

The Good News

February 2020

Love and Commitment



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2020 Off to a Bad Start?

by Pastor Jacob Eun

The year 2020 had a discouraging start: the wildfire in Australia, the near brink of a war with Iran, the outbreak of the Wuhan coronavirus, the death of a basketball star Kobe Bryant, and a possible separation of the United Methodist Church (nothing is officially decided yet). Even Pope Francis agreed, "Unfortunately, the new year does not seem to be punctuated by encouraging signs, but rather by an intensification of tensions and violence."

Maybe your 2020 had a rough start. In the midst of tragedies and despair, it is difficult to find peace and love. But this is where it all begins and it begins with us. The darker the night, the brighter the stars. No matter what happens, I have faith in God and in our faith community that we will continue being the beacon of light, embodying the mission and vision of our church: pouring God's overflowing grace and love onto others.

February is a month of love. Valentine's day is on the 14th. St. Valentine who inspired the holiday endured a difficult time for his light to truly shine. Emperor Claudius passed a law forbidding anyone to get married, thinking that single men would volunteer to join the army and serve the empire. As a priest, St. Valentine performed secret marriages for couples who loved each other, bravely defying the anti-marriage edict. St. Valentine's courageous act of uniting lovers in marriage outshone the darkness of evil.

The Pope continued, "It is precisely in the light of these circumstances that we cannot stop hoping. And hope requires courage. It demands the awareness that evil, suffering and death will not prevail and that even the most complex issues can and must be addressed and resolved." Let us shine the light of Christ and the love of God no matter what our circumstances are.

"Keep your faith in beautiful things
in the sun when it is hidden,
in the Spring when it is gone."
- Roy R. Gibson

Got Questions? our new worship series

Let's be honest--the Bible can be hard to understand. It's full of weird laws, apparent inconsistencies, and tales of a God who often doesn't do what we expect. You may have asked about some of these things and been brushed off or given trite, unconvincing answers.

But serious questions deserve thoughtful responses. Our faith in Christ is not blind, irrational, or stupid. By asking these tough questions, it is my desire to grow in the grace, love, and knowledge of God as one family, as one church.

- January 26 How Should We Read the Bible?
Source: The Blue Parakeet by Scot McKnight
- February 2 Did God Create Evil?
If God created all things, did God create evil too?
- February 9 Why is Finding True Love So Difficult?
Scout Sunday & Valentine's Sunday
- February 16 What Happened to People Before Christ?
Or People Who Never Heard about Christ?
- February 23 Do All Monotheistic Religions Worship the Same God?
- February 26 Ash Wednesday
The first day of Lent



Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer, and marks the beginning of our 46 day journey of repentance.

How can we be forgiven when we do not know our specific sins?

How can we experience the beauty of emptying oneself when we do not abstain from secular pleasures?

We invite you to join us in our Lenten journey of emptying ourselves, repenting our sins, and being filled again with God's love and grace.

Ash Wednesday Service

FUMC of Wallingford

7:00pm

"You are dust, and to dust you shall return"

Genesis 3:19

Dinner of Neighborly Love

It is FREE and OPEN to all! Come and simply enjoy a meal together.

We are coming across faith traditions,
and this will be a great opportunity for us to meet our neighbors.

WHEN: Sunday, February 16 at 5:00pm

WHERE: PNA Park Hall

171 N Plains Industrial Rd, Wallingford, CT 06492



Shred Day

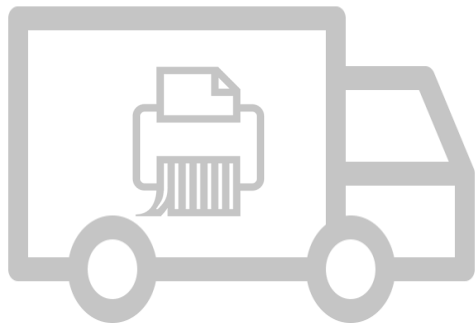
We are hosting a Shred Day Fundraiser at the church on **Saturday, April 4th, 2020 from 9AM - 12PM**. What better way to finish tax season than to shred old documents and files?

For just **\$10-\$15** a box, folks can witness their documents being securely shredded via a Shred Truck that we have invited to the church. Wallingford FUMC also wants to give your business the opportunity to help us fund this event! We are asking local businesses like yours to help sponsor the event by **donating \$20 to reserve the truck**. In exchange, we will **advertise your business on all of the promotional flyers!** These flyers will be posted all over town, online, and at the event itself. We can also provide a donation letter for tax purposes.

If you are interested in sponsoring the Shred Day, please fill out the form and return it to the church, with payment enclosed, either in person or by mail by **Sunday, March 1st, 2020**. To request a form, please contact the church office via email or phone.

Once we have notice from all of the sponsors, we will bring some promotional flyers for you to hang up.

We appreciate your support and look forward to hearing from you!



February Finance Challenge

Thanks to your generous contributions, we were able to participate in the 2019 ministry and mission of the United Methodist Church both locally and globally through your support of apportioned giving.

For the month of February this year, we again ask you for your continuous support.

Your apportioned giving will go to:

1. The World Services Fund

Supports ministries throughout the denomination
(UMCOR-our response to natural disasters)

2. The Africa University Fund

educates and empowers students across the African continent

3. The Black College Fund

Supports United Methodism's historically black colleges

4. The Episcopal Fund

bishops' salaries, pensions, and benefits

5. The General Administration Fund

administrative oversight, legislative process of the Church

6. The Ministerial Education Fund

prepares women and men for effective ministry

Some ideas

Write a check with 2020 apportionments in the memo line

Give up your coffee and doughnut stop for the month of February and donate that money to the 2020 apportionment fund

Donate a dollar a day (\$28) for the month of February

Bring your return bottles and cans to Sunday School for the month of February

Save all your change for the month and put it in the penny jar



WEATHERING THE STORM

Our church is cohosting a community event for women with an amazing organization called, Something to Chew On. We will gather women for a delicious meal where they shed the small talk and dive deeper into relevant conversation.

Where: FUMC of Wallingford

When: Saturday, March 28, 2020, 6-9PM

To register,

- 1) go to the website (www.somethingtochewonct.com)
- 2) Click **Register for an Event**
- 3) Scroll down the page and click **Weathering the Storm (Wallingford)**
- 4) Click **RSVP**
- 5) Fill out the form and submit

Unfortunately, we cannot take late registrations as we require a week to prepare. If there is anyone who doesn't have a computer, we recommend having a friend register for them. Or you could call the church office. The event accommodates up to 70 people. Please RSV ASAP!

Announcements

Welcome

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 (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.

Upcoming Meetings and Events

1. Our Shred Day is on Saturday, April 4. We prepared sponsorship request letters for you to use. To request one, you can contact the church office.
2. Scout Sunday is on the 9th. Let us recognize and celebrate the contributions of these young men and women.
3. Everyone is invited to a Dinner of Neighborly Love on Sunday, February 16 at 5:00pm at PNA Park. It is a simply fellowship dinner, celebrating the love we share across faith traditions.
4. On March 28, our church is co-hosting a free community event for women called, Weathering the Storm, with a non-profit organization, Something to Chew On. All women are invited for a dinner and fellowship. gRegistration is required. Please see the previous pages for more details.

Ministry Captured



Pictures of our children's ministry
and photos taken at Bishop's visit to our parish



Mark Your Calendar

2.1 (Sat)	Scrapbook & Craft Fair	Fellowship Hall	9:00am
2.2 (Sun)	Souper Bowl Sunday	Sign-Up in the Narthex	
	Brainstorm Committee	Sanctuary	after coffee
2.6 (Thu)	Cooperative Parish	FUMC Meriden	9:00am
2.9 (Sun)	Scout Sunday	Sanctuary	10:00am
2.16 (Sun)	We Are All Neighbors	PNA Park	5:00pm
	Potluck	Polish National Alliance	
2.11 (Tue)	Church Council	Education Wing	7:00pm
2.25 (Tue)	Trustees	Asbury Room	7:00pm
2.26 (Wed)	Transition Dinner	Colony Diner	5:30pm

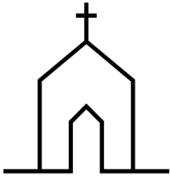
Happy Birthday

1 Sheila Peiffer	14 Julie Paquette	25 Cassidy Williams
1 Jackson Shettleworth	18 Norma DeFilippo	28 Vincent Salabarria
10 Thomas Pitcher		

Coworkers of Christ

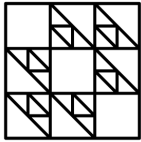
	Ushers	Counters	Scripture	Coffee Hour
2.2	Joyce Marston Diane Garland	Sue Broughton Joan White		
2.9	Vern Grant John DeFilippo	Sherri Willhelm Melissa P.	Scouts	Scouts
2.16	Joan White Wendy P.	John DeFilippo Paul Gwara		
2.22	Jerry Dion Harold Reed	Sue Broughton Joan White		

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.



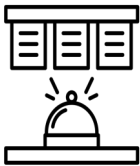
Tuesday Morning Quilt Group

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!



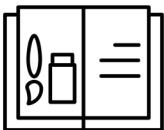
First Monday Book Club

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

941 Old Rock Hill Road
Wallingford, CT 06492

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
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Wallingford, CT

For any questions, comments, or changes,
please contact us at 203.269.9100 or fumc.wallingford@gmail.com