



**January 2023**

**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

I believe that you had a joyous and blessed Christmas with loved ones. May the peace and grace of the Lord Christ Jesus be with you continually!

As we begin a new year, our hearts ought to be filled with a new hope and a greater anticipation. But the circumstances where we live seem to us difficult in economy, covid, violence, and unpredictable weather. In the past, people believed that today is better than yesterday and tomorrow will be better than today, yet it is not easy for anyone to think in that way any longer.

I was so surprised that there was a serious car accident in Ohio caused by the treacherous weather last week. More than 50 cars and trucks were piled up and a precious life was taken at the scene. A blizzard hit the Buffalo area with a lot of snow with casualties and the damage was beyond belief. Besides these natural disasters, there are many hardships caused by human greed, selfishness, and ignorance in the world.

The situation reminds me of the sinking ship where Jesus and his disciples were on board at the sea of Galilee. Suddenly strong winds and uncontrollable waves came to the water. Because Jesus was sleeping, the disciples together woke him up and cried out, "Master, don't you care about us? We are perishing." Jesus woke up and rebuked the wind, "Be still." Then the waves calmed down and there was great peace. Don't we believe that the world so desperately needs his power and peace? There is hope in Christ Jesus if the world is united as the disciples on the sinking ship cried out together. Indeed God loves the world as it is written in John 3:16.

I am confident that we will be able to overcome the challenges if we can bring unity of Christ Jesus among people because collective wisdom, strength, and compassion are greater than individual ones! Christ Jesus teaches us that all are God's children and equal and precious. Let us remember where Jesus was born and Jesus went for his ministries! His birth was in humble surroundings and he was engaged with the people to a low degree because God wants to save all and we are called to promote peace and unity! Who is left behind? Let us feel the compassionate love of Christ Jesus! May the new year be filled with the truth, hope, and life of Christ Jesus in our hearts and on earth! Amen.

*Pastor Ahn*

## **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 the recommendation from the nomination committee. All church members are expected to be present! The annual reports from all committees need to be sent to our church secretary Valerie Gwara (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.

## **HUMAN RELATIONS DAY**

January 15<sup>th</sup>

What is Human Relations Day? Human Relations Day is one of six Sundays United Methodists set aside to support and celebrate specific ministries. We join other UMC congregations in a special offering to support neighborhood ministries through Community Developers, United Methodist Voluntary Services and Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs.

When do we celebrate Human Relations Day? United Methodists celebrate Human Relations Day on the Sunday before the US observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday to recognize his vision of "the beloved community." In 2023, it falls on January 15.

How does The United Methodist Church distribute the offerings received on Human Relations Day? It starts with you! Gifts collected in each local church are directed to The General Council on Finance and Administration, where funds are allocated to the administering agencies.

Each agency has a specific role in the ministry behind Human Relations Day:

- General Board of Global Ministries administers grants for both the Community Developers Program and the United Methodist Voluntary Service Programs
- General Board of Global Ministries administers grants for Youth Offender Rehabilitation Programs
- United Methodist Communications produces resources to celebrate and promote Human Relations Day

HOW TO GIVE: Make checks payable to First United Methodist Church Wallingford write "Human Relations Day offering" in the memo line. Bring it to church with you on January 15<sup>th</sup> and place it in one of the Special Sunday envelopes that will be available.

Donate online at [www.UMC.org/SSGive](http://www.UMC.org/SSGive)

## REDEDICATION SERVICE

Rededication Service in Celebration of the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Sanctuary will be held on Sunday, January 22. Let us extend the invitation of Christ Jesus to this amazing milestone of our church history! There will be a potluck lunch after the worship service.

We are glad that our former pastors Rev. Steven Peiffer and Rev. Karen Cook will be able to come and celebrate with us!

## BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Blue Christmas Service was held at the sanctuary on Wednesday, December 21 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. 18 people came and joined the service!



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**Church Council** will meet on Tuesday, January 10 at 7:00 pm. You may contact Kristen DeFilippo if you have any questions or suggestions.

**Board of Trustees** will meet Tuesday, January 24 at 7:00 pm. Please contact John DeFilippo if you have any questions or suggestions.

## 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.

## 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 10:00 - 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.

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.

## 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.

## January Birthdays

2	Jorge Torres,	4	Wendy Perzanowski
5	Harold Reed	6	Scott Gingras
11	Nancy Pogmore	14	Joan Dion
24	Jane Wargo	26	Christopher Garland
28	Kristen DeFilippo	30	Betty Lynch
31	Donna Barneschi	31	Eric Gingras

## Mark your Calendar

January:

1	10:00 am	Choir Practice
	11:00 am	Worship - Holy Communion
3	9:30 am	Quilt Group
5	7:00 pm	Boy Scouts
6		Epiphany
7	10:00 am	7 <sup>th</sup> Day Advent Church
	9:00 am	Craft Group
8	10:00 am	Choir Practice
		Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship
10	9:30 am	Quilt Group
	7:00 pm	Church Council
12	7:00 pm	Boy Scouts
14	10:00 am	7 <sup>th</sup> Day Advent Church
15	10:00 am	Choir Practice
	11:00 am	Worship
3	9:30 am	Quilt Group
	6:00 pm	Magic Club
19	7:00 pm	Boy Scouts
		Deadline for Feb Newsletter articles
21	10:00 am	7 <sup>th</sup> Day Advent Church
22	10:00 am	Choir Practice
		Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship - Church Rededication



- 22 12:00 pm Pot Luck
- 24 9:30 am Quilt Group
- 7:00 pm Trustees
- 25 5:30 pm Transitions Dinner
- 26 7:00 pm Boy Scouts
- 28 10:00 am 7<sup>th</sup> Day Advent Church
- 29 10:00 am Choir Practice
- 11:00 am Worship
- 31 9:30 am Quilt Group



**Looking Ahead**

- Feb 4 Craft Group
- Feb 22 Ash Wednesday

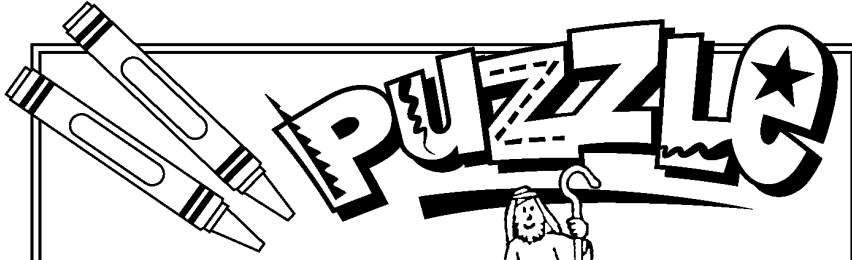


Pageant



Hanging the Crismons





# A PROMISED RULER



Prophets told of Jesus' birth hundreds of years before it happened. Never had a baby's arrival come with such a promise.

**Directions:** To read what one prophet (Micah 5:4, NIV) said about Jesus, complete the math problems below. Then fill in the words, using the math solutions as your guide.

 7+6 strength	 9+1 shepherd	 30-5 the	 7+5 ends	 50-26 live	
 21-10 will	 27-24 reach	 10+7 flock	 40-20 stand	 15+4 securely	 8+8 his
 35-31 LORD	 17-3 greatness	 10-3 earth	 10+5 will	 5+1 will	

"He 15 and 20 his 10 17

in the 13 of the 4 .... And they 11 24

19, for then 16 14 6

3 to the 12 of 25 7."

MICAH 5:4, NIV

Answers: "He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord .... And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth." Micah 5:4, NIV

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