





WOODBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4 Church Street
Woodbury, CT 06798

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Email: www.woodburyumc.net

Find us on /woodburyumc & /woodburyumc



Rev. J. Michael Cobb, Pastor

Woodbury United Methodist Messenger

Wednesday, December 1, 2021

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

Sunday, December 5, 2021



Laying the
FOUNDATION
Second Sunday of Advent

& also Communion Sunday

Sermon Text: Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 1:57-80

Communion Co-Celebrant & Reader: Rynn Naylor

Liturgist & Readers: Cody & Zach Cordova

Advent Candle Lighter & Readers: the Cordova family

Greeters & Ushers: Bud & JoAnn Behlman

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

Poinsettias ordering comes to an end this week – 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 (see information below)

Friday, December 24 – Christmas Eve Services – 4:30 Family & Children's Service & 7 PM Traditional Christmas Service

What is a Blue Christmas Service?

The format of Blue Christmas services vary church to church, but the common theme is dropping the usual merry and bright, and recognizing the hard stuff—loss, relationships, addiction — or just not feeling the festive joy we feel ought to come naturally. For those who associate Christmas with carols and ornaments and cozy family gatherings, it can seem strange to focus on such darkness. But this darkness has always been part of the story. At some point, all of us will be touched by darkness — if we're not living it right now. And if you look at the Christmas story, full of joyful promise, the darkness is there as well.

Blue Christmas (also called the Longest Night) is traditionally held on or around the longest night of the year, which falls on or about December 21, the Winter Solstice. Worship often includes opportunities for expression of grief and pain as well as an opportunity to focus on the promise of hope. The images of the winter solstice which include the longest night losing to the increasing longer day after midnight is a significant part of the imagery used in the elements of this particular worship event. There are growing resources and popularity around this tradition due to the relevance for many who struggle to find joy and hope during festive seasons.

"So there's this sense at Christmas that God's own self identifies with that sort of aloneness, and comes to be with people" comments theologian and educator Ben Stewart, who teaches worship at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. "How do we hold together the kind of wonder at a little infant child, and still make sure that we're challenging the Herods of the world, who would oppress children?"

Stewart points to the hymn Sweet Little Jesus Boy, popularized by Mahalia Jackson: "The world treats you mean, lord. Treats me mean, too. But that's how things are down here."

"At its deepest level, I think the Christmas gospels tell the story of God's entrance into this world from the underside," says Stewart. "And when all of us gather there together, and the marginalized are in the center — that's the promise of Christmas." To realize this promise, Christians need liturgies and theologies deep enough to hold the darkness — the blues alongside the Christmas joy. But it's a deep, hopeful, midnight blue — one that has us looking toward the dawn.

This includes elements adapted from 'Blue Christmas' Services Offer Refuge From Holiday Cheer, <https://www.npr.org/2019/12/21/790163502/blue-christmas-services-offer-refuge-from-holiday-cheer>

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. Do you have a special someone to remember? You could also order and donate to one of our homebound members! If you would like to donate a floral arrangement, please contact *Kathy Craig* in the church office, where the flower calendar is now kept.

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.
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Children & Youth Ministry News

LESSON:

Read Philippians 1:3–11 as a family. Paul believed that God was doing good work in the Philippians and would continue to do so. Paul helped them grow and they helped Paul continue to grow. I wonder what good work God is doing and you. Join us in our Advent Sunday School Facebook video on Sunday to learn more.

CONFIRMATION:

Our next meeting is December 5, 2021 at 4 pm on the Church Empowered by the Holy Spirit in the Fellowship Hall.

HIKE:

Please note our next hike that was tentatively scheduled for Sunday, December 12, at 12:15 pm at Southford Falls has been CANCELLED due to scheduling conflicts.

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

We hoped that you enjoyed receiving your family *Advent in a Bag* this past week. If you did not receive a bag, and would like one, several are available on the table outside of the sanctuary. Read the daily devotional as a family and follow the advent calendar included. Take time to color one of the advent candles each Sunday. Included are four coloring pages, one for each week of advent. Be sure to enjoy the popcorn as you watch a favorite Christmas movie, the cocoa and candy canes as you decorate your tree and some peppermint tea while coloring! A short video will be available each Sunday on Facebook during Advent that corresponds to our Close to Home Devotional. This week's video will be about peace and laying a foundation. Be sure to send Meg or Catherine a picture of you and your family enjoying something from the bag.

Mission & Outreach Ministry 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 below and clothing donations can be brought to church on any Sunday and placed in the marked bins in the office hallway. 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



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



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

Thanks to last Sunday's worship leaders: *Sam Temple*, Liturgist & Reader; *Meg Temple*, Reader; the Temple family, Advent Candle Lighters; *Meg Temple*, Greeter and Usher; *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*, 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 wumc@woodburyumc.net. This is also important to keep track of any of our college students as well!!!!

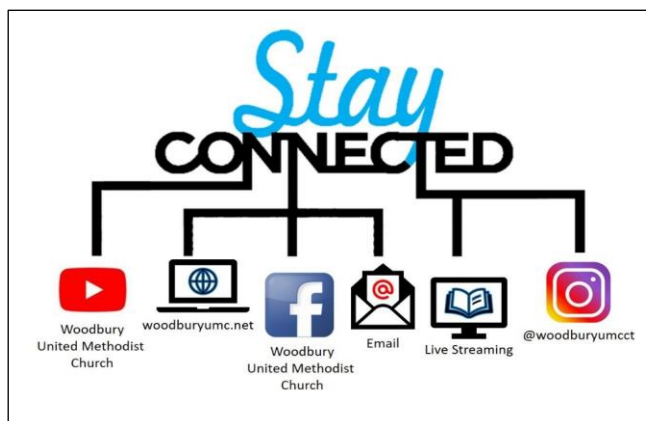
Mission Statement of the Woodbury United Methodist Church

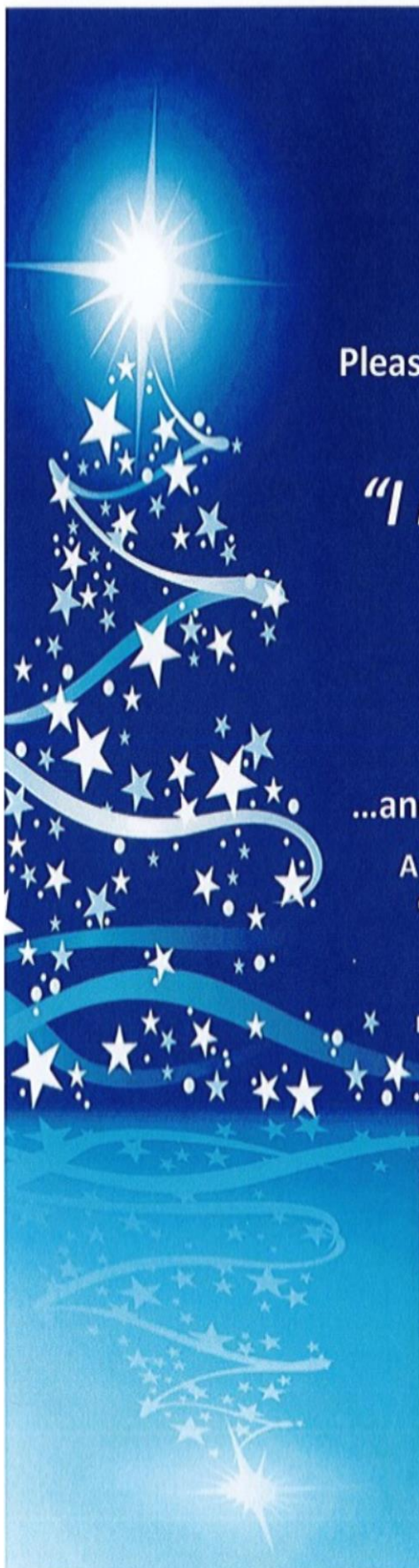
We are a welcoming Christian fellowship who celebrate and share God's love with everyone.

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!





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>



**NOTICE DEADLINE TO ORDER
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7TH (10:00 am)**



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!