



April 2024

Wallingford First United Methodist Church

941 Old Rock Hill Rd
Wallingford CT 06492

fumc.wallingford@gmail.com

www.fumc-wallington.org

203-269-9100

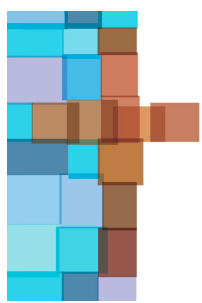
Soon Kook Ahn Pastor

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

We often hear that life is good when a second chance is given. I agree with the statement, but the second chance is not about having another opportunity or extension of life that ends up with another failure or regret. The life we live after the resurrection of Christ Jesus is not about 'another life', but 'new life'. This new life is not our own, but with Christ Jesus who became the first fruit among the dead and it holds the resurrecting power of Christ Jesus. We do not expect sudden or dramatic changes outside of us. But we may expect changes inside of us: new goals in life, new attitude toward challenges, and a new way of life in godliness. We will live the life of Jesus and he will live our life as it is written in Galatians 2:20.

"And it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by



*...the life
I now live
in the flesh
I live by
faith in
the Son
of God,
who
loved me
and gave
himself
for me.*

Galatians 2:20, NRSV

the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

Therefore it is important for us to humble ourselves and yield our life to Jesus who loves us with sacrificial giving and gentle guidance. Christ Jesus suffered and died for us. He was risen for our sake, so we have to live for him and for his gospel. Let us remember that the resurrecting power of Jesus is with us and it is the right thing for us to witness the love of God for all. When Jesus gives us a new life, his promise to be with us will be with us always! Whatever we do and wherever we go, Christ Jesus ought to be honored and his good news about forgiveness and salvation must be heard and seen by others, so there will be a celebration of new life in Christ continually until the Day of the Lord. Prophet Habakkuk saw the vision of God in 2:14 on the Lord's Day,

But the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

May the glory and resurrecting power of Christ Jesus be with you always! Amen.

Pastor Ahn



MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE will be held on March 28 at 7:00 pm at our church. All are invited and let us have a meaningful Holy Week!

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE will be held on March 29 at 7:00 pm at the Cheshire UMC (205 Academy Rd., Cheshire, CT 06410). Let us come closer to the cross where Jesus suffered and died for us all!

EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE will be held on March 31 at 10:00 am. Easter Offering will be dedicated. Let us gather together to celebrate the glorious resurrection of Christ Jesus! Hallelujah!

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY will be continued after Easter until April 10 and the Bible study begins at 6:30 pm. The title of the textbook is 'Jesus' Final Week' and you can join us at any time.

Sunday School Activities - March 24:



New Members

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS was held during the worship service on Palm Sunday, March 24. We received two new members: Joseph John Senk, Sr. and Christina Noel Grant. Let us welcome our new brothers and sisters in Christ with the warmth of God's grace!



SOUPER

BOWL SUNDAY was celebrated on February 11. Three soups were served: Creamy Broccoli, Butternut Squash, and Chicken Chowder. \$291.25 was collected and our deep appreciation is expressed to Phil & Jane Wargo, John DeFilippo, and Olivia DeFilippo for their dedication for the successful fundraising event.

GREETINGS FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL!

Each year we are challenged by the District Superintendent to take a hard look at ourselves and our position as a body of faith in our community, asking spiritual questions of introspection to review the strengths and weaknesses, as well as the current missions of this church.

At the end of this annual journey, we are asked to set goals for our Church to help us grow and be a better partner within our community. In 2023 we set 5 goals for ourselves.

- Rewrite Church *Vision Statement*
- Celebrate the 60th Anniversary on Rock Hill Road (January 1963)
- Reestablish LUV Fund
- Celebrate of UMC Mission and FUMC Ministry
- Develop Common Goal w/Cooperative Parish

Lofty and ambitious, but we were successful at each one because we approached each challenge not alone but as a body of faith.

Goals set for the Church for 2024 expand on the foundation we set in 2023. Listed below:

- Nurture Relationship with Rock Hill School
- Improve Visibility in the Community
- Evangelism
- Continue to develop Common Goals w/Cooperative Parish

These goals were set to help us focus our gifts on the community outside our four walls. In the coming days and weeks, I will spend some time talking about each one.

The first focus will be on **Nurture Relationship with Rock Hill School**. Rock Hill School is our closest neighbor with a grand mission of their own to educate the students of our community. Our goal this year is to foster our relationship with the school. As a short-term objective, we would like to honor the faculty and staff during Teacher appreciation week in May. We need your help to extend this small gesture of appreciation. Please consider volunteering to help organize this small event. In future events we could extend an invitation to an after-school tea or even to host a school-wide event. I am getting ahead of myself, first, a thank you to the faculty and staff. Please consider volunteering to help realize this goal this spring as our first opportunity to strengthen our relationship with our neighbor. Do you have a student in school, or a friend or neighbor working at the

school? Could you work with the Pastor to contact the school and find out what the teachers and staff would like best. It might be a box of coffee and some bagels for their faculty lounge, or a sweet treat to get them through the day. Maybe it is some supplies desperately needed to get through the end of school year, let's find out!

If you are interested, or want to know more about this or any of the other goals, please contact me:
Kristen DeFilippo 203-269-6902 or
You can reach out to the Pastor to be put into contact with me. Thanks for your time and your commitment to FUMC and your church family.
See you in Church!
-Kris DeFilippo

Finance News

Greeting from the finance department!
In light of keeping everyone informed of our financial status here are our numbers for last month.

We had a total income of \$7,736.58.

Expenses were \$12,323.16.

We usually have this kind of imbalance. Just a note that we did get our share of the Warner Fund and the portion of the yearly expenses paid to us by the Trustees. That was about \$20,000.00. That being said, it happens just once a year and is our cushion until later in the year.

Happy Spring!! Wendy

UP next!

SHRED DAY will be held on **Saturday, April 6** from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm. It is a fundraising event for our church and your participation will be deeply appreciated. Please contact Stephen & Kagee Hubbard if you are willing to help.



TAG SALE: May 18th,
Saturday, 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. Come and find great deals on housewares, home décor, jewelry, toys, sports equipment, garden tools, plants, holiday trimmings and delicious baked goods and MORE! We will need a lot of volunteers. There will be a sign-up board in the Narthex for volunteers to help sort and price items, donate baked goods and help with cleanup. The first official day for donations will be Sunday, April 28th after service until 2:00 pm. Please ensure that all donations are clean (dishes, linens, etc.) If you have any questions., please contact: Susan G., Sue B. or Kagee.

CEREMONY OF INFANT BAPTISM for **Morgan Elaine Lagace** will be held during Sunday worship service on April 21. Morgan was born March 10, 2023. Her proud parents are James Lagace and Samantha Dodge. Congratulations!

QUILT GROUP meets every Tuesday from 9:30 am. All are invited and you may contact Pat Levasseur if you are interested.

CRAFTS GROUP will be held on Saturday, April 6 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.

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!

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

2ND OFFERING ON 2ND SUNDAY will be dedicated on April 14. The collected funds will be sent to the *Native American Ministry*. Your generous contribution will be greatly appreciated.

GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH will be held from **April 23 until May 3** in Charlotte, NC. It will be a decisive and critical conference for the future of our denomination. Your prayers for unity and support will be deeply appreciated.

225th Session of the NEW YORK ANNUAL CONFERENCE will be held from **June 7 until 9** at the Hilton Stamford Hotel & Executive Meeting Center in Stamford, CT. Andrew Arsenault and Pastor Ahn will attend as the representatives of our church.

TRANSITION LUNCH is being held on the 4th Wednesday every month. It will be held at the Colony Diner in town and the next Transition will be held on **April 24** at 12:00 pm. All

are invited and please contact Donna Graham for any questions.

CONFIRMATION CLASS is being held every other Sunday until Pentecost Sunday, May 19. It is an event in our Cooperative Parish and there are four churches in the parish: Cheshire UMC, Grace UMC in Southington, Yalesville UMC, and the First UMC of Wallingford. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

BLESSING OF THE QUILTS will be held during the worship service on Pentecost Sunday, May 19. The beautiful quilts will be displayed and our sincere appreciation is expressed to all the Quilt Group members for their tireless works.



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

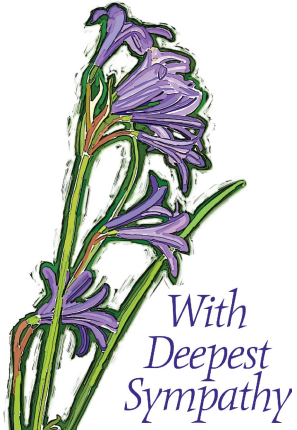
If you wish to supply flowers on the altar in honor of or in memory of someone, or just because. Sign up on the chart in the Narthex and put a check in the envelopes provided.

United Methodist Mugs are available for purchase. Cost is \$25. See Pastor Ahn if you are interested.



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

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



DEEPEST SYMPATHY is expressed to:

Vernon & Paige Grant upon the loss of their beloved daughter **Lauren** who passed away on February 25 at the age of 36.

Paul & Laurie Gingras upon the loss of Paul's brother **Mark** who passed away on March 7 at the age of 74.

Jean Miller-Reed and her family upon the loss of her beloved nephew **Richard** Lake, III. Richard passed away on March 23 at the age of 57.

May the peace and comfort of Christ Jesus be with them and their families in this time of sadness and pain!



April Birthdays

Jamie Rolan (4/4) Emily Eunice Reed (4/6)
Vernon Grant (4/11) John Baksa (4/13)
Jim Gardner (4/19) Bella Hastings (4/21)
Sherri Willhelm (4/22) Valerie Gwara (4/23)
Richard Miller (4/24) Gail Mackiewicz (4/25)
Steve Hubbard (4/26)

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

First United Methodist Church

SHRED DAY

April 6

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

941 Old Rock Hill Rd, Wallingford CT

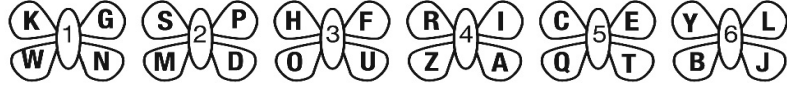


Stay in your car. Volunteers will unload.
Bags, boxes must be in TRUNK.

Suggested Donations \$10 - \$15

Puzzle!

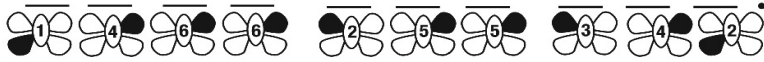
Use the code to uncover the angel's message in Matthew 28:7 (NIV).



“ ‘ H



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Answer: “He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.”

First United Methodist Church of Wallingford

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