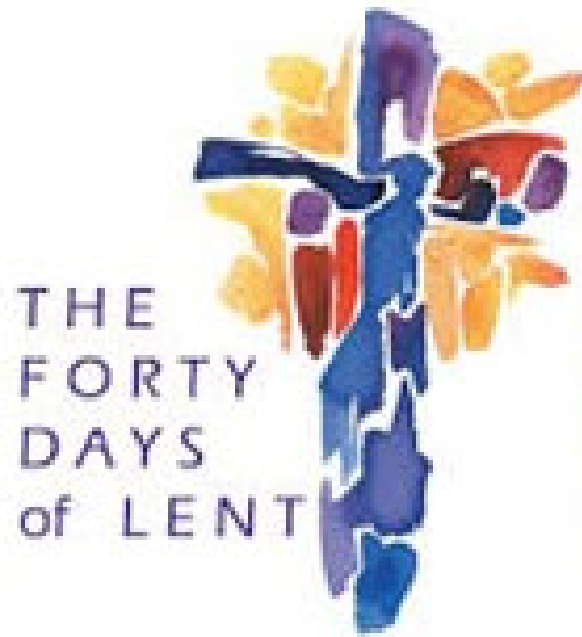


Woodbury
United Methodist Church



Sunday, March 27, 2022

Woodbury United Methodist Church

March 27, 2022

First Sunday in Lent

*Please stand as you are able.

WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

PRELUDE *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore* Gabarian

GREETING

*CALL TO WORSHIP Liturgist Carolyn Shay

The lost are found. The dead return to life.

This is the Lord's doing; it is wondrous in our sight.

Like a loving Father, God offers us freedom to choose our own path.

In God's freedom, we are a new creation.

Like a merciful Mother, God offers us compassion when we lose our way.

In God's mercy, we are a new creation.

Like a forgiving Parent, God welcomes us home with open arms.

In God's embrace, we are a new creation.

Come! Let us worship the one who makes all things new.

*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN UMH# 572 *Pass It On*

*OPENING PRAYER (unison)

Merciful God, Your steadfast love knows no bounds. Your loving embrace is always there for us. In your love, O God, we are never lost. In your care, O Christ, we are ever found. Help us feel this truth in our very bones, for we are often far from home, unsure of how to return. Teach our shut-up hearts to embrace your hope. Teach our shriveled souls to cry out to you. For we long to taste the glory of your heavenly banquet, and we yearn to be held in your arms as beloved children. Be with us in our time of worship, that we may feel your presence and know that you are our true home. Amen.

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READING

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

ANTHEM *Steady* McNutt
Rod Carnes, Sarah Kate Walkup, Kate Keeler, Matt Bodwell, and
Adam Riefenhauser

SERMON

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

FROM WOODBURY TO ECUADOR — LOVE IN ACTION

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY *Gracefully Broken* Matt Redman

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of overflowing abundance, you bless the earth and it brings forth food. We, who have been given so much, rejoice in our ability to aid those who are in need. As we present our offerings this day, bless these gifts, the bounty of this good land, that they may reach those who need it most. May we, who call ourselves Christ's disciples, continue to give freely of our worldly riches, just as Christ gave freely of his heavenly riches. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

O Gracious God, who knows the deepest places of our hearts, forgive us when we forget we are fearfully and wonderfully made, when we pretend you are not at the end of all of our searching, when we give ourselves over to the “whatever” of our culture. Remind us that your knowledge of us is wondrous and not punitive, and that we are defenseless against your love. Continue to seek us out even as we seek your face.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hold fast to these words of assurance: “If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away!” In Christ, we are reconciled indeed, for we have found our true home.

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.

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 forever. **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 *Lead Me to the Cross* Brooke Fraser

BENEDICTION

In Christ, we are a new creation.

In Christ, we are made anew.

In Christ, the lost are found,

In Christ, we find our true home.

In Christ, those who were dead find new life.

In Christ, those who drank bitter dregs are invited to God's heavenly banquet.

In Christ, we reside with the saints. **Amen!**

Elements of this service may be taken or adapted from UMC Discipleship.org, reworship.blogspot.com, or the Abingdon Worship Annual 2021, Copyright 2022 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

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

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.

Week of March 27, 2022

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: *Carolyn Shay*, Liturgist and Reader & Communion Steward; *Barb Hunt*, *Sue Vindigni*, *Pete Vindigni* Greeters and Ushers; *John Thomas*, Acolyte; *Theron Kissinger*, Audio Visual Technician.

Altar flower tribute this week is given in honor of the people of Ukraine.

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, 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#.

THE PRAYER CORNER

**During lent please join together all are invited to join together
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*

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.

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

Today Confirmation Class, 4:00 – 6:30 PM
Tuesday, March 29th Lenten Lectionary Bible Study, 6:30 PM, via Zoom

Wed., March 30th Lenten Lectionary Bible Study, noon
Bell Choir Rehearsal, 6:00 PM, Sanctuary
Voice Choir Rehearsal, 7:15 PM, Sanctuary

Friday, April 1st Confirmands visit B'nai Israel, 7 PM

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

**SPECIAL OFFERING:
UMCOR SUNDAY IS COMING 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.

Next week, we will take a special offering to 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. **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.**

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).

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.

REMINDER: 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.

FROM WOODBURY TO ECUADOR AND BACK AGAIN – LOVE IN ACTION

For several years, WUMC has had a close relationship with The El Prado Methodist Ministry in Ecuador. El Prado has an urgent need for its own facilities — a church and community service facilities. To help achieve this dream, WUMC will be receiving a special offering throughout the season of Lent to provide continuing support of the ministries of Sara Flores and the Methodist Churches in Ecuador.

El Prado is a rural ministry supporting children and small farming families in an impoverished community for the past nine years, working with the children in a small room and borrowed courtyard. The large number of children attending the activities required finding a new, larger space 5 years ago, reaching over 180 children and families from El Prado and other neighboring communities.

For a few years now, this new ministry has been overseen by Maria Fernanda Murgueytio, the Lay Pastor in charge. This comprehensive ministry is focused on the development of Christian discipleship of children and families, including spiritual, emotional, educational support, health care and food. Thanks to God's will, hope is offered amid a reality of hopelessness and poverty; children and families are being strengthened in the love of Christ.

Each Sunday in Lent WUMC will have well-marked locations in the church—one in the front of the sanctuary, and one in the back—where a gift can be left. Gifts can also be mailed to the church or donations can be made through the church’s website. If giving by check, please make it out to “WUMC” with “Ecuador” on the memo line.

The Woodbury United Methodist Church is proud to take part in making this dream a new reality for the children and families of El Prado.





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 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



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

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

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

4 Church Street, Woodbury, CT 06798

(203) 263-4775 • www.woodburyumc.net

Find us on  /woodburyumc

&  /woodburyumc

