



The Good News

August 2019

First United Methodist Church of Wallingford

941 Old Rock Hill Road
Wallingford, CT 06492

phone: (203) 269-9100

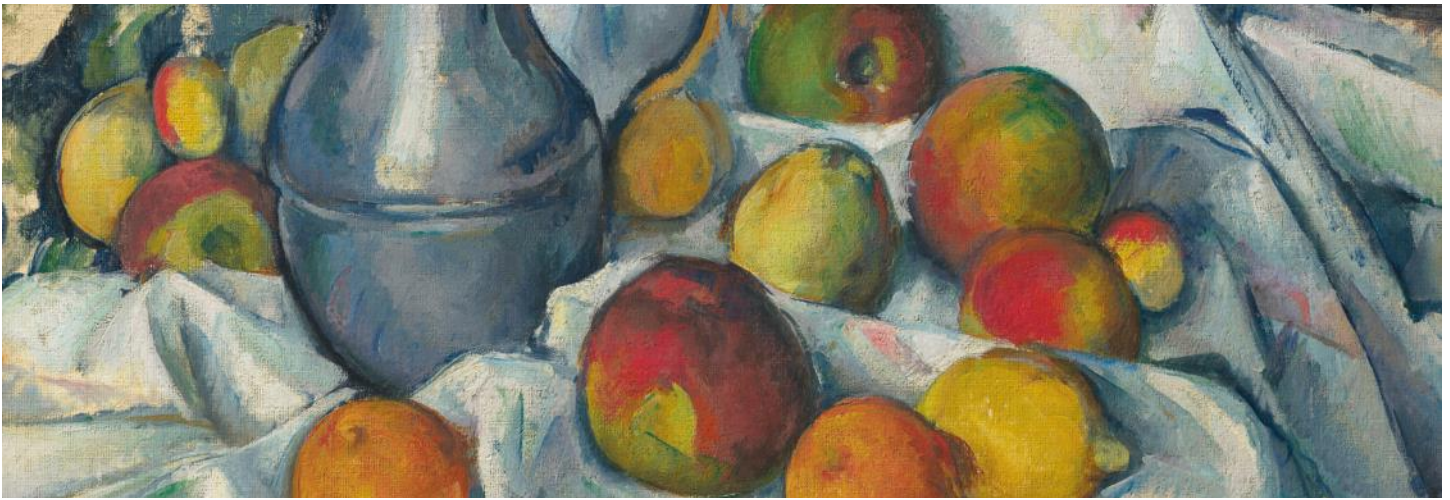
Fumc.wallingford@gmail.com
www.fumc-wallingford.org

The First United Methodist Church of Wallingford
941 Old Rock Hill Road
Wallingford, CT 06492

Non-Profit Organization
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Wallingford, CT

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For any questions or changes, please contact the church office
via fumc.wallingford@gmail.com or 203-269-9100



I Commend Enjoyment

BY PASTOR JACOB

Matthew 6:25, 31-34

25 “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 33 But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 “So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

Here and there from Ecclesiastes

15 So I commend enjoyment, for there is nothing better for people under the sun than to eat, and drink, and enjoy themselves, for this will go with them in their toil through the days of life that God gives them under the sun. 7 Go, eat your bread with enjoyment, and drink your wine with a merry heart; for God has long ago approved what you do.

It begins with a sense of what it should be like: beautiful, accomplished, elegant, perfect, lively, growing, etc. But in the list of our most intensely-felt hopes, few entries stand to come to fruition this season or next or never. Maintaining high hopes can keep us motivated but it can also discourage us. What I’m proposing is this: take one day at a time.

This one-day-at-a-time-thinking reminds us that, in many cases, we are so much caught up and obsessed with what we ought to be in future that we forget to celebrate the church we’ve become so far.

Of course, we need to discover God’s plan for us and fulfill His purpose for us but not while we criticize ourselves for where we are in life.

Taking it day by day means reducing the degree of control we expect to be able to bring to bear on the uncertain future. In other words, we need to accept the fact that we can’t control everything and sometimes, good things can happen to bad people and bad things to good people.

Here is Jesus’ definition of how we should deal with anxieties and live our life. Jesus’ words for us today can be translated into something like this. When we spend our lives worrying about what we’ll eat, Jesus takes bread and says “I’m the bread of life, broken to feed worriers like you. When we spend our lives worrying about what we’ll drink, Jesus takes a cup and says “This is my blood poured out for anxious souls like you.”

When we spend our lives worrying about what we'll wear, on the cross Jesus is stripped, so that we can be clothed in His righteousness. Do not worry about tomorrow. Do not worry about what you don't have. But look at the gifts of God that you already have in your hands.

Jesus' response to our fears and anxieties is: We need more of, "We are taking it one day at a time," and less of, "Are we there yet?" Because God will collect all things together and work them for good for those who love God.

We need more appreciation and celebration of where we are in our journey of faith. Because of all your commitment to this church until now, I was able to come to this church and be a part of your journey. I celebrate us, the church that we are, more than what we ought to become in future. I am grateful for every one of us here who remained faithful and for allowing me to be in friendship and partnership with you for this church of God.

What I'm trying to say is that there is no point in chasing the future until and unless we are better at being more attuned to the modest moments and things that are presently available to us. In our haste to secure the future, we fail to notice what has not yet failed us, what isn't actually out of reach but within our hands, what is already very good: family, friends, nice sunny days, food on the table, church, and so on.

We should—from a new perspective—count ourselves immensely grateful for where we are in our walks with God and for who we have become in Christ. Given the scale of what we are up against, knowing that perfection may never occur, and that far worse may be coming our way, we can stoop to accept with fresh gratitude a few of the minor gifts that are already within our grasp. We might look with fresh energy at a cloud, a duck, a butterfly or a flower. Every Sunday, I have

a church to come to and I have my family in Christ to worship God with. We ourselves are the gifts of God already to one another.

How natural and tempting to put one's faith in the bountifulness of the years, but how much wiser it might be to bring all one's faculties of appreciation and love to bear on that most modest and most easily-dismissed of God's gifts for us: the day already in hand.

We need to follow the muted signals of our own brains and allow that we are onto something important, even though others may not yet be in agreement. So when are you going to get better?

We are taking it one day at a time.

When are we going to grow the church?

We are taking it one day at a time.

When are you going to make disciples for the transformation of the world?

We are taking it one day at a time.

So one answer might seem to fit above all your anxieties and fears. That is: We are taking it one day at a time.

So I, as your pastor, commend enjoyment: Go, eat your bread with your families and friends, drink your wine with a merry heart and soak in the sun and under the water; because God has long ago, long ago approved what you do (here and there from the Book of Ecclesiastes).

When we come to adopt a posture of total trust in God, it frees us to simply enjoy my life as we actually experience it, not as I think it ought to be. Let us come to appreciate the most modest and most easily dismissed happiness around us: the day already in hand and that is your family and friends sitting next to you.

NEW SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Traditionally, we had two services on Sunday: 8:30 and 10:30am.

Starting Sunday, September 8th,
we are combining two services into one at **10:00am**.

Sunday will look like:

9:00AM

CHOIR PRACTICE
BIBLE SCHOOL

10:00AM

WORSHIP SERVICE

10:15AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

We will resume with our **Wednesday Night Bible** Study at 7:00pm
and will meet Wednesday the 11th.



FAJITA DINNER

\$8 per person

**Friday, September 27
from 5:30-7:30pm**

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#191202683

Sunday Worship Prayer

by Kevin Buckley, Lay Speaker

Gracious God, here we are once again seeking solace in the harbor of your love and your presence
to give you praise and to give you thanks.

Bless us as we gather together this morning.

Bless the singing of your praise.

Bless the prayers that will be lifted, shared, and heard.

Bless the reading of your Word.

Bless our Pastor as he brings to us t The Good News of our faith in Jesus Christ.

Bless the sharing of our fellowship,

Bless us as we meet together.

Lord, you make all things new.

As we silently consider and confess the mistakes we may have made,
the wrongs we may have done, and the opportunities to bless others that we did not fulfill.
Restore us anew, O God, touch us, heal us, mend us through the blessings of your abundant grace.

O God, let your Holy Spirit guide us, enlighten us, and strengthen us today and everyday
to grow faithfully in the grace and knowledge and love of your son Jesus Christ.

For it is in his name that we pray.

Amen

our next sermon series

WE ARE METHODISTS

We go to a Methodist church but what does that mean?

9.8 – Who We Are

Why are we called Methodists? What makes us unique as Methodists compare to other Protestant denominations such as Baptists, Presbyterians, Lutherans, and so on?

9.15 – What We Do

Our founder, John Wesley, emphasized that personal salvation must be translated and expressed in ministry and mission in the world. What are we called to do then?

9.22 – How We Do

The reason why we are called the United Methodist Church is that we are all connected from parishioners to conferences. How are we as one church making the disciples for the transformation of the world?

9.29 – Why We Do

Above all, why we do what we do? As Methodists, we highlight the paramount importance of free will-one of God's gifts for humanity. Why do we choose God above all others?

10.6 – This will be a surprise



Ministry Captured



First United Methodist Church of Wallingford



Mark Your Calendar

9.5 (Tue)

Cooperative Parish (Clergy)

9.7 (Sat)

Scrapbooking and Craft Fair

Fellowship Hall at 9:30am

9.10 (Tue)

Church Council at 7:00pm

9.19 (Thu)

Clergy Conference

9.23 (Tue)

Trustees Meeting at 7:00pm

9.25 (Wed)

Transition Dinner

9.27 (Fri)

Fajita Dinner at church

from 5:30-7:00pm

Happy Birthday!

7

Martha Lang

10

Dean Paquette

11

Joyce Marston

12

Kevin Buckley

14

Javier Salabarría

22

Christian Paquette
& Patricia Salabarría

23

Jeffrey Baksa

29

Paul Hacku

Email Subscription

Time to time, we send out blast emails to our members and friends to notify them of any urgent matters such as cancelation of the service due to the weather or simply to inform them about any church related events.

If you wish to be enrolled in the subscription, please send an email to fumc.wallingford@gmail.com and we will add you on the list.



ushers

8

Phil Wargo
Sherri Willhelm

15

Vern Grant
John DeFilippo

22

Joyce Marston
Diane Garland

29

Phil Wargo
Sherri Willhelm



counters

Sherri Willhelm
Melissa P.

John DeFilippo
Paul Gwara

Sue Broughton
Joan White

John Baksa
Phil Wargo

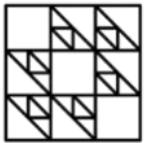
GET CONNECTED WITH US



Sunday

Come join us in worship! We want everyone to feel comfortable worshipping that in their own way. Some people dress up, many dress casually; it's up to you. There will be people ready to greet you. We are blessed and happy to have you join us in worship.

Sunday worship at 10:00am



Tuesday Morning Quilt Group

We have a group of diligent workers who quilt every Tuesday morning at 9:30am. Great things are happening in this ministry: quilting, sharing laughter, and enjoying each other's company! Come and join us for some fun and friendship!



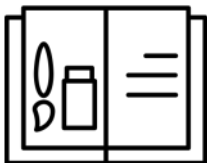
Book Club

We meet to have a lively discussion over books of all types-both fiction and non-fiction, serious and not too serious, recent and old-suggested by members. Join us for great time of discussion and fellowship. Please email or call to church office for more details.



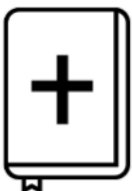
Transition Diner

We meet every last Wednesday at 5:30pm at Colony Dinner in Wallingford. If you are looking for delicious food or good friendship, you are more than welcome to join us. Call the church office before since the schedule may change for various reasons.



Scrapbook and Craft Session

We meet every first Saturday of the month from 9:30am to 4:00pm at church. We have a plenty of work spaces with lengthy tables. Join us for the time of getting together over a range of crafts activities and moreover, some friendship.



Wednesday Night Bible Study

Curious about human sexuality in the Bible? Come and join us on every Wednesday night at 7:00pm.