



The Good News

December 2021

God With Us



941 Old Rock Hill Road, Wallingford, CT 06492
(Mailing: P.O. Box 6089)
fumc.wallingford@gmail.com
www.fumc-wallingford.org
(203) 269-9100

In This Season of Waiting

by Pastor Jacob Eun

It is hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner and then the New Year. December is always a busy month but definitely our favorite. We are in a time filled with anticipation, joy, and celebration. This is a season where we go shop gifts, decorate our houses, send cards, plan parties and festivities, go to concerts and performances, and meet our friends and families. "It's the most wonderful time of the year" - the music swirls toward our ears from stores, on radio, and on TV.

Christmas is a special time of the year, and we love all the decorations, lights and candles, trees, holiday cheer, but always think it's important to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas, God with us. When your family gathers, take the courage to invite your loved ones to a time of sharing and prayer of joy and thanksgiving and offer the prayer to God. A simple but important prayer: God, thank you for this time when we can all be together. Thank you for this food on the table. Thank you for this joyful holiday. Thank you for making us one family in you. And above all, thank you for being with us. With joy we pray, Amen.

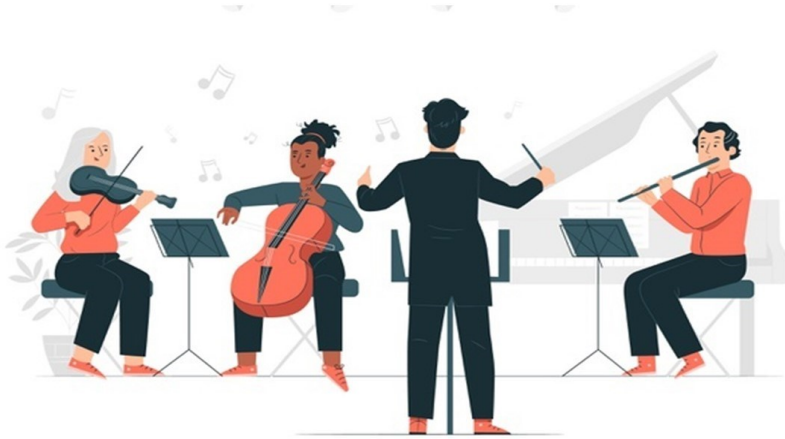
And in this season of waiting called Advent, I have been looking back at my calendar from January 2020 to now. Life did offer to me a wide array of emotions through ordinary and extraordinary events. My time at Yale New Haven Hospital as a chaplain taught me the importance of empathy, healing through connecting. I submitted all the requirements for my ordination, and that time of anxious waiting. A celebration of my ordination showered me with your love. I was genuinely happy. My new girlfriend. My travel to South Korea to visit my family was just wonderful until I developed Bell's Palsy, which affected my sleeping, speech, eating and drinking, and almost everything. My church family in Wallingford.

Looking back the year, I can confidently say that God has been with me all the time in amazing ups and devastating downs of my life. My joy was greater because I have a family who celebrated with me. My sadness was consoled because I have a family who prayed with me and for me. I feel God's presence in and through you.

So I invite you to look back the year and count your blessings. Name them one by one, see what God has done, and celebrate God's presence that is always with us. May we prepare our hearts a warm place for Christ to dwell in and over us.

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

God With Us

In the season of Advent, we prepare to welcome Jesus, the Messiah in God With Us. This year, as we await our Lord, we will put ourselves in the place of the first people who awaited and celebrated Jesus' birth. Through their stories, we will learn what it meant for God to be with them, and we will open our eyes to experience God with us, too.

November 28 God with Zechariah, the Skeptic

Scripture: Luke 1:5-16, 23-25, 76-80

There are moments when circumstances in life or deferred hopes and dreams may feel like a heavy burden with no relief in sight, from smaller expectations to deeper concerns. While all of us face the mystery of what tomorrow may bring, the assurance we have is that when we pray, God is with us.

December 5 God with Joseph, the Dutiful

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25

The Christmas story of Jesus' birth begins with a dilemma. Mary's pregnancy creates a real issue for Joseph. The Spirit of God moves Joseph from doing good out of a sense of obligation to the revelation of God's extraordinary plan.

December 12 God with Mary, the Faithful

Scripture: Luke 1:26-38

God calls us into unknown places that we wouldn't foresee for ourselves. And even in the midst of uncertainty, God is with us.

December 19

God with the Shepherds, the Dismissed

Scripture: Luke 2:8-20

Christmas shows us that God takes ordinary lives and does extraordinary things with them. The shepherds who were often dismissed play a prominent role in proclaiming the message of Emmanuel, God is with us.

December 24 (7pm) God with Us

Scripture: Luke 2:1-20

There is a big difference between God for us and God with us. The birth story is a perfect example of that. A bunch of shepherds and a couple poor kids gather at a barn in some backwater Roman province. Yes, God was with us there and any other "last place on earth" you might find yourself. God is with us here, too.

December 26

God with the World

Scripture: Luke 2:25-35

Help is here. Our temptation can be to think that we're alone in our wait for help, but the truth of Christmas is that help is already here. Simeon waited many years for the "consolation of Israel," and when he met Jesus, he was finally ready to rest.



Coat Drive

As a part of celebrating this year's Thanksgiving Sunday, we collected non-perishable items and donated 148lbs of items to Master's Manna. I give thanks to God for your generosity and willingness to share the blessing God has given you.

As Christmas is approaching, the temperature continues to drop and people are in need of coats and jackets. We invite you to bring winter coats and jackets (new or gently used and clean) in the first few Sundays of December leading up to Christmas. These will be donated to Master's Mann and through your generous contributions and warm hearts, other people will be able get through a cold winter. We are accepting scarves, gloves, coats and jackets. Give the gift of warmth this Christmas.



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

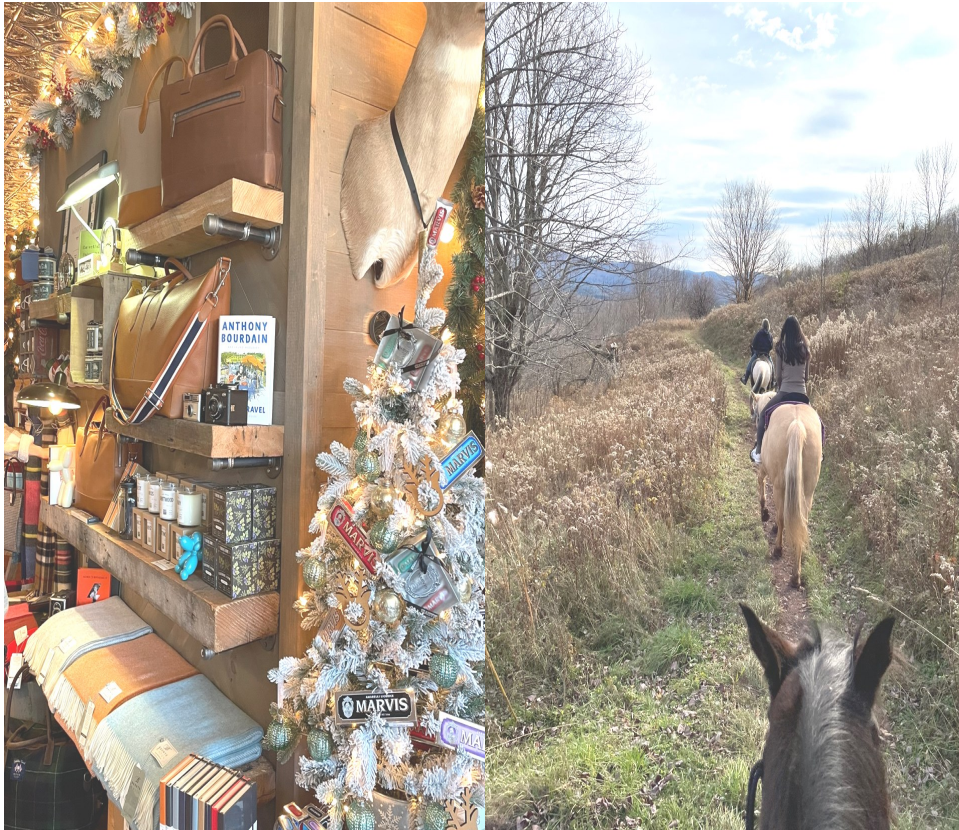


Mark Your Calendar

12.4 (Sat)	Pastor's College	
12.5 (Sun)	District Zoom Meeting on Boy Scouts	4:00pm
12.7 (Tue)	DIMCHEX	
12.11 (Sat)	Arts and Craft	9:00am
12.14 (Tue)	Conference Board of Higher Education	6:00pm
	Church Council Zoom	7:00pm
12.24 (Fri)	Christmas Eve Candle Light Service	7:00pm

Happy Birthday (December)

1 Olivia DeFilippo	10 Jean Miller-Reed	11 Thomas Hacku
17 Jacob Smart	23 Laura Cooley	24 Jacob Eun
27 Emily Baksa		



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. Our sanctuary and education wing are being used by a Seventh Day Adventist Church on Saturdays since September 2021.
3. We are looking for one to three volunteers for our mini orchestra who will play during our worship service. Please let Pastor Jacob know if you know someone who is interested.
4. Christmas Hope Coat Drive. We are collecting a donation of coats and jackets for Master's Manna for the next two Sundays. Give the gift of HOPE.
5. If you need a financial support, we have a fund to help. Please talk to John DeFilippo for more details.

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