



WOODBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4 Church Street
Woodbury, CT 06798
www.woodburyumc.net

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

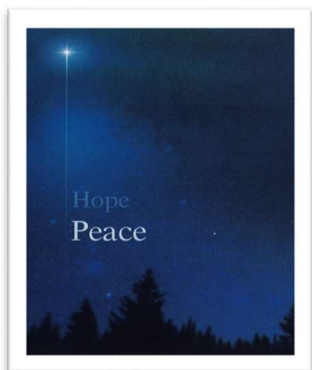


Rev. John A. Thomason, Pastor

Woodbury United Methodist Messenger

Tuesday, December 3, 2019

It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like . . . Advent!



The blue paraments and the Advent wreath have been placed in the sanctuary chancel, and the first Advent candle has been lit. Over the next three Sundays, our sanctuary will continue to be transformed into a place which truly welcomes the birth of the Christ-child!

Many of you are already enjoying the Advent devotional booklet prepared by the Adult Ministry Team, which offers daily meditations throughout the season. The booklet features artwork by our church's children and descriptions of family traditions, which will be highlighted each Sunday of Advent during the Children's Time.

The season of Advent marks the beginning of a new Christian Year, consisting of four weeks including four Sundays. The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin *advenire*, which means "coming." The season proclaims the comings of the Christ – whose birth we prepare to celebrate once again, who comes continually in Word and Spirit, and whose return in final victory we anticipate. Pastor John is preaching a sermon series entitled *Advent in Three Tenses*, focusing on these three comings of Christ. The liturgical color for Advent is blue, symbolizing hope.

December 8: Second Sunday of Advent

Lighting of the Second Advent Candle: *Peace*

Lighting of the Christmas Tree

Children's Time led by Bud Behlman and Carolyn Shay

Pastor's Sermon – *Advent in Three Tenses: The Second Advent*

James 5:7-10; Matthew 24:29-31, 36-44

How will you be spending your Saturday? Why not come down and join us????

Saturday, December 7, 2019

Christmas Café Vendor Fair
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Lunch served
From 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM

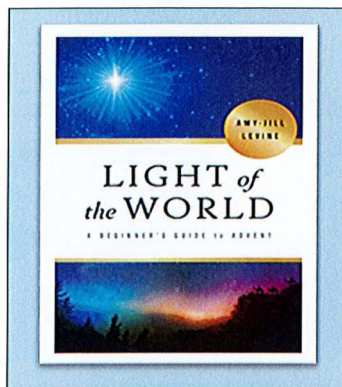
Stop and have lunch and shop at the vendor tables to purchase gifts. Don't forget to stop by our WUMC Women's Bake Sale and our Ecuador Mission trip items for sale too!

What a great way to spend a Saturday with a friend! Shopping and enjoying a home-made luncheon!



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Walk across the street afterwards for the Annual Woodbury Christmas Tree Lighting at 4:00 PM



Advent Study and Fellowship

If you have never participated in an Advent Study/Fellowship, this might be just the one for you...

Subtitled "*A Beginner's Guide to Advent*" the book we will be using explores the birth of Jesus from a Old and New Testament perspectives, touching on the:

- Role of women in early Jewish culture
- Visitation of Mary
- Roman Census
- Stable of Jesus' birth
- Star of Bethlehem
- Flight to Egypt

Each of the 4 sessions will include a video and discussion.

The Advent Fellowship is offered at the following times:

Sunday mornings from 8:45 – 9:45 AM in Fellowship Hall
Sunday evenings from 6:30 – 8:00 PM in the Assembly Room

Please Join Us As We Prepare For the Birth of Jesus – Anew!

Books are available at the church office for \$10 each and for additional information please contact: Bud Behlman @ 203-206-9276 or budbehlman@charter.net

Stewardship Update

Thanks to all of you have pledged your financial support of our church's ministry in 2020. The response thus far has been very encouraging, with a number of increased or new pledges. In the coming days, the Stewardship Committee will be contacting members who have not yet pledged and asking for an estimate of their giving for the coming year. Your commitment is vital to the ongoing health and strength of our church. Thank you in advance for your tangible dedication to God and to the work of God's people.

Holiday Giving Opportunities

Community Services Council of Woodbury – The Mission and Outreach Ministry Team will be collecting gift cards for the Community Services Council which they will distribute to individuals and families in need for the holidays. Cards that would be most appreciated are from: Stop & Shop, Shop Rite, LaBonne's, WalMart, Target and Dollar General. Also welcome are MasterCard or Visa, and Amazon gifts cards. Any amount per card is appreciated. Cards can be brought to church on the following Sundays: December 8, and 15 and left at the Mission & Outreach Holiday giving display.

Another "Giving Opportunity" is for toys for the **Greater Waterbury Interfaith Ministry**. We will be collecting new, unwrapped toys for their toy distribution on December 19. The children who will receive toys range in ages from infancy to 15 years old, so even sports equipment (basketballs, soccer balls) or gift cards are appropriate and appreciated for the teens. Gift card suggestions are for Dick's Sporting Goods, Walmart, Target, Barnes and Noble. There will be containers in the hall outside of the sanctuary for collection on Sundays December 1, December 8, and December 15.

Lastly, we want to express our deep appreciation for your generosity with all the household items you as a congregation contributed to ACTS 4 Ministry. They were thrilled to see the supplies that will be taken to the clients on the home visits that volunteers make each week.

You all are a "Blessing" and in giving, we are all blessed in return!
Mission and Outreach Ministry Team

Children and Youth Ministry

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Held during worship after the Children's Sermon for children through 8th grade.

YOUTH GROUP DECEMBER EVENT RESCHEDULED: This Friday, Dec. 6th at 4:30 the WUMC Youth Group invites you to join us to visit our homebound members to deliver decorated Christmas Trees and cookies while singing carols together. We will meet at the 1st stop - Pomperaug Woods in Southbury. We welcome all children 5th grade and under, but they need to be accompanied by a parent. Please let Catherine or Meg know if you are participating. If you can bring a half dozen or dozen Christmas cookies to add to the gifts to be delivered, it would be appreciated.

2019 WUMC CHRISTMAS PAGEANT – On December 15th, during our regular worship service, the WUMC Children & Youth and Music ministries are excited to present a new pageant that will portray the Christmas scriptures through a dramatic re-telling by our children and teens along with the musical talents of our youngsters and adults. Group roles are available if your child would like to join the pageant that morning as a "walk on" angel or animal. There may possibly be a couple of shepherd costumes as well. See Catherine Mason (cstyblo@msn.com/203-707-6571) for more info.

PAGEANT REHEARSAL SCHEDULE (children & teens):

Sunday, 12/8 (in Sunday School & after worship): Rehearsal

Saturday, 12/14 (4 PM): Dress Rehearsal

Sunday, 12/15 (9:15 AM): Final run through

Adult help is needed during practice to run kids through lines grouped by scene and to cue entrances during dress rehearsal and pageant.



Note: Please let Catherine (203.707.6571) know if your child can not make any of these rehearsals.



Thanks to members of the Youth Group for their time and talents of creating the Christmas trees for our home-bound members.

Community Events Committee Request

Sunday, December 15, 2019, at 2:00 P.M. WUMC will feature a **Christmas Concert** with the *Bennett family* of Cheshire, CT appearing in our Sanctuary. *Ray and Diane Bennett* and their eleven children have been performing for many, many years in CT and around the country, and we are thrilled they are coming to WUMC. For more information on this family, you can find them at www.bennettfamily11.org.



Share the flyer at the end of this Messenger – Event is Free and Open to all!

The committee is asking for volunteers to help with donating baked goods and refreshments. If you can help with this event – there is a sign up sheet in Fellowship Hall. Thank you in advance!

KUDOS KORNER

Congratulations to *Michael, Bradyn and Rowan Boisseau*, who were recently promoted to apprentice black belt students by the Roxbury Park and Recreation Karate organization. They were pictured in the November 11 edition of *Voices*.

The Prayer Corner:

Christian sympathy is extended to *Paul, Diane, and Rebecca Hibbard* in the death of Paul's father, *LeRoy Hibbard*, on November 28 in Derby. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, December 21, at 11:00 AM at Great Hill UMC, Seymour.

Christian sympathy is extended to *John and Jackie Fleming* in the death of their close friend and neighbor, *Ozzie Rapin*, on December 4 at Waterbury Hospital.

Outpatient procedure: *Venetia Phillippe* (December 10)

Hospice care at home: *Dave Davison*, father-in law of *Gary McClendon*

Inpatient rehabilitation: *Jim Cullen* (River Glen, Southbury); *Paula Girard*, mother-in-law of *Rynn Naylor* (Lutheran Home, Southbury); *Marie Petty*, aunt of *Kathy Craig* (Abbott Terrace, Waterbury)

Recovering at home: *Betsy Love*; *Lisa Saracino*, daughter of *Sherry Swanhall*; *Abby Cloud*; *Bob Davis*; *Gary Williams*; *Robert Ayers*, father of *Tracy Nettleton* (Woodstock, GA); *Gerry Furlong* (Leesburg, FL); *Jane King*, mother of *Stephen King* and mother-in-law of *Joann King* (Sarasota, FL); *Stephen Hawthorne*, grandson of *Gerry Furlong*; *Antonio Stillitano*, grandson of *Paul Hatch*; *Melanie Whiteside* (Draper, UT), *Patti Propocio* (Bristol, CT), and *Lucille Parsons* (Waterbury, CT), friends of *Kathy Craig*

Outpatient treatments: *Paul Hennessey*; *John and Jackie Fleming*; *Jimmy Rakiposki*; *Stephanie Galaburri*, friend of *Sandy Carbonaro*; *Will Styblo* (Franklin, TN)

Homebound member: *Florence Brown*

Please continue to remember: *Bob Davis*, *Nancy Clark*, *Jean Lilly*, mother of *Meg Temple* (Cincinnati, OH), the *Keith family*, *Manny Gesh*, *Beth*, *Jillian & Alex Buzzannco*, *Kelly Etcheto*, *Vernessa Kingsbury*, *Jim Congdon*, *Jane True*, *Blair Feller*, *Marilyn Bender*, *Eddie Lenox* (son of *Grace Bell*), *Ethan Murphy*, (great grandson of *Grace Bell*), *Brigitte Weimann*, *Ryan DeRidder and family*, *Ernest Corraro*, *Laura & Stuart Brush*, *Janet Grant* (sister of *Betty Lines*), and *The Thomson family of Ferndale, WA* (family of *Kathy Craig*).



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

Fellowship Hosts and Altar Flower Opportunities: The flower & fellowship host charts are posted in Fellowship Hall. Sign up to get the date of your choice! Each ministry team has been asked to volunteer for Fellowship.

If you want your flowers dedicated in the bulletin for a special occasion, please be sure to make us aware of that when ordering. Payment for the flower order should accompany the yellow order slip and left in Kathy's mailbox in the office or dropped in the Sunday plate, in advance of the order date.

If you don't have an occasion but would like to donate a floral tribute to one of our homebound members, please do so and Pastor John will deliver the arrangement during the following 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.** The answering machine will be checked daily; however, if you have a pastoral emergency, you can call Pastor John Thomason @ (203) 263-7575. 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!!!

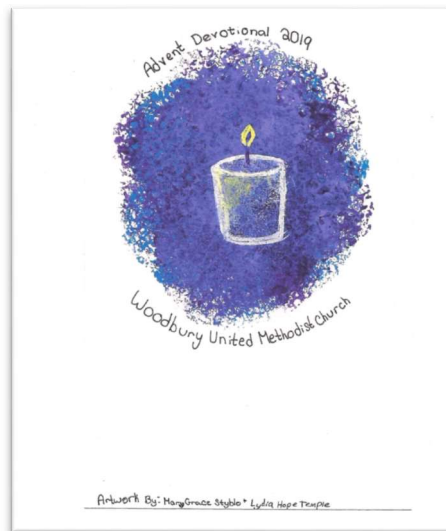
Calendar of Events at WUMC for next week:

All Ministry Chairs – please submit any ministry meeting times to the office so they can be put onto the calendars each week (Messenger, Office & Web). Thank you!

Fri., Dec. 6	4:30 p.m.	Youth Group Christmas Tree Deliveries & Caroling to Homebound Members	
Sat., Dec. 7	10:00 a.m.	Christmas Café Vendor Fair (downstairs classrooms & Fellowship Hall)	
Sun., Dec. 8	8:45 a.m.	Adult Advent Study (Fellowship Hall)	
	9:45 a.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	
	2nd Sunday of Advent	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service (Sanctuary)
	10:45 a.m.	Children's Sunday School (downstairs classrooms)	
	11:30 a.m.	Fellowship Hour (Fellowship Hall)	
	12:15 p.m.	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal (Sanctuary)	
	6:30 p.m.	Adult Advent Study (Assembly Room)	
Tues., Dec. 10	4:00 p.m.	We-Ring 2 Youth Bell Choir Rehearsal (Assembly Room)	

Wed., Dec. 11	11:30 a.m.	Weekday Bible Study/Fellowship Group	(Assembly Room)
	6:00 p.m.	Bell Choir Rehearsal	(Assembly Room)
	7:00 p.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	(Assembly Room)
Thurs., Dec. 12	6:00 p.m.	Board of Trustee meeting	(Wesley Room)
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council meeting	(Assembly Room)
Sat., Dec. 14	4:00 p.m.	Christmas Pageant Dress Rehearsal	(Sanctuary)
Sun., Dec. 15	8:45 a.m.	Adult Advent Study	(Fellowship Hall)
	9:15 a.m.	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal & Costuming	(downstairs classrooms)
	9:45 a.m.	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	(Sanctuary)
3rd Sunday of Advent	10:30 a.m.	Worship Service; <i>Children's Christmas Pageant</i>	(Sanctuary)
	11:30 a.m.	Fellowship Hour	(Fellowship Hall)
	2:00 p.m.	Bennett Family Christmas Concert Reception following in Fellowship Hall	(Sanctuary)
	6:30 p.m.	Adult Advent Study	(Assembly Room)

Please note: WUMC's worship services are streamed live on Facebook. To watch recordings of previous services, go to www.woodburyumc.net and click on the Facebook icon.



Please see Bud Behlman, Carolyn Shay or any member of the Adult Ministry Team to get your FREE copy of this year's Advent Devotional booklet Designed and produced by members of the Adult Education Committee and Youth of WUMC.

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.



Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors
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Presents
**Christmas Bells
& Apple Crisp**

Our Traditional
Christmas Handbell Concert

1:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 14, 2019



First Church of Bethlehem
On the Green in Bethlehem, Connecticut



Admission to the Concert is Free.

Donations to support Chime In! music programs will be gratefully accepted.

The Missions Committee of First Church of Bethlehem
presents

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Crafts and foods for sale

11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Sandwiches and lunch items for sale

1:00 p.m. **Christmas Handbell Concert by Chime In!**

2:00 p.m. **Hot Apple Crisp** with all the fixings. (\$5.00)

www.ChimeInMusic.org



JOIN US FOR A
CHRISTMAS CONCERT
BY THE BENNETT FAMILY

Sunday, December 15, 2019 - 2 PM

Come enjoy festive Christmas carols performed by the Bennett family of Cheshire, CT. This musical family will celebrate in song the Reason for the Season through vocals and a variety of orchestral instruments, handbells and accordions. It's a concert you won't want to miss!

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