

The Good News

November 2021

Thank Full



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What Makes a Home for You

by Pastor Jacob Eun

It is good to be back home. It's funny that just a few days ago, I was in South Korea where I was born and raised, where my family is now, and where I considered my home. And the day before my flight to the States, I had a dinner with my family. My dad said, "It's almost time that you return to your home." And now I am back in Wallingford, I feel like I'm at home. It's funny because I have two places where I can call my home. I have two groups of people whom I can call my family. So I want to share about the meaning of home and family.

First, what it means to have home. "Over a number of years, typically with a lot of thought and considerable dedication, we assemble furniture, rugs, cushions, vases, sideboards, taps, door handles and so on into a distinctive constellation we anoint with the word home." But I may have been forced to take on board a hugely disorienting conclusion: despite my intense hopes, home may not in fact be home. My family left our home to find a new home. When we first settled in Connecticut, in Fairfield, everything was foreign to us: the language, people, culture, and even the smell. But not knowing the language and culture, we struggled almost in every aspect of our life, from buying cars, driving from one place to another, paying bills, making friends, and so forth.

My second home in the States was in Easton/Redding. And I went to school at UConn, Drew, and Princeton. My family moved to Long Island and lived there for over 10 years, and now they are in South Korea. Now, I'm back in Connecticut all by myself.

So throughout my life, I have had many homes. I have a home associated with my parents. I have another home associated with my living. I have another home associated with my education. I can't just name one geographical place. I have to explain my life story. My nationality doesn't answer the question neither the place I live. So I came to ponder upon this question: What makes it a home for me? Is it a place I come from? Is it a house that I'm living in?

Out of many homes I had, have, and will have, I feel at home when I feel loved. Living in a foreign country gave me many moments soaked in tears and red with fury. I felt I didn't belong here and thought I would not survive. But my family kept the tragedy at bay until I could breathe calmly once again. My family did not have all the answers but they promised me and they were right that it is going to be alright and that God will take care of us. My family held each other through the night and promised each other that we have to trust God and that God will never forsaken us, and ever since then, it became just a

little easier to keep catastrophic dread at bay. They taught me a valuable lesson of home: How things can go very wrong and yet can be fixed, how resilient a family can be, how many second chances there are when love is involved, and how strong we can become when we trust in God.

Once we define home like this, a strange thing can happen: we realize we don't have to restrict the concept of home to its basic biological or geographical limits. In reality, anyone who takes a deeply supportive, loving attitude towards us is automatically, in an extended sense, part of our home or our family. And we in our turn become a family member to anyone we treat in this reliably generous way.

That is why the highest command from God remains stunningly simple: to strive to treat all of humankind as if they were what they in fact already really are: members of one enormous family.

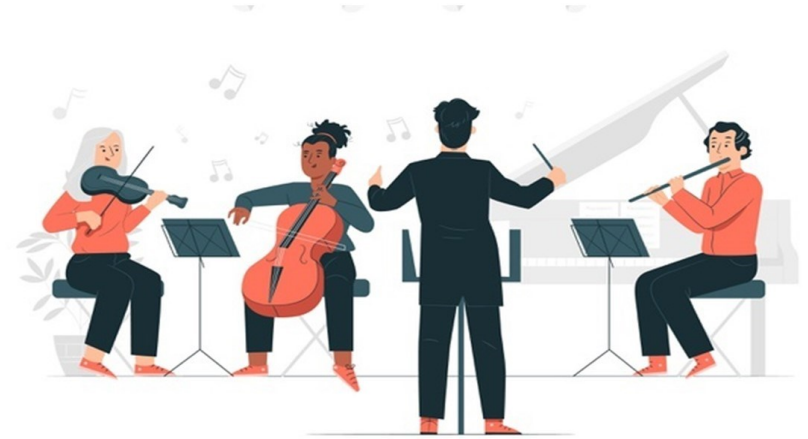
This church is my home and my family. You are my home and my family. God is good and gracious that God brought me here to give me another family to love and to be loved. Jesus redefines the concept of family so that everyone, especially those who have no home and no family, can have a place to call home, and people to call their family. When we celebrate and rejoice together, there is a greater joy and happiness. When we suffer together and offer ourselves for help, there is healing. When we walk together and work together, there is nourishment and growth.

You showed me what a Christian home looks like. You showed me what a Christian family and love look like. You are the church and we belong to this home and family called church.



Mini Orchestra

We are thinking of ways to enrich our worship experience and came up with an idea of mini-orchestra (maybe a duo, trio, or quartet). We have a Yale Master's student who is willing to lead this beautiful small orchestra. We need to help find its members. If you know of any high school students who need community service hours and can play an instrument, we would love to be blessed by their gifts and graces. Let Pastor Jacob know for more information or questions.



Student Volunteers Needed for Our Mini Orchestra (duo, trio, or quartet)

When First Sunday of every month (9:30—11:00am)
Worship starts at 10:00am (about five hymns)

Where First United Methodist Church of Wallingford
941 Old Rock Hill Road, Wallingford, CT 06492

If you need community service hours, feel free to contact us at
fumc.wallingford@gmail.com or 203-269-9100.



New Worship Series

Thank Full

We spend so much of our time chasing after careers, people, or possessions that never satisfy us in the end. When is enough, enough? This three-week series examines the biblical concept of contentment and how we can find it in Christ.

November 7 We Can Be Content in Christ

We don't have to continually seek after the latest, greatest thing; instead, we should seek Christ, and he will satisfy our desires.

November 14 God Supplies Everything We Need

Discontentment can often arise out of fear, but the antidote to fear is knowing that God will supply everything we need.

November 21 Thanksgiving Sunday

God loves you unconditionally. God's love for you knows no limits; you are loved by the God of the universe forever.



5

Thanksgiving Sunday

Thanksgiving Day is a national holiday in the United States, and we will celebrate Thanksgiving Sunday as one church family on Sunday, November 21 by bringing non-perishable items to be donated to Master's Manna. We will store them in front of the altar and bless the collected items on Thanksgiving Sunday. If you know any other organizations or communities that would appreciate our gifts, please let Pastor Jacob know.

When we share our blessings, we are advancing God's kingdom and giving God the glory and honor worthy of God. By sharing, we proclaim that God is the source of our all blessings and that we love our God and our neighbors, not only in theology but in mission and action. As Hebrews 13:16 states, "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."

I thank you in advance for your generosity and joy of sharing your gifts with others!



6

Going Back to the New Normal

We have made a tremendous progress in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. As more people are getting vaccinated including our children, it is our plan to return to our normal monthly and/or yearly events of the church: education ministry, cleaning and organizing the church, Shred Day, movie nights, Holy Win, and many more. Let us prepare ourselves for better things that are to come yet.

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 around 9:50am, 10 minutes before the service)



Snippets of Our Church





Mark Your Calendar

- 11.4 (Thu) Leaders of the Changing Church
- 11.6 (Sat) Pastor's College
- 11.9 (Tue) dCOM
- 11.11 (Thu) Cooperative Parish Meeting
- 11.15 (Mon) Korean Caucus Fall Meeting
- 11.16 (Tue) dCOM
- Church Council at 7pm (Education Wing)**
- 11.18 (Thu) CRCC Pastors Meeting
- 11.21 (Sun) Thanksgiving Sunday
- 11.23 (Tue) dCOM
- 11.30 (Tue) Leaders for a Changing Church with Bishop Bickerton
- Trustees at 7:00pm (Asbury Room)**

Happy Birthday (November)

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|-----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 11 Amy Miller | 13 Steven Peiffer | |
| 14 Timothy Tyler and Conner Poach | | |
| 15 Sandra Smart | 26 Donna Graham | 29 Adeline Poach |



The First United Methodist Church of Wallingford

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 6089

Wallingford, CT 06492

Building address:

941 Old Rock Hill Road

Wallingford, CT 06492

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

Announcements

Welcome

1. To schedule a time with Pastor Jacob, you can call 203-615-3214 or email at 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

Announcements

1. We have a new mailing address (P.O. Box 6089, Wallingford, CT 06492)
2. We are short-staffed in some of our committees. We invite you to share your gifts and graces by serving in one of the committees listed: trustees, finance, education, staff-parish, and nomination.
3. Our sanctuary and education wing are being used by a Seventh Day Adventist Church on Saturdays since September 2021.
4. To celebrate Thanksgiving Sunday, we invite you to bring non-perishable items to be donated to Master's Manna. Please let Pastor Jacob know if you know of any other organizations/communities that would appreciate our donations.
5. Kris DeFilippo is our new chair of the Church Council. We look forward to this beautiful addition to the group and her wisdom and leadership to bring good impacts to the church.

Support Our Ministries

1. 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.
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
 - Mail your gift to P.O. Box 6089, Wallingford, CT 06492
 - Or drop at church (941 Old Rock Hill Road, Wallingford, CT 06492)

Resources

The School of Life: "The Meaning of Life" and "When Home is Not Home"

Ministry Pass: Thank Full