

## Mission Statement of the Woodbury United Methodist Church

We are a welcoming Christian fellowship who celebrate and share God's love with everyone.

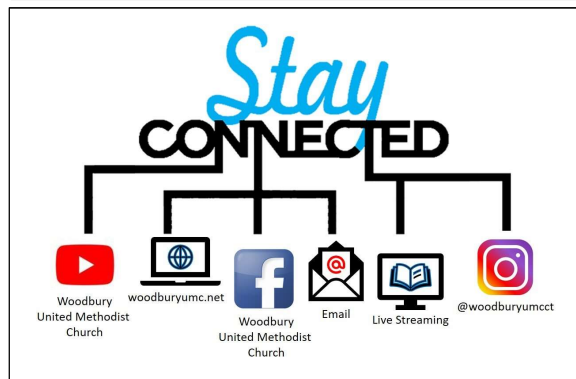
We seek a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. Inspired by His example, we strive to be God's hands in this world.

Empowered by God's word, we proclaim the Gospel and serve through worship, study, mission, and community support.

**Love is Spoken Here!**



*Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors*  
4 Church Street, Woodbury, CT 06798  
(203) 263-4775 • [www.woodburyumc.net](http://www.woodburyumc.net)



## Woodbury United Methodist Church



Laity Sunday  
Sunday, October 17, 2021

# Woodbury United Methodist Church

October 17, 2021  
21st Sunday after Pentecost  
Laity Sunday

\*Please stand as you are able.

## WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

**PRELUDE** *Morning Has Broken* arr. Arnold Sherman  
WUMC Bell Choir

**GREETING** Pastor Michael Cobb

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** Samuel Temple, Liturgist

Which commandment in the law is greatest?

**Love your God.**

And the second?

**Love your neighbor as yourself.**

Love  
**with all your heart.**

Love  
**with all your soul.**

Love  
**with all your mind.**

Love  
**with all your strength.**

On these commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

**Blessed are those whose delight is in the law of our God.**

**\*OPENING HYMN #152** *For the Beauty of the Earth* UM Hymnal  
(Hymns led by WUMC Chancel Choir)

## WE SEEK GOD'S PRESENCE IN PRAYER

**\*OPENING PRAYER** (unison) Samuel Temple

Let us pray that our love of God may become real and tangible in our love  
of our neighbor. (pause)



## 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 (e.g., carpentry, painting, simple plumbing/electrical/car repairs, computer troubleshooting)
- 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](mailto:WUMC@WoodburyUMC.net).



- **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#.

### SAVE THE DATES

**Saturday, November 13 – Fall Clean-Up Day at WUMC** – please see your Messenger. Great way for students to get community service hours for school. Please let Theron Kissinger know if you are able to help out that day.

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

### THE PRAYER CORNER

**Christian sympathies** to the family of *Jane True*: A beloved longtime member and sister in Christ passed away recently. *Jane True* died on September 28 in North Carolina where she moved a number of years ago. She lived to be 89 years old and she was the member of our church who gave us the very generous gift of the elevator. We would often say with a smile that this was a “*Trueliff*”. Please keep her family and especially her daughters *Beverly, Diane, Laura, and Nancy*, in your prayers.

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

**Recovering from surgery:** *Laura Brush*, eye surgery on October 12<sup>th</sup>

**Recovering at home:** *Gary McClendon; Pat Kurtz; 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); *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)

**Please remember our Confirmands:** *Annabelle Cloud, Cody Cordova, Zachary Cordova, James Levario, 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](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.

**God, you display your almighty power in loving us without regret. In the human heart of Jesus your son, you have shown us how far love can go. Give us a love that is forgiving, generous and gentle like his, that we may recognize and welcome him in our brothers and sisters. May our hearts reach out first to the poorest and the least lovable, with the gratuitous love you have given us. In Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER (unison)

CHOIR ANTHEM *God is So Good* arr. Douglas Wagner

### WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE read by: Samuel Temple

**Epistle Reading** James 2:5-8, pg. 311

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.”

**\*Gospel Reading** Matthew 22:34-40, pg. 33

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they came together, and one of them, a teacher of the Law, tried to trap him with a question. “Teacher,” he asked, “which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

Jesus answered, “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and the most important commandment. The second most important commandment is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as you love yourself.’ The whole Law of Moses and the teachings of the prophets depend on these two commandments.”

HYMN OF PREPARATION #530 *Are Ye Able* UM Hymnal

SERMON *Loving Your Neighbor* Julia Bower Richardson

## WE RESPOND IN FAITH

### INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Kathy Bower

Love your neighbor. Love yourself. We are gifts of God and, like the tiny mustard seed, we hold the promise of God's awesome power at work within us. Let us give freely of the gifts so freely given to us. We lift our gifts and offerings to God in gratitude and praise.

### THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

#### OFFERTORY

*Bridge Over Trouble Water*

Paul Simon

Julia Bower Richardson and Rick Richardson

#### OFFERTORY PRAYER

Kathy Bower

Creator of all that has been, is, and will be, You are the God who sees us. Thank you for the capacity and the privilege of giving. May these gifts transform literacy into education and despair into hope. We humbly ask you to consecrate these gifts for the transformation of lives so that our abundance may be for their need and their need become *our* abundance. To you, God, be the glory! Amen.

#### PASTORAL PRAYER

Kathy Bower

## WE GO FORTH IN JOY

CLOSING HYMN #152: *I Sing the Almighty Power of God* UM Hymnal

#### BENEDICTION

Julia Bower Richardson

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. Go forth into this aching, hurting world with God's love, offering healing, hope, and peace to all. Go in peace and may God's peace surround you always. We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,

**In the name of Christ. Amen!**

#### POSTLUDE

*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Walther

*Elements of this service may be taken or adapted from UMC Discipleship.org, reworship.blogspot.com, or the Abingdon Worship Annual 2021, copyright 2021 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](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*

Pastor's e-mail: [pastormichael@woodburyumc.net](mailto:pastormichael@woodburyumc.net)

*Mark Davis, Lay Leader*

*Kathy Craig, Office Administrator*

*Chris Shay, Director of Music*

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## Week of October 17, 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 21<sup>st</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.

**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 *JoAnn Behlman, Kathy Bower, Julia Bower Richardson, Meg and Samuel Temple, the WUMC Bell Choir* and the *WUMC Chancel Choir* for their leadership in today's service.

**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: