

Midweek Bible Study Fellowship Updates

- 1) Books have arrived and are available for \$11 each and you may be able to purchase in the Narthex after Worship service; by calling the church office (203-263-4775); and by contacting Bud Behlman (203) 206-9276.
 - 2) Bible Study/Fellowship begins on Tuesday, October 20th @ (6:30 – 8:00 PM)
 - 3) Meeting will be in-person in Fellowship Hall noting the usual safety protocols will be followed with masks being required, and please bring your own book and Bible.
 - 4) Meeting will be held simultaneously online and on the phone
 - Phone-in option: Call (646) 558-8656, Meeting ID: 838 4151 6435 and Passcode: 405251381
 - Online (Zoom) option: <https://zoom.us/join>, Meeting ID: 838 4151 6435 and Passcode: !WUMC2020
 - 5) Contact Bud Behlman with any questions at 203-206-9276 or <mailto:budbehlman@charter.net>
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Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
4 Church Street, Woodbury, CT 06798
(203) 263-4775 • www.woodburyumc.net

Woodbury United Methodist Church



Sunday, October 18, 2020

Woodbury United Methodist Church

October 18, 2020
20th Sunday after Pentecost
Laity Sunday

*Please stand as you are able.

WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

PRELUDE *Sonata in F* Mozart
Christopher Shay, piano

GREETING Rev. John Thomason

*A LITANY FOR LAITY SUNDAY led by Mark Davis
from *The United Methodist Book of Worship*
adapted from *The Book of Discipline 1992*

From the beginning, God entered into covenant with the human family: with Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Moses, Deborah, Ruth, and Jeremiah.

Through baptism, Jesus Christ calls us into covenant and makes us ministers of Christ's righteousness.

All Christian ministry is Christ's work of outreaching love. It demonstrates a common life of gratitude and devotion, witness and service, celebration and discipleship.

All Christians are called to Christ's servanthood in the world, to the glory of God and for human fulfillment.

The Church, as the community of the new covenant, participates in Christ's ministry of grace.

It stretches out to human needs wherever service may convey God's love and ours.

In our ministry of servanthood this is our ultimate concern:

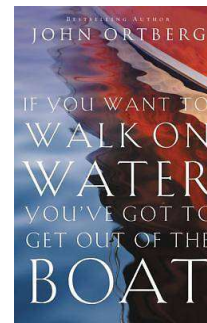
That all may be renewed in the image of their Creator, and that all Christians are called to minister in deeds and words that heal and free. Amen.

Mid-Week Bible Study Begins

Have you missed the self-reflection, spiritual nourishment, and Christian fellowship of our mid-week studies? Were you hoping to join a mid-week study for the first time this Fall?

If so, please plan to join the 6-session study based on John Ortberg's award-winning book,

"If You Want To Walk On Water... You've Got To Get Out Of The Boat"



Chapters include:

- What's Water Walking?
- The Tragedy of The Unopened Gift
- Find Your Calling And Get Your Feet Wet!
- Facing Our Challenges, Conquering Our Fears
- Good News For Cave Dwellers
- Learning To Wait On Our Big God

THIS STUDY HELPS YOU ANSWER CHRIST'S CALL TO GREATER FAITH AND A NEW WAY OF KNOWING HIM. AS A RESULT, YOU WILL LEARN TO:

- Recognize God's presence
- Discern between faith and foolishness
- Not only expect problems, but field them when they come
- Reorient your thoughts about failure and see it as an opportunity to grow
- Wait on the Lord
- And, ultimately, connect more deeply with God

Understanding these are unpredictable times, we are planning to offer the series both online and in person (if State and Conference guidelines permit), beginning Tuesday, October 20th at 6:30 PM.

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 October 18, 2020

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 20th 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.

Today is also Laity Sunday in the United Methodist Church. This day calls the Church to celebrate the ministry of Christians of all ages in the home, workplace, congregation, community, and world. Special thanks to laypersons *Bud Behlman, Matt Bodwell, Rod Carnes, Mark Davis, Kate Keeler* and *Carolyn Shay* for their leadership in today's service.

Please note: WUMC's worship services are recorded and archived on the church's website, www.woodburyumc.net.

Altar flowers are given this week by *the Bower Richardson family*, "in loving celebration of Anna's 22nd birthday."

*OPENING HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth

Musicians and singers: Matt Bodwell, Rod Carnes, Kate Keeler

*OPENING PRAYER (unison)

led by Rod Carnes, Liturgist

A Prayer for Laity Sunday
adapted from UMC Discipleship Ministries

Lord Jesus, you gave us an example for leadership and service. You sought counsel from your Heavenly Father in quiet places where you could hear God's voice. You gave your disciples and those of us who follow you today an illustration of humility when you washed the feet of your followers. Help us, we pray, to follow your example. Let us seek your guidance in all things – listening for that "still, small, voice." Continue to remind us that we are to serve others through your perfect model – seeking God's will in all we do. Amen.

WE SEEK GOD'S PRESENCE IN PRAYER

CHILDREN'S TIME

Kate Keeler

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Carolyn Shay

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

Rod Carnes

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

read by Rod Carnes

Lessons for the 20th Sunday after Pentecost
from *The Revised Common Lectionary*

Epistle Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 (*NRSV*)

Salutation

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

The Thessalonians' Faith and Example

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

*Gospel Lesson: Matthew 22:15-22 (NRSV)
The Question about Paying Taxes

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

HYMN OF PREPARATION *Your Love Defends Me* Matt Mahar

LAY WITNESSES
Mark Davis, Lay Leader
Carolyn Shay, Prayer Ministry chair
Bud Behlman, Adult Ministries chair

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

SILENT REFLECTION

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS Bud Behlman

OFFERTORY *The Blessing* arr. Kari Jobe

WE GO FORTH IN JOY

BENEDICTION

Bud Behlman

POSTLUDE

Order My Steps

Glen Burleigh

