



The Good News

January 2024

Wallingford First United Methodist Church

941 Old Rock Hill Rd
Wallingford CT 06492

fumc.wallingford@gmail.com

www.fumc-walllingford.org

203-269-9100

Soon Kook Ahn Pastor

Worship with us
Sundays at 10:00 am
In person or on Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6058662108>
Meeting ID: 605 866 2108

Pastor's Letter

As we close one year and open another year, I look back at the life and ministry of our church in this past year. I am truly grateful to God for giving us joy and confidence about who we are and what we ought to do in the new year. The Lord gave our church growth in numbers and deepened our faith in Christ Jesus. I know it was possible for us by the dedication of our church family who loved the Lord Jesus and his gospel. I cherish your hard work to build up the

Kingdom of God through the

GRATEFUL passionate mission and service
for our community and beyond.

Thankful Among the various
& **BLESSED** accomplishments, two worship
services that need to be
recognized. One was the 60th

Anniversary of the Sanctuary Service in January and I believe we all experienced the passion and excitement of our ancestors who dedicated this beautiful sanctuary. God is alive in deed!

The other service was the Reception of New Members in October. You may remember our church received 10 new members with joy and praise. I believe the Lord gave us an important insight about who we are and confidence regarding how our church can grow continually. In a word, your warm greetings made the visitors and newcomers feel at home.

I am confident that the Lord will continue to bless us in the new year and beyond. With conviction, let us continue to be in the spirit of Christ Jesus who humbled himself to be with us and sacrificed himself to save us! See the joy and blessings that we have in Jesus and let us confess what the apostle Paul said: "I am what I am by the grace of God!" and

“No one and nothing will be able to separate us from the great love of God that is in Christ Jesus”.

May the light of Christ Jesus shine upon all who are anxiously waiting for the coming of Christ! Let us be willing to be used as the instruments of God for his divine will on earth! Amen.

Pastor Ahn



Advent Bible Study

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY will be continued in January and it will be held on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. All are welcome and you can join at any time. You may contact Pastor Ahn if you are interested.

“Christmas has been hijacked and exploited. We have professed allegiance to Jesus but celebrate his birth with an orgy of materialism. Christmas is not your birthday; it’s Jesus’ birthday! This book will help you reclaim the broader missional meaning of Jesus’ birth and experience a Christmas season with more peace and joy than any toy or gadget could ever bring.” (from Introduction)



Our Missions and Outreach

FOOD COLLECTIONS FOR MASTER’S MANNA on the first Sunday each month. Your thoughtful consideration and generous giving are deeply appreciated. You may contact Stephen & Kagee Hubbard for any questions.

COLLECTIONS FOR ‘HOLIDAY FOR GIVING’ were held during the month of November for the families who were in need of help and two boxes full of gifts were picked up by a representative from the organization on December 5. Thank you all for your participation!



WALLINGFORD COMMUNITY DINNER: I wanted to share a heartfelt THANK YOU and a brief report about the dinner served on Christmas. We had a beautiful Christmas day and an eager team to host the Christmas edition of the Wallingford Community Dinner. Diane and Chris Robin were in the kitchen from 7 AM until the last dinner was served! Karen Jacobs and family were serving in the dining room. Pastor Anh and family delivered dinners to the homebound. There was live music and arts and crafts and we served 70 dinners in person. Over 150 dinners were delivered and over 50 were served as takeout. A grand total of 286 meals were provided to our community. Merry Christmas!
Kris DeFilippo

2ND OFFERING ON 2ND SUNDAY will be dedicated on January 14 and the collected fund will be sent to 'Human Relations Day Offering'. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated and you may contact Kristin DeFilippo if you have any questions about the offering.

In Our Church

TRANSITION LUNCH was held on Wednesday, December



6 at the Ichiban Restaurant in Hartford. Everyone enjoyed the food.

The next Transition will be held on Wednesday, January 24 at the Colony Diner in our town. All are invited and please contact Donna Graham for any questions.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE & CHILDREN'S PAGEANT were celebrated on December 17. Our children did a great job.



Blue Christmas Service was held at the sanctuary on Thursday, December 21st that is the day of the longest night. The service was offered to our neighbor whose hearts are saddened and lonely by the loss of loved ones, sickness, brokenness, or any human hardships.

Upcoming

ANNUAL CHURCH MEETING will be held right after Sunday Worship Service on January 14. All church members are expected to attend. We will celebrate the accomplishments in 2023. We will approve the 2024 budget and the recommendations of the nomination committee for the ministry of God.

COVENANT RENEWAL will be held during Worship Service on January 21. The newly elected church leaders will be introduced and the congregation will commit to support them with prayers and active participation

Covenant
Renewal

CHURCH COUNCIL will meet on Tuesday, January 9 at 7:00 pm. You may contact Kristen DeFilippo if you have any questions or suggestions.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES will meet Tuesday, January 23 at 7:00 pm. Please contact John DeFilippo if you have any questions or suggestions.

CRAFTS GROUP will be held on Saturday, January 13 from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. You may contact Kristen DeFilippo if you have any questions.

PRAYER MEETING is being held every Thursday at 3:00 pm at our church. You can join at any time and please contact Pastor Ahn if you have any prayer requests.

UPPER ROOM FOR JANUARY & FEBRUARY will be available for your devotion. Our deep appreciation is expressed to Earl Page for providing the book for us.

OUR CHOIR rehearses at 9:00 am on Sundays. We are always looking for new members so if you want to praise the Lord in this way please join us!

PRAYER CHAIN If you wish to share prayer needs or thanks call Pat Levasseur at 203-269-0951 to start the chain. Share as much information or as little as you are comfortable. And make sure you have permission from the person in need to share.

SIGN UP! We need **VOLUNTEERS** to help with our worship services! You can sign up for **Ushering**, **Coffee Hosts**, and **Communion Stewards** (help Pastor Ahn distribute the communion elements) on the table in the Narthex under the bulletin board. Thank you.

ALTAR FLOWERS If you wish to supply flowers on the altar in honor of or in memory of someone, or just because Sign up on the chart in the Narthex and put a check in the envelopes provided.

CONGRATULATIONS to Barbara Carr upon the birth of her 9th great grandchild: Weston Michael Albin and he was born on October 29. His family lives in South Carolina.

DEEPEST SYMPATHY to

Phebe Kirkham and her family upon the loss of her beloved husband Dr. Donald Kirkham. He passed away on December 3 at the age of 85. Dr. Kirkham faithfully served as the District Superintendent of the CT District in 1990's. Rev. Martha Vink (Yalesville UMC) and her family upon the loss of her beloved father Rev. Harold "Hal" Van Wely Vink. He passed away November 30 at the age of 90. Rev. Vink served many churches in the New York Annual Conference.

JANUARY Birthdays

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|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Jorge Torres (1-2) | Wendy Perzanowski (1-4) |
| Harold Reed (1-5) | Scott Gingras (1-6) |
| Paul Caruso (1-8) | Nancy Pogmore (1-11) |
| Joan Dion (1-14) | Barbara Jane Carr (1-18) |
| Earl Page (1-20) | Jane Wargo (1-24) |
| Christopher Garland (1-26) | Kristen DeFilippo (1-28) |
| Betty Lynch (1-30) | Donna Barneschi (1-31) |
| Eric Gingras (1-31) | |

A **church calendar** can be found on our church website at www.fumc-wallingford.org.



