

The Messenger

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

December 2024



Jesus Christ: The Foundation of Our Life

The calendar year we commonly use begins in January and ends in December. December is often a time to reflect on the past year and prepare for the new one. But is December truly the final month for everyone? According to the academic calendar used in schools, the year starts in August and ends in June. For the U.S. government's fiscal year, the year begins in October and ends in September. And in the church's Lectionary Calendar, the year begins with the first Sunday of Advent and ends with the Reign of Christ Sunday. This year, the first Sunday of Advent is December 1st. So, December is not just the last month of the year but the first month of the new Lectionary Year.

In the church, the new year begins with the anticipation of the birth of baby Jesus. This signifies that Christ is with us from the very start of the year. The church's journey begins with the coming of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the most powerful foundation of the church. What we have to remember is that, as the apostle Paul reminds us, we are the church. So, Jesus Christ is the foundation of our faith. It is through Christ that we live, receive comfort, find strength, and walk together in faith. Christ is the Lord of our lives, our example, and the One who ultimately leads us to salvation. We are meaningful only in Jesus Christ.

Just as the church year begins with Christ, so should Christ be the center of our lives. As December, the month in which we await the birth of baby Jesus begins, I hope we will see it not just as the last month of 2024 but as a time to renew our faith in Christ and begin our lives anew in him. May we all live through Christ, who is the source of our life and who leads us to God's salvation. Amen.

“My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So, I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” - Galatians 2:20

Pastor Jinha Choi
First & Wesley United Methodist Church

Lectionary Readings for December **2024**



December 1, 2024

[Jeremiah 33:14-16](#), [Psalm 25:1-10](#), [1 Thessalonians 3:9-13](#), [Luke 21:25-36](#)

December 8, 2024

[Malachi 3:1-4](#), [Philippians 1:3-11](#), [Luke 1:68-79](#), [Luke 3:1-6](#)

December 15, 2024

[Isaiah 12:2-6](#), [Zephaniah 3:14-20](#), [Philippians 4:4-7](#), [Luke 3:7-18](#)

December 22, 2024

[Micah 5:2-5a](#), [Psalm 80](#), [Hebrews 10:5-10](#), [Luke 1:39-55](#)

December 24, 2024

[Isaiah 9:2-7](#), [Psalm 96](#), [Titus 2:11-14](#), [Luke 2:1-20](#)

December 29, 2024

[1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26](#), [Psalm 148](#), [Colossians 3:12-17](#), [Luke 2:15-21](#)

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

Upcoming (planned for year end):

- **December** - distributing Christmas gifts for Our Covenant to Care social worker Holiday Wishes for Covenant to Care
Please have your gifts in church by **Sunday, December 8!** They need to be wrapped and **have the gift tag attached**, so our social worker Kim Jackson can identify and deliver them to appropriate children and youth. Thank you all for your generosity!
- **December** – distributing fifty Stop & Shop gift cards for families in need at Christmas
- **Breakfast with Santa** – see flyer in this newsletter for more information
- **January** – Sock & Underwear Drive

We also continue the Koinonia Café on Thursdays, Monthly prayer shawl ministry, Native American penny collection as well as free monthly community dinners on the 3rd Saturday of each month.



December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> <p>10:00a Family Worship with Communion & Birthday/Anniversary Celebration Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon)</p> <p>Gift card Fundraiser Due Flower Orders Due</p>	<p>2</p> <p>7p Adult Monday school</p>	<p>3</p> <p>7p Healing Service</p> <p>7p Trustees</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5p Youth Choir</p> <p>7p Adult Group Study</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10a–12p “K” Café</p> <p>6p Bell Choir</p> <p>7p Adult Choir</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9a Breakfast with Santa</p>
<p>8</p> <p>10:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon) Blessing of Christmas Gifts and Gift cards</p>	<p>9</p> <p>7p Adult Monday school</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7p Finance</p>	<p>11</p> <p>5p Youth Choir</p> <p>7p Adult Group Study</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10a–12p “K” Café</p> <p>6p Bell Choir</p> <p>7p Adult Choir</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10a Worship Committee</p>
<p>15</p> <p>10:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon)</p>	<p>16</p> <p>7p Adult Monday school</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>7p Adult Group Study</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10a–12p “K” Café</p> <p>6p Bell Choir</p> <p>7p Adult Choir</p>	<p>20</p> <p><i>*Articles Due for the January Messenger</i></p>	<p>21</p> <p>5p Agape Meal (Free) All Welcome</p>
<p>22 Christmas Sunday</p> <p>10:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon)</p>	<p>23</p> <p>No Adult Monday School</p>	<p>24</p> <p>7p Christmas Eve Service</p>	<p>25</p> <p>6:30a Christmas Morning Service</p>	<p>26</p> <p>10a–12p “K” Café</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>10:00a Family Worship Service & Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon)</p>	<p>30</p> <p>No Adult Monday School</p>	<p>31</p>				

Fellowship

Every Thursday – Koinonia Café, 10am-12pm (**in-person only**)

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

Every 3rd Saturday of each month – 5pm FREE Community meal followed by games.



Adult Monday School

We meet on Monday nights at 7pm on Zoom. We are using the book Letters to the Church. We welcome you to come and join in a time of study, reflection and fellowship. If you need a book, contact the church office.

Adult Bible Study

We meet on Wednesday night at 7pm on Zoom. During Advent, we will be using an Advent 2024 Calendar of Devotions. Please contact the church office for a copy of this.



December Birthdays

- 3 - Diane Soars
- 5 - Judy Juzwiakowski
- 6 - Julia Werle
- 8 - Hannah Cascio
Shirley Henries
- 9 - Christine McGregor
- 10 - Bill Hunt
Bob Clinton
Hyacinth Young
- 11 - Lisa Ammon
Tom Mark
Jennifer Skipper
- 12 - Katelyn Napier
- 17 - Michele Sablone
- 18 - Matt Heafy
- 20 - Jayden Abekah
- 21 - Mark Cascio
Isaiah Singleton
- 29 - Raymond Geissler
- 30 - Florence Dzikas
Stephanie Wilson
- 31 - Gina Quinn

December Anniversaries

- 3 - Peggy and Jim Jerrell
- 11 - Helen and Dave Smith
- 16 - Becky and Tom Baker
- 27 - Linda and Dennis Kopec

PLEASE NOTE: 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 and if you are going to be alone in the church, call one of the numbers below. Thank you!

2024 contact numbers

Helen Smith	203-444-2362	Council Chair
Jim Stuhlman	203-435-1790	Trustee Chair
Mary Rolfe	203-641-0929	Layleader

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

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 every Sunday morning following the Children's Moment during the 10:00 service. During class we read Bible stories and talk about them, play games, make crafts, and sing songs.

You may register for Sunday School in person or online
<https://www.firstwesleyumc.org/sunday-school-registration>

Craft Corner



We have some Get Well and Thinking of You cards. Contact Gail Bartozzi or call the church office if you would like a card sent to someone or have questions about the group.

We will make cards on December 21 from 9:30 - 10:30. Come join us.



**Prayer Shawl Ministry
First and Wesley
United Methodist Church**

There will be NO Prayer Shawl the Month of December.

We will resume January 23, 2025 - 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

We are a small group and would love to have more people join us.

From the Finance Committee

Thank you for all your support throughout this past year. An update on the church fair - We made a little over \$2,556 for the mission and ministry of First & Wesley.

Thank you to Mary Rolfe for chairing this event/fundraiser and to all the volunteers who helped not only that day but before and after, to get things made, cover the booths, set up and cleanup!

Thank you also to those who have given a commitment card for 2025. There is still time to give this card to the church so that the Finance committee can plan for the year ahead.

Happy Thanksgiving to Our Community

Grocery gift cards were delivered to both our DCF social worker/Covenant to Care and the Hill area of New Haven and church families.

Also, five delicious pies, from our fair, were donated to the West Haven community Thanksgiving dinner at the Congregational Church.

Both of these contributions helped our neighbors celebrate the holiday!
Thank you for everyone's generosity!





FREE COMMUNITY
BREAKFAST
WITH
SANTA



Enjoy the Continental Breakfast, create a craft, FREE mittens & hats, and photos with Santa (bring your camera!)



SATURDAY
DECEMBER 7TH
9-11 AM

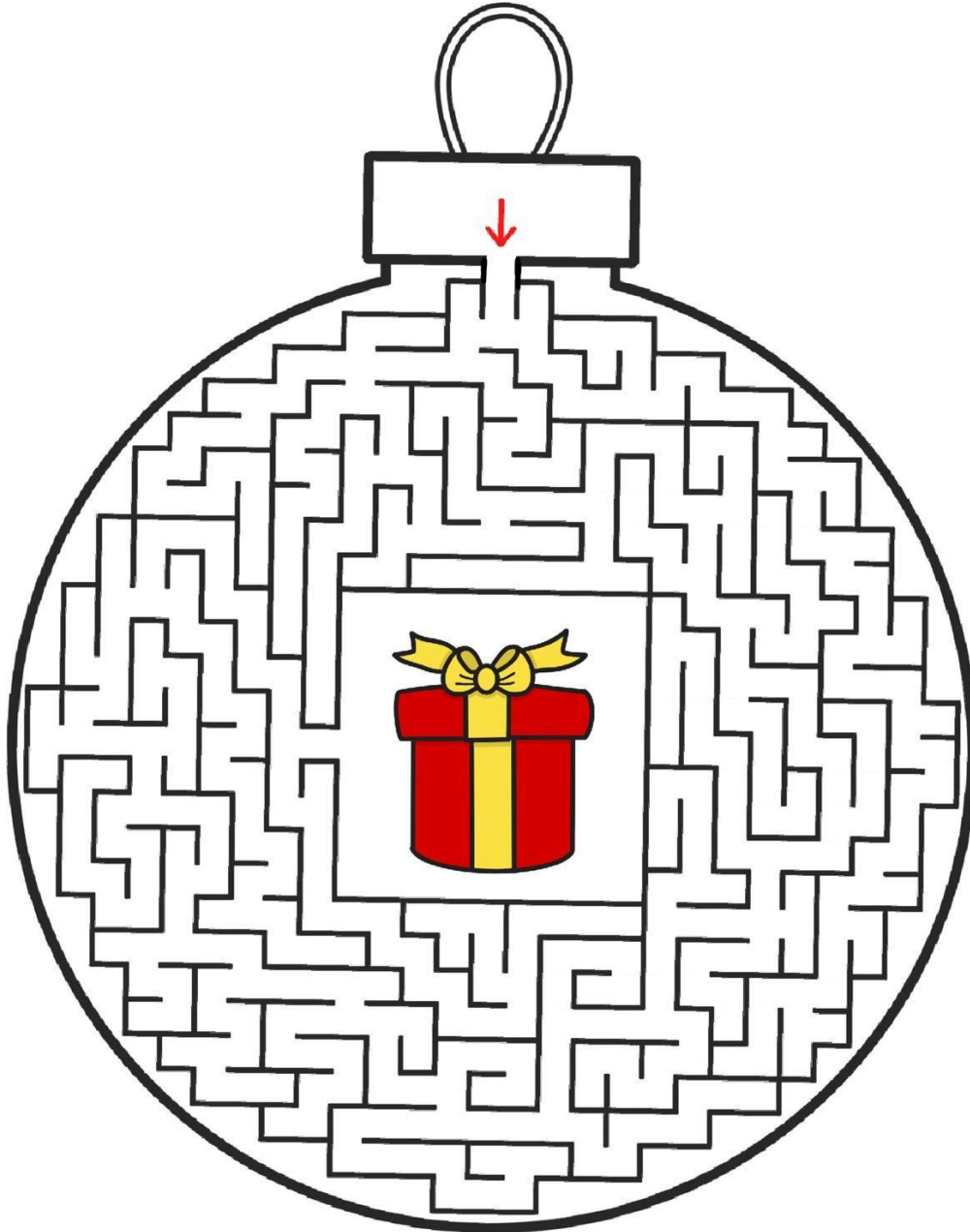


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Handicap accessible

FIRSTWESLEYUMC.ORG

Christmas Bauble Maze

Can you work your way through the Christmas Maze to get to the present?





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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 December 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!