

Pre-registration is required for both Christmas Eve Services to ensure everyone's safety, while accommodating a larger number of congregants.



BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

A Service for the Longest Night

December 21, 2021

7:00 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE

December 24, 2021

4:30 PM

CHRISTMAS EVE TRADITIONAL SERVICE

December 24, 2021

7:00 PM

Pre-registration is required to ensure everyone's safety

More information at Woodburyumc.net
[Facebook.com/woodburyumcct](https://www.facebook.com/woodburyumcct)

Woodbury United Methodist Church
4 Church Street, Woodbury, CT

Woodbury

United Methodist Church



seeking
sanctuary

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 19, 2021

Woodbury United Methodist Church

December 19, 2021
Fourth Sunday in Advent—Love

*Please stand as you are able.

WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

PRELUDE *Divinum Mysterium* arr. Held

GREETING Pastor Michael Cobb

*CALL TO WORSHIP Bradyn Boisseau, Liturgist

We are seeking—
deeper faith, a place to belong, the feeling that God is here in this room.

We are seeking—
joy that overflows, the movement of the Spirit, a hand to hold, when alone in the dark.

We are seeking—
the freedom to be, the courage to love, the conviction to act in the face of injustice.

We are seeking, but here in this space,
We are found.

Take a deep breath. This is your sanctuary.
God is here. We are found. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN #230 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* UM Hymnal

WE SEEK GOD'S PRESENCE IN PRAYER

*OPENING PRAYER (unison) led by Bradyn Boisseau
Holy God, We come to your Scripture today hoping that it will feel a bit like an open door, like Elizabeth welcoming Mary, like coming home. We want to fall into it. We want to find sanctuary here. We want to breathe



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/respice 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 or (203) 263-4775.



Version 6: 21-October-2021

Stay CONNECTED



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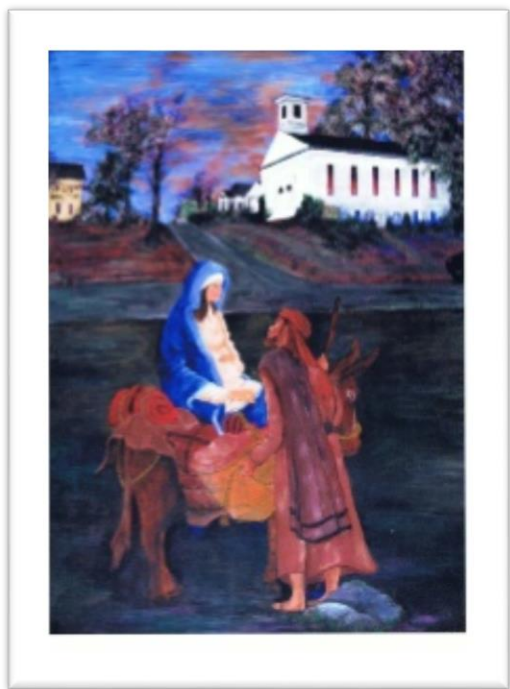
Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
4 Church Street, Woodbury, CT 06798
(203) 263-4775 • www.woodburvumc.net

From Joann King; In memory of my brother, Bill Jenusaitis.

From Catherine Mason; In memory of our parents and grandparents and all our loved ones.

From Carolyn Shay; In loving memory of our parents; Arthur & Elizabeth Ayars and Alyce & Joseph Bishop and Lee Shay.

From Christine Smith; In loving memory of her brother-in-law, Jack O'Brien and her parents, George & Hope Smith.



(Oil painting donated by Dawn Brownell)

easier just hearing these words. And we want to find ourselves laughing because this good news is just too good to keep inside. So hover close to us now, we pray. Open the door to our hearts so that we might find sanctuary in your words. Gratefully we pray, AMEN.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING Dave, Christine, Anna, Matthew Shupenis

A: God's love is like an open door.

B: God's love is the streetlight that guides us home.

A: God's love is a warm bed to fall into.

B: God's love is a table with room for you.

A: God's love is a crackling fireplace.

B: God's love is the sun that streams through the windows.

A: God's love is the roof over our heads and the floor beneath our feet.

B: God's love is a home for you and me, for neighbors and strangers, for family and friends, for enemies and partners.

A: God's love is a home for all.

B: Today we light the candle of love to remind us of this truth.

A: May it burn brightly in this space and even brighter in our hearts.

B: Amen.

ADVENT CAROL *Light the Candle* (see insert)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

ANTHEM *Gesu Bambino* Yon

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE Read by Rowan Boisseau

Gospel Reading Luke 1:39-55, pp. 77-78 (GNT)

Soon afterward Mary got ready and hurried off to a town in the hill country of Judea. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby moved within her. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and said in a loud voice, "You are the most blessed of all women, and blessed is the child you will bear! Why should this great thing happen to me, that my Lord's mother comes to visit me? For as soon as I heard your greeting, the baby within me jumped with gladness. How happy you are to believe that the Lord's message to you will come true!"

Mary said, “My heart praises the Lord; my soul is glad because of God my Savior, for he has remembered me, his lowly servant! From now on all people will call me happy, because of the great things the Mighty God has done for me. His name is holy; from one generation to another he shows mercy to those who honor him. He has stretched out his mighty arm and scattered the proud with all their plans. He has brought down mighty kings from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away with empty hands. He has kept the promise he made to our ancestors, and has come to the help of his servant Israel. He has remembered to show mercy to Abraham and to all his descendants forever!”

HYMN OF PREPARATION #216 UM Hymnal
Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

SERMON *Seeking Sanctuary* Pastor Cobb

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Elizabeth offers her home. She offers her arms. She offers her joy. She offers her affirmation and confidence. Elizabeth offers everything she has when Mary shows up at her door, and it just feels holy, doesn't it? Part of our call as people of faith is to give when and where we can. So today we are invited to be a little more like Elizabeth. Today we are invited to give generously, trusting that God will take these gifts and build a better world here. Let us give with joyful hearts.

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY *The Virgin's Slumber Song* Max Regar
Carolyn Shay

DOXOLOGY

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Good and gracious God, We give these gifts for the seekers. We give these gifts for those who need sanctuary. We give these gifts for those who build sanctuaries. We give these gifts for those who have lost sanctuary, and for those who find sanctuary all over the place. Use these gifts to bring us closer to home. With joy and hope in our hearts we pray, Amen.



Christmas Flowers 2021

The beautiful poinsettias, which adorn our sanctuary are given by;

From David & Lynne Brencher; In loving memory of Ray & Ginny Fairty, George & Marion Brencher.

From Florence Brown; In loving memory of her husband, Gordon Brown.

From the Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Stuart Brush; In memory of all our near and dear ones (young and old) who have gone to be with the Lord.

From Travis & Amanda Cloud; In honor of our four wonderful children: Abby, Caroline, Annabelle & Jack and in memory of Charlotte Cloud, beloved grandmother and great grandmother.

From Kathy Craig; In memory of Kathy's parents, Dom & Shirley Lombardo and husband/ dad/ grandpa, Richard Craig, and in honor of all my children & grandchildren near and far.

From Lynn Cullen; In celebration of Christ's birth; and of dear friends both near and far.

From Mark Davis; In loving memory Abbie's grandparents: Bruce and Norma Davis & Roderick and Doris Blair.

From Jackie & John Fleming; In memory of our wonderful parents, and our aunt Marion.

From Barbara & Jeff Hunt; In celebration of our church family.

also provided for archived videos for later viewing.

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

SAVE THE DATES

Tuesday, December 21 – Blue Christmas Worship Service – 7:00 PM at WUMC

Thursday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Services – 4:30 & 7 PM

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); *Cindy Tedesco and Donna Louise Burke*, friends 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 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.

Please see the back of the bulletin 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. 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. You can also visit us on Facebook and Instagram at [@woodburyumcct](https://www.instagram.com/woodburyumcct).

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE GO FORTH IN JOY

CLOSING HYMN #238 *Angels We Have Heard on High* *UM Hymnal*

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

Great Rejoicing

arr. Held

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.

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!

Light the Candle

3 Light the can-dle of love to-day, the
5 Giv - er of love is here!
7 Wel-come the love we live and die for, but
on - ly Christ can give.
9 Flick - er and flame and glow with love,
11 light up the world a - round you.
13 Flick - er and flame and glow with love,
15 light up the world a - round you.

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. J. Michael Cobb, Pastor

Pastor's e-mail: pastormichael@woodburyumc.net

Mark Davis, Lay Leader

Kathy Craig, Office Administrator

Chris Shay, Director of Music

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Week of December 19, 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 4th 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 purple, symbolizing hope.

Thanks to all those making special contributions to our worship service today: *Bradyn Boisseau*, Liturgist and Reader; *Rowan Boisseau*, Reader; the *Shupenis* family, Advent Candle Lighter and Readers; *Carolyn Shay and Meg Temple*, Greeters and 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