

The Prayer Corner:

Please remember our Confirmands: *Cody Cordova, Zachary Cordova, James Levario, Matthew Shupenis*; their teachers: *Catherine Mason, Meg Temple, John Thomason*; and their mentors: *Mike Boisseau, Mollie Cole, Rev. Paul Hibbard, Carolyn Shay*.

Recovering from surgery: *John Fleming* (out-patient procedure on January 29 at Waterbury Hospital); *Josh Harwood* (out-patient procedure on January 29); *Lynn Cullen* (out-patient procedure on February 3).

Recovering at home: *the Cole/Lowman/Bodwell family; Gary McClendon; Steve Thomas; Paige LeBlanc*, mother of *Jessie Lynch* (Manchester, CT); *Dominic Vaiuso*, father of *Karen Williams* (Newtown); *Robert Ayers*, father of *Tacy Nettleton* (Woodstock, GA); *Carl Hinkle*, father of *Toby McGrath* (Greensburg, PA); *Donna Louise Burke*, friend of *Kathy Craig*; *Peter Gallagher*, father of *Jen Carnes* (Brookfield, CT); *Lou Calabrese* (husband of *Lynn Ramsden-Calabrese*); *Jane King*, mother of *Stephen King* and mother-in-law of *Joann King* (Sarasota, FL); *Antonio Stillitano*, grandson of *Paul Hatch*

Outpatient treatments: *Dave Brencher, Bob Asman, Mary Wilkins*, sister of *Barb Hunt* (Rochester, NY); *Dave Davison*, father-in-law of *Gary McClendon*; *Stephanie Galaburri*, friend of *Sandy Carbonaro*; *Will Styblo*, nephew of *Jim Styblo* and *Catherine Mason* (Franklin, TN)

Homebound members: *Florence Brown, Linda Bailey*

Please continue to remember: relatives of *Rev. Betty Lines* who are seriously ill: niece *Sharon Parish* (hospice care in Idaho); and brother-in-law *Stephen Lines* (recovering from a stroke in Florida); *Jean Lilly*, mother of *Meg Temple* (Cincinnati, OH), *Manny Gesh, Jane True, Blair Feller, Marilyn Bender, Ryan DeRidder and family, Laura & Stuart Brush, Janet Grant* (sister of *Betty Lines*).



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.

*** **Update on February Birthdays** - - Unfortunately a few people were left off the birthday listing last week and we want to be sure to include them in the celebrations!

Rick Richardson – February 11
Tyler & Victoria Williams – February 24

Woodbury United Methodist Church



Sunday, February 7, 2021

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



Woodbury United Methodist Church

February 7, 2021
5th Sunday after the Epiphany

*Please stand as you are able.

WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

PRELUDE *Adagio from Sonata in F* W. A. Mozart
Christopher Shay, organist

GREETING Rev. John Thomason

*CALL TO WORSHIP based on Isaiah 40, Psalm 147, 1 Corinthians 9
adapted from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2021*

Is anyone here feeling tired?
YES! I am weary and weighed down with burdens.
Take heart! God gives us strength and energy.

Is anyone here hurt or grieving?
YES! I am wounded and in pain.
Take heart! God heals broken hearts!

Is anyone here feeling left out, shunned, and outcast?
YES! I have been pushed to the margins, labeled unworthy of inclusion.
Take heart! God is calling your name and waiting to gather you close in love!

*OPENING HYMN *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*
Hymns sung by Anna and Rick Richardson

*OPENING PRAYER (unison) led by Anna Richardson
from *Worship and Song: Worship Resources*

Lord, of all nations, you hold this fragile world securely in your hands; at the same time, you are so personal as to live within each believer through your Spirit. Meet with us this day. Help us to see you in the faces of our sisters and brothers, to hear you in the words of Holy Scripture, and to be nourished at your table. Convince us of your presence as we worship so that we may be inspired to live our lives for your glory and offer your love to all. Through Christ, our Lord and Savior, we pray. Amen.

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 also provided for archived videos for later viewing.
- **Audio only by phone:** dial 425-436-6391, enter pin with hash sign 2431819#.

Thanks to all those making special contributions to our worship service today: *Anna Richardson*, Liturgist; *Grace Richardson*, Reader; *Anna, Grace and Rick Richardson*, Singers and Children’s Time.

February 14: Transfiguration Sunday ~ Worship Led by NYAC

On **Sunday, February 14**, Woodbury UMC will share in a **joint online worship service** with other congregations in the New York Annual Conference. **PLEASE NOTE: Worship will not be held in our sanctuary that day.** A link for participating in the service being livestreamed from White Plains, New York, will be provided in next week’s *Messenger*.

Also see the last pages of this week’s *Messenger* with a memorandum from *Bishop Bickerton* regarding State Guidelines for Re-Opening churches. More information will follow.

February 17: Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday ushers in the holy season of Lent. This year, WUMC will faithfully observe Ash Wednesday, but do so in a slightly different ways.

- Following the pattern of our recent Prayer Vigils, an outdoor service will be offered in the fenced-in courtyard area on Main Street from 7:00 – 7:10 PM, followed by a full service in the sanctuary from 7:15 – 8:00 PM.
- Instead of the usual imposition of ashes, worshipers in both settings will be offered small pieces of burlap marked with a cross as a sign of penitence and mortality.

BIBLE 101 CONTINUES

The winter **Bible Study Fellowship** for adults is an introduction to our primary resource for Christian belief and practice -- the Bible. Pastor John is leading us in exploring why the Bible is so important for people of faith, how the Scriptures were written and compiled, and how Christians can read and study the Bible for maximum benefit. During the final session, participants will be invited to share their favorite Bible verses and passages.

The class is being offered on **Tuesday evenings through February 16 from 6:30 to 8:00 PM**. Weather permitting, group participants will be able to gather in-person in Fellowship Hall, but on-line participation will be available for all sessions. Go to the WUMC website for the link.

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. John Thomason, Pastor
Parsonage phone: 203-263-7575; cell phone: 845-707-5152
Pastor's e-mail: johnthomason1948@yahoo.com

Chris Shay, Director of Music

Kathy Craig, Office Administrator

Mark Davis, Lay Leader

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 February 7, 2021

Visitors are warmly welcomed! We invite you to sign the worship register as it is passed during the announcements, or fill out a visitor's card provided by a greeter. If you wish to learn more about WUMC's ministries, please take a copy of our weekly newsletter, *The Messenger*, which is available in the narthex. Immediately following today's worship service, please join us for Fellowship Hour downstairs in Fellowship Hall.

If you would like to become a member of the Woodbury United Methodist Church, please speak to the pastor. Inquirers are asked to attend a two-session Membership Orientation class before joining the church.

Today is the 5th Sunday after the Epiphany on the Christian calendar. The Season after the Epiphany is a season of Ordinary Time standing between the great Christological cycles of Advent-Christmas-Epiphany and Lent-Easter-Pentecost. The Gospel readings in the lectionary center on stories from the early ministry of Christ. 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 rear of the sanctuary to receive donations to our church's benevolence fund.

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.

WE SEEK GOD'S PRESENCE IN PRAYER

CHILDREN'S TIME led by Anna, Grace, and Rick Richardson

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Rev. Thomason

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

Anna Richardson

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

read by Grace Richardson

Lessons for the 5th Sunday after the Epiphany
from *The Revised Common Lectionary*

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 40:28-31, *NRSV*
God's People Are Comforted

- 2 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

*Gospel Lesson: Mark 1:29-39, *NRSV*

Jesus Heals Many at Simon's House

As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

A Preaching Tour in Galilee

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the

message there also; for that is what I came out to do.” And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

*HYMN OF PREPARATION

On Eagle’s Wings

SERMON

God’s Forgotten Attribute

Rev. Thomason

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

from *Worship and Song: Worship Resources*

Our Father, forgive us for thinking small thoughts of you and for ignoring your immensity and greatness. Lord Jesus, forgive us when we forget that you rule the nations and our small lives. Holy Spirit, we offend you in minimizing your power and squandering your gifts. O triune God, we confess that our blindness to your glory has resulted in shallow confession, weak conviction, and only mild repentance. Have mercy on us. In Jesus’ name. Amen.

Silent prayers of confession

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

On Eagle’s Wings (reprise)

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

WE GATHER AT THE LORD’S TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

from *At the Lord’s Table*

Lift up your hearts and give thanks to the Lord our God.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, Creator and Sovereign of the universe. You loved the world so much that you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to be our Savior. He suffered and died for the sin of the world. You raised him from the dead that we, too, might have new life. He ascended to be with you in glory and, according to his promise, is with us always.

On the night he offered himself up 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.”

Therefore, in remembrance of all your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we ask to you accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, which we offer in union with Christ’s offering for us, as a living and holy surrender of ourselves.

Send the power of your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts, that in the breaking of the bread and the drinking of the wine we may know the presence of the living Christ; be one body in him, cleansed by his blood; faithfully serve him in the world; and look forward to his coming in final victory.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

BREAKING THE BREAD AND LIFTING THE CUP

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (unison)

from *At the Lord’s Table*

We give you thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, though this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WE GO FORTH IN JOY

CLOSING HYMN

There Is a Balm in Gilead

*BENEDICTION

Rev. Thomason

*POSTLUDE

Solfeggietto

C.P.E. Bach