

The Good News

January 2020

Happy New Year!



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Happy New Year!

by Pastor Jacob Eun

Happy New Year! We hope you discovered a true gift of Christmas by embracing it and sharing it others. We also hope 2020 is the decade that you draw even closer to God and become more like Christ. I'm excited for what God has in store for us this new year.

Many of us are excited for this new year. It can mean a new beginning and a new opportunity. But for some, thinking about future can cause fear and anxiety for we do not know what future will look like.

We do not know what the future of the United Methodist Church will look like. A Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation was proposed last week-this will separate traditionalists to form a new traditionalist Methodist denomination. There has been praise, criticism, suspicion, and anger over the proposal. Nothing has been determined yet. It's a compromise proposal still needs General Conference approval, which is only 4 months away.

Despite the confusion and darkness, may we continue to remain faithful to who we are in Christ and shine the light of Christ as a beacon of hope in our unique way. There are more reasons to be united than to be separated: love for God, love for one another, and love for our church; unity in diversity; and healing and reconciliation through gracious, harmonious coexistence.

Sometimes, we experience moments where we feel like it has come to an end: fire in Austrlia, financial crisis, broken relationships, etc. Wherever you are in life and whatever it is that is causing you fear, anxiety, and disturbance, know that God is with you and we are with you, offering words of encouragement and hope.

May the year of 2020 be a year of growth, realization, and maturity. May we continue to place our hope and trust in God who is, always has been, faithful to His promises.

A Four Week Sermon Series titled, Who Knows Tomorrow

In a world filled with death, war, and evil, how are we to face what feels like an unknowable future? What do we do with our anxiety regarding the days ahead?

Paul wrote two letters to a network of house churches in Thessalonica to deal with fear and anxiety they had in regards to their uncertain future. Paul reassures them of the future we have in Christ: our bodily and spiritual resurrection and the second coming of Christ so they wouldn't be afraid or confused. We can live with confidence in the present when we are biblically informed about the future. May this sermon series be a channel of God's encouragement, hope, and loving nearness to you all.

January 5 What Happens to Them After Death?
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
They were promised of eternal life in Christ after death. But when their friends and families died, they didn't come back to life as promised. What does Paul have to say about this?

January 12 On the Day of the Lord
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
There were and still are many predictions regards to the end of the world. Are they true? How should we live our lives then?

January 19 What is God's Will for My Life?
1 Thessalonians 5:12-24
Meanwhile, until Christ comes, how does God want us to live as we wait for the second coming of Christ?

January 26 Living in Tension
2 Thessalonians 3:1-13
Paul teaches the Thessalonians and Christians today how to live in the midst of the tension between what is already here and what is yet to come

Plant with Purpose

One of our church ministries outside the four walls is to an organization called, Plant with Purpose. Our church donates \$30 every month. They equip farming families around the world to increase farm yields, heal damaged ecosystems, improve nutrition, and increase household savings and opportunities.

Plant with Purpose families have cut poverty into a third of what it once was. Female participants are 2.5x more likely to earn income from their crops beyond what is used to feed their families. Partnering families are 2.5x more likely to send their daughters to secondary school than non-participants. Participants are twice as likely to have six months of emergency reserves than non-participants.

Over 32 million trees planted by partner communities. By applying sustainable agriculture techniques, farmers increase crop yields by 44%. While forest cover is decreasing globally, its communities see an increase in vegetation. Crop diversity is strength. Families are 40% more likely to have diverse farms.

For \$122, we can equip a single family to experience the Plant with Purpose program for one year. For \$1,200, we can bring the full transformational package of the program to one family for the rest of their lives.



A Letter from Gabriel DeJesus

I want to thank everyone that wrote me and keeps me in their prayers. It truly helps and puts a smile on my face. I had to spend my 30th birthday in jail and birthdays of my sister, big brother, and mama Jean. I've been in jail since April 3, 2019.

I have seen a lot and learned a lot. I thought jail would be nothing but criminals and gang members but there are more of men and young men who just made a mistake or two. Some own up to their mistakes and take responsibilities fully for their actions. Sons, fathers, grandfather, and grandsons from age 18 to 75 found themselves in the same position I am in: wanting to go home and fighting for freedom.

At one point, I questioned my faith. I would stop praying because it felt like every time I prayed, the opposite would happen. I thought if God has a big plan for me, what can it be? With God you have to have patience. I wanted to go home. Court date after court date. I waited to hear good news and to this day, it has not come. I started to read the Bible and was amazed on how loud it spoke to me and how much I can learn. So much wisdom from the Proverbs, so much knowledge from the psalm. From the Old Testament to the New Testament, there is so much to learn about my life and the life of the Lord.

When I read the story of Job, I thought of myself in a sense. When I hoped for good, evil came. When I looked for light, there came darkness. When I read that Job never cursed the Lord, gave up, or lost hope, I realized my one flaw was I was ready to give up. When I was first arrested, I was so ashamed and upset that now I will have a criminal record. I thought it was the end of the world. Then I read the Bible and learned every man and woman on earth has been through their own hardships.

Matthew 6:26 touched my heart: "Do not worry. Each day has enough trouble of its own." So I'm taking it day by day, page by page. When I go home, I want to be like the wise builder in Matthew 6:27.

I want to thank my church family for the love and support I receive. Thank you everyone who sent me a Christmas cards. Thank you for the prayers and comfort. God bless you all.

The Protocol and the General Conference 2020

Here are the words from Randall Miller, who summarized the protocol in his article called, "A Mediation Team Member Describes 'Protocol' Process":

Here are the provisions of the Plan of Separation that I would highlight from a progressive standpoint:

- 1) It calls for separation (schism) between the current UMC and other newly created denominations. It calls for paying \$25M over four years to a newly created Traditionalist denomination that is anticipated to attract up to 20% (?) of local congregations and some annual conferences throughout the Global Church. The plan also allocates \$2M to seed other new denominations that may be created.
- 2) It ties the removal of anti-LGBTQ language from the General Book of Discipline and the repeal of the Traditionalist Plan at GC2020 to a restructuring of the UMC into four different geographical regions (Africa, Europe, the Philippines, and the U.S.). Each of these regions would gain increased power to adapt the Book of Discipline for its own area.
- 3) It addresses concerns raised by many people about the UMC's commitment to racial justice by earmarking a total of \$39M (\$13M over three quadrennia) for ministries by and for ethnic/racial communities in the U.S. Since the General Church budget is anticipated to shrink rather than grow, this is an essential and substantial commitment.
- 4) It proposes relaxing the Trust Clause for a specific period so that congregations of all stripes, who feel they need to leave the UMC for the sake of their own integrity, can do so -- with their property and other assets. The sad truth is that some of the absolute stalwarts of the reconciling movement are close to leaving the UMC. Should they decide to do so, the relaxation of the Trust Clause would help them greatly.

Benefits: If all parties hold to the signed agreement, there is a greater chance of avoiding another bruising battle at GC2020, removes the negative language, and lays the groundwork for other, significant steps forward. And, just as importantly, it changes our polity structure from everyone sitting around a U.S. table, to something closer to all regions of the church sitting around a global table.

Challenges: (1) The process needed to enact a number of the most important provisions will be complicated, even if all parties agree to them. (2) Anything we pass must withstand review by the Judicial Council. (3) We need to put off holding hands and singing kumbaya until all of the provisions of the deal are enacted.

Some Things to Look Forward to in 2020

by AJ Willingham, CNN

1. The 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo

Everyone loves the Olympics! The 2020 games will feature five new sports: Karate, baseball/softball, skateboarding, sports climbing and surfing, as well as a mess of new events in already established categories.

2. A medley of new movies

Do you like superhero deep cuts? Boom: "Wonder Woman 1984." "Black Widow." Franchises that refuse to die? Rev up for "Fast and Furious 9" and a new "Fantastic Beasts" movie. "Top Gun: Maverick" will look great on you. The remake train continues at full speed as well: "West Side Story" and "Mulan." "Sonic the Hedgehog!"

3. The elections

This isn't a list of fun things, it's a list of things to look forward to. And no matter how many ulcers the 2020 Presidential race will give you, it's still an important time in US history and it will affect us all. So, do your part by getting more political.

4. A newly opened Washington Monument

for almost three years, the Washington Monument has been closed to the public while it gets a new security screening area and elevator system. It seems like a long time, but when it comes to elevators, it's always good to err on the side of caution. Everything should be back up and running for tourists in September.

5. A total eclipse

The solar eclipse will shade the region in brief darkness on December 14, but there are other fun space things happening right around the same time. The Geminid meteor shower will spangle the sky the night before, and a special alignment of Jupiter and Saturn a week later will complete a rare space nerd trifecta.

6. The baseball game of your "Dreams."

on August 13th when the New York Yankees and the Chicago White Sox meet in the middle of a corn field in Dyersville, Iowa, to play a special "Field of Dreams"-inspired game. Eight thousand lucky fans will get to experience the full rural splendor in person, but there will be all kinds of special programming and events surrounding the game for everyone else to enjoy.

Announcements

1. To schedule a time with Pastor Jacob, you can call 203-615-3214 or email at pastor.fumc@gmail.com.
2. You can support our church by shopping with scrip cards (ask Diane) and shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) (with scrip cards you purchase) by selecting Wallingford United Methodist Church as your charitable organization.
3. Subscribe to our church news online. Type in eepurl.com/geFbET on your browser and complete the form.
4. Wireless hearing devices are available to assist your hearing. Please speak to ushers in the back for help.
5. Beautiful quilts are displayed on the last few pews in the back of the sanctuary, and they are for sale. For more information, please see Pat Levasseur or Jane Wargo.
6. Our meeting with Bishop Bickerton is on Friday, January 10, 2020 from 6:00pm to 9:30pm at FUMC of Meriden to discuss with us the future of our church in regards to human sexuality. Bishop envisions a delegation of five to seven laity representing each church. Registration is required. If you desire to attend, please speak with Pastor Jacob. We will meet before or after the brainstorming session.
7. We are in the process of updating our church directory. Drafts will be in the narthex for you to make sure your information is accurate. If you need to be included or update your information, please contact fumc.wallingford@gmail.com or 203.269.9100.

Ministry Captured



Pictures from Birthday Party for Jesus
and Christmas Creches from our church family



Mark Your Calendar

1.10 (Fri)	Meeting with Bishop Must register	FUMC of Meriden Speak with Pastor Jacob	6:30-9:00pm
1.12 (Sun)	Nomination Committee	Sanctuary	after coffee
1.14 (Tue)	Church Council	Education Wing	7:00pm
1.16 (Thu)	Wallingford Clergy		4:00pm
1.20 (Mon)	MLK Jr. Day		
1.27 (Mon)	Book Club	Asbury Room	7:00pm
1.28 (Tue)	Trustees	Asbury Room	7:00pm
1.29 (Wed)	Transition Dinner	Colony Diner	5:30pm

Happy Birthday

2 Jorge Torres	14 Joan Dion	28 Kristen DeFilippo
4 Wendy Perzanowski	14 Jill Harris	29 Lauren Shuttleworth
5 Harold Reed	15 Susan Hanson	30 Betty Lynch
6 Scott Gingras	20 Danny Walters	31 Donna Barneschi
11 Nancy Pogmore	24 Jane Wargo	31 Eric Gingras
13 Linda Gardner	26 Christopher Garland	31 Jennifer Williams

Coworkers of Christ

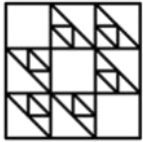
	Ushers	Counters	Scripture	Coffee Hour
1.5	Sue Coale Steve Hubbard	Sherri Willhelm Melissa P.	Donna Graham	Wendy Lyons
1.12	Joan White Wendy P.	Bob Mullen Michele Mullen	Donna Graham	
1.19	Bob Mullen Michele Mullen	John DeFilippo Paul Gwara	Donna Graham	
1.26	Phil Wargo Sherri Willhelm	John Baksa Phil Wargo	Donna Graham	

Get Connected with Us



Sunday Worship Service

Come join us in worship! We want everyone to feel comfortable worshipping that in their own way. Some people dress up, many dress casually; it's up to you. There will be people ready to greet you. We are blessed and happy to have you join us in worship.



Tuesday Morning Quilt Group

We have a group of diligent workers who quilt every Tuesday morning at 9:30am. Great things are happening in this ministry: quilting, sharing laughter, and enjoying each other's company! Come and join us for some fun and friendship!



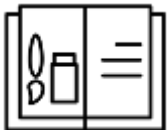
First Monday Book Club

We meet to have a lively discussion over books of all types-both fiction and non-fiction, serious and not too serious, recent and old -suggested by members. Join us for great time of discussion and fellowship. Please email or call to church office for more details.



Last Wednesday Transition Dinner

We meet every last Wednesday at 5:30pm at Colony Diner in Wallingford. If you are looking for delicious food or good friendship, you are more than welcome to join us. Call the church office before since the schedule may change for various reasons.



First Saturday Scrapbook and Craft Session

We meet every first Saturday of the month from 9:30am to 4:00pm at church. We have a plenty of work spaces with lengthy tables. Join us for the time of getting together over a range of crafts activities and moreover, some friendship.

The First United Methodist Church
of Wallingford

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Non-Profit Organization
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