




WOODBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4 Church Street
Woodbury, CT 06798

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Find us on /woodburyumcct & /woodburyumcct



Rev. J. Michael Cobb, Pastor

Woodbury United Methodist Messenger

Wednesday, February 2, 2022

February 6th

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany & Sacrament of Holy Communion

Worshippers at home are warmly invited to share in Holy Communion this Sunday. You may provide your own elements or request Communion kits from the church office. Your Bread and Cup will be consecrated along with those of in-person worshippers.

Lectionary Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Liturgist, Communion Steward & Reader: Shannon Cobb

Singer: Kate Keeler

Audio Visual Technician: Theron Kissinger

In-Person Worship Resumes this Sunday, February 6th!

Details and Updated Safety Protocols are on the next page ➡

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.
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COVID Response Team Update

We are delighted to announce that we plan to resume in-person worship on February 6th.

Why is it safe to return now? Our COVID response team has carefully re-evaluated our protocols and found that they are more than sufficient to allow us to worship together safely. Community spread is down and COVID tests are now more readily accessible to help distinguish between cold/flu and COVID symptoms. Finally, MIT modeling tools show that we can safely accommodate our max capacity of 75 people if we upgrade to multi-layer surgical or N/KN-95 masks, while continuing our previous safety protocols.

Here is how you can do your part to protect your church family at in-person worship:

1. Pre-register for the service on our website, www.woodburyumc.net.
2. Upgrade your mask to at least a surgical mask. We strongly encourage you to wear an N/KN 95 mask for increased protection. Both will be available to anyone who needs one at check-in.
3. If you or a family member is ill, please stay home and continue to enjoy the service online at our website, www.woodburyumc.net, or our YouTube channel at http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCN-kkokTCbVE9urwgP_AEcw.
4. Maintain your distance from other family units after briefly greeting one another.

Mission & Outreach Ministry News

February is Woodbury Food Bank Month

February is our next opportunity to provide volunteers for the Woodbury Foodbank. Thank you to all the volunteers that will be covering the Friday shifts throughout the month. Reminder – **the 3rd Sunday** of the month (Feb. 20th), there will be a dedication of donated items that will be delivered to the Food Bank. Watch for your Messenger next week for an updated listing of any priority needs requested. As always, thank you!

Rev. Paul Hibbard, Chair - Mission & Outreach Ministry Team

Children & Youth Ministry News

CONFIRMATION CLASS RESUMES February 6, 4-6:30 PM with a Revised Schedule into June. Mentors and Confirmation families see email & US Mail. Let us know ASAP of any conflicts. **Note to All: Confirmation Sunday has been rescheduled for Pentecost Sunday, June 5.**

UMC HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIPS: 1. The United Methodist Higher Education Foundation offers several scholarships for active United Methodist students attending Methodist-related institutions of Higher Learning or seminary. Applications are now open with a March 1, 2022 deadline. See [Scholarships - UMHEF](#). 2. The United Methodist General Board of Higher Education and Ministry (GBHEM) has a program offering scholarships and loans for United Methodist Students in the USA. See [GBHEM - Loans & Scholarships](#).

SWEET TREATS: Did you read this message? **Click on this link & receive a "sweet treat"** (Open to All): <https://forms.gle/nVZjM4hmAatK9wnaA> (Sign up for the sweet treat, view an inspirational LOVE message. Also includes an optional brief 2 question survey.)

AT HOME FAMILY SCRIPTURE READING & REFLECTION (ALL AGES)

Love Never Ends: Being The Body of Christ

This week's scripture talks about how Paul held onto his faith despite not having been personally with Jesus.

READ TOGETHER: This week as a family read the words of **1 Corinthians 15: 1-13** several times.

REFLECT TOGETHER: Family Discussion Questions

- What is some "good news" that you could share right now? (Note – Have a family member jot these on paper to include these pieces of "good news" to your family prayer time. These could be personal items, stories from the community, or news that people are happy and excited about.)
- Why do you think the gospel is considered "good news"? (See verse 2.)
- What does Paul tell us to do with the gospel message in verse 2? (Hold it firmly.) Why is holding on to the good news important for Christians? How do you think this was helpful advice to early Christians? Why might it also be beneficial advice for us today?
- Verse 9 says, "For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle because I persecuted the church of God." What do you think it means to be called a Christian?
- Paul was happy to wear the label, "Christian". Do you think it is easy to publicly be known as a Christian now, or not?
- Have you ever felt like you didn't "deserve" to be called a Christian?
- How have you encountered the "good news" of God's love for yourself.

ACTIVITY: 1)"What's More Important" Game (Format like "Would You Rather")– One by one the leader (Take turns being the leader) asks the family the questions like those that follow& family members respond by moving left (option A) or right (option

B): [A-Peanut Butter or B-Jelly]; {The Chocolate or Marshmallow in a S'more} [Exercise or Reading]; [Valentine's Day or Easter]; [Attending School or Attending Church]; [The Bible or (B) Hymnal in worship] [A lot of friends or a handful of really close friends];
2) **What's Important for Your Family Creed**": Read the Apostles Creed together and discuss what is important to you as a family. A Family member should record on paper See this link for the **Apostles Creed** <https://www.umc.org/en/content/apostles-creed-traditional-ecumenical>

PRAY TOGETHER: Include the "Good News" items from above in your family prayer.

Adapted from: "Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany, Year C - Youth Lessons." *UMC Discipleship Ministries*, The United Methodist Church, [Discipleship Ministries | Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany, Year C -...](#) (umcdiscipleship.org).

Kudo Korner

Each week we will be featuring those that stepped up and led us in worship with some from the "comfort of their own home." We would like to thank those that led us safely in last Sunday's service: *Diane Hibbard, Mumbi Musau, and Neema Syovata*, Readers; *Paul and Rebecca Hibbard*, Singers; *Jack Cloud*, Musician; *Theron Kissinger*, Audio Visual Tech; *Chris Shay*, Music Director; and *Pastor J. Michael Cobb*. Thank you all!!!

The Prayer Corner

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

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*

Please remember our Confirmands: *Annabelle Cloud, Cody Cordova, Zachary Cordova, James Levario, and 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, 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.

A REMINDER ON FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR:

We will be attending "in-person" worship beginning this Sunday, February 6th and we will be placing flowers on the altar again, so let us know if you want to sign up for a particular date. Currently we are open for February 20th. Call the office at (203) 263-4775 or email at wumc@woodburyumc.net. After February 6th, the floral chart will be placed in the Narthex for your convenience if you would like to select a date further into the year. REMEMBER: if you don't have an occasion, you can donate and we will be sure to deliver them to one of our homebound people during that week.

MEETING SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

- Sun., Feb. 6th** – Confirmation Class – 4-6:30 PM, Assembly Room
 - Tues., Feb. 8th** – Open Doors Ministry Team Meeting, 7:00 PM, Assembly Room
 - Thurs., Feb. 10th** – Board of Trustee Meeting, 7:00 PM, Assembly Room
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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!

Spirituality & Dementia

A Webinar with Lynn Casteel Harper

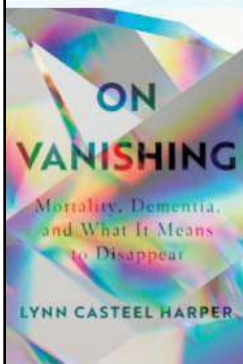
March 3, 7-8 pm



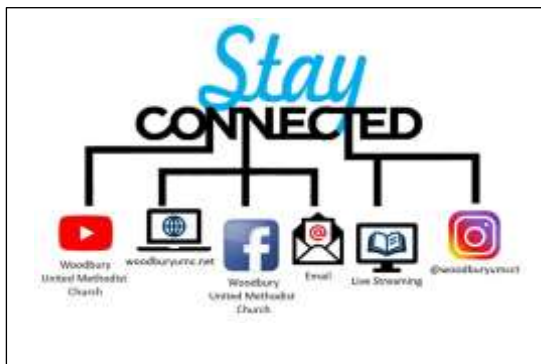
Dementia is one of the most feared conditions. Stigma, dread, and negative stereotypes often surround cognitive loss—but people of faith have resources to offer more life-affirming approaches to this common and complex human experience. Facilitator Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper will explore spiritual aspects of dementia, inviting participants to expand understandings of dementia beyond progressive vacancy and dread to make room for hope, creativity, friendship, and spiritual growth.

Register at bit.ly/casteelharper.

Sponsored by the Northern Westchester Interfaith Council, the Westchester-Putnam Cooperative Parish of the United Methodist Church, and the NY Conference of the United Methodist Church.



Rev. Lynn Casteel Harper is the author of *On Vanishing: Mortality, Dementia, and What It Means to Disappear* (Catapult, 2020), a New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice. She currently serves as the Minister of Older Adults at The Riverside Church in the City of New York. Lynn completed her M.Div. at Wake Forest University and her chaplaincy residency at Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital. Before joining Riverside's staff, Lynn was a nursing home chaplain at a continuing care retirement community.



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!