

The Messenger

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

February 2025



“A Fresh Breeze in Our Church: The After-School Program”

Recently, our church has been energized by a new program – our afterschool program. Every day, from Monday to Friday, for two hours, the church becomes a lively, bustling place. Of course, it’s not an easy task. We read storybooks, sing songs, and do choreographed movements. We prepare snacks and play with the children in the gym. But the most challenging part is dealing with the children themselves. There are children who are noisy, sad, angry, and some who just want to be left alone. Each moment presents a variety of personalities, and the responsibility of caring for them falls entirely on our volunteers. I truly admire and feel thankful for our volunteers who commit to this program every day. They are remarkable, and I believe they are true disciples of Jesus, embodying God’s love by extending it to their neighbors.

Now, as we reach the halfway point of this year’s after-school program and begin the second half, I’ve realized how much we can learn from the children with whom we spend so much time. Adults, when they fight or disagree, often find it hard to become friends again. But children are different. They might argue over who gets to play with a ball first, but soon after, they’re friends again, as if nothing ever happened. How is this possible? From my observation, it’s because children don’t overthink things. As long as they have a friend to play with, everything is okay. They aren’t weighed down by the past, nor do they calculate the pros and cons of every situation. They simply enjoy the moment. Children are pure and uncomplicated like this. Perhaps that’s why Jesus enjoyed spending time with them. Sometimes, we too need to become simple, like children. In the complexities of life, where we stress over every little detail, we often lose sight of what truly matters. Let’s be like children, knowing what is important in this moment and enjoying it. Jesus said that it is such people who will enter the Kingdom of God.

“Let the children come to me; do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.”
Mark 10:14-15

Pastor Jinha Choi
First & Wesley United Methodist Church

Lectioary Readings for February 2024

February 2, 2025

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Psalm 71:1-6

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Luke 4:21-30



February 9, 2025

Isaiah 6:1-13

Psalm 138

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Luke 5:1-11

February 16, 2025

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Psalm 1

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Luke 6:17-26



February 23, 2025

Genesis 45:3-11, 15

Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40

1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50

Luke 6:27-38



REMINDER!

Pick-up for your Stuffed Breads, Soup and/or Chili is

Feb 8th, 4-5 pm at the church



First & Wesley United Methodist Church

February

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10:00a Family Worship Service, Communion, Birthday/Anniversary celebration	3 After School Prog 7p Adult Monday school	4 After School Prog 7p Healing Prayer Service in sanctuary	5 No After School Prog 5p Youth Choir 7p Adult Group Study	6 10a-12p "K" Café After School Prog 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	7 After School Prog	8 8a Men's Fellowship Breakfast 4-5p Stuffed Bread/Soup/Chili Pick-up
9 10:00a Family Worship Service and Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon)	10 After School Prog 7p Adult Monday school	11 After School Prog 7p Finance	12 After School Prog 5p Youth Choir 7p Adult Group Study	13 10a-12p "K" Café After School Prog 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	14 After School Prog	15 9:30a - 10 Craft Corner 10a Worship Committee 5p Community Meal (Free) All Welcome
16 10:00a Family Worship Service and Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon)	17 No After School Prog 7p Adult Monday school	18 No After School Prog	19 After School Prog 5p Youth Choir 7p Adult Group Study	20 10a-12p "K" Café After School Prog <i>*Articles Due for the March Messenger</i> 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	21 After School Prog	22
23 10:00a Family Worship Service and Sunday School (begins after Children's Sermon)	24 After School Prog 7p Adult Monday school	25 After School Prog 7:30p Trustees	26 After School Prog 5p Youth Choir 7p Adult Group Study	27 10a-12p "K" Café 1p Prayer Shawl at Edith Mulligan's home After School Prog 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	28 After School Prog	

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

Sock & Underwear Drive Collection

(For Columbus House)

Socks and underwear are vital for the health of the homeless because they provide crucial protection against skin infections, blisters, and frostbite, especially when walking long distances in harsh weather conditions, and a lack of clean socks can lead to serious foot health issues which can significantly impact their quality of life and ability to access services; they also contribute to a sense of dignity and hygiene, which is often lacking for those experiencing homelessness.

We will continue this collection through February 19th and after they have been blessed in church (date to be decided) we will deliver them to Columbus House.

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 "Diving Deeper into the Word" based on the previous Sunday sermon scriptures and themes.

Women of 1st and Wesley United Methodist Church:

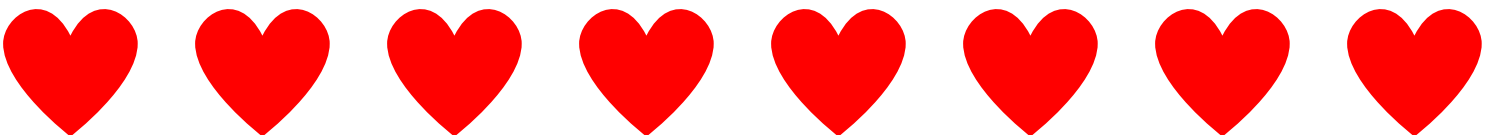
Some women from 1st and Wesley have been attending United Methodist Women regional meetings, now called **United Women of Faith**, held at Mary Taylor United Methodist Church, on the green in Milford. The next meeting is on

Tuesday, February 11, at Noon

All meetings are held in Dodd Hall, behind the Sanctuary, at Mary Taylor United Methodist Church, on the green in Milford. You may bring lunch to the noon meetings. Drinks are provided. Chris McGregor and Deb Dubien are co-chairs.

NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEER NEEDED!

Peggy Jerrell and Helen Smith have been putting the newsletter together for the last few months. If there is anyone out there who would like to take on their ministry of putting together the newsletter on a monthly basis, please let Peggy or Helen know. We are willing to work with you to help figure it out, if you would like. Helen sends out the finished newsletter by e-mail and Bill Hunt continues to graciously send out copies in the mail to those who do not have e-mail. Thanks, Bill!





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.



Celebrate Wonder!

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>

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



Prayer Shawl Ministry First and Wesley United Methodist

Our next Prayer Shawl meeting, February 27, 2025 at 1PM will be 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

Anyone wishing to join is more than welcome to come!

February Birthdays

- 1 - John Paul Thompson
- 5 - Jeremy Soule
- 7 - Linda Kopec
James Ewen
- 10 - Andy Whitley
- 11 - Ruth Kreyoh
- 15 - Sofia Bobko
- 17 - Stephen Baker
Gregory Baker
- 18 - Ashton Danz
- 21 - Catherine Bartozzi Gigola
- 22 - Edward Sperry
- 23 - Brett Dzikas
Karl Kiesinger
- 26 - Jason Jerrell
- 27 - Ashley Hulse

February Anniversaries

- 17 - Lori and Paul Franson
- 21 - Florence and Joseph Dzikas

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.

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.

Have you visited our Church Website lately?
It is truly beautiful and informative. The Church calendar is updated as needed and you can check on dates and times of meetings and events.

Website is firstwesleyumc.org

Check it out!
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 February 15th from 9:30 - 10:00. Come join us.

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



Socks & Underwear Drive

From now to Feb. 16th

Drop-off at First & Wesley

Tuesday 12-3pm

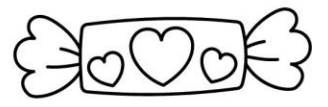
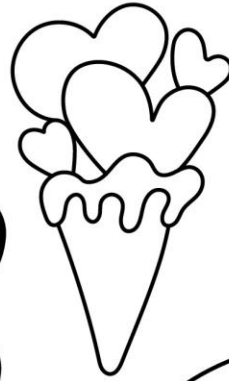
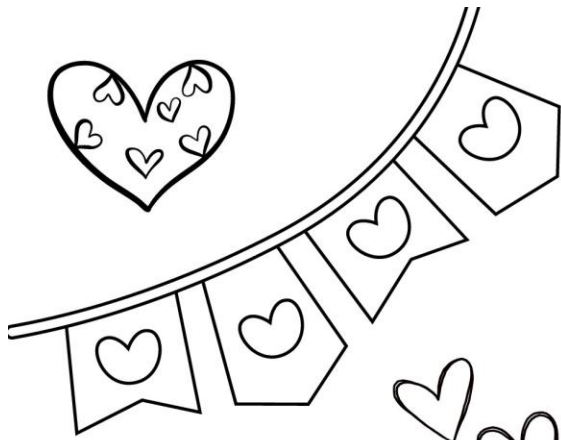
Thursday 10-3pm

Sunday 10am-1pm

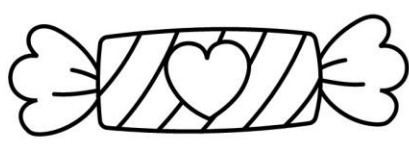
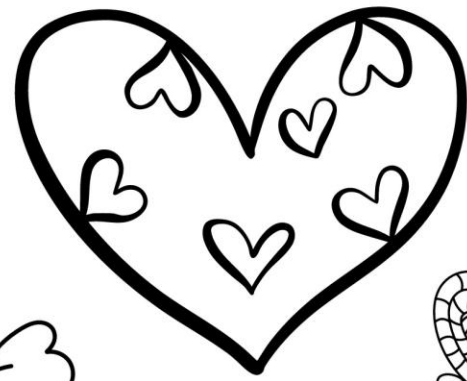
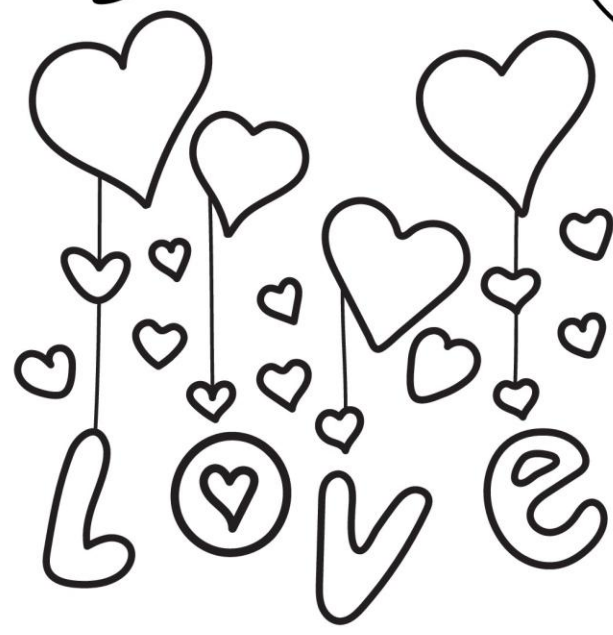
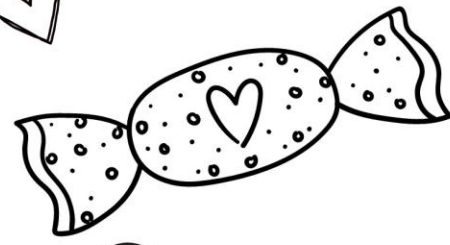
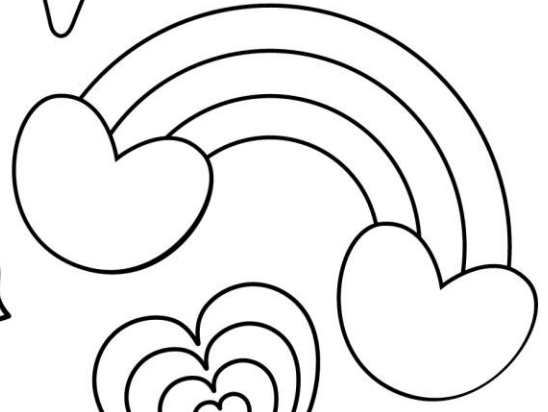
or

**for cash donations specify “socks” in
memo line or for online giving, scan QR
code and select ‘other’**





LOVE



LOVE

VALENTINE'S DAY



WORD SEARCH

V A L E N T I N E N X D A A C
D Q O G I V O N T N A D V A H
C S V C S P I U H W L X O X O
K W E R Z M T Y W F E D F M C
S S I K H E A R T S R X L X O
L M L O X Z M H S B P K O S L
E S H L W C L K R E P N W Z A
T U J E D M U N H T S W E E T
T I U P I N K P O C S T R A E
E T L R B J Y L I V A R S D S
R E R I M D A T S D M C A R D
S C R T N J E N A M Q P O T G
G I Z A T D D A E C G F C F R
F B C W E L E Z C N A I O I N
F E B R U A R Y B H C H U G X



VALENTINE
RED
HEARTS
CANDY
FLOWERS

SWEET
CHOCOLATES
PINK
CUPID
LOVE

HUG
LETTERS
XOXO
ADMIRER
CARD

KISS
FEBRUARY
MINE
GIFT





The Messenger

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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 February 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!