



WOODBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Find us on  /woodburyumc &  /woodburyumc



Rev. J. Michael Cobb, Pastor

Woodbury United Methodist Messenger

Wednesday, November 24, 2021

A Thanksgiving Message from Pastor Michael

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." - Philippians 4:6-7

WUMC family,

We have so much to be thankful for!

As I get to know this community, I regularly discover new depths of love, and talent, and Christ-rooted spirituality. You have offered many reasons for me to count myself fortunate to be your pastor, and I am thankful for you and our church.

What a challenging year this has been, both domestically and around the world! Yet I am reminded that God's people have always paused to give thanks, even in the middle of hardship. The first Thanksgiving was at a time when the survival of many of those first participants was very uncertain. Even more, this day was celebrated as a national holiday when the fighting and fear had erupted into Civil War, prompting President Lincoln to call on the American people to "ferently implore the interposition of the Almighty hand to heal the wounds of the nation." That could have been written this morning, and is a good prayer for the modern day. Please join me as we pray to help people who are hurting. Pray so that the prayers are not words only, but turned into action.

I am thankful for all that God is doing among us as we bring our stewardship campaign to a conclusion with prayers for the Holy Spirit to lead us into the future. Let us pray for our community, pray for the righteous administration of justice, pray for peace in the streets, pray for those who serve and protect both at home and abroad—but in our prayers, let us not neglect to give thanks to the God from whom all blessings flow.

God provides us with true blessings in abundance. We have joy and laughter; we have courage in the face of fear, hope where there is doubt, comfort when we have tears and sadness. God is with us in all things. John Wesley believed in the love and blessings of God. Even on his death bed, he said, "Best of all, God is with us."

Give thanks to the Lord always with a grateful heart. And may the peace of Christ be with you this Thanksgiving weekend.

Richest Blessings,
Pastor Michael



**Worship Together at the Same Time – 10:30 AM
Either in the Sanctuary or at Home!
Live Streaming Continues**

Sunday, November 28th



HomeSick
First Sunday of Advent

& also UMC Student Day

Sermon Text: 1st Thessalonians 3:9-13; Luke 21:25-36

Liturgist & Reader: Samuel Temple

Advent Candle Lighter & Readers: the Temple family

Greeter & Usher: Meg Temple

Singers: the Chancel Choir

Audio Visual Technician: Theron Kissinger

**Now that we are worshipping in house again; we ask that everyone pre-register
for worship on our church website: www.woodburyumc.net**

Please Join Us for Livestreamed Worship Events

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 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 “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#. Note that these numbers have changed from what was previously used. Please mute your phones to eliminate background noise.

SAVE THE DATES

Sunday, November 28 – UMC Student Day – The United Methodist Church’s special giving structure ensures your generosity blesses as many people as possible in sustainable, strategic ways. Together, our reach is beyond measure. There will be a special offering envelope in your Sunday bulletin.

Poinsettias ordering has begun – please see information in today’s bulletin – the deadline to place your order is Tuesday, December 7th. Payment must accompany the order.

Sunday, December 12 – Praise Band Christmas Celebration – 2:30 PM at WUMC -Just added to the calendar–mark the date! (see the flyer in the back of this Messenger – please share with your family and friends too)

Tuesday, December 21 – Blue Christmas Worship Service – 7:00 PM at WUMC

Thursday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Services – 4:30 & 7 PM watch for more details

2022 Chart is UP - Did You Want to Order Flowers?

Altar flowers greatly enhance our worship experience and provide a means for our members to honor loved ones. Now that we have opened the sanctuary for weekly worship, we are resuming the practice of placing flowers in the chancel area.

If you would like to donate a floral arrangement, please contact *Kathy Craig* in the church office, where the flower calendar is now kept. **There are openings for the beginning of December.** Our Christmas poinsettias will be displayed on Sunday, December 19th and will be available for pick up after our Christmas Eve Services. Please see the order form in the back of the Messenger to order your poinsettia for this year.




Updates from CRT (Covid Response Team)

Reminder: COVID Safety Protocols (last updated 16-Nov-2021)

- Attendees should pre-register for all worship services at www.woodburyumc.net.
- Social distancing of 6 feet between extended family units is required.
- Brief handshakes and hugs are fine, if both parties agree.
- Masks are required for worship service and church meetings/events, except as noted.
- Our fully vaccinated and pre-screened worship team may remove masks while speaking/singing as long as enhanced sanctuary ventilation is used.
- Non-worship service meetings/events must follow additional protocols.
- Grab-and-go refreshments are allowed. Please join us for Fellowship Hour immediately following the 3rd worship service of each month.

WUMC Helping Hands Ministry



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 or (203) 263-4775.



Version 6: 21-October-2021

Children & Youth Ministry News

LESSON

Read 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 with your family this week. This is what Paul wrote to his friends in the city of Thessalonica while he was away:

"We pray that we can see you again and give you all the things you need to make your faith strong. We pray that our God and Father and our Lord Jesus will prepare the way for us to come to you. We pray that the Lord will make your love grow more and more for each other and for all people. We pray that you will love others as we love you and that your hearts will be made strong."

I wonder what Paul was feeling when he wrote this letter. I wonder if you've ever felt those feelings, too. I wonder what you do when you miss someone. I wonder if you've ever missed your home. I wonder what it feels like to have to leave your home.

The good news is that God is always with us, even when we are away from home, even when we miss the people we love, and we can wait with hope for the day we get to see them again.

CONFIRMATION

Our next meeting is January 9, 2022 at 4 pm on the Church Empowered by the Holy Spirit.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School will meet again on the fourth Sunday in November, November 28. This also happens to be the first Sunday of Advent. The children will be following the adult devotional, *Closer to Home*. Our in person lesson will be about Hope and Homesickness, centering on 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13. Stay tuned for our children's advent series to follow. Each family will receive an Advent Bag and a short video will be available online that corresponds to each week's lesson.

ADVENT IN A BAG

Be sure to check your mailbox or porch this week! Special delivery of Advent in a Bag directly to your door for all families with teens and children. Simply follow the devotional and advent calendar included in the bag. Enjoy the coloring pages that relate to the devotional each week and color a section of the Advent wreath as you move through the weeks. Enjoy the treats included while you read Christmas stories, decorate your tree or color the wreath. Please take a picture of your completed wreath or you enjoying one of the activities in the bag and send it to Meg or Catherine. Be sure to look out for our video series during Advent, posted every Sunday morning on Facebook.

MISSION & OUTREACH TEAM ENCOURAGES GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

The *Mission and Outreach Ministry Team* is encouraging the members and friends of WUMC to take advantage of several giving opportunities in the coming weeks:

- **Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministry (GWIM) Holiday Gift Cards:** GWIM has invited us to support their Children's Holiday Party by providing gift cards for the families who will be coming to celebrate. They have asked for cards that will be an added treat for the family like: **McDonald's, Dunkin Donuts, Starbuck's, Subway, Wendy's, Dairy Queen, Carvel**. Cards may be brought to the church on any Sunday through December 19th and placed in Gift Card display.
- **Acts 4 Winter Clothing Drive:** Acts 4 Ministry of Waterbury is beginning a cold weather clothing drive and are asking for donations of **New and/or Gently Used** items to share with those in need this winter. Please see the clothing list and clothing donations can be brought to church on any Sunday and placed in the marked bins. The collection will be ongoing through the start of 2022.
- **Woodbury Community Services Council's Santa's Workshop:** See the Santa's Workshop flier for more information and where to find children's gift ideas. Gifts need to be dropped off at the Woodbury Public Library by December 3rd. If you purchase an item(s), we ask that you would please take a picture of your purchase and send it to the church office (email: wumc@woodburyumc.net) or text to Paul Hibbard at 860-488-7705, so we can create a collage of our generosity.

As you can see there are many opportunities to share the blessings we have received with others. We hope you will take these opportunities to show God's love is indeed at work in the world and is spoken in word and deed at the WUMC. If you have any questions about any of these opportunities please contact Paul Hibbard at 860-488-7705 or paulgyl@aol.com.

Share the Warmth Clothing & Accessory Drive

In preparation for the cold weather season, ACTS 4 is seeking new and/or gently used items to share with those in need for this winter.

For Men, Women and Children: Winter jackets, long sleeve tops, sweat pants, pajamas, jeans, belts, underwear & undershirts, socks, slippers, sneakers, boots, winter hats, gloves, scarves.

Men's additional items: hoodies

Women's additional items: sweaters, bras, leggings

Children's additional items: onesies, sweaters, snow suits, leggings



The Community Services Council of Woodbury



Santa's Workshop



GIFTS FOR OUR LOCAL FRIENDS IN NEED
CHILDREN – ADULTS - SENIORS

The following donations are requested for the 2021 Holiday Season....



Small Generic (unwrapped) Adult Gifts

*Example: Cozy slipper socks, warm throws, puzzles,
hand cream, special coffees & teas*

Wrapping Paper (sealed)

**Note: For donations of children's gifts or gift certificates
please visit**

***New Morning Market or the Woodbury Public Library
where "Giving Trees" are displayed.***

Donation deadline is 12/3.

Items may be dropped off at the Woodbury Public Library.

Questions - 203-510-9905

Kudo Korner

Congratulations to *James Levario* (mid-field) and *Matthew Shupenis* (goalie) on their season on Nonnewaug Soccer- winning the Berkshire League and going to the second round in State playoffs! Both are freshman! Way to go boys....

Thanks to last Sunday's worship leaders: *Shannon Cobb*, Certified Lay Servant; *Pastor Cobb*, Liturgist & Reader; *Grace Walkup*, Reader; *Sherry Swanhall* and *Meg Temple*, Greeters and Ushers; *the WUMC Chancel Choir*, Singers; *the WUMC Praise Band*, Singers and Musicians; *Theron Kissinger*, Audio Visual Technician.

The Prayer Corner

Continued prayers for those suffering in both *Haiti*, *New Orleans*, *Washington State*, and those suffering with depression.

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

Recovering at home: *Laura Brush*; *Gary McClendon*; *Lynne Brencher*; *Pat Kurtz*; *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*

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.



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.

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 woodmc@woodburyumc.net. This is also important to keep track of any of our college students as well!!!



Please join us for a WUMC Praise Band
Christmas celebration...

"I Need a Silent Night"

December 12, 2021

2:30 PM

Woodbury UMC
4 Church Street, Woodbury, CT

...and support our neighbors in need!

A freewill offering of food or monetary
contributions will be donated to the
Woodbury Food Bank.

Pre-register at <https://rsvp.church/r/CqMXUVqE>





Each Christmas season, our sanctuary is beautifully decorated with holiday trimmings and poinsettias. As the season approaches, we are now taking orders for the poinsettias, which may be in honor of, in celebration of, or in memory of one or more loved ones. A list of acknowledgments will be printed in the church bulletin on Sunday, December 19 and Christmas Eve.

Poinsettias are \$12.00 each. We encourage you to take your flower(s) home with you after the service on Christmas Eve.

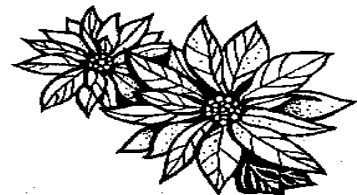
You may order your flower(s) by filling out the form below, and placing it in the collection plate, or returning it to the church office accompanied by a check or cash for total amount (a folder marked Poinsettias Orders is available on the office mail station). All checks should be made out to Woodbury United Methodist Church. ***All orders must be placed no later than Tuesday, DECEMBER 7TH.***

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

In honor/celebration/memory of: (circle appropriate one)

(If more space is required, please attach a separate piece of paper)

_____ Red poinsettia _____ Quantity
 _____ White poinsettia _____ Quantity



Please be sure to list all the necessary information so follow-up calls do not have to be made. Thanks!

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!

