



The Good News

December 2023

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

When December comes, my heart is filled with joy and excitement not only because of the joy of this Christmas season, but also because of my personal experience during Advent. The Pastor of my home church in Korea asked the Youth Group to prepare the Christmas Pageant in 1976 when I was a high school student. For the preparation, my friends and I met at the church everyday for singing practice, decoration of the church, rehearsal of the skit, etc. I still vividly remember the evening when I stood before my friends and said that I accepted Christ Jesus as my Lord and Savior. My heart was filled with enormous peace and overflowing joy that I had never imagined and had not known. It was the most important and powerful experience in my life. Of course, it changed the course of my life as I committed my life to Christ Jesus. I admire your experience when you first met the Lord Christ Jesus in person. Praise the Lord and thanks be to God for the love of all.

As you may know, I was born and raised in a non-Christian family. I did not know God until I entered high school. I wondered how Christ Jesus found me and came to me because I did not call on his name and I did not have any knowledge of who God is. Later I learned that it was the Lord's prevenient grace and it means God loves us



unconditionally from the beginning of our life and he is with us wherever we live and whatever we do. God is searching for human souls who want to live in the truth, grace, and freedom of the Lord.

I truly believe God works constantly until the world becomes his kingdom and his love must be known to all for there are

A CHRIST-CENTERED
CHRISTMAS

yet many who live in despair, darkness, violence, or ignorance. Let us open our hearts to welcome Christ Jesus and let us commit ourselves to deliver the Lord's blessings and hope in the world! May the Newborn King Christ Jesus' peace and joy be in your hearts today and always! Amen.

Pastor Ahn

PEACE *LOVE* HOPE *JESUS* PEACE *LOVE* HOPE *JESUS*

Advent Bible Study

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY will be held every Wednesday during Advent.

The first session will be held on **Wednesday, December 6 at 6:30 pm**. All are welcome and 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)



Greening of the Church will be held during Sunday Worship Service on **December 3**. We will hear the stories of the birth of Christ Jesus who is the Price of Peace and Mighty King. We will decorate the chrismon tree with the ornaments that represent Christ Jesus and his ministry.

Blue Christmas Service will be held on Thursday, **December 21 at 7:00 pm** at our church. December 21 is the longest night of the year and the service is for those who may feel more pain or sadness during this time of the year



with the loss of loved ones, sickness, loneliness, or any other burdens in life. Candles will be lit and the Lord's communion will be served during the service. You may invite your friends who are in need of comfort and hope from our Lord Christ Jesus.

Christmas Eve Communion & Candlelight Service will be held on **Sunday, December 24 at 11:00 pm** at our church. All are invited and let us gather together to welcome the coming of Christ Jesus who is the Lord and Savior of all.

Christmas flowers



Poinsettias to beautify our altar this Christmas.

If you would like to provide a poinsettia (or several) for the altar this

Christmas in memory or in honor of someone (or just because) you have options.

Three pot sizes are available this year, 4" – \$5, 6" – \$11, and 7 ½" – \$19.50. Red, pink, and white are also available. There will be order forms available this Sunday at church or see Kris DeFilippo to order.

Trustee: Gift Cards

This Christmas season if you are gifting presents of gift cards don't forget you can purchase cards from our trustees and a portion of the sale is donated to our Trustee accounts. A list of available cards is posted in the Fellowship Hour room at the end of the education wing. See Diane Garland to purchase.



Outreach/Missions

2ND OFFERING ON 2ND SUNDAY will be dedicated on **December 10** and the collected fund will be sent to Wallingford Community Dinners. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated and you may contact Kristin DeFilippo if you have any questions about volunteer work on Christmas Day.

Looking out for the Needs of Others Is Alive and Well at F.U.M.C. !!!

The collection for Masters Manna of coats, jackets, boots, and cans on Nov 26th was heartwarming.



12 coats and jackets, work boots, dress boots, etc. combined for 56 pounds for the donations that day. Food only from the first 2 Sundays in Nov was approx.. 65 lbs. THANK YOU for your generous donations! Some of us also helped on Turkey tossing Tuesday and Monday as approx.. 400 families came to Masters Manna for their turkeys and other groceries for their Thanksgiving meals.

Some of us also donated time helping to cut up vegetables, cook, or serve at the Wallingford Community Dinner at the Congregational Church, which provided Thanksgiving dinners for hundreds of Thankful people.

Upcoming meetings:

CHURCH COUNCIL will meet on Tuesday, December 12 at 7:00 pm. You may contact Kristen DeFilippo if you have any questions or suggestions.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES will meet Tuesday, December 26 at 7:00 pm. Please contact John DeFilippo if you have any questions or suggestions.

CRAFTS GROUP will be held on Saturday, December 9 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.

TRANSITION LUNCH will be held on **Wednesday, December 6 at 12:00 pm** at the Ichiban Restaurant in Hartford. It serves Korean & Japanese food. It will be full of joy and all are welcome. We will meet at our church at 11:00 am for those who want to carpool. You may contact Donna Graham if you have any questions. All are welcome!

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



News of our Church

LAITY SUNDAY was celebrated on October 29 in honor of all laity for their faithful and active participation in the Lord's ministry! The worship service was led by laity and everyone did a great job. Thank you all!



Olivia - Preaching;
Sherri - Children's Time; Jonny - Piano solo; Angie - Call to Worship; Joaquin & Jonas - Scripture Reading; Jonny, Angie, Joaquin, Jonas, Gerry, & Stephen - Ushers

CEREMONY OF BAPTISM for Hudson Romie Washburn and Kali Jean Casey was held on November 26. Hudson's proud parents are Sarah & Jeffrey. His proud maternal grandparents are Joe & Carol Worcester. Kali's proud mom is Danielle and her paternal grandparents are Kevin & Jill Casey. Congratulations!



COMBINED ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE was held at our church with other churches in the MidState Cooperative Parish: Cheshire UMC, Grace UMC in Southington, & Yalesville UMC on November 12. We praised



the Lord for the blessings upon our churches and our Cooperative Parish. During worship service, the combined choir sang which was beautiful and inspirational.

FAITHFUL IN MINISTRY was given to our church for the faithful completion upon financial giving in apportionments. Our generous giving was recognized with appreciation by the Bishop Bickerton and cabinet members.



DEEPEST SYMPATHY is expressed to:

The family of Reynolds upon the loss of their mother Barbara J. Reynolds. She passed away on November 7 at the age of 86. With her late husband Walter, Barbara faithfully served the Lord at our church.

Vern & Paige Grant and their family upon the loss of Paige's father David Harris who passed away on November 21 at the age of 87. He was a Korean War Veteran.

Gail Mackiewicz and her family upon the loss of her grandniece's husband Jim Landry who passed away on October 14 at the age of 42.

THANK YOU LETTER: Dear Church Family,
 Danny and I are doing well and hope you are all well. Happy Thanksgiving!
 Love, Donna & Danny
 (*Donna and Danny were faithful members of our church and they now live in South Thomaston, Maine.)

Choir

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.

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.

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);
Chad Christopher Dougherty (12/28)



♦♦ JOIN US THIS CHRISTMAS! ♦♦



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Wallingford CT 06492

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