



WOODBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4 Church Street
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www.woodburyumc.net

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Rev. John A. Thomason, Pastor

Woodbury United Methodist Messenger

Wednesday, January 16, 2019

Pasta Dinner

This Saturday, January 19th from 4:30 – 6:30 PM in Fellowship Hall! This is the first Pasta Dinner for 2019 and we hope you can attend either by volunteering or by eating. We appreciate all your efforts.

Sunday, January 20 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany Human Relations Day

The Season after the Epiphany is a season of Ordinary Time, in that it stands between the great Christological cycles of Advent-Christmas-Epiphany and Lent-Easter-Pentecost. The Gospel readings in the lectionary center on stories from the early ministry of Christ. The liturgical color is green, symbolizing growth in Christ.

January 20 is also Human Relations Day on the United Methodist calendar. Observed on the Sunday before the celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, this day calls the Church to recognize the right of all God's children to realize their potential as human beings in relation to one another. A special offering envelope will be inserted into your worship bulletin.

Pastor's Sermon: *A Short Course in Human Relations*
Lectionary readings: Isaiah 62:1-5; Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11; John 2:1-11

FROM THE PASTOR . . .

Last Sunday's Congregational Meeting to preview the Special Session of the UMC General Conference in February was very well attended. Thank you for your interest and concern about the direction of our denomination in relation to the issue of homosexuality. Special thanks to my ministry colleague, *Rev. Paul Hibbard*, for preparing and guiding us through a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the 3 plans for "A Way Forward" which will be considered at the General Conference.

At the end of the meeting, I announced that the Adult Ministry Team will offer a special class on "Homosexuality and the Church" over the four Tuesday nights in February (6:30 – 8:00 PM). I'll be leading the class, assisted by Paul Hibbard. The aims will be (1) to clarify the underlying issues which have produced the impasse in the United Methodist Church regarding homosexuality, and (2) to provide an opportunity for participants to voice their own concerns and convictions about this matter, as well as to hear and learn from the views of others. More details are forthcoming.

Grace and peace, *John*

February is Food Bank Month

The month of February is another opportunity for members of our church to volunteer at the Woodbury Food Bank (located behind LaBonne's). A sign-up sheet can be found in Fellowship Hall. The dates are the following Fridays: 2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22. If you have any questions please contact *Paul Hibbard* (email: paulgyl@aol.com or phone: 203-405-1005)



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

Why should we make soup? Let's face the facts - 1. Nothing sounds better than a warm bowl of soup on a cold winter day. 2. It's versatile - from broth-based to meaty stews, the possibilities are endless. 3. Soup affords great hospitality for guests to have at your home or to bring to a neighbor in need. Therefore, this is a reminder to the congregation that Sunday, February 3rd is "SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY," and the Community Events Committee would like your help in making containers of soup of your choice. We have heavy plastic containers in Fellowship Hall, and using your favorite soup recipe we would like you to fill as many containers as you can. Please freeze the soup and bring them to the church to sell on Feb. 3rd or place them in the kitchen freezer if you won't be able to be at church. The soup will be sold for \$6 each in Fellowship Hall after the service. Any questions, please ask any of the Community Events committee members. Thank you for your help.

Linda Rockhill, Co-Chair

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 - January 20: Youth Group meeting 6:15 to 8 PM.

Kudo Korner

Eight WUMC members attended the Congregational Assistance Program (CAP) seminar on Saturday, January 12, in Fellowship Hall. Thanks to Adult Ministry chair *Bud Behlman* for planning and hosting this event.

Florence Brown was honored with a party on the occasion of her 100th birthday on Sunday, January 13, at Pomperaug Woods. Florence's sons, *Bill* and *Lee*, and their families were present for this glad occasion. Several of Florence's long-time church friends also attended. Congratulations on reaching this milestone, Florence, and many happy returns of the day!



Happy 100th Birthday, Florence Brown!

(Photos courtesy of Jay Hockenberry)



(Florence & Daughter In Law Nadine)



(Florence w two sons & four grand-daughters)



(Flowers from WUMC church family)



(Florence and Rae Ann)



**What a wonderful day to honor a wonderful woman!
Happy 100th Birthday Florence Brown**

The Prayer Corner:

Christian sympathy is extended to *Mark and Abby Davis* in the death of their mother and grandmother, *Norma Davis*, on January 17 in Columbus, Ohio. A memorial service will be held in the spring.

Christian sympathy is extended to *Debi and Kevin Connolly* in the death of Debi's brother-in-law, *Mike Mulligan*, in mid-December in Pennsylvania.

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

Recovering at home: *Dave Davison*, father-in law of *Gary McClendon* (recently discharged from inpatient rehabilitation); *Amanda Cloud*; *Anne Spry*; *Paul Hennessey*; *Lois Bliss*, mother of *Barbara Rego* (Fall River, MA)

Inpatient rehabilitation: *Dick Kahn* (River Glen, Southbury); *Irene Lambert*, mother of *Kathleen Roche* (Plainview, NY); *Marian Solomon*, aunt of *Jackie Fleming* (Elmira, NY); *Gene Guerrero*, father of *Alicia Boisseau* (Falmouth, MA); *Marie Petty*, aunt of *Kathy Craig* (Abbott Terrace, Waterbury)

Outpatient rehabilitation: *Kathy Craig*; *Joy Eusebio*; *Jenny Jones*; *Bill Wilhelms*

Outpatient treatments: *Linda Cornish* (Florida); *Betsy Love*; *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)

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! Each ministry team will be asked to volunteer for Fellowship in 2019.

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 2019 – 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.

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!

Sun., January 20	8:45 a.m.	Confirmation Class	
	8:45 a.m.	Men's Ministry	(Wesley Room)
	9:00 a.m.	Women's Fellowship	(downstairs classroom)
	9:45 a.m.	Adult Voice Choir Rehearsal	(Sanctuary)
Human Relations Day	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service	(Sanctuary)
	10:45 a.m.	Sunday School	(downstairs classrooms)
	11:30 a.m.	Fellowship Hour	(Fellowship Hall)
	6:15 p.m.	Youth Group Meeting	(Fellowship Hall)
Mon., Jan. 21	5:00 p.m.	New Start Ministry Team Meeting	(Fellowship Hall)
Wed., Jan. 23	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir Practice	(Assembly Room)
	7:00 p.m.	Voice Choir Practice	(Assembly Room)
Sat., Jan. 26	9:00 a.m.	CT District Resource Day	(North Canton Community UMC Church)
Sun., January 27	8:45 a.m.	Confirmation Class	
	8:45 a.m.	Men's Ministry	(Wesley Room)
	9:00 a.m.	Women's Fellowship	(downstairs classroom)
	9:45 a.m.	Adult Voice Choir Rehearsal	(Sanctuary)
	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service	(Sanctuary)
	10:45 a.m.	Sunday School	(downstairs classrooms)
	11:30 a.m.	Fellowship Hour	(Fellowship Hall)

SECRET PAL MONTH IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER



SECRET PAL MONTH

CORRESPONDENCE BEGINS FEBRUARY 3, 2019
AND ENDING WITH POTLUCK LUNCH For ENTIRE CHURCH
ON FEBRUARY 24, 2019 at noon



"Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God." 1 John 4:7



HOW IT WORKS:

Fill out the questionnaire below and drop in the SECRET PAL box by Sunday, January 20th

January 27th - The name of your Secret Pal will be available during Coffee Hour.

Week 1 (Feb. 3) – Write a **card or note** to your secret pal telling a little about yourself, but not enough to give your identity away. Do **not** bring in a gift.

Week 2 (Feb. 10) – Leave your secret pal a **small, inexpensive** gift based on the information they shared on their form. You may also give another little clue about yourself.

Week 3 (Feb. 17) – Time for **another note or card** sharing a little more about you – but don't give yourself away. Do **not** bring in a gift.

Week 4 (Feb. 24) – Leave your secret pal another **small gift**. If they haven't figured out who you are yet, **they'll find out at today's potluck lunch!**

If you are not going to be in church on Weeks 1 or 3, you may mail your note to your secret pal. If you are not going to be in church on Weeks 2 or 4, please make arrangements to have your gift left in the designated Secret Pal spot for the Sunday you will be away.

We encourage **Everyone** to participate.

QUESTIONS? PLEASE CONTACT: Diane Hibbard 203-405-1005

Keep this Secret Pal Schedule Posted at home.



SECRET PAL REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE PRINT

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____ Town _____ Email: _____

CHECK AGE GROUP: under 1 _____ 1-12 _____ 13-20 _____ 21-40 _____
41-60 _____ 61+ _____

BIRTHDAY: (Month and day only) _____ FAVORITE COLOR _____

PASTTIMES, HOBBIES, CRAFTS, ETC. _____

FAVORITE SNACK _____ BAKED GOOD _____

FRUIT _____ CANDY _____

SPORTS TEAM _____ ANIMAL _____

MUSIC/MUSICIAN _____

MAGAZINE/BOOK _____

IF YOU HAVE A PET, LIST TYPE AND NAME _____

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE WE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT YOU?

DISTRICT RESOURCE DAY WORKSHOPS 2019

Saturday, January 19th 9 a.m. to noon @ North Canton UMC

Sunday, January 27th 2 to 5:00 p.m. @ New Life UMC (New Fairfield)



SPR 101 A basic overview of the role of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee in the local church. Led by Rev. Dr. Alpher Sylvester, CT District Superintendent.



Prayer Workshop Would you like your prayer life and the prayer ministry of your church inspired? Come join Pastor Chris Yount, our District prayer leader, in a time of learning about prayer as well as actual time of prayer! Led by Rev. Chris Yount, New Life UMC, New Fairfield. (New Life UMC only)



Rebuild Puerto Rico Attend this session to learn opportunities and get information about participation in helping to rebuild Puerto Rico, following Hurricane Maria, 2017. Hear what the NYAC is doing and how to get involved. Led by Ms. Jill Wilson, Prospect UMC (New Life) and Rev. Tom Vencuss, NYAC Coordinator of Mission Ministry (North Canton).



Global Ministries This interactive workshop will provide an overview of the developing NYAC Abundant Health Ministry! Discussions and activities will include: Creating local church "Body, Mind, and Spirit" health ministries, engaging local churches and their communities in Abundant Health activities, sharing of recent NYAC Abundant Health "success stories", raising support for and awareness of lifesaving health interventions for children around the world, introducing the FAN (Faith, Activity, Nutrition) program, and participating in short Abundant Health "boosts" (stretching and breathing exercises). Led by Rev. Wendy Vencuss, NYAC Abundant Health Coordinator. abundanthealth@nyac-umc.com



Trustees A basic overview of the role of the Trustees in the local church, with a discussion on best practices. Led by Rev. Dr. Alpher Sylvester, CT District Superintendent.



The Changing Face of Youth and Student Ministries Gain a better understanding of some of the trends impacting ministry with people who are growing up in the early 21st century, and learn about a life-changing ministry with teens and young adults in Bridgeport. Led by Rev. Herron Gaston, Summerfield UMC. (New Life UMC only)



Church Finances A discussion on Church Finances including the most frequently asked questions of the Conference Center office. Topics will include taxes, budgeting, auditing, apportionments and clergy benefits, along with others. Led by Mr. Ross Williams, Chief Financial Officer for the New York Annual Conference (North Canton) and Rev. Martha Epstein, Clinton UMC (New Life).



Stewardship - What It Is and What It Is Not This innovative, actions-based session begins with a clear definition of "stewardship" and then explores both its relational aspect and biblical foundation. Through group discussion and assignments, participants will gain ideas and tools to expand stewardship programs and help churches move toward a stronger position of financial sustainability. Led by Mr. Joe Andreano, Deputy Executive Director, Frontier Foundation.



Presents

8th Annual

Ring In the New Year Dinner & Bells

Doors open at 5:00 – Dinner served at 5:30 p.m.

on Saturday, January 26, 2019

Memorial Hall

On the Green in Bethlehem, Connecticut

Menu

Beef Chili

White Bean & Chicken Chili

Vegetarian Chili

Appetizers, Bread, Dessert

Entertainment

Handbell Mini-Concert

Audience Participation

Drawing

*Conduct the Handbell Choir
and more...*

Tickets available in advance from *Chime In!* members

or online at

www.ChimeInMusic.org

or leave a message at 860-631-3246

Adults: \$15

Children (under 10): \$10

Table for 8: \$100 (advanced purchase only)

Limited tickets may be available at the door.