyone in the church would like to take a pew, let a trustee know. The short pews were in the back of the church (side aisles) and were removed years ago for the handicapped seating. The very long pew was removed recently for the A/V equipment to be moved back to allow for funerals, communion and other ceremonies at the altar.

We will be doing some more landscaping and striping the parking lot in June or September when it is cool. We have hired someone to mow the church lawn (Jim Stuhlman will continue to mow parsonage and take care of the shrubbery). We hope to have a volunteer who enjoys mowing to take over to save the church some money.



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



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
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!



Bible Stories

Science

Music

Games

Crafts

July 13-17th
Dinner 5:30 pm
Program 6:00pm – 8:30 pm



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

Dear Family,

At Road Trip VBS, your students will enjoy an interactive, energizing, Bible-based good time as they are on the go with God. They will become Travelers and discover how God is with them wherever they go!

After a high-energy Opening Assembly time, the Travelers make their way to the Bible Story Station. Interactive Bible lessons reveal each Mile Marker to equip your Travelers for an active life with God. Your Travelers will also discover our Green Light Verse (Bible memory verse), which will remain with them in their faith long after VBS.

The students will expand on what they've discovered by making their own art projects at the Craft Station, singing new songs at the Music Station, exploring the wonders of God's creation at the Science Station, playing games at the Recreation Station, and enjoying tasty treats at the Snack Station. Along the way, the Travelers will hear about our mission project as they respond to a call for action!

Join us as we discover how God is with us everywhere we go!

Join us at

First & Wesley United Methodist Church, 89 Center Street, West Haven, CT 06516

July 13th through July 17th

from 6pm (dinner at 5:30pm) to 8:30pm

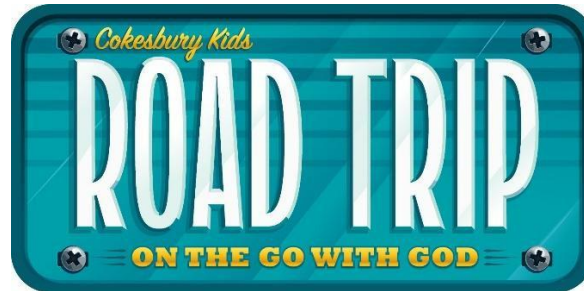
To register or to find out more about Road Trip VBS, call the church office at 203-933-8795 or visit the church website at <https://www.myvbs.org/FirstandWesleyUMC/>

Sincerely,

Your Road Trip VBS Team



VBS 2025



Countdown **42 Days**

We are less than 2 months away from our 2025 Vacation Bible School kickoff! VBS begins Sunday July 13th and runs through Thursday July 17th from 6:00 pm – 8:30 pm. Dinner will be served at 5:30 pm.

Spread the Word

Please help us to spread the word! We currently have 4 children signed up. If you know of a place to hang a “VBS Family Letter” to help bring attention to our amazing program, please grab one from the VBS table in Fellowship Hall or download a digital copy. There are postcards too, please feel free to grab a few and pass them out!

Volunteers Needed

We cannot run this program without your help! We currently need volunteers in the following areas.

Area	Leader	Helper
Bible Stories	Gail B.	
Music	Chris C.	
Science	Angel	Chris L.
Recreation	Serene	Abe
Crafts	Leanne	
Snacks	Peggy	Mary R.
Video / Sound	Helen Smith	
Photographer		
Registration / Check In		
Puppeteer	Cynthia Geissler	
Assembly Leader	Chris C.	

Dinner – Dave will need many helpers to prepare and serve dinner (4:00 – 6:00), anytime availability you can offer is greatly appreciated.

Walkers – We need volunteers to walk the children from one station to another (6:00-8:30).

Please contact Marcy to sign up, 203-809-7458 or visit our VBS table.

Supplies Needed

We are asking for monetary donations this year to help purchase supplies. Thank you to everyone who has already donated, every penny helps!

If you prefer to donate items, they are listed below. Please see Marcy or place them on the VBS table in Fellowship Hall. We will continue to update the list as more supplies are needed or as they are donated.

Items	Food
Maps	Caesar Suddenly Salads (8 Boxes)
Orange Traffic Cones	Spaghetti Sauce (5 - 45oz Jars)
Children Cars (Powerwheels)	Mac & Cheese (10 Boxes)
Blue Streamers	Mayonnaise (2 Large Squeeze Bottles)
Blue Pool Noodles	Knorr Alfredo Noodles (10 Packages)
Yellow Frog Tape (4 rolls)	Chicken (10 - 10oz Cans)
Black Garden Bed / Landscape Fabric (3-40ft rolls)	Fruit Cups (30)
Bead Garland – Think plastic Mardi Gra plastic bead necklaces (The longer the better or multiple strands)	Powder Punch (2 Large Containers / Lemonade & Fruit Punch)
Magnet	
5 Billiard Balls	
Clean 16oz Soda Bottle	
Soccer Ball	
Paper Drinking Cups	
Cotton Twine	
String	
Foam Core Board	
Magnifying Glass	
Potassium Permanganate (Pot Perm)	
Glycerin	
Masking Tape	
Brown Craft Paper	
Clothespins	
Paint Pens (White & Yellow)	
Gallon Freezer Bags	
Watercolor paints w/ Brushes (24)	

If you have any items you think would be good to help decorate our road trip theme, please feel free to let us know.

Important Dates

- Paint Day – June 14th @ 10:30
- VBS Meeting – June 17th @ 5:30
- Safe Sanctuary Training – TBD





June 15, Sun (11:15am) - Bible Study

<10 Minute Bible Stories for Teens>

We will be ending this year's After School program on June 9th
We would like to thank all the people that have made this program possible and a success. Our two paid staff, Diana Grippen and Sheila Torres, and our volunteers:

Gail Bartozzi, Eileen Choi (youth helper), Pastor Choi, Serene Choi (youth helper), Cynthia Dodd, Jim Jerrell, Peggy Jerrell, Christine Latham, Audra Locke (youth helper), Abe McKim, Jeeyeon Park, Mary Rolfe, Laurie Simone, David Smith, Helen Smith, Kel Youngs.

We had between 12-19 children during the school year each day.

We have balance left of a few thousand dollars from the grant.

We reapplied for the grant but did not receive more funds, so a challenge we are facing is monetary. We are looking into other funding sources.

A second challenge is volunteers to help during the week. With Pastor Choi and his family moving, we are losing 4 volunteers. Pastor Frank is in favor of keeping this program running. To run the program, we need 3 (preferably 4) adult volunteers each day, in addition to the two paid staff, per day on a consistent basis. Please prayerfully consider if you can commit to one day per week - that would be very helpful! Thank you!



BAKELESS BAKE SALE



with A TWIST!



A bit of news we have today
A MATCHING BAKELESS BAKE SALE is on the way!
In these busy days, who has time to bake
Pies or cookies or even a cake!

You'd be surprised if you considered the cost
Of ingredients, heat and the time that you've lost
Baking for sales is extra work
But nobody really wants to shirk.



So we've thought of a plan that's really grand
And feel quite sure you'll understand.
In an envelope, if you like, please include the price...
Of a pie or a cake or anything nice!

This time we've added a new catch
We have some angels who have agreed to MATCH*
What you have given so generously
That way your gift doubles our ministry.

Without fuss or bother, you've done your part
We hope you'll give with a willing heart.
On this idea we hope you'll pounce
And just think, you won't even gain an ounce!



*Up to \$500 total available match

June Birthdays

- 2 - Jenny Santamauro
Arlyn Memmott
- 8 - Shirley Pyrdol
- 9 - Courtney Skipper
- 14 - Serene Choi
Greg Hulse
Phoenix Chan
- 16 - James McGregor
- 17 - Eileen Choi
David Smith
- 18 - Lauren Heafy
- 20 - Edward Gertsch
- 21 - Joshua Braacker
Julianna Rapuano
- 23 - Kelli Jackson
- 24 - Anthony Sablone
- 25 - Richard Reid
- 27 - Christine Chan
- 28 - Helen Amos
- 29 - Mary Kiesinger
Ama Amos

June Anniversaries

- 1 - Susan and Mark Cascio
- 4 - Jim and Sharon Ewen
- 17 - Cynthia Dodd and Joseph Maltese
- 27 - Jen & Kevin Werle

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. If you are going to be working in the church alone, please make sure someone knows you are there and let them know when you leave.

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.

For Native American Ministries Sunday, we received a total of \$641 to be donated to CONAM (Committee On Native American Ministries)

“My Heart Sings”

Shadow Walker wants to thank the church people that made the Native American Sunday so pleasurable.

Thank you to Pastor Choi for his overall participation and encouragement.

Thank you to Helen Smith who helped plan and design the program, PowerPoint and sound for the morning service., May 18, 2025.

Thank you to Christine Chan for the choice of music and hymns and the children's moment.

And thank you to Jen Werle for bringing the artifacts to the church and setting up the Fellowship Hall display and Altar display.

This made my heart truly sing – thank you!



Prayer Shawl Ministry First and Wesley United Methodist

Special thanks to Pastor Choi for joining us at our April meeting. Edith Mulligan made us a delicious lasagna lunch with salad, rolls and chocolate pie. We are sad to see Pastor move onto a new church. But ... We send him and his Family off to his new assignment with love and prayers.

Our next Prayer Shawl meeting will be June 26, 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



Sunday School



Thank you to all the children and youth, helpers, and Sunday School teachers for your participation in the 2024-25 Sunday School year. Our last class for this school year will be on June 15. Children's Sunday is June 22nd and we will resume classes on September 7th.

Craft Corner



We have some Get Well and Thinking of You cards. 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 We meet the third Saturday of the month from 9:30 - 10:30.





The Messenger

First & Wesley United Methodist Church

89 Center Street, West Haven, 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 June 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!