

## THE PRAYER CORNER

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

**Recovering at home:** *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)



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.

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*Elements of this service may be taken or adapted from UMC Discipleship.org, reworship.blogspot.com, Valerie Bridgeman Davis, The Africana Worship Book for Year (Discipleship Resources, 2007), 160, B. David Hostetter, Prayers for the Seasons of God's People: Worship Aids for the Revised Common Lectionary Year B (Abingdon, 1999) or the Abingdon Worship Annual 2021, copyright 2021 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.*

***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

# Woodbury United Methodist Church



Sunday, September 5, 2021

# Woodbury United Methodist Church

September 5, 2021  
15th Sunday after Pentecost  
Communion Sunday  
Labor Day Weekend

\*Please stand as you are able.

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## WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

PRELUDE Praeludium and Minuet from Partita #1 in B<sup>b</sup> J.S. Bach

GREETING Pastor Michael Cobb

\*CALL TO WORSHIP led by Rick Richardson

Remember God's gracious abundance and give thanks. Remember Christ's call upon our lives to be faithful. Open yourself to the Holy Spirit.

**This is the time to worship.**

We can trust God.

**God is like the mountain: rock solid.**

God loves all the people:

**the poor, the disabled, the outcast, the stranger.**

We can depend on God.

**God feeds the hungry, heals the sick, and restores relationships.**

Praise our Loving God.

**Hallelujah. Hallelujah. Hallelujah.**

\*OPENING HYMN #147

*All Things Bright and Beautiful*

Hymns led by Kathy Bower, Anna and Rick Richardson

All things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small,  
all things wise and wonderful,  
the Lord God made them all.

Each little flow'r that opens,  
each little bird that sings,  
God made their glowing colors,  
God made their tiny wings. [Refrain]

Sunday, October 10<sup>th</sup> – Blessing of the Animals



Watch for more information coming out soon.

**Rally Day Sunday** is planned for Sunday, September 12, 2021 – more information from our Youth & Education Leaders will be coming very shortly. People of all ages are invited to **bring your backpack** (or whatever you carry for school or work) to church with you on **Sunday, September 12, 2021**.

Everyone will receive a blessing from Pastor Michael plus a special gift as a keepsake for your bag throughout the year. As we begin a new year of school — or return to work after the more relaxed feeling that summer brings — this blessing offers us a fresh start and new energy as we approach the Fall. We begin the school year in prayer, so that those following academic pursuits may experience a blessed and fruitful school year. All are welcome to come up for a blessing!

PS: If you ever thought about inviting a friend to join us for worship, a service that is outdoors and gives them a gift seems a perfect opportunity 😊

### **School Supply Drive**

We are collecting school supplies to help Woodbury Food Bank clients with school age children, now through the first weekend in September. Here is a short list of the most commonly needed items for these children at the elementary and middle school levels in Region 14 (Woodbury/Bethlehem):

- No. 2 pencils
- Colored pencils
- Washable markers
- Glue sticks
- Sharpies (primarily fine point and black)
- Pencil boxes
- Composition notebooks
- Crayola crayons
- Highlighters
- One-subject and three-subject notebooks
- One-inch and One and a half-inch three-ring binders
- Lined paper for binders

In addition, high school students often need an expensive specific calculator, the TI 84. We would also like to collect new and used TI 84s to distribute to both high schools for students who cannot afford them.

These items can be brought in for Rally Day as well. Thanking everyone in advance.

The purple-headed mountain,  
the river running by,  
the sunset, and the morning  
that brightens up the sky; [Refrain]

The cold wind in the winter,  
the pleasant summer sun,  
the ripe fruits in the garden,  
God made them, ev'ry one. [Refrain]

God gave us eyes to see them,  
and lips that we might tell  
how great is God Almighty,  
who has made all things well. [Refrain]

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

\*OPENING PRAYER (unison)

led by Kathy Bower

**Generous God, we give thanks to you for your kindness toward us. Thank you for loving us all and calling us all your children. Help us to recognize our kin and to give our lives to peaceful family relationships with all creation. Free us from our self-centeredness and from fear of strangers so that we may meet the Savior in broken humanity – even our own. We pray in the name of Christ. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

### **WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD**

SCRIPTURE

read by Anna Richardson

New Testament Reading: James 2:1-17

My friends, as believers in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, you must never treat people in different ways according to their outward appearance. Suppose a rich man wearing a gold ring and fine clothes comes to your meeting, and a poor man in ragged clothes also comes. If you show more respect to the well-dressed man and say to him, "Have this best seat here," but say to the poor man, "Stand over there, or sit here on the floor by my feet," then you are guilty of creating distinctions among yourselves and of making judgments based on evil motives.

Listen, my dear friends! God chose the poor people of this world to be rich in faith and to possess the kingdom which he promised to those who love him. But you dishonor the poor! Who are the ones who oppress you and drag you before

the judges? The rich! They are the ones who speak evil of that good name which has been given to you.

You will be doing the right thing if you obey the law of the Kingdom, which is found in the scripture, “Love your neighbor as you love yourself.” But if you treat people according to their outward appearance, you are guilty of sin, and the Law condemns you as a lawbreaker. Whoever breaks one commandment is guilty of breaking them all. For the same one who said, “Do not commit adultery,” also said, “Do not commit murder.” Even if you do not commit adultery, you have become a lawbreaker if you commit murder. Speak and act as people who will be judged by the law that sets us free. For God will not show mercy when he judges the person who has not been merciful; but mercy triumphs over judgment.

My friends, what good is it for one of you to say that you have faith if your actions do not prove it? Can that faith save you? Suppose there are brothers or sisters who need clothes and don't have enough to eat. What good is there in your saying to them, “God bless you! Keep warm and eat well!”—if you don't give them the necessities of life? So it is with faith: if it is alone and includes no actions, then it is dead.

\*Gospel Reading: Mark 7:24-37  
(NRSV)

From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin.

She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.” Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.” So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more

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

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## SAVE THE DATES

**Tuesday, September 8 – Bell and Voice Choir** to resume. Come Join Us.

**Sunday, September 12 - Rally Day** –is planned for Sunday, September 12, 2021 – more information is listed at the back of this bulletin.



**Sunday, September 19** – Morning Bible Study – more information to follow, please see your Messenger.

**Tuesday, September 21** – Evening Bible Study, more information to follow, please see your Messenger.

**Sunday, October 10 – Blessing of the Animals** will be held from 3:00 – 5:00 PM on the North Green. Many details are being planned for this event and more information will follow very soon. Thank you to *Mary Grace Styblo* and *Lydia Temple* for their artistic talents on our Blessing of the Animals flyer – see the back of this bulletin.

**Sunday, October 17– Laity Sunday** - News to come regarding opportunities for youth

**Saturday, November 13 – Fall Clean-Up Day at WUMC** – please see your Messenger. Great way for students to get community service hours for school.

**Sunday, November 28 - UMC Student Day** - - News to come regarding opportunities for you & college student participation

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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

Cell phone: 203-512-1059

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 September 5, 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 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost** on the Christian calendar. The Season after Pentecost, also called Ordinary Time, begins the day after Pentecost and ends the day before the First Sunday of Advent. The liturgical color is green, symbolizing growth in Christ.

**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 entrance table to receive donations to our church's benevolence fund.

**Thanks** to all those making special contributions to our worship service today: *Anna Richardson*, Liturgist and Communion Steward, *Kathy Bower* and *Rick Richardson*, Readers, *Christine Smith*, Greeter and Usher; *Kathy Bower*, *Anna* and *Rick Richardson*, 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:

zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

HYMN OF PREPARATION #454

*Open My Eyes, That I May See*

Open my eyes that I may see  
glimpses of truth thou hast for me.  
Place in my hands the wonderful key  
that shall unclasp and set me free.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my eyes, illumine me,  
Spirit divine!

Open my ears that I may hear  
voices of truth thou sendest clear,  
and while the wave notes fall on my ear,  
ev'rything false will disappear.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my ears, illumine me,  
Spirit divine!

Open my mouth and let me bear  
gladly the warm truth ev'rywhere.  
Open my heart and let me prepare  
love with thy children thus to share.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my mouth, illumine me,  
Spirit divine!

SERMON

### WE RESPOND IN FAITH

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Gracious God, we come before you today knowing that we often fall short of your call to love one another well. We allow ourselves to be blinded by wealth and power. We ignore those around us who suffer injustice, poverty, and rejection. We tune out the cries of the poor and those on the edges of our communities. We are often unduly impressed by the powerful and the clever and excuse in them what we would condemn in the powerless and**

