



# The Good News

December 2022

## Wallingford First United Methodist Church

941 Old Rock Hill Rd  
Wallingford CT 06492

[fumc.wallingford@gmail.com](mailto:fumc.wallingford@gmail.com)

[www.fumc-wallingford.org](http://www.fumc-wallingford.org)

203-269-9100

Soon Kook Ahn Pastor

Worship with us  
Sundays at 11:00 am  
In person or on Zoom  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6058662108>  
Meeting ID: 605 866 2108

## Pastor's Letter

People who visit our sanctuary are amazed by the beauty of the sanctuary. I believe that it is the Lord's special blessing and special privilege for us to worship the Lord in the beautiful sanctuary. We are truly grateful to the church members who decided to move the location of our church 60 years ago. We only imagine how committed they were with faith, dedication, and sacrifice. Their hearts were filled with gratitude, passion, and vision for the Lord's ministry.

Our church will have a rededication service of our sanctuary on January 22, 2023 at 11:00 am. I am already excited for the special service and we will reenact the first dedication service 60 years ago. I believe it is a new beginning for our church as the Lord always makes new for everything.



When the Israelites returned from the harsh slavery of 70 long years in a foreign land, the first thing they did was rebuild of the Jerusalem temple. The country's situation was not worthwhile compared to the time when their ancestors' built the first temple under the leadership of King Solomon. The nation was strong and powerful, yet now they did not have good materials at all. But their faith, gratitude, and passion were so deep and genuine. In the book of Haggai, the Lord said to the Israelites who were about to build their new sanctuary:

*"Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land; <sup>7</sup> and I will shake all the nations, so that the treasure of all nations shall come, and I will fill this house with*

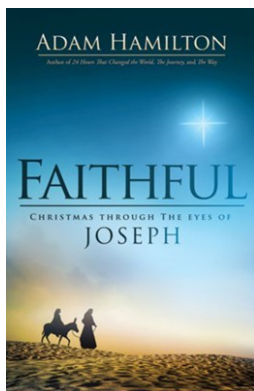
splendor, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>8</sup> The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>9</sup>The latter splendor of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity, says the Lord of hosts.”

Do we believe the Lord’s promise? All we know is that the current situation of the world is getting more challenging and difficult. Church is not an exception! Especially the covid has taken many from the church not only elderly but also young parents and their children. Let us believe God’s promise and let us be diligent in gathering for worship, fellowship, prayers, and learning. Let us fulfill the Lord’s dream as we deepen our faith and dedication to the Lord! Let us gather together on January 22 with songs of praise and thanksgiving! Let us extend the invitation of the Lord who will begin great things among us! Come and let us celebrate together! Amen.

*Pastor Ahn*

## Advent Bible Study:

### **FAITHFUL (Christmas Through the Eyes of Joseph)**



written by Rev. Adam Hamilton will be held every Thursday evening at 7:00 pm during Advent. The dates are 12/1, 12/8, 12/15, and 12/22. It is an in-person gathering, yet zoom service will be provided for those who join the Bible Study at home. Let us have a special journey to find Christ Jesus, the New Born King, Prince of Peace, Messiah, and the Son of Living God! Please contact Pastor Ahn if you are interested.



**Greening of the Church** will be celebrated on **November 27** which is the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent. The stories of Jesus’ birth and his coming will be read during worship service and the Christmas tree (chrismons) will be decorated with the ornaments.

**Christmas Sunday** will be celebrated on **December 18** in welcoming of the Newborn King Christ Jesus! Children’s Christmas Pageant will be presented and we will offer Christmas Offering to the NewBorn King Christ Jesus. All are welcome!

**Blue Christmas**, A Service of Remembrance and Hope. **Wednesday December 21, 7:00 pm**. Blue Christmas is a day in the Advent season marking the longest night of the year. On this day we will hold a service that remembers our loved ones and honors people that have lost loved ones and are experiencing grief.

**No Christmas Eve Service** at our church this year. You may go to the **Yalesville UMC** and their service begins at 7:00 pm.

**Christmas Day Sunday Worship Service** will be held **Sunday December 25, at 11:00 am**. You may extend the invitation of the Newborn King Christ Jesus to your loved ones! Let us gather together to welcome Christ Jesus, the Prince of peace and Hope of the world!

## Toys for Tots

**Toys for Tots:** Is a special project to deliver toys for the children who are in need. It was started in 1947. So far, 627 million toys have been distributed and 287 million children have been supported. For any questions or interested in donating, you may need to contact **Phil and Jane Wargo**.



## Sacred Sounds of Advent and Christmas

Saturday, December 17, 2:00 pm & 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 18, 3:00 pm

Come celebrate the joy and beauty of this sacred season at Holy Family Retreat Center in West Hartford. The concert features an adult choir, chamber choir, instrumentalists, handbell choir, and soloists. A reception follows each concert.

Our own Olivia DeFilippo and David Brandl will be singing with the choir,

A livestream of each concert, is available as an alternative for those who may not be able to join in person.

Tickets are available at

<https://www.holyfamilyretreat.org/calendar/christmas-concert-sat-eve> (or sat-day; sun-day)

Offering: \$50/per person for in-person

\$25/per person for online live stream

## Annual Church Meeting

Annual Church Meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 8** right after the worship service. We will celebrate the accomplishment in 2022 and approve the 2023 budget and nomination. All church members are expected to be present! The reports from all committees need to be sent to our church secretary Valerie Gwara ([pgwara@snet.net](mailto:pgwara@snet.net)) by January 4.

## Covenant Renewal

Covenant Renewal will be held during Sunday worship service on **January 15**. Newly elected church leaders will be introduced to the congregation and we will commit ourselves to work together with humble hearts.

## Rededication Service

Rededication Service in celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our sanctuary will be held on Sunday, **January 22**. Let us extend the invitation of Christ Jesus to this amazing milestone of our church history!

Christ  
IS Coming!

## Pajama Program

Pajama Program distributes millions of cozy pajamas and inspiring books to qualified Community Partners (homeless shelters, foster care agencies, group homes, etc.) that work directly with children facing adversity across the United States, including Puerto Rico.

New pajamas, books, socks, may be placed in the bin in the hallway between the Narthex and the Sunday School Wing at any time. Jane Wargo coordinates, see her with any questions.

## News from the Trustees

A *Capital Fund drive* to offset the cost of renovating the parsonage is ongoing. Any amount you could donate would be help and no amount is too small.

Thank you all so much.

## Choir

Our Choir rehearses at **10:00 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.



## Notes from the Quilt Group

The Quilt Group is meeting every Tuesday from 9:30 - 12:00 as we have been for many years.

We are still making quilts for the children at the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp.

Almost as important as the gifts to the camp is the companionship we share.

Some of us have been getting together for almost 40 years. This includes the 20 years we made crafts and had the fair at church. We have added members and lost some too, but it is still a very special group. If you would like to join us, stop by any Tuesday.

## 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.

## Transitions Dinner

Every last Wednesday of each month we meet for dinner and fellowship at 5:30 at Colony Diner. Contact Donna Graham, 203-440-0403, if you'd like to attend so she can arrange reservations.

## Craft Group

We host a craft group on the first Saturday of each month from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. All crafters are welcome, bring a lunch if you'd like. Next meeting is December 3.



## Upcoming meetings:

**Church Council** will meet on Tuesday, December 13 at 7:00 pm. You may contact Kristen DeFilippo if you have any questions or suggestions.

**Board of Trustees** will meet Tuesday, December 27 at 7:00 pm. Please contact John DeFilippo if you have any questions or suggestions.

## Anniversaries

We like to celebrate birthdays each week during worship and would also like to celebrate Wedding Anniversaries. Please sign up on the form in the narthex or e-mail the church at [fumc.wallingford@gmail.com](mailto:fumc.wallingford@gmail.com). 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.

### December Birthdays

Olivia DeFilippo (12/1);	Jean Miller-Reed (12/10)
Thomas Hacku (12/11);	Jacob Smart (12/17)
Laura Cooley (12/23);	Emily Baksa (12/27)



## Mark your Calendar

Nov 27	10:00 am	Choir Practice Sunday School
	11:00 am	<b>Service of Worship</b> - Greening of the Church - 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Advent
Nov 29	9:30 am	Quilt Group
Dec 1	6:00 pm	Boy Scouts
	7:00 pm	Advent Bible Study
Dec 3	9:00 am	Craft Group
	10:00 am	7 <sup>th</sup> Day Advent Church
Dec 4	10:00 am	Choir Practice
	11:00 am	<b>Service of Worship</b> , Holy Communion 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent
Dec 6	9:30 am	Quilt Group
Dec 7	5:00 pm	Transitions Dinner - Wood & Tap
Dec 8	6:00 pm	Boy Scout
	7:00 pm	Advent Bible Study
Dec 10	10:00 am	7 <sup>th</sup> Day Advent Church
Dec 11	10:00 am	Choir Practice
	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	<b>Service of Worship</b> - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent
Dec 13	9:30 am	Quilt Group
	7:00 pm	Church Council
Dec 15	7:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop 1
	7:00 pm	Advent Bible Study
Dec 17	10:00 am	7 <sup>th</sup> Day Advent Church
Dec 18	10:00 am	Choir Practice
	11:00 am	<b>Service of Worship</b> - 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent - Christmas Sunday
Dec 20	9:30 am	Quilt Group
	6:00 pm	Magic Group
Dec 21	7:00 pm	Blue Christmas Service
Dec 22	7:00pm	Boy Scout Troop 1
	7:00 pm	Advent Bible Study
		Deadline for Jan Good News
Dec 24	10:00 am	7 <sup>th</sup> Day Advent Church

Dec 25 10:00 am Choir Practice  
11:00 am **Service of Worship** - Merry Christmas!  
Dec 27 9:30 am Quilt Group  
7:00 pm Trustees  
Dec 29 6:00 pm Boy Scouts  
Dec 31 10:00 am 7<sup>th</sup> Day Advent Church  
Jan 1 11:00 am **Service of Worship**



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