



March 2024

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 10:00 am
In person or on Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6058662108>
Meeting ID: 605 866 2108

Pastor's Letter

I believe many of you receive Wallingford Patch every morning and I saw a shocking article. The title of the article is 'Mental Health Issues Top Community Concerns in Wallingford' and the subtitle of the article is 'Suicide rates are higher in Wallingford than statewide, according to a recent community health needs assessment'. I believe you have the same feeling because our town has a quiet neighborhood with many wonderful people.

We know that mental illness has been growing at an alarming rate in the world, yet we might have not been aware of the urgency and seriousness of the mental illness in our community. According to the report,

About 20 percent of adults in Wallingford have been diagnosed with depression at some point in their life, and 13 percent describe their current overall mental health as poor.

My heart was sunk and I could feel the pain of our neighbors who are struggling with hunger, poverty, loneliness, or sickness. I would say that all families suffer and the whole community suffers together. Who can save us from this challenging situation? Where can we find hope for today and tomorrow? I truly believe that everyone needs to know that Christ Jesus who for our sake suffered, died, and rose. I hope our suffering neighbors know that Christ Jesus is praying for them and he is with them with mighty protection and gentle guidance.

Let us then be proactive in reaching out to our neighbors who are waiting for the saving grace and generous help of Christ Jesus. The Bible says that by his poverty, we might become rich, by his wounds, we might be healed, and by his death, we might have life everlasting.

I am deeply grateful to God for the passion and generosity of our church family for our community. Let us continue to serve God and our neighbors in gladness and cheerful hearts! May the Lord of mercy grant his blessings to you, so you may deliver the Lord's blessings and hope to our hurting neighbors and beyond! I hope you have a meaningful Lenten journey with Christ! Amen.

Pastor Ahn

Holy Week Services



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!

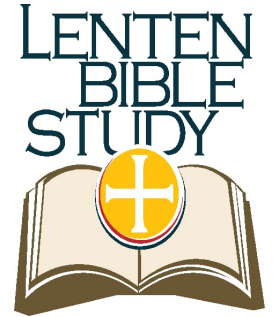
GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE will be held on **March 29 at 7:00 pm** at the **Cheshire UMC** (205 Academy Rd., Cheshire, CT 06410). Let us come closer to the cross where Jesus suffered and died for us all!

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 is being held every Wednesday, at 6:30 pm during Lent.

The sessions are on Wednesdays The textbook is 'Jesus' Final Week' edited by Cindy Bunch.

We will revisit the 7 major events in the final week of Jesus on earth. All are invited and you may contact Pastor Ahn if you are interested.



Easter flower ordering will begin soon Flowers available to order: Lilies, Tulips, Daffodils, and Hyacinths. Envelopes and sign-up sheets will be available in the Narthex. Prices to be announced soon.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS will be held during the worship service on **Palm Sunday, March 24**. You may contact Pastor Ahn if you are willing to join. Let us welcome our new brothers and sisters in Christ with the warmth of God's grace!

WALLINGFORD COMMUNITY DINNERS will be served on Easter Sunday, March 31 for our neighbors who are in need. Volunteers are needed and you may contact Kristen DeFilippo if you would like to help.

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.

Outreach/Missions

Food collections for Masters Manna will continue on the first Sunday of each month. In Feb we donated 93 pounds of non-perishable foods. Keep those cereals coming! Needed most: Cereal, boxed milk at room temperature, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, soups.



What is Shred Day?

Teamwork while greeting cars to our parking lot, guiding the cars to unload their bags of outdated important papers, helping the team of 3 or 4 volunteers unload from the trunks .

All contact with the drivers is verbal - a no touch service.... but plenty of smiles! Drivers donate for this service, and businesses donate to bring the truck to the community. April 6, 9 to noon. See you then! (It is also a fundraising event for our church by the Mission Committee. You may contact Susan Gerardo, Sue Broughton, or Kagee Hubbard.)

2ND OFFERING ON 2ND SUNDAY will be dedicated on March 10. The collected funds will be sent to the UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). Your generous contribution will be greatly appreciated.

Tag Sale News

Tag Sale: May 18th, Saturday, 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. Come and find great deals on housewares, home décor, jewelry, toys, sports, garden tools and 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. The first day for donations will be Sunday, April 28th after service until 2:00 pm. If you have any questions., please contact: Susan G., Sue B. or Kagee.

In our Church



CEREMONY OF BAPTISM for Eli Angel Prince DeJesus was held during Sunday Worship Service on February 18. His proud grandparents are Harold & Jean Miller-Reed, and his proud father is Gabriel DeJesus. Congratulations!

PIANO SOLO was done by Jonny Fusco during Sunday Worship Service on February 18. Your encouragement is be greatly appreciated.



UPPER ROOM: March & April Edition will be available on Sunday, February 25. Take one for your daily devotion! Our deep appreciation is expressed to Earl Page for his generosity and faithfulness in providing the book.

Coming Up...

GENERAL CONFERENCE 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 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.

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

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

CRAFTS GROUP will be held on Saturday, March 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 the 4th Wednesday every month: February 28 and March 27. It will be held at the Colony Diner in town. All are invited and please contact Donna Graham for any questions.

CLEANUP OF THE MEMORIAL GARDEN. Andrew Arsenault is organizing a Memorial Garden Clean-up for Good Friday, March 29 (weather permitting) You'll need to bring your own gardening tools. If you'd like to help speak to Andrew.

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.



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.

March Birthdays

Phil Wargo (3/1);	Sandra Dougherty (3/3);
Brittany Caruso (3/4)	Joan Charbonneau (3/5);
Ronald Perrin (3/10)	Kali Jean Casey (3/11)
Melissa Perzanowski (3/17)	Erin Marston (3/25)
Lisa Barr (3/25)	Susan Coale (3/27)
Jessica Poach (3/29)	

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

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