

Woodbury
United Methodist Church



Sunday, May 16, 2021

Woodbury United Methodist Church

May 16, 2021
7th Sunday of Easter
Ascension Sunday

*Please stand as you are able.

WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

PRELUDE *Arabesque* Debussy
Christopher Shay, piano

GREETING Rev. John Thomason

*CALL TO WORSHIP led by Anna Bower Richardson, Liturgist
from *Ministry Matters*

Today is Ascension Sunday, when we celebrate Christ's return to God.
We look up in wonder as he is lifted from us into heaven!

But this is not a time to gaze upward. There is work to be done.
Jesus has entrusted the ministry of God's love to us.

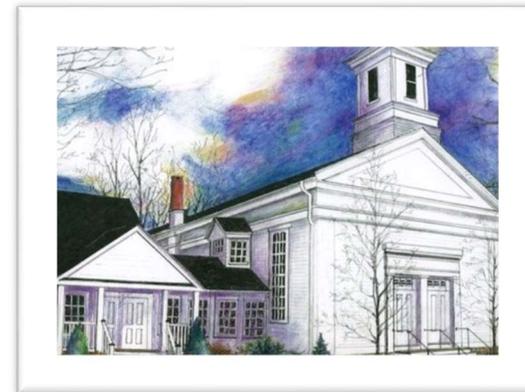
Let's get to work!
Let's make our hearts ready for the task ahead with prayer and praise!

Amen.
Amen!

*OPENING HYMN *A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing* Gather hymnal
Hymns sung by Bower-Richardson family

*OPENING PRAYER (unison) led by Anna Bower Richardson
for Ascension Sunday
from *The United Methodist Book of Worship*

Almighty God, your blessed Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, ascended far above all heavens, that he might fill all things. Mercifully give us



Woodbury United Methodist Church
Reverend John Thomason, Pastor
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Woodbury, CT 06798
(203) 263-4775
www.woodburyumc.net

Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Epistle Lesson: Ephesians 1:15-23 (NRSV)

Paul's Prayer

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

*Gospel Lesson: Luke 24:44-53 (NRSV)

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

Please continue to remember: relatives of *Rev. Betty Lines* who are seriously ill: niece *Sharon Parish* (hospice care in Idaho); and brother-in-law *Stephen Lines* (recovering from a stroke in Florida); *Jean Lilly*, mother of *Meg Temple* (Cincinnati, OH), *Manny Gesh*, *Jane True*, *Blair Feller*, *Marilyn Bender*, *Ryan DeRidder and family*, *Laura & Stuart Brush*, *Janet Grant* (sister of *Betty Lines*).



If you would like to send someone a birthday card, please see our website @ www.woodburyumc.net for this month's birthday listing. Reminder that we are placing flowers on the altar again so let us know if you want to sign up for a particular date.



Open Flower Opportunities for our Sanctuary

May 23rd, 30th - June 13th, 20th, 27th

July 4th, 18th

Please contact the office by phone (203) 263-4775 or email wumc@woodburyumc.net if you would like to order flowers for one of those Sunday worship services.

We urge you to **pre-register** if you haven't already because we are close to the 70 person capacity if we have to switch to indoors due to inclement weather. If we continue with our outside plans, we can accommodate over 100 people. The planning committee will be reaching out to various individuals who expressed an interest in helping coordinate all the details involved from set-up to clean-up and everything in between.

You can pre-register at our church website at www.woodburyumc.net by using this link: <https://rsvp.church/r/CqMXUVqE>, or you can call the church office (203) 263-4775 and leave a message.



If anyone would like to share a few comments, photos, videos – send your comments to wumc@woodburyumc.net and photos/videos should be sent to Theron at theronk@hotmail.com.

The Prayer Corner:

In the hospital: *Christian Echeveria*, friend of *Kelly Etcheto* (VA Hospital, West Haven)

In rehabilitation: *Robert Mitchell*, brother of *Marci Lowman*, the daughter-in-law of *Marion Lowman* (Gaylord, Wallingford); *Michael Etcheto*, grandson of *Barbara Etcheto* (Gaylord, Wallingford)

Recovering from surgery: *Jackie Fleming* (Laser eye procedure on May 6)

Please remember our Confirmands: *Cody Cordova, Zachary Cordova, James Levario, Matthew Shupenis*; their teachers: *Catherine Mason, Meg Temple, John Thomason*; and their mentors: *Mike Boisseau, Mollie Cole, Rev. Paul Hibbard, Carolyn Shay*.

Recovering at home: *Amanda Eager* (friend of the *Temple* family); *Liam McGrath, Caroline Cloud, John Fleming, Steve Thomas, Paige LeBlanc*, mother of *Jessie Lynch* (Manchester, CT); *Dominic Vaiuso*, father of *Karen Williams* (Newtown); *Robert Ayers*, father of *Tacy Nettleton* (Woodstock, GA); *Carl Hinkle*, father of *Toby McGrath* (Greensburg, PA); *Donna Louise Burke*, friend of *Kathy Craig*; *Peter Gallagher*, father of *Jen Carnes* (Brookfield, CT); *Lou Calabrese* (husband of *Lynn Ramsden-Calabrese*)

Outpatient treatments: *Dave Brencher, Bob Asman, Mary Wilkins*, sister of *Barb Hunt* (Rochester, NY); *Dave Davison*, father-in-law of *Gary McClendon*; *Stephanie Galaburri*, friend of *Sandy Carbonaro*; *Will Styblo*, nephew of *Jim Styblo* and *Catherine Mason* (Franklin, TN)

Homebound members: *Florence Brown, Linda Bailey*

The Ascension of Jesus

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

*HYMN OF PREPARATION *I Will Be with You* *Gather* hymnal

SERMON *Endless Easter* Rev. Thomason

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY *Jesus Shall Reign* *United Methodist Hymnal*

THE CHRIST CANDLE LEAVES THE SANCTUARY

WE GO FORTH IN JOY

BENEDICTION Rev. Thomason

*POSTLUDE *Trumpet Tune* Purcell

Woodbury United Methodist Church

4 Church St., Woodbury, CT, 06798

Church phone: 203-263-4775

Web Site: www.woodburyumc.net

Church e-mail: wumc@woodburyumc.net

Church office hours: Tuesday- Friday, 9 AM – 3 PM

Rev. John Thomason, Pastor

Parsonage phone: 203-263-7575; cell phone: 845-707-5152

Pastor's e-mail: johnthomason1948@yahoo.com

Chris Shay, Director of Music

Kathy Craig, Office Administrator

Mark Davis, Lay Leader

Mission Statement

We are a welcoming Christian fellowship who celebrate and share God's love with everyone. We seek a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. Inspired by His example, we strive to be God's hands in this world. Empowered by God's word, we proclaim the Gospel and serve through worship, study, mission, and community support.

Week of May 16, 2021

Visitors are warmly welcomed! We invite you to sign the worship register as it is passed during the announcements, or fill out a visitor's card found on the table in the hallway entrance. If you wish to learn more about WUMC's ministries, please take a copy of our weekly newsletter, *The Messenger*, which is available in the narthex.

If you would like to become a member of the Woodbury United Methodist Church, please speak to the pastor. Inquirers are asked to attend a two-session Membership Orientation class before joining the church.

Today is the 7th Sunday of Easter on the Christian calendar. The Easter season, also known as the Great Fifty Days, begins at sunset on Easter Eve and continues through the Day of Pentecost, and focuses on Christ's resurrection and ascension and on the gift of the Holy Spirit on the first Easter (John 20:22-23) and the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2). The liturgical color is white.

Today is also Ascension Sunday, a Christian holiday that commemorates Jesus Christ's ascension into heaven. It also marks the 40th day after Jesus Christ's resurrection.

Thanks to all those who are making special contributions to our worship service today: *Anna Bower Richardson*, Liturgist; *Grace Bower Richardson*, Reader; the *Bower Richardson* family, Children's Time and, Singers.

The flowers in the chancel are given today by the *Hibbard* family, "to the glory of God and in loving memory of their dear friend, *Betsy Love*."

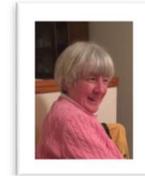
Please note: Livestreaming provides an opportunity for all of us to experience worship at the same time, either at home or in-person. Worshipers at home may join us by video on YouTube or audio-only by telephone broadcast.

Video recordings of services are also archived on the church's website for later viewing. Later phone broadcasts are no longer provided.

The options for accessing services electronically remain the same:

- **Video:** Go to <http://www.woodburyumc.net>, scroll to "Sunday Morning Worship in the Sanctuary" and click the link for livestreaming. A link is also provided for archived videos for later viewing.
- **Audio only by phone:** dial 425-436-6391, enter pin with hash sign 2431819#.

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR BETSY LOVE Saturday, May 22, 2:00 PM



Long-time church member *Betsy Love* died on May 8, 2020 at her home in Woodbury. Because of COVID restrictions, the memorial service was delayed until a time when Betsy's family and friends could safely gather. The service will be held on Saturday, May 22, at 2:00 PM in the WUMC sanctuary. Because out-of-town guests and community friends will be attending the service, it is important for our own church members to pre-register. A link will be available on our church website, or you may call the church to make a reservation.

Memorial Day is right around the corner!

Memorial Day Parade: Woodbury's Parks & Recreation Dept. has announced that they will be sponsoring a parade on Sunday, May 30, 2021, rain or shine.

WUMC will not be marching in the parade this year because of the age limit with no children involved. *Meg Temple* is recruiting anyone interested in being a presence in front of our church on Main Street by 1:30 PM. If you would like to participate, please let Lynn Cullen (203-405-3083) know before May 13th. We have a limited number of "Open Doors" red tee shirts (size Large) if anyone would like to purchase one for \$10.00 to wear in the parade.

(Lydia & Samuel Temple – 2016 WUMC Parade Participants)



Reminder of our June 6th Celebration

Plans are underway for Pastor John's Retirement Celebration. Due to COVID restrictions, we are planning to hold this event outside so more people can attend if their schedules allow, but we will be limited in number.