

The Messenger

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

March 2025



March: The Month of Waiting

This winter has felt unusually long and bitterly cold. It even snowed more than before—so much so that in February our church closed its doors on two Sundays. The children were disappointed, wondering why snowstorms only come on weekends, while the adults eagerly awaited the end of the cold season and the arrival of spring.

And finally, we have reached March. In fact, March might be called the month of waiting. It is too close to spring to be considered winter, yet still too cold to be truly spring. It is a month in which we long for winter's end while anticipating the coming of spring. Underlying this waiting is a simple belief: no matter how harsh or prolonged winter may be, spring will inevitably arrive. Just as the morning sun rises after the darkest night, and as seeds buried in the ground eventually sprout and bloom, so too will spring come. We are those who wait for that moment.

March also marks the beginning of another month of anticipation for us. It is about Lent. As we await spring, we now observe Lent in anticipation of Jesus' resurrection. The truth is that for resurrection to occur, death must first come. Jesus suffered and died before rising again. Lent is observed during the 40 days (excluding Sundays) leading up to Easter, symbolizing our participation in his suffering and death. Jesus' sacrifice was not for his own sake but for the sake of others—a selfless act of love that gave his life for many. I believe that it is what we have to do during the time of waiting, the Lent. I hope this Lent becomes a time of humble waiting for all of us — a period where we lower ourselves to lift others up, set aside ourselves to support those around us, and sacrifice ourselves for serving God and loving our neighbors.

Pastor Jinha Choi
First & Wesley United Methodist Church

Lectionary Readings for January



March 2, 2025

[Exodus 34:29-35](#), [Psalm 99](#), [2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2](#), [Luke 9:28-36 \(37-43\)](#)

March 5, 2025

[Joel 2:1-2, 12-17](#), [Psalm 51:1-17](#), [2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10](#), [Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21](#)

March 9, 2025

[Deuteronomy 26:1-11](#), [Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16](#), [Romans 10:8b-13](#), [Luke 4:1-13](#)

March 16, 2025

[Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18](#), [Psalm 27](#), [Philippians 3:17-4:1](#), [Luke 13:31-35](#)

March 23, 2025

[Isaiah 55:1-9](#), [Psalm 63:1-8](#), [1 Corinthians 10:1-13](#), [Luke 13:1-9](#)

March 30, 2025

[Joshua 5:9-12](#), [Psalm 32](#), [2 Corinthians 5:16-21](#), [Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32](#)

Healing Prayer Circle

When: Tuesday, March 4th

When: 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Where: Sanctuary

Pastor Cindy Dodd will lead a time of healing prayer, with music and scripture, for you or a loved one. We will meet on the 1st Tuesday of each month. Bring your prayer concerns to God's altar, and those who gather will pray for you and those you are concerned about. You do not need to have a prayer concern to attend. We will also lift up the prayer concerns from our congregation. All are welcome for this time of intercessory prayer.



First & Wesley United Methodist Church

2025

March

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 Ash Wednesday After School Prog 5p Youth Choir 7p Ash Wednesday Service	6 10a–12p “K” Café No After School Prog 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	7 After School Prog 7p Mission	8 8a Men’s Breakfast
9 Daylight Savings time begins! 10:00a Family Worship Service and Sunday School (begins after Children’s Sermon) 11:15a Youth Group	10 After School Prog 7p Adult Monday school	11 After School Prog	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 5p Community Meal (Free) All Welcome
16 10:00a Family Worship Service and Sunday School (begins after Children’s Sermon)	17 After School Prog 7p Adult Monday school	18 After School Prog 7p Finance (change in date)	19 After School Prog 5p Youth Choir 7p Adult Group Study	20 10a–12p “K” Café *Articles Due for the April Messenger After School Prog 6p Bell Choir 7p Adult Choir	21 After School Prog	22 6p Bingo Night
23 10:00a Family Worship Service and Sunday School (begins after Children’s Sermon) 11:15a Youth Group Baked Potato dinner orders DUE	24 After School Prog 7p Adult Monday school <hr/> 31 No After School Program 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	29 10a Worship Committee 5p Baked Potato Dinner Fundraiser (4pm to-go order pickup)
30 10:00a Family Worship Service and Sunday School (begins after Children’s Sermon)						

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

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

"Digging Deeper into the Word Again"

Every Wednesday, 7 PM, Jan 8 – Feb 26, 2025

- ▶ 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.



Prayer Shawl Ministry First and Wesley United Methodist

Our next Prayer Shawl meeting will be March 27, 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

**We hope you can join us for our Youth Group.
Open to any youth from 6th grade (as of fall 2025) and up!**

Youth Group Meeting

Every Second & Fourth Sunday
11:15am - 12:15pm

March 9, Sun (11:15am) - Orientation + Planning Session

March 15, Sat (4pm) - Agape Dinner Volunteering

March 23, Sun (11:15am) - Opening Party



Fellowship

**Every Thursday – Koinonia Café,
10am-12pm**

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



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

Free Community Dinner

**Every 3rd Saturday of each month
5pm FREE Agape meal followed by games.**

Please note: If you would like to help with this, please contact Judy Jennette or Dave Smith



Building Bonds Over Breakfast hosted by Kel Youngs

The Men's Fellowship Breakfast is a cherished tradition that brings together men from all walks of life to share a meal, engage in meaningful conversations, and strengthen their spiritual and personal bonds. This event is not only an opportunity for nourishment but also a time for camaraderie, reflection, and encouragement.

We are considering two important scriptures to guide our meetings.

Psalm 119:11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.

Hebrews 12:1-13 Running the Christian race with perseverance.

We all gather at 8 am the second Saturday of each month and dismiss by 10 am.

Thanks to everyone for working to make this event a success!

Finance Corner

Thank you to all of you who have answered our prayers with your support of our missions and ministries for this past year.

Thank you to all who supported our Stuffed breads, chili, and soup fundraiser. To date we have raised \$569. Thanks to Shelby for arranging the ordering and delivering of the stuffed breads and to Peggy Jerrell, Dave & Helen Smith for making the soups and chili.

Our next fundraiser is a Baked Potato Dinner on March 29th. Please see the flyer in this newsletter for details. We will have this in person (it's nice to get together!) and people can also order to go if they would like.



The Craft Corner

The Craft Corner Group meets to make cards once a month on Saturday mornings. We have some Get Well and Thinking of You cards to send to people. 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. Our next meeting is on March 15th from 9:30-10:30am.

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 Sunday mornings following the Children's Moment during the 10:00 service.

Our program is open to all kids ages 4 and up. Our youth are invited to rotate through as helpers. Please go to the church website to register your child/youth for Sunday school or ask a Sunday School teacher for a registration form.

MISSIONS AND OUTREACH

Lenten Calendar – Starting in March follow along with the Lenten calendar attached in the messenger for a fun way to help raise money for W.H.E.A.T!

Family Bingo Night – Come out for a **FREE FUN** Saturday evening March 22nd! Bingo will be from 6:00 to 7:00pm, doors open at 5:30pm. They will be small games prizes and light refreshments. (see attachment in this newsletter)

Free Annual Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt Saturday April 5th. Breakfast and crafts from 9-11am with an Easter Egg hunt that begins at 11am. Bring the kids and take photos with the Easter Bunny! (please bring your own camera) – see attachment in this newsletter.

Next Mission meeting will be held on Zoom Friday March 7th at 7:00

March Birthdays 2025

- 3 - Janet Francois (Lentini)
- 5 - Amy Sablone
- 7 - Timothy Geiger
- 9 - Jennifer Shove-Sisson
Jeeyeon Park
- 11 - Nia Flippin
- 12 - Mason Argentino
- 19 - Karen McGregor
- 20 - Susan Cascio
- 24 - Alex Lynn Simone
- 27 - Doris Hunter
- 28 - Anna Bartozzi
- 29 - Rose Cook Ali
- 30 - David P Smith

March Anniversaries

- 1 - Jinha Choi and Jeeyeon Park

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.

BAKED POTATO DINNER

to go ordering available



Call/text order (203) 444-2362 Email order: fundraiser@firstweslevumc.org

Preorder by: Sunday, March 23, 2025

Sit down dinner at 5pm, March 29

To-Go order Pickup: Saturday, March 29, 4-5pm

with choice of 3 toppings, salad & dessert

COST: \$10 Adults; **\$5** Kids (Ages: 5-10)

Name: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Choose 3 toppings:

Bacon Broccoli Butter Cheddar Cheese Chives Sour cream

Eat at church: Adult # Child #

Pick-up: Adult # Child #

TOTAL
\$ _____

Pay at time of dinner or pickup by cash, check or credit card

(make out your check to "First & Wesley UMC" with "potatorundraiser" in the memo line).




Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.
FIRST & WESLEY
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH


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89 Center St
West Haven, CT 06516

LENTEN BLESSING CALENDAR

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			3/5 <u><i>I John 1:5</i></u> +2 cents for each candle in your home	3/6 <u><i>Gal. 5:22-23</i></u> +1 cent for each piece of fruit in your house	3/7 <u><i>Luke 8:11-15</i></u> +2 cents for every plant in your house	3/8 <u><i>Psalms 150</i></u> +10 cents for every musical instrument in your house
3/9 First Sunday In Lent	3/10 <u><i>Matthew 11:15</i></u> +25 cents if you do not wear a hearing aid	3/11 <u><i>Rev. 3:20</i></u> +3 cents for each door in your house	3/12 <u><i>Matthew 6:21</i></u> +25 cents if you have a healthy heart	3/13 <u><i>Rev. 1:7</i></u> +10 cents if you wear glasses +25 cents if you do NOT!	3/14 <u><i>Proverbs 22:6</i></u> +5 cents for each of your children	3/15 <u><i>Proverbs 17:6</i></u> +10 cents for each of your grandchildren
3/16 Second Sunday In Lent	3/17 <u><i>Rev. 21:4</i></u> +5 cents for each box of Kleenex in your home	3/18 <u><i>John 6:48</i></u> +5 cents for every loaf of bread in your house	3/19 <u><i>Romans 13:8</i></u> +5cents for each credit card you own	3/20 <u><i>I Peter 2:21</i></u> +1 cent for each step in your house	3/21 <u><i>Mark 6:56</i></u> +2 cents for each coat you own	3/22 <u><i>Psalms 51:7</i></u> +10 cents if it snowed today +25 cents if it did not snow today
3/23 Third Sunday In Lent	3/24 <u><i>Psalms 20:7</i></u> +15 cents for each car you own or lease	3/25 <u><i>Matthew 5:15</i></u> +1 cent for each light bulb in your home	3/26 <u><i>Joshua 2:21</i></u> +2 cents for each window in your home	3/27 <u><i>I Cor. 13:12</i></u> + 5 cents for each mirror in your home	3/28 <u><i>Ecclesiastes 3:1</i></u> +1 cent for each DVD or videotape you own	3/29 <u><i>John 13:5</i></u> +1 cent for each towel in your home

LENTEN BLESSING CALENDAR

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
3/30 Fourth Sunday In Lent	3/31 <u>2 Kings 4:9-10</u> +2 cents for each chair in your home	4/1 <u>Ecclesiastes 11:3</u> + 25 cents if it was cloudy today	4/2 <u>Eph. 6:17</u> + 5 cents for each bike helmet +50 cents if you own a bike but do NOT have a helmet!	4/3 <u>II Cor. 3:3</u> + 1 cent for each pen in your home	4/4 <u>Matthew 16:19</u> +2 cents for each key in your pocket or purse	4/5 <u>Psalm 45:7</u> +25 cents for each bottle of oil
4/6 Fifth Sunday In Lent	4/7 <u>Exodus 20:12</u> +25 cents if your parents are still alive	4/8 <u>Mark 14:3</u> +4 cents for each bottle of perfume that you own	4/9 <u>Titus 1:3</u> +4 cents for every clock or watch you own	4/10 <u>I Cor. 9:24</u> +3 cents for every medal or trophy in your home	4/11 <u>John 14:2</u> +3 cents for each room in your home	4/12 <u>Matthew 5:13</u> +1 cent for each spice in your cupboard
4/13 Sixth Sunday In Lent	4/14 <u>Hebrews 4:12</u> +1 cent for each knife in your home	4/15 <u>Psalm 4:8</u> +5 cents for each bed in your home	4/16 <u>John 4:14</u> +10 cents if you drank water today +25 cents if you did not	4/17 <u>Proverbs 3:3-4</u> +1 cent for each year you've been married	4/18 <u>Romans 13:7</u> +10 cents if you sent your taxes already +30 cents if you haven't done that yet	4/19 <u>John 3:16</u> PAID IN FULL!
4/12 Christ is Risen! Alleluia!			Please count up your coins and place a check with the amount you collected in the offering!	All collected monies will be given to WHEAT!		

**WIN
PRIZES!**



March 22nd

6:00 – 7:00

Doors will open at 5:30

**Dining room at First & Wesley,
89 Center Street, West Haven**

Light snacks served

Free event! Come join us for a fun evening!

**COMMUNITY CONTINENTAL
BREAKFAST**



Easter crafts,
photos* with Easter Bunny
& Egg Hunt



Ages 1-10

*Free photos with the Easter Bunny
(Please bring your own camera)

SATURDAY, April 5, 2025

BREAKFAST & CRAFTS: 9-11 AM

EASTER EGG HUNT: 11 AM

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Handicap accessible



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Email: firstwesleyumc@gmail.com

Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/firstwesleyumc.

Pastor Jinha Choi

“Sunday Worship Time: 10:00am”

The March 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!