



WOODBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Woodbury, CT 06798

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Find us on /woodburyumcct & /woodburyumcct



Rev. J. Michael Cobb, Pastor

Woodbury United Methodist Messenger

Wednesday, December 23, 2021

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

- This will be the last edition of the *Messenger* for 2021.
- Kathy Craig will be on vacation and the church office will be closed the week of December 26, reopening on Tuesday, January 4. The next edition of the *Messenger* will be published that week.
- Pastor Michael will be available as needed; however, he will be working from home preparing for 2022, you may reach him by phone or email as needed.

Christmas Eve – Children’s Service @ 4:30 PM

&

Christmas Eve – Traditional Service @ 7:00 PM



Invited
Home
Christmas Eve

Pastor’s Sermon: *Invited Home*

Due to the recent sustained increase in COVID cases, pre-registration for worship services is now required. Please do so online if possible (see the link at the top of our homepage at <http://www.woodburyumc.net> or go directly to <https://rsvp.church/r/CqMXUVqE>). Those who need assistance may call Mark Davis at 860-882-4427.

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

Sunday, December 26, 2021



CHOSEN
HOME
First Sunday After Christmas

Lectionary Readings: Luke 2:41-52

Liturgist & Reader: Rev. Paul Hibbard

Greeter & Usher: Meg Temple

**Singers: Rebecca Hibbard, Morgan & Venetia Phillippe,
And the Chancel Choir**

Audio Visual Technician: Theron Kissinger

**January 2: Epiphany Sunday
Sacrament of Holy Communion**

The Epiphany of the Lord (January 6) celebrates the coming of the wise men (magi), who brought gifts to the Christ Child, representing Gentile worshipers of the Jewish Messiah. We will observe Epiphany on Sunday, January 2.

Pastor's Sermon: *Home by Another Way*

Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 60:1-6; Matthew 2:1-12

Liturgist, Communion Steward & Reader: Shannon Cobb

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

For those that can't come to church "in person" 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 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

On Sunday afternoons, starting January 9th thru the end of February (taking off the two holiday weekends), 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 time has not yet been confirmed; however, we are looking at probably 12:30-2pm. More information will follow shortly.

Updates from CRT (Covid Response Team)

Reminder: COVID Safety Protocols (last updated 22-Dec-2021)

Due to the recent spike in COVID cases, our protocols have been refined for Christmas Eve services and for the foreseeable future. A complete list of refined protocols is provided below.

- Pre-registration for worship services is now required. Please do so online if possible (see the link at the top of our homepage at www.woodburyumc.net or go directly to <https://rsvp.church/r/CqMXUVqE>). Those who need assistance with pre-registration may call Mark Davis at 860-882-4427.
 - Masks are required for worship service and all church meetings/events. If a child is too young to wear a mask for the duration of a worship service or event, they should not attend in person.
 - Our fully vaccinated and pre-screened worship team may remove masks while speaking/singing as long as enhanced sanctuary ventilation is used.
 - Limit worship team singers to 3 distanced by 12 feet, unless a family unit; no congregational singing.
 - Assigned seating will be used whenever more than 50 attendees are anticipated.
 - Refrain from attending worship services/events in person if experiencing any cold, flu and/or COVID symptom within 10 days of the event, unless a subsequent negative COVID PCR test result is obtained.
 - A person who has been in close contact with a COVID infected person should be PCR tested 5-7 days (no sooner) after close contact and refrain from attending church events for 14 days or until a subsequent negative PCR test result is obtained.
 - The worship team, greeters, and ushers should be fully vaccinated, including booster when eligible.
 - Unvaccinated persons are encouraged to watch services/events from home, but will be accommodated if they choose to attend in person, as long as they comply with all safety protocols.
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Children & Youth Ministry News

Your Children & Teen Ministry team wish you all the joys of Christmas and look forward to brighter New Year with you. You are always invited and at home with us. This week read Luke 2:1-20 with your family. This is the story of Jesus' birth.

"While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have the baby. There were no rooms left in the inn. So she wrapped the baby with cloths and laid him in a box where animals are fed. That night, some shepherds were in the fields nearby watching their sheep. An angel of the Lord stood before them. The angel said to them, 'Don't be afraid, because I am bringing you some good news. It will be a joy to all the people. Today your Savior was born in David's town. He is Christ, the Lord. This is how you will know him: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a feeding box.' So the shepherds went quickly and found Mary and Joseph. And the shepherds saw the baby lying in a feeding box. Then they told what the angels had said about this child."

I wonder what Mary and Joseph felt when there was no room for them. I wonder what it felt like for the shepherds to get invited to meet Jesus. I wonder if the stable was crowded that night. I wonder what the animals thought of all these people in their home. I wonder what it feels like when you get invited to something special.

The good news is that God invites all of us to be close to Jesus, and anywhere we are together, even in a barn, God is there, too. Here are some ways you can extend the invitation home:

- Create an invitation for a friend to come to church with you.
- Play Sardines. One person goes to hide and the rest of the people seek the hider. When you find the hiding place, squeeze in until everyone is together.
- Read *Room for a Little One* by Martin Waddell and Jason Cockcroft.
- Learn about how other countries celebrate Christmas. What kinds of celebrations do they have? Which would you like to be invited to?

Confirmation

Our next meeting is January 9, 2021 at 4 pm about being made new in Christ in the Fellowship Hall.

Mission & Outreach Ministry Giving Opportunities

UMCOR DISASTER RESPONSE – Midwest Tornados.

A large swath of the midsection of our country, especially the state of Kentucky, has been devastated by severe tornados that have leveled whole communities and taken many lives. While the full toll of these tornados is not yet known the call has already gone out to provide support to our neighbors in these communities. The United Methodist Committee on Relief may not always be the first organization on the ground following a disaster, but they are usually one of the last ones to leave. If you would like to contribute to UMCOR's immediate and long-term response to this disaster please use the following web address to make a donation: <https://umcmision.org/advance-project/901670/>

Thank you for your help and your prayers.

- **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. 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.

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



Kudo Korner

Spreading Christmas Cheer: The Woodbury United Methodist Church's December "*I Need a Silent Night*" celebration continued to bring the Christmas spirit even after the music ended. This event raised \$1,250 for the *Woodbury Food Bank*, plus bags of pantry items. (Pictured are bandleader *Rod Carnes*, Community Services Council of Woodbury Executive Director *Bob Taylor*, and WUMC pastor *Rev. J. Michael Cobb*.)



Another Thank You to our Luminary Bag Fillers on Sunday, December 19th after worship in Fellowship Hall. Volunteers included: *Elizabeth Styblo, Samuel Temple, Joann King, Venetia Phillippe, Rae Ann Hockenberry, Rev. Paul Hibbard, Rod Carnes, Lydia Temple, Liam McGrath, and Mary Grace Styblo*. Your lights will be shining brightly on Christmas Eve!



Congratulations to *Andrew Styblo* for completing the Oxford Ambulance Association's Basic EMT program plus the State and National exams.

Thanks to last Sunday's worship leaders: *Bradyn Boisseau*, Liturgist & Reader; *Rowan Boisseau*, Reader; the *Shupenis* family, Advent Readers & Candle Lighters; *Carolyn Shay and Meg Temple*, Greeters & Ushers; the *WUMC Chancel Choir*, Singers; *Mark Davis*, Audio Visual Technician.

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.



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

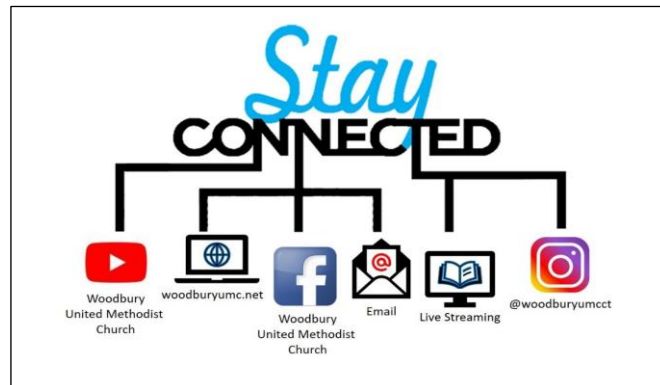
Mission Statement of the Woodbury United Methodist Church

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!





Christmas Flowers

2021

The beautiful poinsettias, which adorn our sanctuary are given by;

From David & Lynne Brencher; In loving memory of Ray & Ginny Fairty, George & Marion Brencher.

From Florence Brown; In loving memory of her husband, Gordon Brown.

From the Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Stuart Brush; In memory of all our near and dear ones (young and old) who have gone to be with the Lord.

From Travis & Amanda Cloud; In honor of our four wonderful children: Abby, Caroline, Annabelle & Jack and in memory of Charlotte Cloud, beloved grandmother and great grandmother.

From Kathy Craig; In memory of Kathy's parents, Dom & Shirley Lombardo and husband/ dad/ grandpa, Richard Craig, and in honor of all my children & grandchildren near and far.

From Lynn Cullen; In celebration of Christ's birth; and of dear friends both near and far.

From Mark Davis; In loving memory Abbie's grandparents: Bruce and Norma Davis & Roderick and Doris Blair.

From Jackie & John Fleming; In memory of our wonderful parents, and our aunt Marion.

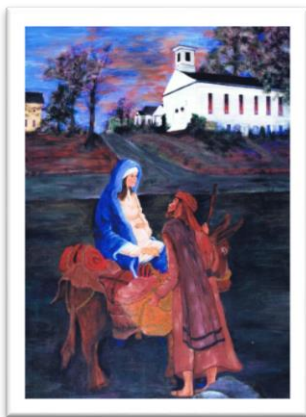
From Barbara & Jeff Hunt; In celebration of our church family.

From Joann King; In memory of my brother, Bill Jenusaitis.

From Catherine Mason; In memory of our parents and grandparents and all our loved ones.

From Carolyn Shay; In loving memory of our parents; Arthur & Elizabeth Ayars and Alyce & Joseph Bishop and Lee Shay.

From Christine Smith; In loving memory of her brother-in-law, Jack O'Brien and her parents, George & Hope Smith.



Thank you to Dawn Brownell for her donation of an oil painting she created a number of years ago while her and husband Tom were in Woodbury, CT



JANUARY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS AT WUMC

Sandra Carbonaro	Jan 2 nd
Lynne Brencher	Jan 3 rd
Mel Cole & Christine Smith	Jan 4 th
Jack Reyes	Jan 6 th
JoAnn Behlman, Austin Fimmano & Jasmyn Malagutti	Jan 7 th
Michelene Todd	Jan 8 th
Bill Wilhelms	Jan 9 th
Lindsey Behlman & Clement Quintyne	Jan 10 th
Kathy Craig, Josh Harwood & Jeff Jones	Jan 11 th
Travis Cloud	Jan 12 th
Florence Brown "103"	Jan 13 th
Tesu Beavers & Kathy Bower Richardson	Jan 16 th
Janna Boettcher & Dawson O'Hara	Jan 19 th
Regina Barcello	Jan 20 th
Samantha Roche	Jan 22 nd
Nathaniel Shay	Jan 23 rd
Skyler D'Andrea	Jan 24 th
Martha Asman	Jan 26 th
Paul Beavers	Jan 29 th
Barbara Yates	Jan 30 th

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU ALL,
BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS ARE ON THEIR WAY!**