



# THE MESSENGER

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

16 Court Street, Westfield, MA 01085

413-568-5818

E-mail: [fumc01085@gmail.com](mailto:fumc01085@gmail.com)

Website: <http://umcwestfield.org>



**JULY 2023**

**Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July**



Dear FUMC,

***IT'S BEEN A WONDERFUL FIRST YEAR OF MINISTRY WITH YOU!***

We've done a lot together this year and I hope that you take some time this summer to slow down and rest. Things will slow down a bit around the church during the summer, but there will be plenty of opportunities to come together.

We'll have wonderful speakers on Sunday mornings, celebrating baptisms later this month, welcoming new members, and working in the garden.

But before we jump ahead, it's important to take a pause and be thankful for all that we've experienced together. Below are a few picture highlights from the past year. Thank you for being on this journey with me.

With gratitude, *Pastor Ben*







The Westfield Soup Kitchen is located on the corner of  
101 Meadow Street & White Street in Westfield.  
Entrance is through White Street.

A small but dedicated staff, with the help of many volunteers, local churches, businesses and civic agencies provide a nutritious evening meal to approximately 70 needy people in our community 6 days a week.

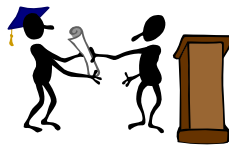
**Our church provides that meal on the 3rd Friday of each month.**

**Our next meal will be on  
Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup> with Judy Mealey in charge**

**Be on the lookout for an all-church email closer to that date for more information!**

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**CONGRATULATIONS**  
**to the following Graduates!**



**Corina Wyckoff**

Graduated from Westfield State University  
With a Bachelor's of Arts,  
Political Science (Law)

**Devon Giorgini**

Graduated from Agawam High School  
and will be going into the workforce

# Food Pantry News



Our  
May  
Pentecost  
Altar  
Offerings



All Bagged for delivery on June 1st



Food Pantry Volunteer **Frances Horrigan**  
Welcomes Our Contributions

This Pentecost the Holy Spirit surely swept through our congregation with the wind of generosity!

## IT'S ALL IN THE NUMBERS...

- 5 boxes of Pancake Mix
- 5 jugs of Maple Syrup
- 72 packets of Oatmeal
- 184 bars of Granola
- 42 boxes of Cereal
- and an additional 60 miniboxes

We had 15 different varieties of cereal represented, with Cheerios and Rice Krispies the front runners. All told, we supplied over 400 servings of cereal! According to the Food Pantry website, 57% of their clientele are children. This targeted collection really fit their needs.

**In addition, we had two very full bags of assorted food items to contribute to their shelves. Thanks for all your contributions!**



## REMEMBER OUR MISSIONS WALL THIS SUMMER!

John Wesley famously said, *"I look upon the whole world as my parish."* FUMC makes a big impact with our local ministry here in Westfield, but we also reach out to support the ministry of the United Methodist Church throughout the world! We created this missions wall as a visual reminder of our financial commitment to our missions. **Here's how you can participate:** Choose an envelope from the wall, place a check or cash in the envelope for the amount shown on the front of the envelope, and return it with your offering!

The **Missions Wall** will be up until we fill every envelope. When they're all filled, we'll have raised over \$10,000 to help us share God's love in Westfield and beyond!

## FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR THE MONTH OF JULY

In July with kids are on the go,

Families use plenty of items "to-go".

Play-time, daycare-time, camp-time too,

Small-size, hand-size things will do!

For this month it was suggested that individual size or individually packaged items (although not the most economical to purchase) would work best for families with kids home and out and about during the summer.



Juice boxes, fruit cups, pudding cups, crackers, snack bags, freeze pops, and granola bars continue to be summer pleasers. And as always, donations of standard staple items help to fill the shelves and fill the need at the Food Pantry.



Thanks for sharing- your "kindness", "generosity", and "faithfulness" are "Fruits of the Spirit" that truly make a difference in helping to allay the food insecurity here in Westfield!



**First United Methodist Church**  
**Financial Secretary's Report - As of May 31, 2023**

**Pledged vs. Giving Summary (Current Expense Only) January 1 – May 31, 2023**

Current Expense

Number of Pledges	<b>38</b>	
Amount Pledged through May 31, 2023		\$25,934.00
Amount Paid		\$27,977.75
<b>Balance: <u>over</u></b>		<b>\$ 2,043.75</b>

**People who have met their pledge through May 31, 2023**

Number of givers:	<b>28</b>	
Amount pledged:		\$19,292.00
Amount given:		\$22,329.75
Amount <u>over</u>		<b>\$ 3,037.75</b>

**People who have paid less than their pledge through May 31, 2023**

Number of Pledges	<b>10</b>	
Amount Pledged		\$ 6,642.00
Amount Paid		\$ 5,648.00
Balance ( <b>under</b> )		<b>-\$ 994.00</b>

Non-pledge giving through May 31, 2023 = **\$ 7,170.00**



**UCC SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH PRESENTS:**  
**COKESBURY'S VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**"FOOD TRUCK PARTY ON A ROLL WITH GOD!"**  
**JULY 24-28**

**8:45AM – 12:15PM**

UCC SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, 487 WESTERN AVENUE, WESTFIELD, MA

**GRADES: Kindergarten through 7<sup>th</sup> grade**

**Please register at:**

<https://ucc-second-congregational-church-westfield-ma.mycokesburyvbs.com>

# Fellowship Opportunity Event with “The 12”

Early in the life of the church... not long after Jesus died, rose, and ascended, the original disciples were missing their single focus for direction. They were realizing that THEY now needed to lead the effort and to take the new movement forward with guidance from the Holy Spirit.

*Jerusalem. The disciples are in disarray. Torn apart by the unthinkable death of their leader, see how twelve ordinary individuals come together to create one of the most powerful movements ever known. Filled with power and passion, The 12 is a universal story of love and how each of us must eventually navigate the loss of whatever we hold most dear. Join us for a profoundly moving musical that you will never forget!*



We have an opportunity to consider the early 12 in this new musical. We are planning for an FUMC day at the Goodspeed Opera House (6 Main Street, East Haddam, CT) on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm. Please consider joining us for this event.

Tickets are already going fast for that date. Plans are for everyone to purchase their own tickets by contacting the theater directly (link and phone number below). We know there will be several people going from our FUMC family so people can connect to carpool and plan on going out to dinner in small groups as you would like.

You are welcome to call Wayne Wyckoff (562-2120) or Mary Eileen Casey (977-7209) with any questions or assistance in joining with others. And to let us know you're planning to go.

Here is a link to the event: <https://www.goodspeed.org/shows/the-12>  
Or call the box office at: 860.873.8668

*Our condolences go out to the*

Family of **Grace Phelps.**

**Grace passed away on Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>.**

**Grace (93) was an active FUMC MEMBER since October 27, 1963.**



*Our condolences go out to the*

Family of **John Hansen. John (102) passed away Wednesday, June 21<sup>st</sup>.**

**John used to be an active FUMC Member 1947-1988.**



**Membership** in a church is a very personal decision and is meaningful to different people in different ways. Respecting this diversity, First United Methodist Church encourages membership but does not require it for participation in the life of the church. All church ministries, events, and our communion table during worship remain open to everyone.

**If you would like to become a member of this church**, either by profession of faith or by transferring from another church or denomination, please reach out to Pastor Ben at [bdurfeewestfield@gmail.com](mailto:bdurfeewestfield@gmail.com). A new member orientation class will be offered for those exploring membership and those who are already members, but are interested in a refresher course.





**Baptism** in the United Methodist Church, we celebrate two sacraments: Holy Communion and Baptism. Because we are grounded in the theology of grace, and understand prevenient grace to be present for us before we even understand it, we baptize at any age. When a child is too young to answer the baptismal questions for themselves, the parents answer; later, when the child is in middle school, they are invited to a Confirmation class and process to claim their faith for themselves.

Our baptismal vows include a part for the entire gathered congregation, as we welcome the newly baptized into our community of faith. For children, especially, the congregation vows to gather around the child, to be part of their growth and nurture in the faith. If you have been baptized in another Christian denomination, it will not be necessary for you to be baptized again. We accept and believe in one baptism by water and the Spirit.

**Are you interested in being baptized or having your child baptized?** Pastor Ben is scheduling Baptisms starting in July. If you would like more information, please reach out to Pastor Ben at [bdurfeewestfield@gmail.com](mailto:bdurfeewestfield@gmail.com)



# July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <b>10:00 AM IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICE &amp; FACEBOOK LIVE</b>	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4 <b>Independence Day</b> OFFICE CLOSED 	5	6 OFFICE CLOSED	7	8
9 <b>10:00 AM IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICE &amp; FACEBOOK LIVE</b>	10	11 OFFICE CLOSED	12	13 OFFICE CLOSED	14	15
16 <b>10:00 AM IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICE &amp; FACEBOOK LIVE 11:15am ONE COMMITTEE MTG: SMLC</b>	17	18 OFFICE CLOSED	19	20 OFFICE CLOSED	21 <b>FUMC AT SOUP KITCHEN</b>	22
23 <b>10:00 AM IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICE &amp; FACEBOOK LIVE</b>	24	25 OFFICE CLOSED	26	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28	29
30 <b>10:00 AM IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICE &amp; FACEBOOK LIVE 11:15AM ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC</b>	31	 <b>7/4/2023: INDEPENDENCE DAY: A TIME TO REMEMBER OUR FREEDOMS AND THANK GOD FOR THEM</b>				



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**“OPEN HEARTS, OPEN MINDS, OPEN DOORS”**

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**JULY 2023**

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**REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH**

During the summer months, with vacations and attendance down in worship, we often see a drop in weekly contributions. **This often creates a financial challenge for the Treasurer as the cost of operating the church does not go away.**

We ask that you remember the church while you are away and send in your pledges and contributions to help us avoid the challenge.

As always, your support is greatly appreciated and makes it possible for us to make significant impacts on our community through our Church's ministries.



**CHECK OUT THE BOOK SALE**

**GET YOUR BOOKS  
FOR YOUR SUMMER-TIME  
READING!**



**THE BOOK SALE WILL BE AVAILABLE  
THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER! COME IN AND BROWSE!**

**PLEASE BRING US YOUR BOOKS**

*No textbooks, encyclopedias, or magazines*