

The Messenger

**First & Wesley
United Methodist Church
89 Center Street
West Haven, Connecticut 06516
203-933-8795
October 2025**



A Journey Through the Acts of the Apostles Begins This October

Beloved in Christ,

This October, we will embark on an inspiring and transformative journey through the Book of Acts of the Apostles. Known as the continuation of the Gospel story, Acts is more than just history. It is the living record of how

ordinary men and women, empowered by the Holy Spirit, turned the world upside down with the message of Jesus Christ.

The Acts of the Apostles is a book of beginnings:

- The beginning of the church's mission to the nations.
- The beginning of Spirit-filled leadership.
- The beginning of bold witness in the face of persecution.
- The beginning of lives transformed by the power of the resurrected Christ.

As we walk through its chapters together, we will rediscover the passion, courage, and faith that ignited the early church. We will see how the same Spirit that filled Peter, Paul, Stephen, Lydia, and countless others is still at work today, equipping us to be witnesses in our homes, communities, and the world.

This is not just an exposition of Scripture. It is an invitation; an invitation to

- Rekindle your hunger for the Word.
- Deepen your understanding of God's mission.
- Be stirred to boldness in living and sharing your faith.
- Catch a fresh vision of what it means to be the church in our generation.

Whether you are new to the faith or a seasoned believer, the Acts of the Apostles will both challenge and encourage you. Together, we will witness how God takes ordinary people and uses them in extraordinary ways when they surrender to His Spirit.

Come with expectation. Come with an open heart. Come ready to be inspired. This October, let us step into the story of Acts because the Acts of the Holy Spirit are still being written through us today.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses... to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

Lectionary Readings for October 2025



October 5, 2025



[Lamentations 1:1-6](#), [Psalm 137](#), [2 Timothy 1:1-14](#), [Luke 17:5-10](#)

October 12, 2025

[Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7](#), [Psalm 66:1-12](#), [2 Timothy 2:8-15](#), [Luke 17:11-19](#)

October 19, 2025

[Jeremiah 31:27-34](#), [Psalm 119:97-104](#), [2 Timothy 3:14-4:5](#), [Luke 18:1-8](#)

October 26, 2025

[Joel 2:23-32](#), [Psalm 65](#), [2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18](#), [Luke 18:9-14](#)

Havens/Shoreline Parish Healing and Wholeness Services

First & Wesley UMC

Tuesday, October 7th at 6pm (New Time)

(1st Tuesday of each month)

Branford UMC

Wednesday, October 8th at 1pm in the sanctuary

(2nd Wednesday of each month)

Hamden Plains UMC

Wednesday October 22nd at 11am (New Time) I

in the prayer room

(4th Wednesday of each month)

Services are led by Rev. Cindy Dodd, retired UM minister.
All are welcome! Questions? Call Pastor Dodd at 203 889-6934

First & Wesley United Methodist Church

October 2025



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 No After School Prog 7p Adult Group Study	2 10a–12p “K” Café No After School Prog 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	3 After School Prog 7p Mission	4 Spaghetti Fundraiser 4p pickup 5p Dinner
5 World Communion 10:00a Family Worship Service, Communion, Birthday/Anniversary celebration and Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon)	6 After School Prog 7p Adult Monday school	7 After School Prog 7p Healing Prayer Service	8 After School Prog 7p Adult Group Study	9 10a–12p “K” Café After School Prog 5p Youth Choir 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	10 After School Prog 7p Worship	11 8a-10a Men's Fellowship Breakfast
12 10:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon)	13 No After School Prog 7p Adult Monday school	14 After School Prog 7p Finance	15 After School Prog 7p Adult Group Study	16 10a–12p “K” Café After School Prog 5p Youth Choir 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	17 After School Prog	18 9:30a Craft Corner 5p Agape Meal (Free) All Welcome
19 Laity Sunday 10:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon)	20*Articles Due for the November Messenger After School Prog 7p Adult Monday school	21 After School Prog	22 After School Prog 7p Adult Group Study	23 10a–12p “K” Café 1p Prayer Shawl After School Prog 5p Youth Choir 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	24 After School Prog	25
26 10:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon)	27 After School Prog 7p Adult Monday school	28 No After School Prog 7 :30pTrustees	29 After School Prog 7p Adult Group Study	30 10a–12p “K” Café After School Prog 5p Youth Choir 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	31 After School Prog 6-8p Halloween Open House	11/1 3-5:30p Charge Conference at Branford UMC

Zoom Link for all Worship Services and meetings!

(exceptions – SPR, CNLD,)

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/147691027>

Call-in: 1-646-876-9923 Meeting ID: 147691027#

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

Sunday School



Grow in Faith with Us

Together, we're learning what it means to know God's character, understand the work of Christ, and live faithfully in relationship with God and one another.

Join us Sunday mornings right after the Children's Moment during the 10:00 AM service. We'd love to have you with us!

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.

MISSION & OUTREACH

UPDATE on Summer Mission projects

We received \$490 for Donors Choose and \$750 for WHEAT.



THANK YOU to everyone who donated



HALLOWEEN OPEN HOUSE

October 31st

6-8pm

We will be hosting a fun night for area children who are out trick or treating. The church will be open for them to come in and get some treats, play some games, watch “It’s the Great Pumpkin”, get a drink and cookie.

If you can help out at this event by serving food, helping with games, being a greeter, or a floater, please talk to Christine Chan.

Also, we can use donations of small wrapped candy, store bought cookies (no peanuts or manufactured in plant with peanuts) or monetary donations to offset the cost. Thank you!

Fellowship

Every Thursday – Koinonia Café, 10am-12pm

Please note: If you would like to help Judy Jennette with the cafe, please contact her.

FREE Community meal followed by games.

Every 3rd Saturday of each month – 5pm

Volunteers always welcome – see Dave Smith or Judy Jennette.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

First & Wesley United Methodist Church

Hope everyone had a safe and fun summer.

Our next Prayer Shawl meeting will be October 23, 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

Worship Committee News

World Communion Sunday

Join us as we celebrate World Communion Sunday on October 5, 2025! We will have breads from around the world during our communion ceremony, and Bible readings recited in foreign languages (with translation of course!). Come receive the gift of everlasting life through Jesus Christ, given to us freely around the world.

Laity Sunday

Our worship service on October 19, 2025 is Laity Sunday. We have a strong, warm, connected family in Christ in our church, and everyone has a story to tell. If you would like to speak your testimony of faith during the worship service, please contact Mary Rolfe or Christine Chan.

All Saints Sunday

All Saints Sunday is November 2, 2025. We will be honoring friends and family who have passed away in the last year by reciting their names followed by a bell toll during the worship service. If you would like to honor a loved one, please submit their name to Helen Smith by October 26th.

Music Ministry

We welcome anyone who is interested in making music, regardless of skill level or experience! We look forward to another year of making music in praise of our Lord!

Our choirs rehearse every Thursday.

Youth Choir Rehearsals – 5pm

Handbell Choir - 6pm

Adult Chancel Choir 7pm.

If you are interested in joining or curious and would like to observe what we do, please contact Christine Chan (203) 927-4679 for Adult and Handbell Choirs, and Helen Smith (203) 444-2362 for Youth Choir. Our groups are a loving, safe, and fun place to learn and make music together!

In Harmony, Christine Chan, Music Director



October Birthdays

- 1 - Joshua Jerrell
Eulalee Miller
8 - Dennis Kopec
David Hawkes
15 - Sharon Ewen
18 - Beth Ammon
24 - Debbie Goodwin
27 - Eula Wilson

October Anniversaries

- 3 - Catherine & Giovanni Gigola
3 - Kel & Bettina Youngs
14 - Cynthia & Ray Geissler

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.

Also, please send information re any name changes, address changes, marriages, births, deaths, etc., to the Church Office, or by Email to: firstwesleyumc@gmail.com



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.

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.



Craft Corner

Card Ministry

Reaching Out with Care

Our Card Ministry creates and sends *Get Well* and *Thinking of You* cards to those who could use a little extra encouragement or support.

If you know someone who would appreciate a card, or if you have questions about the group, please contact Gail.

You can call the church office or email her at gbartozzi@yahoo.com.

We meet on the **third Saturday of each month** from **9:30 to 10:30 AM** to make cards together. All are welcome to join us!

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"If you listen real carefully when the breeze blows, you can hear God whispering."

from *The Joyful Noiseletter*
Reprinted with permission of Bil Keane

Upcoming Fundraisers - Mark Your Calendars

Saturday, October 4th

Spaghetti & Meatball dinner will be eat in or take-out

For take-out - pick up will be at 4pm

Eat in will start at 5pm in the dining room of Kendall Hall

Online ordering at <https://www.firstwesleyumc.org/spaghetti/>

Saturday, November 15th

Harvest Fair, 8am-3pm

Please note that the date for our fair is the THIRD Saturday of November

Harvest Fair Information

Our largest fundraiser, the Annual Harvest Fair, is set for Saturday, November 15, 2025. Here is a list of what we would like to have ready to make this year's fair another successful event!

- Volunteers- people are our most wonderful asset. An hour or two spent helping would make the day run smoothly. Help with pancakes in the am and or lunch at noon time, staffing booths, floaters.
- Pre-fair set up & post fair clean up.
- Calling all bakers and lovers of sweet treats. We are planning to have our table of goodies to sell by our "sweet" volunteers.

Raffle prizes - this is a great way to help us make the Fundraiser a success. Donations of baskets, gift cards, homemade items, creative crafts, etc. all are welcome! Please let Mary Rolfe know if you can help support this project.

Calendar of activities leading up to and after Fair day

If you can help out any of these days, it would be GREAT!

- Tag sale drop offs - Saturdays October 18, 25 and November 1, 8 from 11am to 1pm. For other times, please contact Mary. 475-988-7666
- Sat. Nov. 8th - 2pm set up tables in gym/bring down tag sale stuff
- Mon. Nov. 10th - Noon - 3pm set out tag sale stuff
- Tue. Nov. 11th - Noon - 8pm set out tag sale stuff
- Wed. Nov. 12th - 6 - 8pm work on fair set up
- Thu. Nov. 13th – 8am making monkey bread
Noon - 3pm set up for fair

Calendar of activities leading up to and after Fair day (cont'd)



- Fri. Nov, 14th - pie day! 9am – finish
2pm – take pies upstairs and 6pm return pies to dining room
- Sat. Nov. 15th – FAIR DAY 8am-3p
NOTE: due to community dinner at 5pm we need to allow for them to be in the kitchen as soon as possible after lunch and we will need extra help cleaning up in the dining room in preparation for their dinner.
- Sun. Nov.16th - after 2pm -pack up everything we can in gym so After School program can go back to normal routines.
- Mon. Nov. 17th 9am to ? - finish necessary cleaning of anything left in dining room and set up for After School program. Also, clean up upstairs.

Also, if you want to make cookies, brownies, cake, or whatever for our baked goods table, that is ALWAYS appreciated. If you can list the ingredients, that is helpful to those shoppers who have allergies.

If you make crafts and would be willing to donate something to our craft booth, that is always appreciated as well!

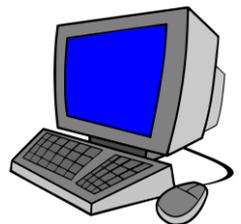
CONTACT INFORMATION



Pastor, Rev. Frank Sarpong
860-938-1845 (phone or text))
franksarpong@nyac-umc.com

Layleader, Mary Rolfe
475-988-7666 (phone or test)
mary.kate527@icloud.com

306 Noble St., West Haven, CT (old-fashioned mail!)



FROM Committee on Nominations and Leadership

The Committee on Nominations will be meeting to start the process of filling positions on our different committees. Our committees are our hands and feet for the mission and ministry of First & Wesley. There are many ways to serve the Lord and we ask that you give prayerful consideration to serve. Below is a brief explanation of each committee's responsibilities.

Church Council – meets about 4 times a year to review ministries and reports of various committees.

Missions and Outreach – meets about 6 times a year to plan and implement mission and outreach programs.

Worship Committee – meets about 6 times a year to plan regular worship, special services, etc.

Staff-Parish Relations Committee – meets about 4-5 times a year. Establishes and reviews a survey sent to all members to help better our church's ministries. Members of this committee are the means for the pastor and the staff to express what is working well and what isn't working well. The congregation can bring any concern to one of the members who will bring it up at the next SPR meeting.

Finance Committee – meets monthly to review where our finances stand and establish fundraisers as needed.

Trustees – meets 10 times a year to review what needs to be done to keep the church and parsonage in good physical condition.

Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development (CNLD) – meets a few times a year to line-up people to take on different roles in the ministries of our church.

Below are areas (not committees!) that I know of right now where “many hands would make light work”.

- *Flower Guild – Mary Rolfe needs people to help (especially at the holidays) 203-530-9858
- *Sunday School teachers – Gail Bartozzi 203-747-6039
- *Children's Sermon – Christine Chan 203-927-4679
- *Sound or camera operation for Worship & PPT creation – Helen Smith 203-444-2362
- *Halloween program - Christine Chan 203-927-4679

We need:

- Volunteers at least eight Safe Sanctuary Trained adults to be at different stations in the church from 5:30-8pm
- Volunteers to help decorate after church on Sunday, October 29th
- Donations of bite-size candy to give out. Donations may be brought to church on Sundays or on Thursdays between 10am-12pm.
- *Harvest Fair – Mary Rolfe 203-530-9858
- *Assistant Counters - about once a month or so, you would be scheduled to count the offering with a lead counter. – contact Dave Smith, 203-415-6092



HARVEST FAIR

@ FIRST & WESLEY UMC

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 8AM - 3PM

Veterans receive free breakfast!

BREAKFAST

8:00 AM - 10:30 AM

ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKES

ADULT: \$10.00

KID (5-11): \$5.00

LUNCH

11:30 AM - 2:00 PM

DAVE'S FAMOUS CHILI & MORE

BOWL OF CHILI: \$6.00

MEATBALL SUB: \$5.00



BOOTHS

CRAFTS / HOMEMADE BAKED GOODS / JEWELRY / PLANTS
USED BOOKS / HUGE TAG SALE / CHILDREN'S AREA / AND MORE



First & Wesley United Methodist Church
89 Center Street, West Haven, CT 06516
203.933.8795 / www.firstwesleyumc.org

Wheelchair accessible - back of parking lot

Come - Eat - Shop - Enjoy





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 Frank Sarpong

“Sunday Worship Time: 10:00am”

The October 2025 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!