



WOODBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Rev. J. Michael Cobb, Pastor

Woodbury United Methodist Messenger

Wednesday, January 7, 2022

Thank You from the Church Staff

Each of us is deeply grateful for the monetary gifts you shared with us at Christmas time. We are honored to serve you and appreciate all the ways you support us and our ministries. Happy New Year, one and all!

Pastor Cobb, Kathy Craig, Theron Kissinger, and Chris Shay

January 9: Baptism of the Lord Sunday

The **First Sunday after the Epiphany** celebrates Christ's baptism by John and reminds all Christians of our one baptism. The liturgical colors are white and gold.

Lectionary Readings: Acts 8: 14-17; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

Readers: Abby, Annabelle, Caroline and Jack Cloud

Musician and Singers: Jack Cloud, piano; Kate Keeler

Audio Visual Technician: Theron Kissinger

January 16: 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany Human Relations Day

Together our reach is beyond measure. United Methodists celebrate on specific days to united and make clear the commitment of the church as the people of God, and to give everyone the opportunity to contribute to special programs approved and supported by the Church. For stores on how you make a difference, visit UMC.org/yourimpact.

How do your gifts support Human Relations? We are called to make an impact in communities where our brothers and sisters in Christ lack the resources or tools to reach their God-given potentials. Our gifts are part of building beloved community through faith-based volunteer programs, community developers and programs that work with at-risk teens. For more than half a century, United Methodists have observed this churchwide special Sunday in recognition of the message Jesus demonstrated during his life: **Each of God's children are equally important.**

We Will NOT be worshipping in person for the next two weeks at a minimum. Updates will be provided by email.

Worship Together at the Same Time – 10:30 AM Live Streaming Continues

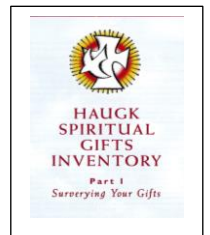
Livestreaming provides an opportunity for all of us to experience worship at the same time, but **for the next few weeks at home**. You can join us by video on YouTube or audio-only by telephone broadcast. Video recordings of services will also be available for later viewing. Later phone broadcasts are 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.

SAVE THE DATES: Discovering God's Vision for Your Life

There will be a congregation-wide study on discovering and understanding your personal spiritual gifts, and discovery ways of using those gifts in ministry. The class starts Sunday, January 16, concludes the last Sunday in February, and runs from 12:30 to 1:45 pm each week with Presidents' Day weekend off.



Materials for the class are now available in the church office. The required workbook and assessment are \$16. (If you need financial assistance, please let me know!) The class is fully online, and is open to all who are interested, including your friends and family.

We are working on a way for interested people to pick up the items needed to attend this class from home, please stay tuned to your email as well as next week's Messenger. If you would like more information, please contact Pastor Michael.

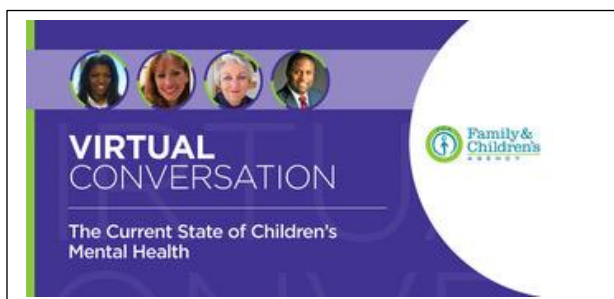
Updates from CRT (Covid Response Team)

**Reminder: COVID Safety Protocols
(last updated 01- 01- 22)**

Given the lack of Covid tests and high infection rate in our community, plus many families with one or more members who have been sick. we are canceling in-person worship services **through January 16th at a minimum**. Each week, there will be an online meditation or worship service available for at-home worship posted on our web site and via social media.

Children & Youth Ministry News

IMPORTANT WEBINAR



As parents, grandparents, teachers, coaches and professionals working with children and teens, we are all realizing and coming to terms with the enormity that the pandemic has had on the mental health of young people. Our church and church family, too, are bearing witness to the increasingly serious challenge to find available and affordable services for young people.

We invite you to sign up for a Virtual Conversation: The Current State of Children's Mental Health hosted by the Family & Children's Agency. The live panel discussion will be held on Zoom on Thursday, January 13, from

12-1pm. Use the link below to sign up. The panel includes Vanessa L. Dorantes, Commissioner of the CT Department of Children

& Families; Margarita Munoz, MD, Medical Director of Behavioral Health at Family & Children's Agency; Patti Nietsch, LCSW, Clinician of Behavioral Health at Family & Children's Agency and moderated by Lamond Daniels, LCSW, Chief of Community Services, Norwalk. Together we will have a true picture of the need and a better understanding of how we can help.

<https://familyandchildrensagency.org/event/2022/1/13/Virtual-Conversation-The-Current-State-of-Childrene28099s-Mental-Health.aspx>

LESSON:

This is what happened after Jesus was born, when wise men from another country saw a star over Bethlehem:

1. "When the wise men saw the star, they were filled with joy. They went to the house where the child was and saw him with his mother, Mary. They bowed down and worshiped the child. They opened the gifts they brought for him. But God warned the wise men in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they went home to their own country by a different way." —Matthew 2:10-12 (ICB)

I wonder how the wise men felt after their dream. I wonder how far out of their way the wise men had to go to avoid King Herod. I wonder if you've ever had to change plans like the wise men. I wonder what you were feeling when that happened.

The good news is that when plans change, we can be brave and follow God like the wise men. Because even when we feel like we're lost, God knows the way home.

CONFIRMATION CLASS;

Out of an abundance of caution, Confirmation class will not meet as scheduled on January 9. We will resume class as scheduled tentatively on January 23.

Mission & Outreach Ministry Giving Opportunities

Christmas Greetings from Ecuador:

The following was recently received from *Sara Flores*, General Board of Global Ministries Missionary to Ecuador, and her husband *Dakin*:

Dear friends,

In Latin America it is customary for families to celebrate Christmas Eve with a special dinner waiting for Christmas. The idea is to keep vigil until 12 o'clock at night, and with great joy to hug and wish each other a Merry Christmas.

It is likely that today we will not be able to stay awake until midnight, but we want to send you our embrace and our affection, we want to celebrate with you remembering the incarnation of God. With joy we celebrate remembering that Christ was born and brought into the world to us love and light that transforms and redeems life.

In Spanish Christmas Eve is Noche Buena, literally "Good Night" and may this be a Good Night and may tomorrow, which is Christmas, be filled with joy and peace. We wish this for you, and together let us pray for all the families who will not be able to celebrate a special dinner tonight or tomorrow night. Tonight, we are in Bolivia with Sara's brother's family, and before each lunch they sing together:

"Bless our bread lord, and give bread to those who have hunger, and hunger for justice to those who have bread."
A beautiful Latin American song that moves us with its profound message of gratitude and commitment to the Kingdom of God.

We send you our love. May Emmanuel, God with us, bless you.

Sara and Dakin

Below, we share with you the greetings of the Bishop of the Methodist Church of Ecuador.

*"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,"
which means, "God is with us." (Matthew 1:23)*

Greetings to all the brothers and sisters in your Church and organization.

God bless your families and ministries greatly.

The Methodist Church in Ecuador (IEMUE) thanks God for the companionship in mission that He has allowed us to develop with you in 2021. Your prayers and your support have been a great blessing to carry out programs with families, youth, women, and children; enabling the Good News of love and redemption in Christ Jesus to transform many lives and homes. All the Methodist Churches in Ecuador thank you for being part of God's Mission in our country.

This time of Advent and Christmas there are many activities in all the Churches despite the pandemic and the new wave of the omicron variant, thank God it is not yet having a great impact in Ecuador. We still must promote all the protection and recommendations to stop the spread. United in Prayer we hope that the mercy of our Lord may be present throughout the world.

**From Ecuador we pray that God's love will remain in your lives. Together we proclaim that God is among Us.
From the Middle of the World, we wish you a Happy and Blessed Christmas.
And may the new year of 2022 be full of blessings.**

**Rev. Alfredo Pilatuña, Bishop
United Methodist Evangelical Church of Ecuador
Dec 2021**

Generous Gifts to GWIM:

In this Advent/Christmas season the WUMC continued its support of the ministries of the Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministry with a donation of \$375.00 from the Covid Relief Fund and a donation of 27 gift cards totaling over \$450.00 for GWIM's Children's Holiday Party.

In thanksgiving for the first gift of \$375.00 we received the following note from Barbara Dublin, Executive Director of GWIM:

Dear Woodbury United Methodist Church, Thank you all for the amazing donations you always send our way! GWIM is so grateful for the awesome gift Rev. Paul Hibbard delivered to GWIM today. Wow – We appreciate your giving hearts. May the New Year be beautiful and wonderful for all. Love & Gratitude, Barbara Ann Dublin, M.S., Executive Director

Kudo Korner

Due to some unforeseen circumstances with the change in last Sunday's worship service; we thank Pastor Michael for being innovative in the delivery of his message. As he stated, for the next two weeks our service will be delivered on line only to keep everyone safe and healthy. Watch for more information regarding in house worship.

The Prayer Corner

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

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; 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*



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, Jane True, 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.



HAPPY "103" BIRTHDAY TO OUR FLORENCE BROWN on January 13th! Last year we had a birthday drive by for her but with Covid restrictions in full bloom again; this will not happen this year. Don't hesitate to shower her with birthday cards – her address is: 212 Pomperaug Woods, Southbury, CT 06488

If you would like to send someone a birthday card, please see our website @ www.woodburyumc.net for this month's birthday listing. Once we go back to in house worship - we are placing flowers on the altar again so let us know if you want to sign up for a particular date.

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!

