



WOODBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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www.woodburyumc.net

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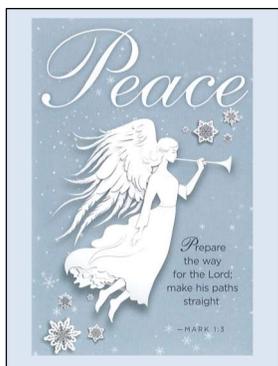


Rev. John A. Thomason, Pastor

Woodbury United Methodist Messenger

Wednesday, December 5, 2018

December 9 Second Sunday of Advent



Advent is a season of four weeks including four Sundays. The season proclaims the comings of Christ – whose birth we prepare to celebrate once again, who comes continually in Word and Spirit, and whose return in final victory we anticipate.

Each Sunday of Advent has its distinctive theme: Christ's coming in final victory (1st Sunday), John the Baptist (2nd and 3rd Sunday), and the events immediately preceding the birth of Jesus Christ (4th Sunday).

Visuals for the Advent season include an Advent wreath with three blue candles (symbolizing hope), a pink candle (symbolizing joy), and a central white Christ candle which is lit on Christmas Eve.

December 9 Highlights:

Lighting of the 2nd Advent Candle

Debut of the Christmas Tree and Creche in the Chancel

Pastor's Sermon: *Who Can Endure the Day of His Coming?*

Lectionary readings:

Malachi 3:1-5; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6



CHURCHWIDE ADVENT DEVOTION & DISCUSSION

Prepare Ye The Way Of The Lord...

We are encouraging the entire congregation...young & old, friends & family...
to participate in our Church-wide Advent Devotion & Discussion.

The ***Christianity Today Advent Devotional*** for 2018 includes daily scriptures, insights,
and thoughtful reflection questions.

This publication is already *Sold Out* across the country, but is available to us thanks to the generosity of the *Carnes* family and WUMC Adult Education Ministry.

Pick up your free Advent Devotional in the Narthex, Fellowship Hall, or Church Office.

Fellowship discussion groups will meet at the following days/times

Sundays 8:45 -9:45 AM (men's fellowship)

Tuesdays 6:30 – 7:30 PM (evening fellowship)

Wednesdays 11:30 – 12:30 (midday fellowship)

Please note: The Sunday night group has been cancelled.

The Sunday morning fellowship is designed for persons who cannot be available midweek and for parents of our youth group members. Please consider joining in a fellowship group, or use this resource as an individual and family devotion; that we might prepare our spirits to receive the Gift that is Christmas.

For additional information please contact Bud Behlman (203-206-9276; budbehlman@charter.net).

Stewardship Update

Thanks to all of you who have returned "Estimate of Giving" cards for 2019! Over \$145,000 has been pledged in support of WUMC's ministry and mission for the coming year. If you have not yet returned a card, please do so at your earliest convenience, either in the Sunday offering plate or by mail. Your commitment and prompt communication will assist the Finance Committee in finalizing a feasible budget for 2019 and ensuring that our important work together continues to flourish.

Coming Soon:

CONGREGATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CAP)

WUMC is excited to host a very important awareness and training program for lay persons, related to:

- Addiction
- Mental Health
- Suicide
- Problem Gambling

Enabled through a grant and sponsored by *DMHAS, *HVCASA, and *ASAP, our church will host and participate in this 6 hour training that will include a certificate in the suicide awareness protocol known as QPR...**Q**uestion, **P**ersuade, **R**efer.

The CAP training is scheduled for **Saturday January 12th**; complete details will be forthcoming. The training is free and includes lunch.

DO NOT MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY...Registration is limited, so please sign-up early and let others know about the program. Sign-up sheets will be available beginning next week. For additional information, please see Pastor John or Bud Behlman

***NOTE:**

DMHAS (Dept. of Mental Health and Addiction Services)

HVCASA (Housatonic Valley Coalition Against Substance Abuse)

ASAP (Advocates for Substance Abuse Prevention)

OOPS!

In last week's *Messenger*, the young refugee currently being assisted by New Start Ministry was incorrectly identified. His name is *Ray Lo*, and he is a member of the Karen ethnic tribe which is based mostly in Myanmar. Please remember *Paul Hatch* and other volunteers as they help provide Ray with a "new start" in America. **Reminder:** The next New Start Ministry Team will be meeting on Monday, December 10, at WUMC, 5:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

Poinsettia Ordering Time - Sunday, Dec. 16th deadline to order
An insert is included in this week's Sunday bulletin

It's Better to Give than to Receive

I would like to thank everyone who donated to our Winter Clothing Drive from November 1st to December 1st. We collected numerous bags of coats, warm hats, gloves, scarfs and socks. Along with our congregation, the Mattatuck Universalist Society donated 7 large bags of clothes.

We were able to donate to the Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministries, Acts 4, Brian Gibbons Homeless Outreach and PAL of Waterbury. A special thank you to *Kathy Craig* for helping me bring the clothes to all the agencies. Again, a heartfelt thank you to all.

Linda Rockhill, Community Events Committee

I want to thank everyone again for making this year's Christmas Café such a success. I think we had the help of every single member of our church. From bakers to decorators, to servers and dishwashers, plus all of your prayers....All contributed to a wonderful event! The preliminary report on our profit is just about \$1,400.00! Thank you all once again.

Joann King, Chair, 2018 Christmas Café

In the Spirit of Giving

Karen Williams will be collecting toys for GWIM the next two Sundays (12/9 and 12/16). There will be container at the top of the stairs to Fellowship Hall. Toys should be unwrapped. Please note socks for all ages (up to 16) are also appreciated!

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

WUMC SUNDAY SCHOOL Classes are held for children in grades Pre-Kindergarten through 8th grade after the children's sermon during Sunday worship service.

WUMC YOUTH GROUP

Community Advent Night was a success thanks to the help of many who baked cookies, made crafts, welcomed guests and sang carols too! Thank you to all who volunteered with us! Special thank you to *Meg Temple* for capturing these photos for us to share!



December 9 – After worship – Christmas Pageant Rehearsal with Mr. Shay in the Sanctuary.

December 16 - Christmas Pageant during the 10:30 am service followed by pizza and caroling at area nursing homes. Details are as follows:

1:30 PM – Pomperaug Woods, Southbury – visiting with *Florence Brown* and friends
2:00 PM – River Glen, Southbury – visiting with *Dick Kahn* and friends
2:30 PM – Watermark, Southbury – visiting with *Rev. Paul Beavers, Sr.* and friends

We will be singing at each location and then share some Christmas cookies. You're more than welcome to join us at any or all locations. Come and have fun and share a smile too!

Kudo Korner

A **very big thank you** to a church member who graciously donated a new 65" television for our Fellowship Hall. This donation allowed *Theron Kissinger* to move the existing one to the Assembly Room for our weekly Bible Study groups. **Thanks** to Theron for his handy work installing both televisions and accessories.

The Prayer Corner:

Please pray for our eight Confirmands: *Caroline Cloud, Brady Cordova, Orson Lin, Anna Shupenis, Mary Grace Styblo, Lydia Temple, John Thomas, and Rebecca Varnum.*

Home from the hospital: *Olive McConchie*, sister of *Pat McWhirt* (Winsted); *Robert Lowman*, son of *Marion Lowman* and brother of *Laurie Cole* (surgery on December 5 at Mid-State Hospital in Meriden)

Upcoming surgeries: *Emily Matson* (December 11 at Yale-New Haven); *Joy Eusebio* (December 12 at Danbury Hospital)

Inpatient rehabilitation: *Marian Solomon*, aunt of *Jackie Fleming* (Elmira, NY); *Dave Davison*, father-in law of *Gary McClendon* (Gaylord, Wallingford); *Gene Guerrero*, father of *Alicia Boisseau* (Falmouth, MA); *Dick Kahn* (River Glen, Southbury); *Marie Petty*, aunt of *Kathy Craig* (Abbott Terrace, Waterbury)

Outpatient rehabilitation: *Jenny Jones; Bill Wilhelms; Ron Hollenbeck*, father of *Beth Buzzannco*

At home: *Norma Davis*, mother of *Mark Davis* (Columbus, OH); *Anne Spry; Paul Hennessey; Lois Bliss*, mother of *Barbara Rego* (Falls River, MA)

Outpatient treatments: *Jack Fairty*, brother of *Lynne Brencher*. *John Fleming; Will Styblo*, infant son of *David and Katie Styblo* and nephew of *Jim Styblo* and *Catherine Mason* (Franklin, Tennessee); *Jessie Thomson*, daughter-in-law of *Kathy Craig* (Ferndale, WA)

Homebound member: *Florence Brown*

Please continue to remember: *Pete and Sue Vindigni, Nancy Clark, Jean Lilly*, mother of *Meg Temple* (Cincinnati, OH), *Paul Hatch, the Keith family, Manny Gesh, Beth, Jillian & Alex Buzzannco, Kelly Etcheto, Vernessa Kingsbury, Jim Congdon, Jane True, Blair Feller, Marilyn Bender, Eddie Lenox* (son of *Grace Bell*), *Ethan Murphy*, (great grandson of *Grace Bell*), *Brigitte Weimann, Ryan DeRidder and family, Ernest & Mary Jo Corrado, Laura & Stuart Brush, and Janet Grant* (sister of *Betty Lines*), and *The Thomson family of Ferndale, WA* (family of *Kathy Craig*).



If you would like to send someone a birthday card, please see our website @ www.woodburyumc.net for this month's birthday listing.

Fellowship Hosts And Altar Flower Opportunities:

The new 2019 flower & fellowship host charts will be posted in Fellowship Hall shortly. Sign up early to get the date of your choice!

If you want your flowers dedicated in the bulletin for a special occasion, please be sure to make us aware of that when ordering. **If you don't have an occasion but would like to donate a floral tribute to one of our shut in members, please do so and Pastor John will deliver the arrangement during the following week.**

HOUSEKEEPING NOTES FROM THE OFFICE...

When attending worship on Sundays, parking is available in the C.L. Adams lot; however, please **do not block** the entrance towards the back of the lot as that inhibits the tenant's access in and out of the lot. Thank you.

HANDICAPPED PARKING - - these are the three spaces outside the office doors (Church Street Entrance). Please do NOT park there unless you have a handicapped parking tag. If you do park there, please be sure to leave enough room for the people using the handicapped ramp.

❖ **Office Hours - Tuesday thru Friday 9 am – 3 pm.** The answering machine will be checked daily; however, if you have a pastoral emergency, you can call Pastor John Thomason @ (203) 263-7575. Thank you!



Messenger deadline – 10 AM on Wednesday for Wednesday afternoon publication! Please see information for article submission. To keep the formatting to a unified look and also save on time of reformatting articles to fit, please use **Full Justification, Arial font 9.5 size with font 10 size for headings.** Thank you!

MINISTRY MEETING DATES for 2018 – need to be emailed to the office to be placed on the web calendar. Please remember to submit your ministry meeting dates to the office (by email) so they can be added to the wall calendar as well as the web calendar at our website or feel free to enter them on the calendar for next month's date when you are leaving your meeting. This will let everyone in the community know how active a church body we are at WUMC.

The **new 2019 calendar** has been posted on the wall in the Assembly Room. Please add any dates that are already reserved for your ministry.



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION UPDATES???

Please continue to send any changes in names, addresses, phone numbers, emails, etc. please send them to wumc@woodburyumc.net.

NOTE: 2018 Annual Church Conference Reports are still available in the church office if you did not receive one.

Calendar of Events at WUMC for next week:

All Ministry Chairs – please submit any ministry meeting times to the office so they can be put onto the calendars each week (Messenger, Office & Web). Thank you!

Sat., Dec. 8	9:00 a.m.	Prayer Group Meeting	(Pastor's office)
Sun., Dec. 9	8:45 a.m.	Men's Ministry	(Wesley Room)
2nd Sunday of Advent	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service	(Sanctuary)
	10:45 a.m.	Children's Sunday School	(downstairs classrooms)
	11:30 a.m.	Fellowship Hour	(Fellowship Hall)
	11:30 a.m.	Children's Christmas Pageant rehearsal	(Sanctuary)
Mon., Dec. 10	5:00 p.m.	New Start Ministry meeting	(Fellowship Hall)
	7:00 p.m.	Voice Choir Rehearsal	(Assembly Room)
Tues., Dec. 11	12:15 p.m.	Community Events Committee 2019 Brainstorming	(Assembly Room)
	6:30 p.m.	Bible Study/Fellowship Group (Advent devotional booklet)	(Assembly Room)
Wed., Dec. 12	11:30 a.m.	Bible Study/Fellowship Group (Advent devotional booklet)	(Assembly Room)
	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir Practice	(Assembly Room)
Thurs., Dec. 13	7:00 p.m.	Church Council Meeting	(Assembly Room)
Sun., Dec. 16	8:45 a.m.	Men's Ministry	(Wesley Room)
	9:45 a.m.	Children & Youth Pageant Rehearsal	(Sanctuary)
3rd Sunday of Advent	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Children's Christmas Pageant)	(Sanctuary)
	11:30 a.m.	Fellowship Hour	(Fellowship Hall)
	1:30 p.m.	Christmas Caroling Time	

NOTE: Tuesday, December 11 @ 12:15 p.m. the Community Events Committee will be meeting to brainstorm any 2019 ideas, anyone is welcome to attend this meeting. We are looking for new ideas for our church!!

A Holiday Message from Bob Taylor:

Dear faith community partners of the Community Services Council of Woodbury,

I write with special thanksgiving to all our good friends and partners of our faith communities for all that you do to share the work of caring service throughout the year at our Woodbury Food Bank and the Community Services Council. I am reminded with profound gratitude at this time of year that it is only because you and so many in our circle of compassion share your gifts with us that we are able to carry on our daily work even as we continue to reach out to assist our neighbors in need.

I wish to ask your kindness and generosity of spirit in sharing with your communities Please know that I am deeply grateful to each of you for offering your willing hands in service in this and every season of the year. I wish you, your families, and all in your communities of faith a most happy and peaceful Thanksgiving!

In service and gratitude,
Bob

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Robert Taylor
President
Community Services Council of Woodbury, Inc.
203-263-3869

Community Services Council of Woodbury 2018 Holiday Program

The Community Services Council of Woodbury invites you to join us in continuing the tradition of warming homes and hearts with the special gift of compassion during the holiday season. Donations of new toys, games, craft items, stuffed animals, books and other gifts suitable for children from toddlers through teens also will be shared with parents served at the food bank. Toy donations may be dropped off at the food bank from 9 am to 2 pm Fridays and 9 to 11 am Saturdays; we request drop-offs by the weekend of Dec. 8 & 9 to fill our CSCW "Santa's Shop" with cheer again this year.

We also gratefully accept donations of gift cards for local retail and grocery stores to brighten the holidays for our client families; all gift cards received by Dec. 19 will be distributed to our neighbors in need in time for the holidays. Financial donations to the Community Services Council during our annual Holiday Program will meet the special costs of supplying clients of the Woodbury Food Bank with turkeys, hams, produce and other dinner trimmings for holiday meals, as well as meeting critical needs for heating, energy and crisis assistance.

Check donations and individual gift card donations may be mailed to the Community Services Council, PO Box 585, Woodbury CT 06798. For more information, contact Bob Taylor at community.services.council@gmail.com or (203) 263-3869. Please know that your neighbors in need are most grateful for your support!

May your home be filled with joy and peace this holiday season and throughout the year, Bob Taylor, CSCW President

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Second Sunday of Advent — The Candle of Peace

- L:** In days of old, John the Baptist called the people to repent of their sins and prepare the way for God's kingdom.
- P:** In this season of Advent may we seek forgiveness from God and our neighbor and strive to make ready the pathway for God's peace to come on earth.
- L:** We light this candle as a symbol of peace. May Christ's coming bring peace among peoples of all races and creeds.
- (Sung response)
- O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife and quarrels cease, fill all the world with heaven's peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

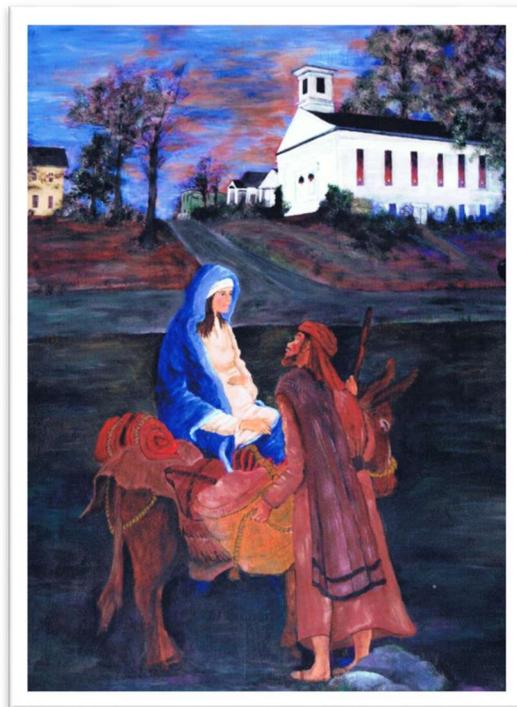


Woodbury United Methodist Church

“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.”



Oil painting created and donated by Dawn Brownell