The Messenger

First & Wesley
United Methodist Church
89 Center Street
West Haven, Connecticut 06516
203-933-8795
November 2026





Rev. Frank Sarpong

Before We Enter a New Year, Let Us Get Ready to Move!

Reflecting on God's Faithfulness
and
Preparing for What Lies Ahead

As we approach the end of another year, we have an opportunity to pause, reflect, and prepare for what lies ahead. The closing of a year is more than a change on the calendar; it is an invitation to examine our spiritual journey, celebrate God's faithfulness, learn from our experiences, and renew our commitment to Christ and His church. The Apostle Paul reminds us in Philippians 3:13–14 that we must press forward toward the goal of our calling in Christ Jesus. Although we should never forget the lessons of the past, we must not allow yesterday's disappointments, failures, or accomplishments to prevent us from embracing what God has prepared for tomorrow.

First, let us look back with gratitude.

Throughout the year, God has sustained us through joyful moments, difficult seasons, answered prayers, and unexpected challenges. We have witnessed His grace in our individual lives and in the life of our congregation. Even when circumstances were uncertain, God remained faithful. As we reflect, let us give thanks for our families, our church community, our opportunities to worship and serve, and the countless ways God has provided for us. Gratitude reminds us that we have come this far by His grace.

Second, let us look within with honesty.

Reflection must lead to renewal. We must ask ourselves some important questions: Have we grown in our relationship with Christ? Have we been faithful in prayer, worship, fellowship, and service? Have we used our gifts to strengthen the church and bless others? Have we welcomed those seeking a spiritual home? These questions are not meant to condemn us but to challenge us to grow. A new season requires renewed hearts, transformed attitudes, and a willingness to allow God to shape us into the people He has called us to be.

Third, let us look ahead with commitment.

Our church's theme for the coming year is **"Show Up, Jump In, Move Out."** This is more than a slogan; it is a call to action.

Show Up: Let us commit to being present in worship, prayer, fellowship, and discipleship. Consistent participation strengthens our faith and builds a stronger church.

Jump In: Let us move beyond being spectators and become active participants. Discover your gifts, join a ministry, encourage someone, and contribute to the work God is doing through our congregation.

Move Out: Let us carry Christ's love beyond the church walls. Through evangelism, community service, acts of compassion, and intentional relationships, we can bring hope to our neighbors and make disciples of Jesus Christ.

As we prepare to enter a new year, let us remember that a new calendar does not automatically create a new beginning. Lasting change comes when we respond to God's call with faith and obedience.

May we enter the coming year with grateful hearts, renewed spirits, and a shared commitment to God's mission. Together, let us

SHOW UP faithfully, JUMP IN courageously, and MOVE OUT boldly!

The next chapter of our church's story begins with each one of us.

Let us get ready to move!



Havens/Shoreline Parish Healing and Wholeness Services

Healing Prayer Circle will meet the first Tuesday of Nov. Nov 3rd, at 6pm in the pastor's study. The service is simple, with a little singing, a scripture reading and some prayer. Anyone is invited to come and bring prayer concerns for yourself or someone you love. People are also welcome to simply come to pray with and for others. Hope to see you there. The service is led by Pastor Cindy Dodd
Retired United Methodist Elder
First & Wesley UMC



Tuesday, November 3rd at 6pm
(1st Tuesday of each month)

Hamden Plains UMC
Wednesday, November 26th at 11am **(New Time)**
In the prayer room
(4th Wednesday of each month)

First & Wesley United Methodist Church
November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School Birthday/Anniversary celebration after service	**2** 3:30p After School 7p Adult Monday school	**3 Election Day** 6p Healing Service 7p Staff Parish	**4** 3:30p Afterschool 7p Adult Group Study	**5** 10a–12p "K" Café 3:30p Afterschool 5p Youth Choir	**6** 3:30p Afterschool 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	**7**
8 10:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon **Blessing of Prayer Shawls** 7p Worship Committee - online	**9** 3:30p After School 7p Adult Monday school	**10** 3:30p Afterschool 7p Finance	**11** **Veterans'Day** 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Group Study 7p Adult Choir	**12** 10a–12p "K" Café 3:30p Afterschool 5p Youth Choir	**13** 7a Bake Day 3:30p Afterschool	**14** **8a – 3p Harvest Fair**
15 10:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon **Youth Choir singing**	16 3:30p Afterschool 7p Adult Monday school	**17** 3:30p Afterschool	**18** 3:30p Afterschool 7p Adult Group Study	**19** 10a–12p "K" Café 12p Prayer Shawl at Lorenzo's 3:30p Afterschool 5p Youth Choir	**20** 3:30p Afterschool 6p Missions – in person	**21** 9a-12p Work Day 9:30a - Craft Corner 5p Agape Meal (Free) All Welcom
22 10:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon	**23** 3:30p Afterschool 7p Adult Monday school	**24** 3:30p Afterschool 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	**25** No Afterschool 7p Adult Group Study	**26** **Thanksgiving**	**27** 10a-1pm Decorate the church	**28** 10a-1pm Decorate the church 10a Set up Nativity
29 First Sunday of Advent 10:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon	**30** 3:30p Afterschool 7p Adult Monday school	**Dec. 1** 3:30p Afterschool 7p Trustees				

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

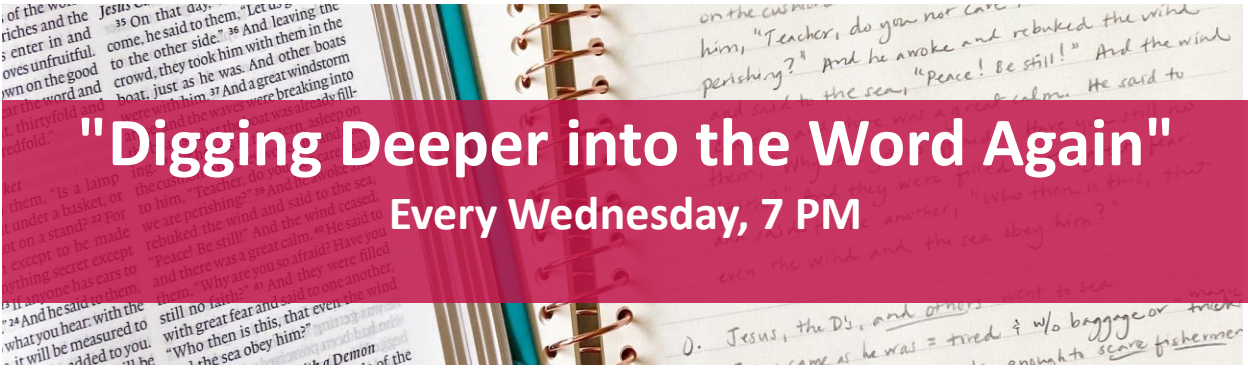


Grow in Faith with Us

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



▶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.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

The November Men's Breakfast is cancelled to make way for our Fall Fair on November 14th from 8am-3pm. Please come and have a Pancake Breakfast and support our fundraiser.
If you know a veteran please bring them!
We would like to honor him or her with a **free breakfast.**

Our December Breakfast is scheduled for December 12th at 8am.

MISSION & OUTREACH

THANK YOU to everyone who helped out and donated candy, cookies and time for our **HALLOWEEN OPEN HOUSE**

Next Mission Meeting - Friday November 20th 6:00p in person in the Pastor's Study

Pictures with Santa

December 5th Kendall Hall
from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Invite your family and friends to wear their Christmas PJs, ugly Christmas sweaters, or Holiday Finery and get pictures taken with Santa. There will be fresh baked cookies and cocoa to enjoy, as well as a craft table for children.

We will need a lot of Santa's helpers to make the event a success. Please contact Kel Youngs if you are able to help or have questions- text 203-506-8407 or by email, contactkelyoungs@gmail.com

WHEAT Wagon

The food collection wagon in the Narthex is EMPTY! Please add non-perishable food items to your grocery list. Bring them to church and drop them off in the wagon on Sunday November 1, 8, & 15th. We will bless the items at our November 15th morning worship service as well as gift cards that will be given out at Thanksgiving & Christmas. The food donations will be brought to WHEAT and the gift cards will be distributed to families in need.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

There will be a "Blessing of the Prayer Shawls" on Nov. 8th during our Worship Service.

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry will gather for lunch at Lorenzo's on Wednesday, November 18, at 12:00 noon. Following our summer break, we will begin meeting again to make prayer shawls.

Prayer shawls are much more than something we knit or crochet. Each shawl is made with love, prayer, and caring thoughts for the person who will receive it. They are given to those who are ill, facing difficult times, or grieving the loss of a loved one.

A prayer shawl is often described as a *wearable hug*—a reminder that someone cares and that we are never alone. As we work on each shawl, we offer prayers and good wishes for the person who will receive it.

We look forward to enjoying lunch together, sharing fellowship, and beginning another season of making shawls to bring comfort, warmth, and hope to others.

For more information please call Sharon Ewen 203-464-1995 or Edith Mulligan 203-821-7533

Worship Committee News

Sunday, November 8th we will be honoring our Veterans during the service. Please submit any names of Veterans that are not already on our list to Helen Smith by November 2nd, and we encourage anyone who is a Veteran to come on this day to be acknowledged for their service.

Also on November 8th, we will be blessing the prayer shawls crafted by the members of the prayer shawl ministry. Come and see the beautiful colors lovingly knitted by our talented members.

Shoreline-Havens Parish Concert

Our choir will be singing at this concert on Dec. 6th at 3pm. We hope you can come and enjoy this time of fellowship with the other churches in our parish during our Advent season.



November Birthdays

1 - Jacob Jerrell
2 - Sarah Santamauro
3 - Dolores Danz
4 - Sue McMillian
6 - Jim Jerrell
Kelly Stuhlman Roaslet
8 - Renee Bobko
12 - Olliver Dougherty
13 - Emily Kopec
Jennifer Kopec
14 - Ava Hollister
16 - Eric Dzikas
18 – Mike DeGenaro
19 - Abe McKim
21 - Ann Yost
22 - Becky Baker
25 - John Poe IV
Jocelyn Moscato
23 - Mark Turner

November Anniversaries

1 - Shelby and Louis Argentino
2 - Ann and Art Yost
8 - Debbie & Dave Goodwin

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 coins for the Native American Ministries. We would like to send many thanks to our Church Family for helping us to continue with this Ministry.



Decorating the Church
Nov. 27th & 28th
10am-1pm

We will be decorating for Advent and the Christmas season – please come an help for whatever amount of time you can! Food is provided!



Nativity Set-up
Nov. 28th, 10am

As an outreach visual, we will be setting up our outside nativity. We need some strong people to help us set up our annual display. If we have several people, it does not take long!

Being Alone in 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**.

This month, we will meet on Saturday, **Nov. 21st** from **9:30 to 10:30 AM** to make cards together. All are welcome to join us!

Upcoming Fundraisers - Mark Your Calendars

Saturday, November 14th

Harvest Fair, 8am-3pm

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

Harvest Fair Information

Our largest fundraiser, the Annual Harvest Fair, is set for Saturday, November 14, 2026. 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.

Calendar of activities leading up to our Harvest Fair day

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

- Wed. Nov. 11th - 9am making monkey bread & cookies
- Fri. Nov, 13th – 7am - 2:00pm Pie day!
  2pm – take pies upstairs and
  6pm return pies to dining room
  6 - 8pm fair table setup
- Sat. Nov. 15th – FAIR DAY 8am-3p



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!



CHURCH WORK DAY

Nov. 21st from 9am-12pm



We can use as many people as we can get to do some projects at the church. We want to clean all the woodwork within reach as well as other projects. There will be a sign-up sheet at the Information table in the fellowship hall. If you can think of anything else that is not on the list, contact Laurie Simone.

If you can help for just one hour, it can make a world of difference. We will have some breakfast food and water available throughout the morning.

Holiday Gift Card Fundraiser

This gift card fundraiser is going to provide a way for you to contribute to First & Wesley while spending what you normally spend on gift cards at Christmas. The way it works is very similar to the Stop & Shop and ShopRite gift card fundraisers we already do (if you would like to make use of this ongoing gift card fund raiser, please contact Dave or Helen Smith).
You purchase the gift card and the church receives a percentage of the face value of what you bought. On the order forms, you will see 37 different retailers or restaurant choices* and the % amount of the face value that the church will receive.

1. You fill out an order form to order the gift cards in advance. (order form on next page)
2. You order and pay for the gift cards ahead of time (Make checks payable to FWUMC and write Gift Card fundraiser in the memo field)
3. **Orders need to be submitted by November 30TH.**
4. Ordered gift cards will be available on December 7th after church

* If you do not see a retailer listed on the form, call Helen and she can look up on the RaiseRight website to see if they include it as a possibility. Do not add a retailer until you have talked to Helen!



Lectionary Readings for November 2026

November 1, 2026
Joshua 3:7-17, Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37, 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13, Matthew 23:1-12

November 8, 2026
Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25, Psalm 78:1-7, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Matthew 25:1-13

November 15, 2026
Judges 4:1-7, Psalm 123, 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11, Matthew 25:14-30

November 22, 2026
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 , salm 100, Ephesians 1:15-23, Matthew 25:31-46

November 29, 2026
Isaiah 64:1-9, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, 1 Corinthians 1:3-9, Mark 13:24-37

GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER

We are providing First & Wesley members and friends of the church an opportunity to buy gift cards for Christmas gifts and at the same time support the church financially. Simply fill out the form below & send form to First & Wesley Methodist Church, 89 Center Street, West Haven, CT 06516 or give to Helen Smith

ALL ORDERS need to be received by 11-29-2026

RAISERIGHT
ORDER FORM

Name_____
Phone # _____
E-mail (for confirmation)_____
cards ordered _____ Amount enclosed_____

Submit the order form with check or cash
to Helen Smith by November 29th

Ordered gift cards will be available for pickup starting on Sun. 12/6(after church)

All checks make payable to FWUMC - please put "gift card fundraiser" in memo line

#	Store/Business	Amount	% earned	Subtotal		#	Restaurant/Food	Amount	% earned	Subtotal
	Amazon.com	$25	1.25%				Bob Evans	$25	10.00%	
	Amazon.com	$100	1.25%				Buffalo Wild Wings	$25	8.00%	
	Apple Store,Apple.com	$25	5.00%				Buffalo Wild Wings	$50	8.00%	
	Barnes & Noble	$10	8.00%				Burger King	$10	7.00%	
	Barnes & Noble	$25	8.00%				Chili's	$25	10.00%	
	Best Buy	$25	4.00%				Chili's	$50	10.00%	
	Best Buy	$100	4.00%				Cracker Barrel	$25	8.00%	
	Boscov's	$25	8.00%				Dave & Buster's	$25	13.00%	
	Carter's	$25	10.00%				Dunkin Donuts	$10	3.50%	
	CVS	$25	7.00%				Dunkin Donuts	$25	3.50%	
	CineMark Theaters	$25	6.00%				Olive Garden	$25	8.00%	
	Dick's Sporting Goods	$25	8.00%				Olive Garden	$100	8.00%	
	Dick's Sporting Goods	$100	8.00%				Outback Steakhouse	$25	10.00%	
	Game Stop	$25	5.00%				Outback Steakhouse	$50	10.00%	
	Home Depot	$25	4.00%				Panera Bread	$25	8.00%	
	Home Depot	$100	4.00%				Panera Bread	$50	8.00%	
	Ikea	$25	5.00%				Sonic	$10	8.00%	
	Kohl's	$25	7.00%				Sonic	$25	5.00%	
	Lowe's	$25	4.00%				Starbucks	$10	4.50%	
	Lowe's	$100	4.00%				Starbucks	$25	4.50%	
	Mobil	$50	1.50%				Subway	$10	6.00%	
	Shell	$25	1.50%				Subway	$50	6.00%	
	Shell	$50	1.50%				Taco Bell	$10	5.00%	
	Staples	$25	5.00%				Taco Bell	$25	5.00%	
	Target	$25	2.50%				Texas Roadhouse	$25	8.00%	
	Target	$50	2.50%				Texas Roadhouse	$100	8.00%	
	Uber	$25	3.00%				Wendy's	$25	6.00%	
	Walgreen's	$25	5.00%							
	Walmart	$25	2.50%							
	Walmart	$50	2.50%							





HARVEST FAIR

@ FIRST & WESLEY UMC

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 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/THANKSGIVING PIES/ BOOTHS

PLANTS/ USED BOOKS / CHILDREN'S AREA / AND MORE

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Wheelchair accessible - back of parking lot

Come - Eat - Shop - Enjoy

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Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/firstwesleyumc.
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"Sunday Worship Time: 10:00am"

The November 2026 Newsletter

