



March 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)

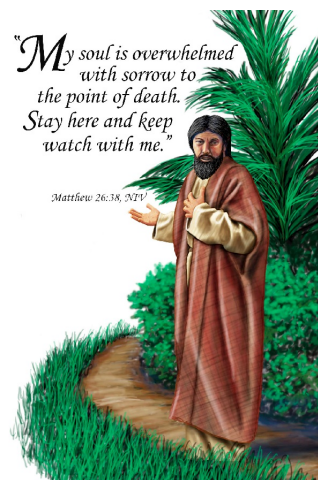
203-269-9100

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**

During Lent, some believers give up something they like or like to do as a sign of their commitment to participate in Jesus' suffering and sacrifice, such as a certain beverage, sweet snacks, engaging social media, or a fun place to go. I believe that it is pleasing to the Lord because it shows our love for Jesus and what he would do on the way to the cross. We remember what Jesus asked his disciples to do at the Garden of Gethsemane as it is written in Matthew 26, *"I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me."* Jesus asked them again, *"Stay and pray for me!"*



*"My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me."*

Matthew 26:38, NIV

I believe that the Lord is more pleased with us if we add something good or desirable than give up something. Regular prayers and meditation, reading the scriptures, or fasting are recommended. I have been thinking about what I can do or add during Lent this year. One thing that I have in mind is to visit or have a personal time with our congregation members more than other times. We have been together in worship, fellowship, and services, yet I wonder how deep we know each other and how often we have shared the grace of God that we experienced in our lives. Whenever I visit or talk with our church family, I have been amazed by their testimonies that God is active and powerful.

I still remember the Pastor of my home church in Korea. He had yearly visitation of all church families. With a couple of church leaders, he visited many houses during the week until all church members received his visit. When they visited my house, I was overjoyed because my parents did not attend

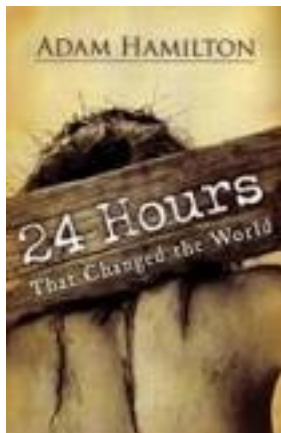
church at that time. My heart is already excited for sharing the grace of God who renews all things everyday.

Dear Fellow Sojourners,

It is so important for us to be together because the journey is long, dreadful, and lonely. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, yet let us have the journey together because it gives us encouragement and strength. No wonder why Jesus asked his disciples to be with him in the most critical and painful moments in his life as well as in his ministry. I believe Lent is a time to be closer with our Lord Christ Jesus and it is our privilege to participate in his suffering and sacrifice with our brothers and sisters in Christ. May the Lord be your guide like the Good Shepherd during Lent and always! Amen.

*Pastor Ahn*

## **24 HOURS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD**



LENTEN BIBLE STUDY will be held every Wednesday (3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, & 3/29) 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.

# Holy Week Schedule

**Palm Sunday**  
April 2, 11:00 am

**Maundy Thursday**  
April 6, 7:00 pm  
at Higganum UMC  
248 Saybrook Road  
Higganum,

**Good Friday**  
April 7, 7:00 pm  
Wallingford FUMC

**Easter Sunday**  
April 9, 11:00 am

## Mission with a Vision

What is the difference between a mission and a vision statement? **A mission statement defines an organization's business, its objectives, and how it will reach these objectives. A vision statement details where the organization aspires to go.** Why does our church exist? What is its place in our community? A church, our church, needs to have its purpose (mission) defined before we can choose our destination (vision).

We can assume our mission as followers of Jesus Christ was described to us in the Bible by Matthew 28:18-20:

*<sup>18</sup> Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

*Simply put, Mission statement questions look like:*

- What do we do?
- Whom do we serve?
- How do we serve them?

Thanks Matthew, thank you Jesus! Thank you God, the mission is clear!

Vision statement questions look like:

- What are our hopes and dreams?
- What problem are we solving for the greater good?
- Who and what are we inspiring to change?

The **vision statement is meant to promote growth, both internally and externally. A strong vision helps members focus on what matters the most for their church. It also**

**invites innovation.** A purpose-driven church envisions success because they know what success means for their organization.

On the flip side, a lack of vision is a road to nowhere for a church. Imagine this: stagnation, outdated processes, moving without purpose, feeling uninspired. Can a church even survive without a clear vision? You know the answer to that one.

Why are we even talking about this? Our church was tasked by the District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Alpher Sylvester to develop 4 **S.M.A.R.T.** (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) for this year. It is a difficult enough task to come up with that, how would we accomplish this without being able to state our vision and know we were all on the same path?

So, our first goal for 2023 was to put together our **VISION** statement and I am happy to say we did it!

✓ Thanks Church Council, thank you Jesus! Thank you God, the vision is here!!

**We shall pass this way but once.  
Therefore, any good that we can do,  
any kindness that we can show,  
let us do it now.**

You will see this pop up from time to time in the church, in the newsletter, social media, and at special events. The Church Council worked very hard on this statement. I believe that these few sentences sum up our enthusiasm and our passion to share the mission of Jesus Christ! Let's celebrate our vision and honor it with every goal we put forth in this year and those to come!

Grace and love,


- Kris DeFilippo and the entire Church Council



## Shred Day

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF WALLINGFORD

# SHRED DAY



SATURDAY, April 1 FROM 9AM TO 12PM  
941 OLD ROCK HILL ROAD, WALLINGFORD, CT 06492  
203.269.9100 FUMC.WALLINGFORD@GMAIL.COM

**Stay in Your Car**  
**Safe and No Contact**  
Boxes/bags of papers must be in **TRUNK**  
Gloved and masked volunteers will unload

Please Follow Precautions from  
Wallingford Health Department & ProShred Rules

Suggested donations  
\$10 for a medium box and \$15 for a large box

**April 1<sup>st</sup>** is coming soon! Bring your bags/boxes of your old important papers to the church parking lot at 941 Old Rock Hill Rd. First United Methodist Church is teaming with several Wallingford businesses to bring a hands-free Shred event to the community from 9:00-noon. Put bags in your trunk; volunteers will unload them into bins for the shred truck. Donations accepted. Sponsor lists will be available at the event.

We need help with our annual shred day. Please ask the businesses you patronize to consider a \$20 donation for our fundraiser. See Kagee for donation forms.

## Easter Flowers

Easter flower ordering will begin February 26 through March 26. Flowers available to order:



*Easter*

Tulips, Daffodils, and Hyacinth  
Envelopes and sign-up sheets are  
available in the Narthex. Prices to be  
announced soon.

## UMCOR Sunday is March 19.

On UMCOR Sunday, we partner with other UMC congregations in a special offering to support The United Methodist Committee on Relief, an organization that acts on our behalf when there is a crisis. This allows for 100% of gifts given in response to disasters to assist with the disaster

UMCOR can do this because the funds we receive on this special Sunday join with those of millions of other United Methodists to help cover the costs of doing business. From training volunteers to keeping the office lights on, the UMCOR Sunday special offering equips the organization to respond quickly when disaster strikes.

The United Methodist Church, the world and our communities are still recovering from the ongoing global trauma of the COVID-19 pandemic, the impact of a tumultuous political climate in the U.S. and the anxiety of a looming denominational separation.

Now, perhaps more than ever, we are called to be part of sharing God's promises. Through our gifts and support, we are invited to partner with God to heal and restore those whose lives have been upended.

United Methodist Special Sunday celebrations invest in servant leadership and community building, ministries of peace with justice and disaster response. Concentrating our resources to support shared ministries equips us to work together to bring about the beloved community that God has envisioned for us since the beginning of creation.

From Ukraine to Afghanistan and Puerto Rico to Colorado, UMCOR works to meet people's daily needs such as health care, food, hygiene and job security.

UMCOR equips local churches, annual conferences and nonprofit organizations to be in mission with their communities, to respond to those left most vulnerable during challenging times.

UMCOR doesn't just respond to the emergency for the short term. Working with local and governmental organizations, churches and United Methodist volunteers, UMCOR cultivates relationships and helps communities rebuild, even when rebuilding takes years.

Please be part of restoring mercy and goodness to those who are suffering by giving generously on UMCOR Sunday. You can give by placing your donation in the envelope provided at worship on Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup> or you can give online at [www.UMC.org/SSGive](http://www.UMC.org/SSGive)

## 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.

## Block Party

Block Party Committee to plan outdoor event in early **June**. Anyone interested in volunteering to help plan the event please contact Kris DeFilippo

## Missions/Outreach

With people bringing in coats from their neighbors, families and friends, we have donated **50 coats/jackets** in Jan -Feb. Two needed washing, most needed no repairs, and all were generously given to our collection for Masters Manna. Thanks to all who were able to help keep our neighbors warm.

Kagee, Susan, & Sue



Coats Collection

## News of the Church

**DEEPEST SYMPATHY** is expressed to Doll Barnes and her family upon the loss of her beloved husband Leigh Barnes. Leigh passed away on February 2 at the age of 75. His gentle smile and active participation in the Lord's ministry will be truly missed by us all!

**INFANT BAPTISM** for Amelia Ginter will be held during worship service on Sunday, March 12. Proud parents are Brian and Kacie. Brian is a grandson of Joan Ginter. Congratulations!

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Jeffrey Ahn who has been selected as a member of the All State Band and its concert will be held on Saturday, April 1 at the Connecticut Convention Center. Jeffrey is a clarinet player.



## Upcoming Meetings

**CHURCH COUNCIL** will meet on Tuesday, March 14, at 7:00 pm. You may contact Kristen DeFilippo if you have any questions or suggestions.

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

## 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. However in **March** we will meet on the **11<sup>th</sup>**. 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 (*please list **on the chart** who/what the flowers are in memory/honor of*) and put a check in the envelopes provided.

## Birthdays

Phil Wargo (3/1)	Joan Charbonneau (3-5 )
Ronald Perrin (3/10)	Melissa Perzanowski (3/17)
Lisa Barr (3/25)	Susan Coale (3/27)
	Jessica Poach (3/29)

## Mark your Calendar

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME begins on Sunday, March 12!**

March 4	10:00 am	7 <sup>th</sup> Day Advent Church
March 5	10:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Choir Practice
	11:00 am	Service of Worship - Holy Communion
March 7	10:00 am	Quilt Group
March 11	10:00 am	7 <sup>th</sup> Day Advent Church
March 12	10:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Choir Practice
	11:00 am	Service of Worship - Holy Baptism
March 14	10:00 am	Quilt Group
	7:00 pm	Church Council
March 16	7:00 pm	Boy Scout Troop 1
March 18	10:00 am	7 <sup>th</sup> Day Advent Church
March 19	10:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Choir Practice
	11:00 am	Service of Worship
March 20		Deadline for April Good News

March 21 10:00 am Quilt Group  
 March 23 7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 1  
 Deadline for October Newsletter  
 March 25 10:00 am 7<sup>th</sup> Day Advent Church  
 March 26 10:00 am Sunday School  
 10:00 am Choir Practice  
 11:00 am Service of Worship  
 March 28 10:00 am Quilt Group  
 7:00 pm Trustees  
 March 29 5:30 pm Transitions Dinner at Colony Diner  
 March 30 7:00 pm Boy Scout Troop 1  
 Upcoming Dates  
 April 1 9:00 am Shred Day  
 10:00 am 7<sup>th</sup> Day Advent Church  
 April 2 10:00 am Choir Practice  
 11:00 am Service of Worship - Palm Sunday  
 April 6 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship in  
 Higganum  
 April 7 7:00 pm Good Friday Worship - Wallingford  
 April 9 11:00 am Easter Worship  
 May 20 Tag Sale



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