



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.

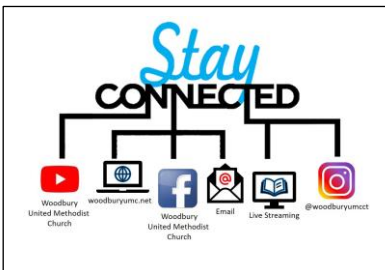
Version 6: 21-October-2021

Woodbury United Methodist Church



Home By
ANOTHER way
Epiphany

Sunday, January 2, 2022



Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

4 Church Street, Woodbury, CT 06798
(203) 263-4775 • www.woodburyumc.net

Woodbury United Methodist Church

January 2, 2022
Epiphany of the Lord Sunday

*Please stand as you are able.

WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

PRELUDE Chris Shay

GREETING Pastor Michael Cobb

*CALL TO WORSHIP for Epiphany of the Lord Sunday
Led by Shannon Cobb, Liturgist

We come to this place
each of us on our own path.
The path is winding,
and the path is not always clear,
and the path changes,
but we are here.
God is walking us home.
What a gift it is to not walk alone.
Let us worship Holy God.

*OPENING HYMN #254 (UMH) *We Three Kings*

WE SEEK GOD'S PRESENCE IN PRAYER

*OPENING PRAYER (unison) Shannon Cobb

Holy God, You speak to us in Scripture and in prayers, in sunrises and sunsets, in friends and in strangers, in dreams and in songs. You are speaking all the time, and how often do we miss it? Still our minds so that we can listen with a depth that we have not heard before. Still our hearts so that we can receive with open arms what it is you are offering us today. We know you are speaking, so we are listening. Gratefully we pray, Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

ANTHEM

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READINGS Read by Shannon Cobb

Updates from CRT (Covid Response Team)

Reminder: COVID Safety Protocols
(last updated 22-Dec-2021)

Due to the recent spike in COVID cases, our protocols have been refined for Christmas Eve services and for the foreseeable future. A complete list of refined protocols is provided below.

- Pre-registration for worship services is now required. Please do so online if possible (see the link at the top of our homepage at www.woodburyumc.net or go directly to <https://rsvp.church/r/CqMXUVqE>). Those who need assistance with pre-registration may call Mark Davis at 860-882-4427.
 - Masks are required for worship service and all church meetings/events. If a child is too young to wear a mask for the duration of a worship service or event, they should not attend in person.
 - Our fully vaccinated and pre-screened worship team may remove masks while speaking/singing as long as enhanced sanctuary ventilation is used.
 - Limit worship team singers to 3 distanced by 12 feet, unless a family unit; no congregational singing.
 - Assigned seating will be used whenever more than 50 attendees are anticipated.
 - Refrain from attending worship services/events in person if experiencing any cold, flu and/or COVID symptom within 10 days of the event, unless a subsequent negative COVID PCR test result is obtained.
 - A person who has been in close contact with a COVID infected person should be PCR tested 5-7 days (no sooner) after close contact and refrain from attending church events for 14 days or until a subsequent negative PCR test result is obtained.
 - The worship team, greeters, and ushers should be fully vaccinated, including booster when eligible.
 - Unvaccinated persons are encouraged to watch services/events from home, but will be accommodated if they choose to attend in person, as long as they comply with all safety protocols.
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Discovering God's Vision for Your Life: You and Your Spiritual Gifts

Starting in January, we will be offering a congregation-wide study on discovering and understanding your personal spiritual gifts, and discovering ways of using those gifts in ministry.

The course will gather via Zoom on **Sunday afternoons, starting January 9th** and going through the end of February (taking off the two holiday weekends). Meeting time is being firmed up but will probably be **12:30 to 2pm**. This course will be taught by Rev. Maria-Pia Seirup, an ordained United Methodist deacon with decades of experience in Christian education.

Participants in Discovering God's Vision for Your Life will:

- Deepen their relationship with God
- Understand and celebrate the spiritual gifts God has given them
- Understand God's call for their lives and ministries
- Use their spiritual gifts to help meet the needs of others

The congregation will:

- Discover its members' spiritual gifts
- Mobilize its members for ministry according to their gifts
- Increase its sense of mission and purpose
- Enhance the quality and scope of its ministry

The course consists of 8 modules, adapted to be offered in six sessions:

- *What Does God Want Me to Do with My Life?*
- *Who Am I?*
- *What Makes Me Unique?*
- *Unwrapping Your Gifts Package*
- *Spiritual Gifts in the Spotlight*
- *Love Personified*
- *Your Calling*
- *God's Vision and Your Vision Coming Together*

Course materials will be available for purchase in the church office, with much more information to follow. Please see Pastor Michael with any questions.

Lessons for Epiphany of the Lord Sunday
from *The Revised Common Lectionary*

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 60:1-6 (NRSV)
The Ingathering of the Dispersed

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

*Gospel Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12 (NRSV)
The Visit of the Wise Men

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

*HYMN OF PREPARATION #245 (UMH)

The First Noel

SERMON

Home by Another Way

Pastor Cobb

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of changed plans, The Magi heard in a dream that they were to take a new way home—a different path, an untraveled road. And to our amazement, they did just that. The Magi packed their bags and went home by another way.

We wish that change could be easy for us, but more often than not, when whispers of change come, we tend to clench our fists and hold on tighter. Forgive us for resisting change that might be holy. Forgive us for ignoring that there is more than one road home. Forgive us for failing to hear your invitation. Guide our steps to unfamiliar places. Gratefully we pray, Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

No matter which roads we take in this one wild and precious life, God walks with us. God never leaves our side. When the road changes and we find ourselves on a new path home, God is always there.

So hear and believe this good news:

No matter where we go, no matter what we do, we are claimed, loved, and held by God. Thanks be to God for a love like that.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

The Magi came bearing gifts, because that is what we do when we love someone. We prepare. We celebrate. We drop off casseroles and flowers. We bring gifts. It has always been that way. So today, we are invited to do the same for God. We are invited to bring our gifts as a sign of our love. And instead of gold, we'll give our tithes and offerings. Instead of frankincense, we'll give our talents and our energy. Instead of myrrh, we'll give our time. We give because we love. It has always been that way. Let us give our tithes and our offerings now.

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God of new beginnings, we offer these gifts to you today because we love you. The world will tell us to keep our money to ourselves, to hold it tight, to tuck it away, but just as the Magi made a different choice, we make a different choice.

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

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

Recovering at home: *Laura Brush; 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, and 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.



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

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 January 2, 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.

Today is Epiphany Sunday on the Christian calendar. The Epiphany of the Lord officially falls on January 6 and concludes the Christmas season, which celebrates the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ. Epiphany recalls the coming of the three wise men (magi), who brought gifts to the Christ child and represent the revelation of God to the Gentiles. The liturgical colors are white and gold.

On Communion Sundays, the Lord's Table is open to all persons who seek to follow Christ, regardless of age or denominational background. An offering plate is located at the rear door next to the Narthex to receive donations to our church's benevolence fund.

Thanks to all those making special contributions to our worship service today: *Shannon Cobb*, Liturgist, Communion Steward and Reader; *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

- **Video:** Go to <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.

Instead, we give what we have, trusting that when we live like we belong to one another, we will see a better world. So take these gifts and use them for your good. With hope we pray, Amen.

WE GATHER AT THE LORD'S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING FOR EPIPHANY

from *The United Methodist Book of Worship*

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.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth. Before the mountains were brought forth, or you had formed the earth, from everlasting to everlasting, you alone are God. You created light out of darkness and brought forth life on the earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through the prophets.

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.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation. You sent a star to guide wise men to where the Christ was born; and in your signs and witnesses, in every age and through all the world, you have led your people from far places to his light.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (unison) adapted from *At the Lord’s Table*

Merciful Creator, may these mysteries give us new purpose and bring us to a new life in you. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WE GO FORTH IN JOY

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE GO FORTH IN JOY

CLOSING HYMN #251 (UMH)

Go Tell it on the Mountain

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

Chris Shay

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