

Woodbury

United Methodist Church

**Mission Statement of the  
Woodbury United Methodist Church**

We are a welcoming Christian fellowship who celebrate and share God's love with everyone.

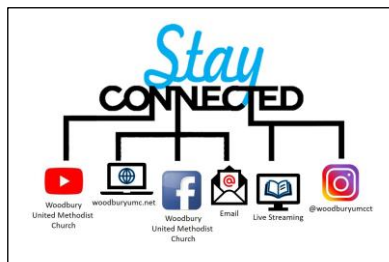
We seek a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. Inspired by His example, we strive to be God's hands in this world.

Empowered by God's word, we proclaim the Gospel and serve through worship, study, mission, and community support.

**Love is Spoken Here!**



A HOME  
FOR all  
Third Sunday of Advent



Sunday, December 12, 2021

***Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors***

4 Church Street, Woodbury, CT 06798

(203) 263-4775 • [www.woodburvumc.net](http://www.woodburvumc.net)

# Woodbury United Methodist Church

**December 12, 2021**

**Third Sunday in Advent—Joy**

\*Please stand as you are able.

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## WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

PRELUDE *The Tender Mother* JS Bach

GREETING Pastor Michael Cobb

\*CALL TO WORSHIP Grace Walkup, Liturgist

A voice calls out in the wilderness.  
**It sings of a home for all. It speaks of justice and peace.**

We could choose to ignore it.  
**We could drown out that song. We could choose not to listen.**

Instead, we come into this space.  
**We let the world grow quiet. We listen.**

A voice calls out in the wilderness. Do you hear it?  
**We hear it. In listening, we worship.**

Let us draw near to God.

\*OPENING HYMN #206 (UMH) *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

## WE SEEK GOD'S PRESENCE IN PRAYER

\*OPENING PRAYER (unison) led by Grace Walkup

**God, whose love is like the sun warming me from the inside, if you are my home, then your word is the street light guiding me there. So I want you to know—I am walking your way, we are walking your way, and we are looking for a light. And our feet are dirty— we've lost our way a time or two. And our bags are heavy— we're carrying an array of grief and fear on our backs. But we're on our way. We're looking for your light. We're listening for your word. When you see us coming, when you feel our hearts move, we hope you'll**

A poster for a Christmas Eve Family Service. The background is dark blue with a large, glowing snowflake in the upper left corner and a trail of small stars in the upper right. The text is white and reads: "Christmas Eve Family Service" in a mix of serif and script fonts. Below this, in a black box, it says "Friday, December 24, 2021" and "4:30 PM" in white serif font.

Christmas  
Eve  
Family Service

Friday, December 24, 2021  
4:30 PM

A poster for a Christmas Eve Service. The background is a dark blue night sky with a bright star in the upper center and a silhouette of the Nativity scene (three camels and a manger) in the lower center. The text is white and reads: "Christmas Eve - SERVICE -" in a mix of script and serif fonts. Below this, in a black box, it says "Friday, December 24, 2021" and "7:00 PM" in white serif font.

Christmas Eve  
- SERVICE -

Friday, December 24, 2021  
7:00 PM



## WUMC Helping Hands Ministry

### Vision Statement:

Provide an extended network of community volunteers for helping those with critical short-term needs, but without sufficient resources and families to whom they can turn.

### Examples of Types of Services:

- Handyman projects (e.g., carpentry, painting, simple plumbing/electrical/car repairs, computer troubleshooting)
- Home upkeep (e.g., spring/fall cleanup)
- Transportation and delivery
- Family crisis support (e.g., child/elder/respite care, meals)
- Friendly visitor

### Nominal Constraints:

- Short-term crisis support: 4-8 hours; 1-2 days
- Work projects: Ideally done in 1 day; up to \$200 for material cost
- Application approval predicated on resource availability and schedule

**Please Contact:** Woodbury United Methodist Church (WUMC) at [WUMC@WoodburyUMC.net](mailto:WUMC@WoodburyUMC.net) or (203) 263-4775.



Version 6: 21-October-2021

run down the driveway and catch us. Leave the light on.  
We are on our way home. Gratefully we pray, AMEN.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING Garrett, Sarah Kate, Grace, Anna Walkup

A: Joy is seeing people you love after months apart.

B: Joy is hearing, "Come on over, it has been too long!"

A: Joy is the stretches and giggles of a newborn child.

B: Joy is making it home when the journey is long.

A: Joy is your dog sliding to meet you at the door.

B: Joy is the energy of a new season.

A: Joy is feeling found when you thought you were lost.

B: So today we light the candle of joy,

because the welcome God has for us is nothing short of joyful.

A: Rest in that good news. Let it wash over you.

B: Family of faith, we are close to home. Amen.

ADVENT CAROL

*Light the Candle*

(see insert)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

ANTHEM

*Wake, Awake for Night is Flying*

JS Bach

## WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE

Read by: Garrett Walkup

Hebrew Bible Reading:

Zephaniah 3:14-20; pg. 1023 (GNT)

Sing and shout for joy, people of Israel! Rejoice with all your heart, Jerusalem! The LORD has stopped your punishment; he has removed all your enemies. The LORD, the king of Israel, is with you; there is no reason now to be afraid. The time is coming when they will say to Jerusalem, "Do not be afraid, city of Zion! Do not let your hands hang limp! The LORD your God is with you; his power gives you victory. The LORD will take delight in you, and in his love he will give you new life. He will sing and be joyful over you, as joyful as people at a festival." The LORD says, "I have ended the threat of doom and taken away your disgrace. The time is coming! I will punish your oppressors; I will rescue all the lame and bring the exiles home. I will turn their shame to honor, and all the world will praise them. The time is coming! I will bring your scattered people home; I will make you famous throughout the world and make you prosperous once again." The LORD has spoken.

Blue  
Christmas  
a service of remembrance and hope

Tuesday, December 21, 2021  
7:00 PM



Gospel Reading: Luke 3:1-18; pp. 81-82 (GNT)

It was the fifteenth year of the rule of Emperor Tiberius; Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip was ruler of the territory of Iturea and Trachonitis; Lysanias was ruler of Abilene, and Annas and Caiaphas were High Priests. At that time the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert. So John went throughout the whole territory of the Jordan River, preaching, "Turn away from your sins and be baptized, and God will forgive your sins." As it is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

"Someone is shouting in the desert: 'Get the road ready for the Lord; make a straight path for him to travel! Every valley must be filled up, every hill and mountain leveled off. The winding roads must be made straight. The whole human race will see God's salvation!' "Crowds of people came out to John to be baptized by him. "You snakes!" he said to them. "Who told you that you could escape from the punishment God is about to send? Do those things that will show that you have turned from your sins. And don't start saying among yourselves that Abraham is your ancestor. I tell you that God can take these rocks and make descendants for Abraham! The ax is ready to cut down the trees at the roots; every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown in the fire." The people asked him, "What are we to do, then?" He answered, "Whoever has two shirts must give one to the man who has none, and whoever has food must share it." Some tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what are we to do?" "Don't collect more than is legal," he told them. Some soldiers also asked him, "What about us? What are we to do?"

He said to them, "Don't take money from anyone by force or accuse anyone falsely. Be content with your pay." People's hopes began to rise, and they began to wonder whether John perhaps might be the Messiah. So John said to all of them, "I baptize you with water, but someone is coming who is much greater than I am. I am not good enough even to untie his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. He has his winnowing shovel with him, to thresh out all the grain and gather the wheat into his barn; but he will burn the chaff in a fire that never goes out." In many different ways John preached the Good News to the people and urged them to change their ways.

HYMN OF PREPARATION      *Like a Shepherd*      (see insert)  
SERMON      *A Home For All*      Pastor Cobb

- **Audio only by phone:** dial 425-436-6391, enter pin with hash sign 2431819#.

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## SAVE THE DATES

**Sunday, December 12 – Praise Band Christmas Celebration – 2:30 PM at WUMC**  
**SOLD OUT!** No more reservations will be taken.  
**Tuesday, December 21 – Blue Christmas Worship Service – 7:00 PM at WUMC**  
**Thursday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Services – 4:30 & 7 PM**

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## THE PRAYER CORNER

**Outpatient rehabilitation:** *Michael Etcheto*, grandson of *Barbara Etcheto*

**Recovering at home:** *Laura Brush; Gary McClendon; Pat Kurtz; Lynne Brencher; Carol Hennessey; Liam McGrath; Robert Mitchell*, brother of *Marci Lowman* (the daughter-in-law of *Marion Lowman*); *Amelia Eager* (friend of the *Temple* family); *Steve Thomas; Dominic Vaiuso*, father of *Karen Williams* (Newtown); *Carl Hinkle*, father of *Toby McGrath* (Greensburg, PA); *Donna Louise Burke*, friend of *Kathy Craig; Lou Calabrese* (husband of *Lynn Ramsden-Calabrese*)

**Outpatient treatments:** *Dave Brencher; Bob Asman; Dave Davison*, father-in-law of *Gary McClendon; Will Styblo*, nephew of *Jim Styblo* and *Catherine Mason* (Franklin, TN)

**Please remember our Confirmands:** *Annabelle Cloud, Cody Cordova, Zachary Cordova, James Levario, Matthew Shupenis*

**Homebound members:** *Florence Brown, Linda Bailey*



If you would like to send someone a birthday card, please see our website @ [www.woodburyumc.net](http://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. The 2022 calendar is available in the Narthex on Sunday and posted in the office during the week.

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### Please see the next page for all December events at WUMC

We will be following all Covid restrictions with masks and social distancing to keep everyone safe. If you plan to attend, please pre-register at <https://rsvp.church/r/CqMXUVqE>, which is available on our home page of [Woodburyumc.net](http://Woodburyumc.net). We hope to see you at one or more of these services.

Any questions, please contact our church office at (203) 263-4775 or [wumc@woodburyumc.net](mailto:wumc@woodburyumc.net). You can also visit us on Facebook and Instagram at [@woodburyumcct](https://www.facebook.com/woodburyumcct).

## Woodbury United Methodist Church

4 Church St., Woodbury, CT, 06798

Church phone: 203-263-4775

Web Site: [www.woodburyumc.net](http://www.woodburyumc.net)

Church e-mail: [wumc@woodburyumc.net](mailto:wumc@woodburyumc.net)

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

*Rev. J. Michael Cobb*, Pastor

Pastor's e-mail: [pastormichael@woodburyumc.net](mailto:pastormichael@woodburyumc.net)

*Mark Davis*, Lay Leader

*Kathy Craig*, Office Administrator

*Chris Shay*, Director of Music

### 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.*

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### Week of December 12, 2021

**Visitors are warmly welcomed!** If you wish to learn more about WUMC's ministries, please take a copy of our weekly newsletter, *The Messenger*, which is available on the table at the registration area.

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

**Today is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent** on the Christian calendar. 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. The liturgical color is blue, symbolizing hope.

**Thanks** to all those making special contributions to our worship service today: *Grace Walkup*, Liturgist and Reader; *Garrett Walkup*, Reader; the *Walkup* family, Advent Candle Lighter and Readers; *Barbara and Jeff Hunt*, Greeters; *Carolyn Shay* and *Mark Davis*, Ushers; the *WUMC Choir*, Singers; *Theron Kissinger*, Audio Visual Technician.

**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.

## WE RESPOND IN FAITH

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Pastor Cobb

The people asked John, "What should we do?" I've asked myself that a million times in my life. How do I make a difference? Can I really do anything that could help this hurting world? Is it already too late? Is it already too big? It can feel overwhelming at times, but John says, "If you have two coats, give one away." It's all that easy, and it's all that hard. So friends, let us give our tithes and our offerings now, knowing that these gifts help build a world where all have a home—where all are welcomed, fed, loved, and known. What should we do? We should give what we have. It's all that easy and all that hard.

### THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*Noel*

Chris Tomlin

Sarah Kate and Anna Walkup

### DOXOLOGY

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

God who welcomes us home, who creates space, who leaves a chair with our name on it—we have two coats and we are giving one away. That's what this offering is. It's our second coat. It's our hearts on our sleeves. It's our audacious hope that there can indeed be a better world than this one. So take these gifts and use them to move us closer to that promised day. Gratefully we pray, Amen.

### SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

### PASTORAL PRAYER

## WE GO FORTH IN JOY

CLOSING HYMN #240 (*UMH*)

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

### BENEDICTION

Pastor Cobb

As you leave this service, your service begins: Comfort the homesick. Open your doors to others. Seek sanctuary. Be brave enough to go home by another way. And remember that here in God's house, all are welcomed—so come back soon. In the name of our Foundation—God, Spirit, and Son— go in peace.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,  
In the name of Christ. Amen!

POSTLUDE

Noel

JS Bach

Elements of this service may be taken or adapted from *Adapted from a prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed* | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. or UMC Discipleship.org. Used by permission.

## Light the Candle

Light the can - dle of joy to - day, the  
Giv - er of joy is here!

Wel - come the joy we crave and pray for, but  
on - ly Christ can give.

Flick - er and flame and glow with joy,  
light up the world a - round you.

Flick - er and flame and glow with joy  
light up the world a - round you.

## Like a Shepherd

Refrain  
Like a shep - herd he feeds his flock and gath - ers the  
lambs in his arms, hold - ing them care - ful - ly  
close to his heart, lead - ing them home

Verse 1  
Say to the cit - ies of Ju - dah: pre - pare the  
way of the Lord Go to the moun - tain top,  
lift your voice Je - ru - sa - lem, here is your God

Verse 2  
Come un - to me if you are heav - i - ly  
bur - dened and take my yoke - up - on your  
shoul - ders I will give your rest