

WOODBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4 Church Street
Woodbury, CT 06798

Website: www.woodburyumc.net

Office: (203) 263-4775 • Fax: (203) 263-5867

Email: www.woodburyumc.net

Find us on /woodburyumcct & /woodburyumcct



Rev. J. Michael Cobb, Pastor

Woodbury United Methodist Messenger

Wednesday, January 26, 2022

January 30th

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

The Season after the Epiphany is a season of Ordinary Time in that it stands between the great Christological cycles of Advent-Christmas-Epiphany and Lent-Easter-Pentecost. The First Sunday focuses on the Baptism of Christ and the Last Sunday on the Transfiguration. The Gospel readings in the lectionary center on the early ministry of Christ. The liturgical color between the First and Last Sundays is green, symbolizing growth in Christ.

Lectionary Reading: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

Readers: Diane Hibbard, Mumbi Musau, and Neema Syovata

Singers: Paul and Rebecca Hibbard; Musician: Jack Cloud

Video Presentation: the Shay family

Audio Visual Technician: Theron Kissinger

In-Person Worship Resumes on Sunday, February 6th!

Details and Updated Safety Protocols are on the next page 

Worship Together at the Same Time – 10:30 AM

Live Streaming Continues

Livestreaming provides an opportunity for all of us to experience worship at the same time, but for the next few weeks at home. You can join us by video on YouTube or audio-only by telephone broadcast. Video recordings of services will also be available for later viewing. Later phone broadcasts are no longer provided.

The options for accessing services electronically remain the same:

- **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.

- **Audio only by phone:** dial 425-436-6391, enter pin with hash sign 2431819#. Note that these numbers have changed from what was previously used. Please mute your phones to eliminate background noise.

COVID Response Team Update

We are delighted to announce that we plan to resume in-person worship on February 6th.

Why is it safe to return now? Our COVID response team has carefully re-evaluated our protocols and found that they are more than sufficient to allow us to worship together safely. Community spread is down and COVID tests are now more readily accessible to help distinguish between cold/flu and COVID symptoms. Finally, MIT modeling tools show that we can safely accommodate our max capacity of 75 people if we upgrade to multi-layer surgical or N/KN-95 masks, while continuing our previous safety protocols.

Here is how you can do your part to protect your church family at in-person worship:

1. Pre-register for the service on our website, www.woodburyumc.net.
2. Upgrade your mask to at least a surgical mask. We strongly encourage you to wear an N/KN 95 mask for increased protection. Both will be available to anyone who needs one at check-in.
3. If you or a family member is ill, please stay home and continue to enjoy the service online at our website, www.woodburyumc.net, or our YouTube channel at http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCN-kkokTCbVE9urwgP_AEcw.
4. Maintain your distance from other family units after briefly greeting one another.

Below you will find a chart to help you determine when it is safe for you to return to in-person worship after being ill or having been in close contact with someone else who is ill. More detail is available at:

<https://woodburyumc.net/covid-recovery%2Freopening>.

WUMC GUIDANCE: COVID and ATTENDANCE AT WUMC

Feeling ill (any cold, flu or COVID symptom)? Had close contact exposure? Tested Positive? We ask that you do the following before coming to the church:

IF YOU:	THEN:
<p style="text-align: center;">Had Close Contact with Symptomatic Person</p>	<p>GET COVID TESTED: WHEN?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 days after had exposure or • Upon becoming symptomatic <p>WHICH TEST?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If asymptomatic: Then PCR test required • If symptomatic: Either PCR or Rapid Antigen test <p>Refrain from attending church worship events (quarantine) for 14 days <u>or</u> until you have a negative test result (or your close contact tests negative), & you are symptom free.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Are Symptomatic</p>	<p>Refrain from attending worship and church events for 10 days <u>or</u> until receiving a negative COVID test (PCR or Rapid Antigen test) and you are symptom free.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Test Positive</p>	<p>Refrain from attending church worship & events for 10 days (isolate).</p> <p>Report positive test to WUMC's CRT Chair (Mark Davis)</p>

Notes:

Symptomatic: Any cold, flu or COVID symptom. We need to treat any cold or flu symptom as if it were COVID, until a proper test proves otherwise.

Close Contact Exposure: If you spent 15 minutes or more cumulative time over a 24-hour period within 6-ft of a person who has been diagnosed with COVID or is symptomatic and remains untested (regardless of whether masked or unmasked).

Mission & Outreach Ministry News

CHURCH RESPONSE TO DEVASTATING FIRE IN THE BRONX, NY

The following is an update from the NYAC regarding help for those affected by the recent devastating fire in the Bronx, NY:

The best way to contribute to long-term recovery for these survivors—which is our UMC special focus—is via monetary donations. Money collected will translate into survivors accessing temporary housing, refurbishing their apartments, and lifting the heavy burden of medical and funeral expenses.

Thank you for your generosity!

Please direct questions about our Conference response, or to get the link for monetary donations, to Rev. Nikki Hutt, NYAC Disaster Response and Missions Coordinator, nhutt@nyac.com, 914-615-2248.

Thanking you once again, Rev. Paul Hibbard

February is Woodbury Food Bank Month

February is our next opportunity to provide volunteers for the Woodbury Foodbank. Thank you to all the volunteers that will be covering the Friday shifts throughout the month. Reminder – the 3rd Sunday of the month there will be a dedication of donated items that will be delivered to the Food Bank. Watch for your Messenger next week for an updated listing of any priority needs requested. As always, thank you!

Rev. Paul Hibbard, Chair
Mission & Outreach Ministry Team

Children & Youth Ministry News

NEWS:

- **Confirmation Class** begins again **Sunday, February 6, 4-6:30 PM** in Fellowship Hall
- **Let's Collaborate?** The Children & Youth Ministry leadership team is now very small. We invite all WUMC committees as well the parents to discuss possible ways to collaborate for **intergenerational** programming with the Children & Youth Ministry. I am happy to coordinate an initial discussion opportunity. Please reach out to me. Thank you, Catherine

AT HOME FAMILY SCRIPTURE READING & REFLECTION

Love Never Ends: Being The Body of Christ

This week's Scripture is about LOVE and contains frequently quoted words of the Bible.

READ TOGETHER: This week as a family read the words of **1 Corinthians 13, verses 1-13** several times.

REFLECT TOGETHER: Family Discussion Questions

- How many ways was love described? Did any stand out? Why? Often, this passage is shared at weddings. Does it seem appropriate for that kind of celebration?
- Have you ever been on the receiving end of the kind of love described in this passage?
- Why do you think love is such a popular topic for songs, poems, books, movies, and more?
- What do you think it means for love to be "kind" and "not arrogant or boastful"?
- In verse 8, Paul says that "love never fails." What do you think he means in this verse? Do you agree or disagree with that concept?
- Is love a feeling or an action? Explain your answer.
- How is the definition of love found in 1 Corinthians 13 different from the definition our culture might use?
- Verse 11 does not use the word "love," but it is included in this passage. What might this specific verse say about love?

- Verse 13 says, “Now faith, hope, and love remain—these three things—and the greatest of these is love.” Why do you think love is called the “greatest of these”? (Hint, remember last week’s scriptures where the Greatest Commandment had to do with LOVE, as opposed to faith or hope.)

ACTIVITY: As a family brainstorm a list of favorite **Love Songs**. Over the week listen to these selections together and reflect upon love and this week’s Scripture passage.

Adapted from: “Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany, Year C - Youth Lessons.” *UMC Discipleship Ministries*, The United Methodist Church, [Discipleship Ministries | Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany, Year C - ... \(umcdiscipleship.org\)](http://www.umcdiscipleship.org).

Kudo Korner

Congratulations to *Grace Walkup* who has been recognized in this past week’s *Voices* Newspaper for her competitive efforts on the Nonnewaug Varsity Swim Team. Way to go, Grace!

Each week we will be featuring those that stepped up and led us in worship with some from the “comfort of their own home.” We would like to thank those that led us safely in last Sunday’s service: *Bob Asman*, Reader; *Jeff Hunt* and *Carolyn Shay*, Singers; *Luke, Nathaniel, and Owen Shay*, Dramatists; *Theron Kissinger*, Audio Visual Tech; *Chris Shay*, Music Director; and *Pastor J. Michael Cobb*. Thank you all!!!

The Prayer Corner

Continued prayers for those suffering in both *Haiti, New Orleans, Washington State*, those affected in *Kentucky and surrounding states during the recent tornadoes*, those suffering with depression and the families affected during the fire devastation in NY.

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); *Jeanne Semeraro, Cindy Tedesco, and Donna Louise Burke*, friends of *Kathy Craig; Lou Calabrese* (husband of *Lynn Ramsden-Calabrese*)

Outpatient treatments: *Dave Brencher; Bob Asman*

Please remember our Confirmands: *Annabelle Cloud, Cody Cordova, Zachary Cordova, James Levario, and Matthew Shupenis*

Homebound members: *Florence Brown, Linda Bailey*

Please continue to remember: Relative of *Rev. Betty Lines* who are seriously ill: brother-in-law *Stephen Lines* (recovering from a stroke in Florida) and *Janet Grant* (sister of *Betty Lines*); *Manny Gesh, Blair Feller, Marilyn Bender, Ryan DeRidder and family, and Laura & Stuart Brush*.



If anyone has updates to these prayer requests, please send them to the office email at www.woodburyumc.net.



If you would like to send someone a birthday card, please see our website @ www.woodburyumc.net for this month’s birthday listing.

A REMINDER ON FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR:

We will be attending “in-person” worship beginning Sunday, February 6th and we will be placing flowers on the altar again, so let us know if you want to sign up for a particular date. Currently we are open for February 13th and 20th. Call the office at (203) 263-4775 or email at wumc@woodburyumc.net. After February 6th, the floral chart will be placed in the Narthex for your convenience if you would like to select a date further into the year. REMEMBER: if you don’t have an occasion, you can donate and we will be sure to deliver them to one of our homebound people during that week.

HOUSEKEEPING NOTES FROM THE OFFICE. . .

HANDICAPPED PARKING - - these are the three spaces outside the office doors (Church Street Entrance). **Please do NOT park there unless you have a handicapped parking tag. If you do park there, please be sure to leave enough room for the people using the handicapped ramp.**

- ❖ **Office Hours Tuesday thru Friday 9 am – 3 pm.** –During the **COVID-19 LOCKDOWN – Office visits are by appointment only. Please be sure to have your face covered if entering the building for everyone’s health safety.** The answering machine will be checked daily; however, if you have a pastoral emergency, you can reach Pastor J. Michael Cobb by email at pastormichael@woodburyumc.net. Thank you!

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION UPDATES???

Please continue to send any changes in names, addresses, phone numbers, emails, etc. Please send them to wumc@woodburyumc.net. This is also important to keep track of any of our college students as well!!!

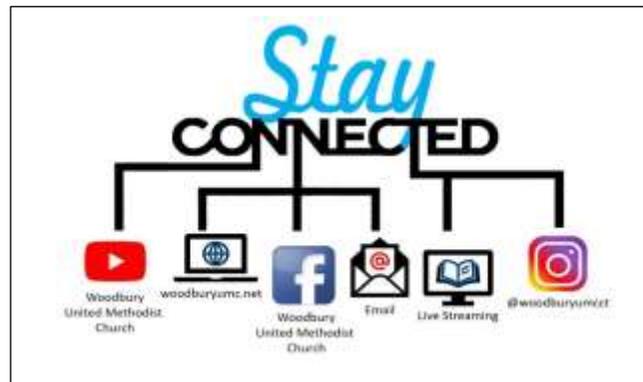
Mission Statement of the Woodbury United Methodist Church

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!





UMC Bishops call for equal voting rights

1/21/2022 - Minutes



Church and Society file photo

The United Methodist Building is across the road from the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C.

Press Release
January 21, 2022

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Executive Committee of the Council of Bishops of The United Methodist Church is calling upon United Methodists to use their influence in their states, legislative districts, and local precincts to enable voter registration and to encourage elected officials to provide the resources necessary to support the fullest possible participation in elections.

The bishops issued their statement today in the aftermath of the decision by the United States Senate to reject legislation that would have counter action taken by several states legislatures making voting more difficult, especially in minority communities.

[Click here to read the full statement](#)

Media Contact:

Rev. Dr. Maidstone Mulenga
Director of Communications - Council of Bishops
[Click to email](#)
(202) 748-5172

COB OFFICE

100 Maryland Ave NE
Washington DC 20002
Phone: 202-547-6270
Fax: 202-547-6272

[contact us](#)

FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



[Site By...](#)



Council of Bishops

The United Methodist Church



A Call for Equal Voting Rights

January 21, 2022

The United States Senate on Wednesday night rejected legislation which would counter actions taken by several states legislatures that will make voting more difficult, particularly in minority communities.

In the Fall of 2020, the United Methodist Bishops of the United States took a strong and bold stand against voter suppression standing firm on the voting rights of all persons. Today, we the bishops of the United Methodist Church reaffirm that stance believing that the right of every citizen to vote in the United States is under attack, and with it, the foundation of American democracy and the sacred worth of all persons.

The right to vote is rooted in a commitment to the value of all persons, created in the image of God as individuals of sacred worth. This belief in the sacredness of humanity is a foundational principle of many religious traditions present in the American body politic.

The legacy of injustice told in civil rights museums across our country is one of suppression of the vote. And the legacy of white supremacy and privilege continues. At times this suppression has been overt, as when one was required to own property or be a white male to vote. At other times it is more nuanced, as in moving or eliminating polling places, or in sowing confusion over early voting or voting by mail. Such actions undermine the people's confidence that voting matters. And in some instances, where the people have affirmed the right to vote for convicted felons who have served their sentences, state legislatures and governors' offices have sought to overturn the will of the people in order to suppress the vote.

Efforts by our government or elected officials to suppress the freedom to cast ballots violate the high principles upon which our nation was founded. By contrast, these high principles are affirmed and realized when elected officials and government entities promote, defend, and guarantee the unfettered right of all citizens to choose our leaders in free and fair elections.

We are in a moment of national crisis as we navigate two viruses, COVID and Racism, and suffer the economic consequences of both. In these crises we are reminded that our religious faith and our nation's principles support elections that faithfully reflect the will of the American people. Our faith in God who created all people in the divine image, and our hope that our nation can live into the aspirations of our founding ideals, lead us to pledge ourselves to the fullest expansion of this right to vote.

To that end we call upon the people of the United Methodist Church to use their influence in their states, legislative districts, and local precincts to enable voter registration and to encourage elected officials to provide the resources necessary to support the fullest participation in elections.

In Christ's name,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Cynthia Fierro Harvey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Bishop Cynthia Fierro Harvey
President – Council of Bishops
The United Methodist Church