

# The Good News

June 2021

## In the Season of Growth



941 Old Rock Hill Road, Wallingford, CT 06492  
fumc.wallingford@gmail.com  
www.fumc-wallingford.org  
(203) 269-9100

## In This Season of Growth

by Pastor Jacob Eun

I can't believe we are already in the month of June. It has been over a year since we had to deal with the pandemic. Finally, things are starting to look better, and we are feeling like we could get back to normal-ish life soon. Many people are vaccinated. The state lifted the mandatory wearing of masks outside and inside-those who received their vaccines. Restaurants are open. People are gathering in beaches and parks. Churches are resuming their in-person service.

I'm too looking forward to some exciting days ahead in this season of growth. We look around and see the blossoming flowers, the budding trees, the beauty of God's creation, and the growth of children. The joy of celebrations of graduation and for me, ordination.

But at the same time, we see the sadness and sorrow in people's lives-people who lost their loved ones, who are fighting with loneliness and depression, and who are suffering from racism and any other form of discrimination.

As much as we are excited to go back to normal soon, we need to remember how the pandemic has revealed to us that we are profoundly a broken society. We need to go back to normal with some learned lessons embedded in the pandemic. Here is what I found from online:

1. Families matter more than we realized
2. Underlying hatred and racism in our country
3. Self-care is not self-indulgence
4. Better understanding of hygiene
5. Many are suffering from mental illnesses
6. Church is not a building but people

I give thanks to God for all your perseverance to stay strong together and for all your love and care for one another. The pandemic has taught us how to be open to God's presence and blessings in disguise. In this season of growth, let us be more open to find God in our lives and channel God's love and grace onto others.

Yours in Christ,  
Jacob

## New Worship Series: The Gospel of Mark

We have the four gospels. They are four testimonies about Jesus, and each of them provides us a unique perspective of who Jesus is. When we find contradictions or differences in their writings, we often feel forced to choose one over another, saying one is telling the truth and the other is not. But we need all four different perspectives to better understand Jesus.

So we begin with the Gospel of Mark, the oldest gospel of the four!

### June 6      **Messianic Secret**

Why did Jesus intentionally keep his identity as Messiah from people who recognized him? Why did he tell people not to publicly tell others about him?

### June 13      **Failed Disciples**

The disciples weren't always successful. In fact, Mark portrays them as failed disciples, highlighting their imperfections. The question remains... why?

### June 20      **Faith in the Midst of Storm**

Mark was writing his gospel for a specific audience. They were the people who were going through the storms of life, persecutions. What words does Mark's Jesus have to say to them?

### June 27      **Abrupt Ending**

The Gospel of Mark has two endings: the original ending that abruptly concludes his missive and the later edited version by the church. What was Mark's intention in ending his gospel so abruptly?



## Father's Day

### How to honor and celebrate our dads

Father's Day can be a layered holiday to celebrate. For some, we are blessed with amazing dads. But we also want to recognize that there are people who are struggling to become a father, stepping in to fill the role of a father, and dealing with the loss of a father either through death, absence, or a strained relationship. We want to let all fathers know that we love you, honor you, respect you, and value you for all your love, care, and support provided for your family.

So here are some ideas you can honor your father on Father's Day:

Share your favorite stories with your dad

Spend the day with him

Make a handmade card      Print your best pictures together

Serve him breakfast in bed      Make his favorite meal

Wash his car      Tell him you love him

Resource:

<https://blog.cloversites.com/how-to-acknowledge-dads-on-fathers-day-at-your-church>

<https://www.jerseysbest.com/family/fathers-day-2020-how-to-honor-and-celebrate-the-dads-who-do-so-much/>



## Church Reopening

While our church building was closed, our church family has been open and actively in mission. After many prayerful conversations and preparedness, we have resumed our indoor, in-person worship since April. And we have a letter from our Bishop, Thomas Bickerton, that “A uniform policy has been replaced with local discretion” with the state’s new guidelines:

1. Wearing masks outdoors is no longer required.
2. If you are fully vaccinated you are not required to wear a mask indoors. If you are not, you must continue to wear a mask.

But please be mindful of those who still want to be cautious and that the pandemic is still around and going on.

We are continuing to provide our online service on Facebook. And we are working to improve the quality of our online worship. We are limited in terms of equipment and knowledge, but we will continue to bring good changes for those who are joining us at their home.

### How to Join Our Online Worship on Facebook:

1. Log into your Facebook account on your phone or computer
2. Search First United Methodist Church of Wallingford or [click here](#)
3. Click the Live post (it will show 10 minutes before the service)



## Signs of God’s Presence

This is a sermon excerpt from May.

God continues to give signs to us, and we often expect them to be grandeur, rare, expensive, famous, and large-scale. God’s signs may not be quite so extraordinary, but they are there in our day-to-day lives. An example of such a sign might be crossing paths with a friend who tells you exactly what you needed to hear at that moment. A beautiful sunset that calms your spirit. It could be a small act of kindness from a stranger.

One of my favorite passages is when God promises Elijah to meet him on the mountain. Elijah as climbing up the mountain is looking for God’s presence. He encounters a fire that burned trees down, an earthquake that shook the ground of the earth, and a storm that uproots the trees, but God was not in these events. Then came a silence, in the silence was a gentle whisper. There, Elijah found God. God can be found in the silence, not in the speaking;

Henri J.M. Nouwen writes, “I keep expecting loud and impressive events to convince me and others of God’s saving power... Our temptation is to be distracted by them... When I have no eyes for the small signs of God’s presence—the smile of a baby, the carefree play of children, the words of encouragement and gestures of love offered by friends—I will always remain tempted to despair.

The small child of Bethlehem, the unknown man of Nazareth, the rejected preacher, the naked man on the cross, he asks for my full attention. The work of our salvation takes place in the midst of a world that continues to shout, scream, and overwhelm us with its claims and promises.”

### What are your expectations of God’s signs?

Signs of God’s presence can take many forms. Are you aware of signs of God’s presence in your daily life? We can put together for one another a list of “small signs” of God. You can help me see God in my daily life and experience God in places and moments I might have missed God.

What are some signs of God’s presence in your life? Family and friends. Smiles from one another. Love and care. Acts of kindness. Words of encouragement. Beauty of

God's creation. These are ways to be in the presence of God every day. It doesn't have to be grandeur, dramatic, or extraordinary.

Then we ask: Is it possible to see signs of God's presence when our day to day life remains the same? Yes, the reality is that God is always with us. And through the most powerful and lasting miracle, we can be aware of God's presence in our daily lives.

**The most powerful and lasting sign of God's presence is a changed heart.** If you choose to love God above all despite all difficulties, I see that as the greatest sign of God's presence. If you choose to love God by loving the people who are different than you, I see that as the greatest sign of God's presence. If you choose to forgive someone who has harmed you or ask for forgiveness for your mistakes, I see that as the greatest sign of God's presence. See your world, your life, and those around you through the lens of love, grace, and gratitude. Seek God's glory through the beauty of God's creation, nature. Let the flowers and green budding trees preach how awesome our Creator is and how they speak to us God's healing. Feel God's presence as you serve one another. Love your neighbors as yourself. Rejoice and celebrate with them in their joyful days. Empathize and cry with them in their sad days.

Remember that you are a sign of God's presence to others. You may be the most powerful and lasting sign of God's presence to someone in your life. So I give thanks to God for your heart of love and care.

God is already in and around you, and we just need to look for God.

Yours in Christ,  
Jacob



## Snippets of Our Church





## Mark Your Calendar

Every Sunday at 10:00am

Worship on Facebook

6.8 (Tue)	Trustees	Asbury Room	7:00pm
6.10-13	NYAC	Zoom	Website
6.13 (Sun)	Ordination Party	Fellowship Hall	After church
6.13 (Sun)	Ordination	White Plains	4:00pm
6.20 (Sun)	Father's Day		

Quilt Group Pizza Party      TBD

Quilt group will resume in September

## Happy Birthday (June)

4 Bob Mullen	11 Kathleen Gwara	18 Trudy Brady
21 Kaitlyn Rolan	24 Kellie Holuba	



## Announcements

### Welcome

1. To schedule a time with Pastor Jacob, you can call 203-615-3214 or email at [pastor.fumc@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.fumc@gmail.com).
2. Connect with us online. Search First United Methodist Church of Wallingford on Facebook and like our page! Or go on our website [www.fumc-wallingford.org](http://www.fumc-wallingford.org)

### Announcements

1. We have a new mailing address (P.O. Box 6089, Wallingford, CT 06492)

### Reopening

1. We reopened our church for in-person worship. If you plan to attend, please follow all the health and safety measures.

### Support Our Ministries

1. You can support our church by shopping with scrip cards (ask Diane) and shopping at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) (with scrip cards you purchase) by selecting Wallingford United Methodist Church as your charitable organization.
2. We are grateful for your generous gifts contributed through our online website or mail that enabled us to serve faithfully our church family and our wider community. Here are three ways you can give:
  - Online: [www.fumc-wallingford.org/give](http://www.fumc-wallingford.org/give)
  - Mail your gift
  - Or drop at church (941 Old Rock Hill Road, Wallingford, CT 06492)

## The First United Methodist Church of Wallingford

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 6089

Wallingford, CT 06492

Building address:

941 Old Rock Hill Road

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For any questions, comments, or changes,  
please contact us at 203.269.9100 or [fumc.wallingford@gmail.com](mailto:fumc.wallingford@gmail.com)