

The Good News

February 2022

Commitment



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“As for Me and My House, We Will Serve the Lord”

by Pastor Jacob Eun

What does commitment mean to you? To me, it means sticking with it. It means not giving up even if it gets tough. It means doing that thing regardless of the reasons that tell you not to. When I was in seminary, I committed to reading the Bible in a year. Not an audacious goal, but one I know I’m capable of completing. I stuck with it for the whole year. It was such an awesome feeling to complete something I set out to do.

But there are so many times in life when I’ve committed to some goals and then quit half way. I quit because I didn’t feel like it. I quit because it was just too hard. I quit because life got busy. I quit because I didn’t have my mind completely focused on bringing it full circle.

This just made me start thinking about commitment and what it really means. What is Commitment? In simplest terms, a commitment is "something pledged." You are committed by a solemn promise. A soldier is committed to protect and serve the country. Doctors and medical team are committed to save lives. Teachers are committed to educate children. Spouses are committed to each other. Parents to their children and children to their parents.

Like these, there are different types of commitment and they share a few things in common. One of them is that certain decisions are made in advance, irrespective of the circumstances despite the challenges and difficulties that lie ahead. So take this time to think about what you are committed to.

So take this time to evaluate what you are committed to. For me, I am committed to my family. I am committed to my church family. God entrusted a church family to love and be loved. It is my duty to care, nurture, and teach to the best of my ability. I am committed to my hospital chaplain role. People receive life-changing diagnoses. Patients are facing their last day. Families are grieving. I’m there to let them know that they are not alone and to guide them through their life journey. I am committed to my health. I learned the importance of taking care of myself after suffering from Bell’s Palsy for over 6 weeks and severe flu for the past week. But more than any other, I am committed to God. I am committed to knowing God more today than I did yesterday. I do that by reading, meditating, and studying the Bible. I

do that by coming to church. I do that by giving my time and money to the ministry of this church.

We as Christians want to confess, "I will honor Christ, whatever the pain and whatever the cost. I will obey God's word, even when that is the hardest thing to do. I will do what God has called me to do, when it is draining as well as when it is fulfilling."

In Joshua 24, here we find Joshua, one of Israel's most faithful leaders, clearly calling the people to make a commitment between serving other gods or serving the one, true God. There were times when they served the Lord. And there were times when they served other gods. Joshua calls people and give them a choice between life and prosperity or death and destruction. Halfhearted service is insincere and hypocritical. It lacks honesty and integrity.

This verse draws a line in the sand. You must choose this day whom you will service. Years earlier before this passage, Joshua had made the choice to serve the Lord and serve God only. Joshua had made a once-and-for-all choice, but he would continue to do so daily, choosing God over and over again throughout his life.

Like Joshua, our devotion to God must be authentic and transparent. Choosing the one true God means giving our total, wholehearted commitment to him alone. Like Joshua did for Israel, God extends his invitation to us, and we must decide. Then we put our decision into action: we choose to come to God and to serve God daily. Joshua's choice to serve God was personal, passionate, and permanent.

Today, will you say like he did, "But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." If so, then what will it look like if I am committed to God? Think for a moment how you want to finish the sentence: If I'm committed to God, I will... If I'm committed to God, I'll put God first. I'll serve God in everything I do. I'll entrust myself to God's way. I'll give to the ministry of this church. I'll work for God's glory despite temptations and distractions from the world.

So what can you give? What can you share for God's church? God has given us unique gifts to every one of us. You can share time, talents, and resources to grow this church.

Stewardship Campaign

Here are some opportunities you can be committed for this year 2022:

From Finance Committee:

We need a finance chairperson who is willing to oversee the structure that we have in place. We need counters and people who would be willing to bring the collection to the bank after worship. Please talk to Holly.

Memorial Garden

We need people who are willing to help nurture and maintain the Memorial Garden. You can talk to Valerie or Holly.

From Worship Committee

We need monthly ushers who will greet and welcome people. We will have a sign-up sheet.

From Music Committee

We want more people to join the choir. We want to have a small orchestra.

From Education Committee

We are looking for people who would be willing to record themselves reading or telling a bible story (either of their choice or I can give them one to read). And we need volunteers who will read Bible stories to children, play together, and laugh together. Or just be in the room with them together.

From Outreach Committee

We ask that you talk with small business owners about sponsoring our Shred Day event with their \$20 donations.

We ask you to faithfully reflect God's providence in the past and prayerfully respond with a meaningful commitment for 2022 by filling out the pledge card on the next page. You can mail it to us at

P.O. Box 6089

Wallingford, CT 06492

MY POTENTIAL GIVING

WEEKLY	1 YEAR
\$20	\$1,040
\$40	\$2,080
\$60	\$3,120
\$80	\$4,160
\$100	\$5,200
\$120	\$6,240
\$140	\$7,280

With a grateful heart for God’s generosity and as an expression of Christian stewardship, I/We prayerfully pledge to financially support the 2022 FUMC of Wallingford budget



2022 Stewardship Pledge Card

Name: _____ Family: _____
 Address: _____
 Email: _____ Phone: _____

In support of FUMC of Wallingford, I/we will contribute: \$ _____

- Weekly Monthly Quarterly Annually

You can set-up your giving online (safe and easy) by visiting our website (www.fumc-wallingford.org).

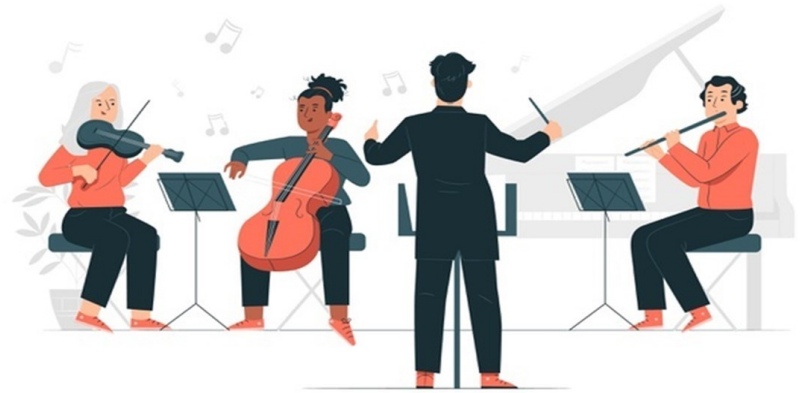
Total Commitment for 2022: \$ _____

I/We will share my time and talents through the ministry of the church in following ways:

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Audio/Visual | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Choir |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Orchestra | <input type="checkbox"/> Worship | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ushers | <input type="checkbox"/> Counters | <input type="checkbox"/> SPRC |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Homebound Visits | <input type="checkbox"/> Memorial Garden | <input type="checkbox"/> Building Maintenance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ | | |

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.



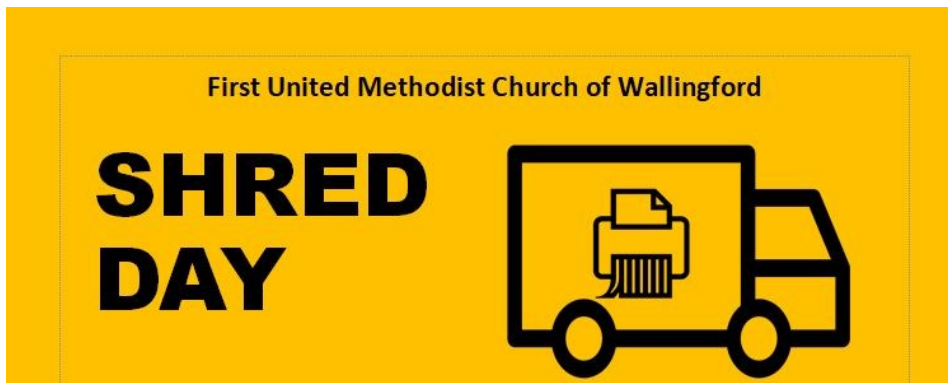
Shred Day

Our Shred Day is back! The date is Saturday, April 2. We will keep you updated with time and more details as we move forward. We are truly grateful for all of your prayers, donations, and sponsors in the past years to make this event successful. We ask for your continuous support this year as well.

We need local businesses to help sponsor the event by donating \$20 to reserve the truck. In exchange, we will advertise their 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.

We accept donations of \$10-15 a box to be shredded. And we are mindful of your health and safety during this pandemic. People can put boxes of papers in the trunk, drive up, and stay in their car. Masked volunteers will unload and shred for you. People can watch their documents being shredded to make sure.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Kagee and Steve or leave a message to church's phone number or email. Thank you in advance for your support.



Snippets of Our Church





Mark Your Calendar

- 2.5 (Sat) Pastor's College
- 2.8 (Tue) Church Council Zoom 7:00pm
- 2.19 (Sat) Arts and Craft 9:00am
- 2.20 (Sun) District Mini Clinic 2:00 - 3:00 pm
Tools for Improving Communication & Marketing for Church Viability & Success
- 2.23 (Wed) District Mini Clinic 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Tools to Repurpose Property for Future Church Viability & Success
- 2.24 (Thu) District Mini Clinic 6:30 - 7:30 pm
Tools to Acquire Fundamentals of Organizing Community Activism
- 2.27 (Sun) District Mini Clinic 12:30 - 1:30 pm
Tools to Ensure Viability in Stewardship, & Planned Giving

Happy Birthday (February)

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



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 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.
3. We begun our 2022 Pledge Campaign. We ask you to reflect on God's providence, look within your heart, and thoughtfully respond with a meaningful financial commitment for 2022.

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)