



February 2023

Wallingford First United Methodist Church

941 Old Rock Hill Rd
Wallingford CT 06492

fumc.wallingford@gmail.com

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

I believe that some of us are still in the joy of Christmas and we celebrated the Baptism of the Lord Sunday just a couple of weeks ago. It means Christ Jesus already began his public ministry and we are heading to the glorious Easter in a couple of months.



But there is a season or journey that is called 'Lent' and it is a time for all believers to stop from where we are going or to set aside ourselves from the place where we live. We are confident and joyous because of the wonder of Jesus' resurrection that gives us hope and confidence. However, Lent teaches us something that we must take seriously in our faith journey. Some say it in this way: there is no new and everlasting life without the death of Christ, no joy without pain, and no glory without the cross. It is painful for us to consider the hardships, yet it is the way that Christ Jesus walked and lived.

Lent is a 40 days of penitential period in preparation for the glory in Christ Jesus' resurrection. As we live in a busy world, it is hard for us to stop, yet it is necessary and important. We need to constantly check whether we are on the right path. Otherwise, our journey may end in a far different place where we did not intend. Lent gives us an opportunity to go deep about ourselves, our companion, and our destination. It is the Lord who lives in us, who walks with us, and who guides us everyday.

Prayers, fasting, and almsgiving are kept in our faith tradition. That is our effort to come closer to Christ Jesus and to clear our vision on Christ Jesus: how and why he suffered, died, and rose again. For our sake, Christ Jesus

walked the narrow and lonely way. For our joy and life everlasting, Christ Jesus endured shame and suffering. Let us meditate on the sacrificial love of Christ Jesus and I believe we will experience the abiding presence of the Lord in joy and gratitude! Let us make a room for Jesus in our hearts and let us honor Christ Jesus at the center of our lives!



May the grace and blessing of Jesus be with you in your Lenten journey and always! Amen.

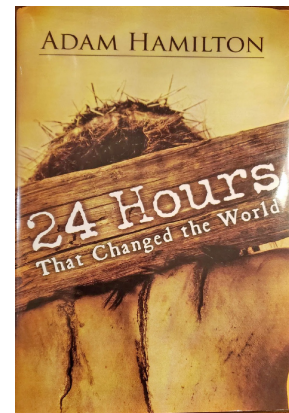
Pastor Ahn

Ash Wednesday

A COMBINED ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE will be held on **February 22** at 7:00 pm at the First UMC of Wallingford (941 Old Rock Hill Rd., Wallingford, CT 06492). Twelve churches from the Midstate Cooperative Parish & New Room will participate in the service and a combined choir from the churches will sing together. Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent that is 40 days of spiritual journey in preparation for the joyous and glorious Easter. It is a time of reflection for all believers on our faith and the sacrificial love of Christ Jesus through prayers, meditation, self-denial, fasting, and almsgiving. Extend the invitation of Christ Jesus to our family and friends!



Lenten Bible Study



LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: **24 HOURS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD** will be held every **Thursday (2/23, 3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23, & 3/30)** at **7:00 pm** during Lent and you can join via *zoom*. The link will be sent to you every week. The textbook was written by Rev. Adam Hamilton, Senior Pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, KS. He said, "The aim of this book is to help you better understand the events that occurred during the last 24 hours of Jesus' life, see more clearly the theological significance of Christ's suffering and death, and reflect upon the meaning of these events for your life." Let us join together with Christ Jesus and with one another in our special Lenten journey! All are welcome and let Pastor Ahn know if you are interested.

Outreach/Missions

COAT DRIVE has been going and thank you all for your generosity and thoughtfulness!



Dear friends at FUMC & 7th Day Adventist. Happy holidays and **THANK YOU** for your generous and kind donation! We are writing to express our deepest thanks to you for your recent donation to Chrysalis Domestic Violence Services. Generous donations from donors like you provide the support needed to continue our mission of promoting healthy relationships, safe families, and violence-free communities. Individuals and families who make the courageous decision to leave an abusive relationship face many emotional, physical, and financial challenges. While families face their uncertain futures, your donation helps us provide support, services, and safe housing to adults and children fleeing domestic violence and the tools and resources they need to heal, and know that a world without violence can exist. Please know how much you've helped our clients and how much we all appreciate your support! With sincere thanks, *Linsey Walters*, Executive Director
(Donation: 50 blankets and quilts)



Covenant Renewal, Jan 15

News from our Church

COVENANT RENEWAL was held during Sunday worship service on January 15. Newly elected church leaders were introduced to the congregation and the congregation committed themselves to work together with humble hearts.

REDEDICATION SERVICE in Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the Sanctuary was held on Sunday, January 22. The worship service was filled with joy and gratitude. A potluck lunch was held after the worship service. Thank you all for your dedication to the service and to the Lord's ministry through our church.



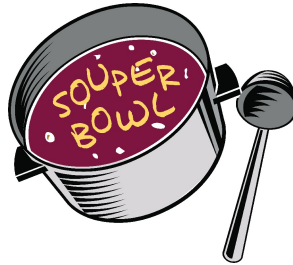


Prayer Chain

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.

Souper Bowl Sunday Soup Sale

Again this year Phil Wargo will be making soup for Souper Bowl Sunday. Soup will be available for purchase on Sunday, February 12 after worship. See Phil for prices and varieties of soup.



Notes from the Quilt Group

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

We make 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.

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

The first Saturday of each month we host a craft group from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm downstairs in the fellowship hall. All crafters are welcome, bring a lunch if you'd like.

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.

Apportionments

How Apportionments are Calculated

Every year our church is required to report various financial data to the New York Annual Conference. Five pieces of that data are used by the Conference to determine what our share of Apportionments will be. The 5 numbers that determine Apportionments owed are:

- 1 Salaries paid to clergy
- 2 Allowances paid to clergy
- 3 Accountable reimbursements
- 4 Salary and benefits for church staff
- 5 Program expenses
- 6 Office expenses

The Conference takes the sum of the 5 items above (called the Apportionment Base) for our church and divides it by the sum

of the Apportionment Bases for all churches in the New York Annual Conference. They call this the Apportionment Factor and multiply that Factor by the total of the Conference budget for the year. This number is our share of Apportionments. Our share of Apportionments for 2023 is \$16,472.95 – that figure is based on the numbers we reported in 2021 (there is always a 2 year lag between the numbers we report and when they are used to calculate our share of Apportionments).

Where Do Our Apportionments Go?

20.4%– General Church & New England Jurisdiction (NEJ) Apportionments: funds the World Service Fund, Ministerial Education Fund, Episcopal Fund, Black College Fund, General Administration Fund, Africa University Fund, Interdenominational Cooperation Fund and NEJ.

The World Service Fund is the heart of our denomination-wide ministry, underwriting Christian mission and ministry around the world. This fund strengthens our evangelism efforts, stimulates church growth, expands Bible studies and enriches spiritual commitment. By giving to the World Service Fund we help God's children everywhere shape the lives of tomorrow's leaders and proclaim our Christian faith. The fund demonstrates the Mission of The United Methodist Church by:

- Supporting specific local church work with children, youth, students, persons who are mentally and physically challenged, adults and older persons
- Providing leadership and coordination for denominational ministry with youth
- Continuing nearly 200 years of commitment to quality college and graduate education
- Certifying United Methodist professional Christian educators, communicators and musicians
- Assuring United Methodists speak and work to help encourage a more ethical, just & human world
- Continuing a proud tradition of cooperation and dialogue with other faith traditions through interdenominational and ecumenical work

- Giving our denomination a presence in the mass media and making new communications technologies accessible to the church

The Ministerial Education Fund:

- enables churches to unify and expand financial support for the recruitment and education of future pastors and bishops
- equips annual conferences to meet the increased needs of people in the ministry
- accounts for 12 to 20 percent of the annual budget of most United Methodist seminaries
- **25%** of the receipts assist candidates for ministry, to support continuing education for pastors and clergy recruitment and to provide financial aid for students in your annual conference.
- **75%** is disbursed to the 13 United Methodist seminaries to assist candidates for ordained ministry through scholarships and faculty salaries. It also goes to the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry to support the work of the Division of Ordained Ministry

The Episcopal Fund:

- pays the salaries of our bishops
- pays the expenses of episcopal offices
- supports the costs of providing and maintaining episcopal residences
- provides pension and health benefit coverage for bishops and their families
- provides disability coverage for bishops
- covers the costs of episcopal travel and meeting expenses
- defrays moving expenses
- provides pensions for surviving spouses, and minor children of deceased bishops

The Black College Fund:

- helps these institutions to maintain solid, challenging academic programs; strong faculties; and well-equipped buildings

- creates vibrant spiritual environments which encourage pride and self-esteem in the accomplishments of African-Americans
- provides opportunities for students to interact with academic staffs that serve as strong cultural and spiritual mentors
- prepares and educates people for the new global and technological world without veering from an academic excellence based on the Christian perspective of community service and social responsibility

The General Administration Fund:

- implements a trustworthy system of administrative oversight and fiscal accountability
- underwrites the legislative work of the General Conference
- funds the work of the Judicial Council to adjudicate questions of church law
- maintains United Methodism's official documents and historical artifacts
- designates historical shrines, landmarks and sites

The Africa University Fund:

- continues to develop the first private university for young people in Africa
- offers post-secondary education for students through colleges of agriculture and natural resources, management and administration, theology, education, health sciences, and humanities and social services
- offers post graduate faculties in agriculture, management and administration, theology, health sciences, peace and government

The Interdenominational Cooperation Fund:

- enables United Methodists to have an effective presence in the activities of several national and worldwide ecumenical organizations
- provides the United Methodist share of the basic budgets of those organizations which relate to the ecumenical responsibilities of the Council of Bishops and the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns
- pays for the travel expenses of United Methodist representatives to meetings of these organizations

23.1% - Conference Programs: Funds Connectional Ministries, Conference Benevolences, Congregational Development & Church Revitalization, Disaster Response, Mission & Outreach, Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON), church training programs, district programs (campus, youth, ecumenical, & justice ministries) and grants for local programs.

17.5% - District Superintendents: funds the salaries, benefits, professional expenses and office expenses for our six Superintendents and their staff. Also funds the cost of six district parsonages.

17.6% - Conference Administration: funds the Finance office, Conference Center in White Plains, a portion of Bishop's office/housing, Bishop's Assistant, publications of Journals and Directories, Conference Secretary and contingencies.

8.9% - Conference Boards & Committees: funds Conference Sessions, Board of Trustees, Camping & Retreat Ministries, Board of Ordained Ministry, Commissions on Archives and History and other Committees

5.7% - Reserve for Full Funding: Recognizes that full budget is not collected via apportionments. Ensures that certain required payments can be funded (e.g. payroll, benefits, taxes for conference staff and retiree healthcare).

6.0% - Other Clergy Support: Funds the cost of salaries supplements for struggling churches, clergy recruitment / assistance / transitional support, emergency aid and move costs.

0.8% - Clergy Health Benefits: funds the costs of Healthcare Reimbursement Accounts for retirees and health coverage for those on incapacity leave

Upcoming Meetings

CHURCH COUNCIL will meet on Wednesday, February 15 at 7:00 pm. You may contact Kristen DeFilippo if you have any questions or suggestions.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES will meet Tuesday, February 28 at 7:30 pm. Please contact John DeFilippo if you have any questions or suggestions.

Other news

The AmazonSmile program is being discontinued on February 20, 2023. Thank you all for your support.

Dear Friends, Happy New Year! We're excited to share with you the impact your clothing shed made over the last year...

- 10,798 pounds of clothing were donated to your shed in 2022
- This was enough to clothe an estimated 1,989 people all over the world
- Based on this volume of clothing, your organization received \$431.91

Thank you so much for everything you, your volunteers, and your communities do support the clothing shed program!

Sincerely, the *Team at St. Pauly Textile, Inc.*

Birthdays

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| James Ahn (2/11), | Julie Paquette (2/14); |
| Norma DeFilippo (2/18) | Vincent Salabarría (2/28) |

Mark your Calendar

- Feb 3 6:00 pm Boy Scouts
- Feb 4 9:00 am Craft Group
- 10:00 am 7th Day Advent Church
- Feb 5 10:00 am Choir Practice
- Sunday School
- 11:00 am Service of Worship
- 2:00 pm Wedding
- Feb 7 10:00 am Quilt Group
- Feb 9 6:00 pm Boy Scouts
- Feb 11 10:00 am 7th Day Advent Church

- Feb 12 10:00 am Choir Practice
- 11:00 am Service of Worship
- Feb 14 10:00 am Quilt Group
- Feb 15 7:00 pm Church Council
- Feb 16 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 1
- Feb 18 10:00 am 7th Day Advent Church
- Feb 19 10:00 am Choir Practice
- Sunday School
- 11:00 am Service of Worship
- Feb 20 Deadline for March Newsletter
- Feb 21 10:00 am Quilt Group
- 6:00 pm Magic Group
- Feb 22 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday**
- 5:30 pm Transitions Dinner at Colony Diner
- Feb 23 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 1
- Feb 25 10:00 am 7th Day Advent Church
- Feb 26 10:00 am Choir Practice
- 11:00 am Service of Worship
- Feb 28 10:00 am Quilt Group
- 7:00 pm Trustees





Ash
Wednesday

“Return to me with all your heart.”
Joel 2:12

Ash Wednesday Worship
February 22, 7:00 pm
First United Methodist Church
941 Old Rock Hill Rd
Wallingford
Please Join Us.

First United Methodist Church of Wallingford
Mailing address:
P O BOX 6089-0089
Wallingford CT 06492

Building address:
941 Old Rock Hill Rd
Wallingford CT 06492