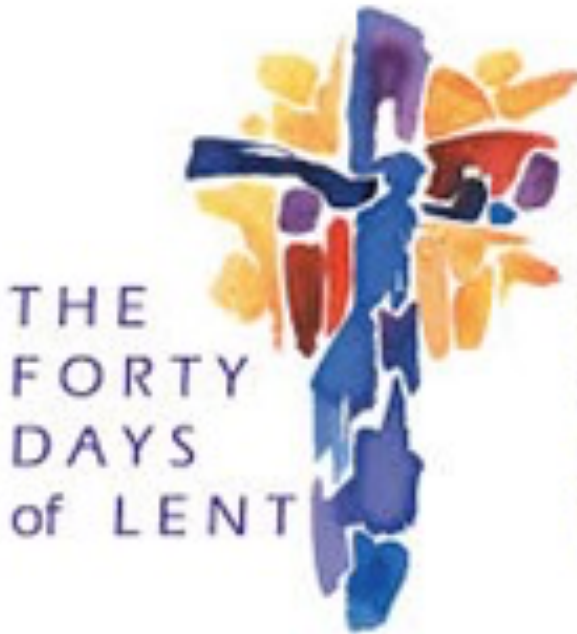


Woodbury  
United Methodist Church



Sunday, April 3, 2022

# Woodbury United Methodist Church

April 3, 2022  
Fifth Sunday in Lent

\*Please stand as you are able.

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## WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

PRELUDE

*In the Garden*

Miles

*Celebrating the relationship between Colette Shukis and Joann King,  
with gratitude for years of loving care, friendship, and joy.*

GREETING

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Lord has made a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters.

**God is doing a new thing!**

Our mouths will be filled with laughter, our tongues with shouts of joy.

**God is doing a new thing!**

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

**God is doing a new thing!**

May those who go out weeping come home with shouts of joy.

**God is doing a new thing!**

Come, our Lenten journey continues.

\*OPENING HYMN UMH#529

*How Firm a Foundation* v. 1-3

\*OPENING PRAYER (unison)

**Gracious God,**

**as Palm Sunday and Holy Week approach,**

**keep us patient as we continue this Lenten journey.**

**Keep us mindful of the new things you are doing among us.**

**Keep us hopeful of the future you have planned for us.**

**Keep us focused on the journey to which you called your son  
and to which you call us this day. Amen.**

## WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 43:16-21

SERMON

**WE RESPOND IN FAITH**

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Ours is a creator God, a God of new beginnings, a God of fresh starts. As we make our offering, we give thanks and praise that we can contribute to the things God is bringing into being, here where we live, and all over creation.

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

*Father, I Have Come to You*

Reid

DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Gracious God, we rejoice in your tender care for us when we are in the wilderness of life. When we face difficulties, you miraculously make a way forward. You lead us to the living water of Christ to refresh and sustain us. You nurture us by your Word and Spirit. You fortify our faith, so that we will live to praise you. May our congregation's outreach ministries be a source of vitality for people in our wider community. We dedicate these gifts in Jesus' name. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**God of Never-Ending Creation,**

**you call us to forget the things of old that weigh us down.**

**Rather, you call us to embrace the fruitful future you have placed before us. However, we are a stubborn people, reluctant to let things go:**

**we cling to "the good 'ole days" that we long for...**

**we turn away from that which you call us to be:**

**a people of hope,**

**a people of joy,**

**a people of love,**

**a people of peace.**

**Instead, we seek to return to Egypt rather than head for the promised land.**

**Forgive us, Lord, for our shortsightedness and our stubbornness.**

**Forgive us, Lord, for our fearfulness and our frailty.**

**Forgive us, Lord, for we are a sinful people in need of your redemption.**

**Amen.**

## SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear these words of comfort from the prophet Isaiah:

"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

Friends, even among us, sinners though we are,

God is doing a new thing!

The mercy of God has washed us clean

and brought water to our thirsty souls. **Amen.**

## WE GATHER AT THE LORD'S TABLE

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

We recall the words and blessings of Jesus each time we unite at his table. We remember the gifts of Jesus the Christ each time we wake to a new day and step into his renewed future.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the Easter feast, that, renewed by your Word and Sacraments and fervent in prayer and works of justice and mercy, we may come to the fullness of grace that you have prepared for those who love you.

Through this table of bread and cup, we look toward the future with hope. We are reminded that our past lies behind us, that the grace of God has overcome

our fears and our indiscretions. Through Christ's great love, we are no longer afraid of the future. Through Christ's gracious meal, we are provided a second chance.

On the night in which he gave himself for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

BREAKING THE BREAD AND LIFTING THE CUP

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the Spirit of God bless the great table of Christ. May the Spirit of God help us recognize God's grace in the breaking of the bread and in the pouring of the cup. May the Spirit of God encourage us to embrace our divine callings, as we all work to create God's realm here on earth. Amen.

## **WE SEEK GOD'S PRESENCE IN PRAYER**

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

## **WE GO FORTH IN JOY**

CLOSING HYMN UMH#175 *Jesus, The Very Thought of Thee* v. 1, 4

BENEDICTION

In Christ, we are a new creation. In Christ, we are made anew.

We leave this gathering, knowing that Christ Jesus has made us his own. May our service to others become a fragrant gift in God's name. Go with God, the one who is about to do a new thing in and through us. Amen.

POSTLUDE

*Songs of Peace*

Praise Band

*Elements of this service may be taken or adapted from UMC Discipleship.org, or the Abingdon Worship Annual 2021, Copyright 2022 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission. Dennis the Menace is ©2022 North America Syndicate.*

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## **THE PRAYER CORNER**

**During Lent, all are invited for a time of prayer prior to worship  
from 9:30 to 10 AM in the room off of Fellowship Hall**

*In Prayer please remember*

*The People of Ukraine;*

*Our sisters and brothers in Christ, after recent mudslides in  
Ecuador;*

*The following individuals from the WUMC Congregation:*

*Michael Etcheto, grandson of Barbara Etcheto, Lou Calabrese (husband of Lynn Ramsden-Calabrese); Bob & Martha Asman, our homebound members, Florence Brown and Linda Bailey;*

*Our Confirmands: Annabelle Cloud, Cody & Zachary Cordova,  
James Levario, and Matthew Shupenis*

*To add other individuals to the weekly prayer list, please reach out to  
Carolyn Shay, 203-518-3177 or 1jerseygirl52@gmail.com*

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## **A REMINDER ON FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR:**

The floral chart will be placed in the Narthex for your convenience if you would like to select a date for flowers throughout the year. REMEMBER: If you don't have an occasion, you can donate and we will be sure to deliver them to one of our homebound people during that week. Call or email the office at (203) 263-4775 or [wumc@woodburyumc.net](mailto:wumc@woodburyumc.net).

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### **SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK**

<b>Today</b>	Confirmation Class, 4:00 – 6:30 PM
<b>Monday, April 4<sup>th</sup></b>	CRT, 7:00 PM, via Zoom
<b>Tuesday April 5<sup>th</sup></b>	Open Doors Committee, 7:00 PM
<b>Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup></b>	Lenten Lectionary Bible Study, 6:30 PM, via Zoom
<b>Wed., April 6<sup>th</sup></b>	Lenten Lectionary Bible Study, noon Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6:00 PM, Sanctuary Voice Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 PM, Sanctuary
<b>Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Church Spring Clean Up, 9:00 AM

*(All meetings will be held in the Assembly Room unless noted)*

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## **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)

*Meg Temple, Lay Leader*

*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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**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.

**Thanks** to all those making special contributions to our worship service today: *Sherry Swanhall*, Liturgist and Reader & Communion Steward; *Catherine Mason, Mark Davis, Greeters and Ushers; John Thomas, Acolyte; Theron Kissinger, Audio Visual Technician*

**Altar flower** tribute this week is to honor the struggle of the Ukrainian people.

**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

- **Video:** Go to [www.woodburyumc.net](http://www.woodburyumc.net), scroll to the link for livestreaming near the top of our home page. 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#.



**"EVEN IF MY FRIENDS GANG UP ON ME...  
I'M NEVER OUTNUMBERED BECAUSE  
YOU'RE ALWAYS ON MY SIDE."**

## **LENTEN LECTIONARY BIBLE STUDY**

For the Lenten season, we are going to offer a Bible study focused on going deeper into the scripture that was just preached in Sunday's sermon. You have two ways to participate: We are meeting via **Zoom on Tuesday evening**, and **in person at the church on Wednesday at noon** (bring your own lunch). **Please pre-register** for the session you'd like to attend, even if it is online.



Lent has traditionally been a time to prepare, usually for baptism and membership, so let's use this Lenten Bible study to consider where God may be calling us as a congregation. We will consider the sermon that was just given along with each scripture, and consider what the message suggests for our congregation. Please contact Pastor Michael with any questions.

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## **LENTEN PRAYER GATHERING**

For the Lenten season, please join us as we gather to pray for our church, our country, and for one another. We will gather by **9:30am on Sunday** mornings in the Wesley Room (paneled room off the Fellowship Hall) and ending by 10am. Choir members are invited to participate until they are needed for rehearsal. This gathering is intended for all who want to join together in a brief time of focused prayer with some scriptural reflection. Make this a regular part of your Lenten practice, or drop in anytime. Please contact Pastor Michael with any questions.

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## **UMCOR SUNDAY IS TODAY, APRIL 3RD**

The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) equips local churches, annual conferences and nonprofit organizations to be in mission with their communities and to respond to those left most vulnerable during challenging times. Also, UMCOR doesn't just respond to the emergency for the short term. Working with local organizations, churches in the community and United Methodist volunteers, UMCOR builds relationships and helps communities rebuild, in the years following a disaster.

Right now you can see this approach in action in Ukraine. Thanks to your contributions, UMCOR is sending ongoing financial assistance to The United Methodist Church in Ukraine and to UMC conferences in neighboring Poland, Hungary, Romania and Slovakia to provide food, water and shelter to displaced persons in Ukraine and those who have fled the violence.

Today's special offering will underwrite UMCOR's "cost of doing business," allowing UMCOR to keep the promise that 100% of any gift to a specific UMCOR project will go towards that project and not administrative cost.



**Church Yard Clean-up... Raking, Mulching, Pruning**  
*Please bring a rake, a wheelbarrow, gloves...*

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**Volunteers Needed ... All Ages**  
**Saturday April 9th**  
**9am - 12noon**

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**Church Building Clean-up.... Washing Windows,**  
**Organizing Fellowship Hall**  
*Please bring gloves...*

*For Additional Information or To Let Us Know You Will Be  
There Contact:*  
Bud Behlman  
[budbehlman@charter.net](mailto:budbehlman@charter.net)  
203-206-9276

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***Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors***  
4 Church Street, Woodbury, CT 06798  
(203) 263-4775 • [www.woodburyumc.net](http://www.woodburyumc.net)

Find us on /woodburyumc  
& /woodburyumc





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# LENTEN CALENDAR

## PALM SUNDAY – APRIL 10

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

## MAUNDY THURSDAY – APRIL 14

Communion Service at 7:00 p.m.

## ECUMENICAL GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE – APRIL 15

Worship Service at 7:00 p.m.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

## EASTER SUNDAY – APRIL 17

**Sunrise Service 7:00 AM @ the Hollow – Woodbury, CT**  
followed by fellowship, coffee and donut holes

### **Continental Breakfast at WUMC**

Fellowship Hall beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Sponsored by Family Nurture Ministry Team

**10:30 a.m. Easter Sunday Worship**





## 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; 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



## Where is God Calling You?

A Lenten Series  
Woodbury UMC

Access the full daily devotional at:  
[woodburyumc.net/lent2022](http://woodburyumc.net/lent2022)