



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

Pastor's Letter

September is a month of change and new beginnings. First of all, we can find the change from nature with the colder temperature and harvest in the field. Our schools begin a new academic year. There are many programs and events in the life of churches. We are already excited and grateful to God for giving us new and existing opportunities.

It has been a year since the church ministries in the United Methodist Church were changed from local/individual to regional/cooperative. As you may know, there are four churches in our 'mid-state' cooperative parish: Yalesville UMC, Grace UMC in Southington, Cheshire UMC, and First UMC of Wallingford. We will participate together in gatherings and ministries, such as joint worship services, picnics, the Annual Charge Conferences, fundraising events, Vacation Bible School, Confirmation Class, pulpit exchange, laity exchange, etc.

We often hear the words, 'the more the merrier.' I believe it is true because it brings us greater dynamics and energy. It also gives us strength as it is written in Ecclesiastes 4:12,

*And though one might prevail
against another, two will withstand
one. A threefold cord is not quickly
broken.*



Our unity is powerful and strong because the Lord's presence is with us always. The Lord will be pleased with our efforts to be together and the Lord's grace will be revealed when we respect each other and when we serve our neighbors who are in need together.

Let us have new and open minds in our gatherings for the Lord constantly provides us with a renewing spirit in Christ Jesus and the world is changing so fast. With the compassionate heart of Jesus, let us see carefully who is left behind or who is in need of our care. Christ Jesus was always with the marginalized, the sick, the poor, and the hopeless. Don't we see a growing number of people falling into deeper hardships each and everyday? Let us fix our eyes on Jesus and open our hearts to him while holding our hands with our brothers and sisters in Christ! Then the peace and joy of the Lord will be given to us continually when we are united! Let us praise the Lord with the fruits and blessings in this new season of harvest and gratitude! Amen.

Pastor Ahn

Prayer Meeting & Bible Study

PRAYER MEETING & BIBLE STUDY will resume on **Thursday, September 7!** It will be held every Thursday at 7:00 pm. You can join at any time. You may contact Pastor Ahn if you are interested.



Rally Day & Ministry Opportunities

Rally Day Cookout Potluck September 10

To celebrate the first day of Sunday School we will enjoy a cookout potluck after the church service on September 10. *Bring your own hot dog or hamburger and a dish to share.* We'll provide the grill, the condiments, and something to drink.



Rally Day & Ministries Opportunities

Everyone is bubbling with excitement for Rally Day. Sunday, September 10 is Rally Day. It will start with everyone together at the 10 O'clock service, children will leave before the offering to attend Sunday School. After the service we will all meet downstairs for our cookout potluck. During that time information and sign-up sheets will be available regarding ministry opportunities.



Cooperative Parish Picnic

COOPERATIVE PARISH PICNIC will be held on Saturday, **September 23** at the Cheshire UMC from 11:30 am until 2:00 pm. Our church is committed to bring **desserts** for the picnic. **All** are invited to attend.



CELEBRATE THE ORIGINAL NEW ROOM will be held on **Friday, September 15** at the First UMC in Meriden. *The featured guest speaker is David Worthington, Director of Global Relationships at John Wesley's New Room in Bristol, England.* David will share stories about his ministry at the oldest Methodist building in the world, dating from 1739. Welcome Reception will be held at 4:30 pm and Presentation with Q & A will be held at 5:00 pm. **All are invited!**

Laity Exchange

LAITY EXCHANGE will be held on **September 24**. Some laity from the Yalesville UMC will visit our church. Our church also needs to send some laity to the Yalesville UMC on the same day. If you are interested in visiting the Yalesville UMC, please see John DiFilippo or Holly Baksa.

Events in our Church

CHICKEN BBQ was held on July 29 with great success. \$825.00 was raised from the event. Our deep appreciation is expressed to the members of the trustees and your generous support was deeply appreciated.

PULPIT EXCHANGE was held on July 30. Rev. Carol Bloom from the Grace UMC in Southington came to our church to deliver the Lord's message for us and Pastor Ahn was at the Grace UMC in Southington on the same day.

Transitions Group: Every last Wednesday of each month we meet for dinner or lunch and fellowship at Colony Diner. The July TRANSITION LUNCH was held on Wednesday, July 26 at the Dockside Seafood & Grille Restaurant in Branford.



The Next Transition Lunch will be held on **Wednesday, September 27 at 12:00 pm** at the Colony Diner. You may contact Donna Graham if you have any questions. All are welcome!

AN OPEN HOUSE was held on Saturday, July 22 at the parsonage.





UPPER ROOM for September & October editions will be available Sunday, August 27. Our deep appreciation is expressed to Earl Page for bringing it to our church for our daily devotional.

Outreach/Missions

BLESSING OF BACKPACKS was held during worship service on August 22. Three co-chairpersons of Mission & Outreach Committee were introduced: Susan Gerardo, Sue Broughton, and Kagee Hubbard. Their tireless and dedicated work was recognized. Your passion and generosity were deeply appreciated.



'SECOND OFFERING ON SECOND SUNDAY' The Church Council agreed to hold a second offering on the second Sunday each month. We will designate the second offering in September (the 10th) to be sent to Hawaii through UMCOR.

COLLECTION OF BOTTLES & CANS for LUV Fund was held. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.



Some of the returns...

FOOD COLLECTIONS for Master's Manna will be held on Saturday 16 from 9:00 am until 11:00 am at the church parking lot. Your thoughtfulness and generosity will be deeply appreciated.

DEEP SYMPATHY is expressed to:

Gerry Dion and his family upon the loss of his son Michael who passed away on July 1 at the age of 57.

Paul Gingras and his family upon the loss of his mother Joyce who passed away on August 3 at the age of 95.

Diane Garland upon the loss of her friend Ann Marie (Locke) Hebert who passed away on August 7 at the age of 57.

Bob Mullen and his family upon the loss of his sister Cathy Flick and her husband Donald Flick. Cathy passed away on August 11 at the age of 83 and Donald passed away on July 19 at the age of 86. They were married for 63 years and lived in Florida.

VACATION: David Brandl, the Organist & Choir Directory of our church will be on vacation from September 17 until 27. A substitute organist will play for the worship service..

THANK YOU NOTE from

Dear Church Family,

I want to thank you for the generosity of all the cards and all the prayers. The beautiful quilt, words can never be so much to say as you have made our family so welcome a very big hug to each of you.

May God bless you always! From Paul, Brittany, MaryAnne

DEEP APPRECIATION is expressed to Andrew Arsenault for donating a web camera for our church.

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.

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. **Upcoming dates:** Sept 9, Oct 14, Nov 4, Dec 9, Jan 13, Feb 10, Mar 9, Apr 13, May 11, Jun 8,

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.



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

BOARD OF TRUSTEES will meet Tuesday, September 26 at 7:30 pm. Please contact John DeFilippo if you have any questions or suggestions.

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.

September Birthdays

Dean Paquette (9/10); Joyce Marston (9/11);
Justin Ahn (9/12) Kevin Buckley (9/12);
Javier Salabarria (9/14); Chrstian Paquette (9/22)
Patricia Salabarria (9/22); Jeffrey Baksa (9/23)

Anniversaries

Paul & Laura Gingras 9/6/80

Upcoming Events

Event/Committee	Date & Time
Quilt Group	Every Tuesday, 9:30 am
Prayer Meeting & Bible Study	Thursdays, 7:00 pm (starting 9/7)
Rally Sunday: Sunday School & Ministry Opportunities	September 10
Food Collection for Master's Manna	Saturday, September 16 (9:00 am – 11:00 am)
Cooperative Parish Picnic	Saturday, September 23, 11:30 pm (Cheshire UMC)
Deadline for October Newsletter	September 20

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

Paul Caruso is a member of our Church Family, he was recently diagnosed with cancer. As you may imagine, this is taking a toll on him and his family. Prayerfully they ask for support for the family any way possible as they navigate this long journey. Ways we can help and support:

- Prayer, please add Paul, Maryanne, & Britney to your prayer list.
- Send a card or encouraging note:
Paul Caruso, 766 Broad St Apt 4, Meriden CT 06450-4373
- Donate to the LUV Fund, naming Paul and his family in the contribution.
- Share Paul's Go Fund Me page with friends who may be interested to help at: GoFund.me/daf4b855



FOOD DRIVE

Unity in Faith Food Drive

To benefit Master's Manna

September 16, 2023, 9 AM – 11 AM

Congregations and houses of worship across Wallingford are collaborating to hold a town wide food drive benefiting Master's Manna!

Donations of all types of non-perishable foods will be appreciated. All donations will be delivered to Master's Manna at the completion of the drive.

This will be a drive-thru, drop-off event at any of the following locations:

Church of the Resurrection, 131 Pond Hill Road

Faith Bible Church, 28 Chapel Street

First Baptist Church, 114 North Main Street

First Congregational Church, 23 South Main Street

First United Methodist Church, 941 Old Rock Hill Road

Grace & St John's Episcopal, 2927 Dixwell Ave, Hamden

Most Holy Trinity Parish, 68 North Colony Street

Our Lady of Fatima Campus, Most Holy Trinity Parish, 382 Hope Hill Road

Wallingford SDA Spanish Church, 941 Old Rock Hill Road

Zion Lutheran Church, 235 Pond Hill Road

Special thanks to the Islamic Center of Wallingford for monetary support of the drive.

Questions? Please contact Kathy Wallace (203-745-9842) or Lori Folk-Barron (203-314-9885), Drive Coordinators, First Congregational Church.



First United Methodist Church of Wallingford

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