



## WOODBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4 Church Street  
Woodbury, CT 06798  
[www.woodburyumc.net](http://www.woodburyumc.net)

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

Rev. John A. Thomason, Pastor



# Woodbury United Methodist Messenger

Wednesday, March 18, 2020

## ABBREVIATED SPECIAL EDITION OF THE *MESSENGER*

With many church activities either canceled or scheduled in a different format, our first priority is to help you be aware of these changes and your opportunities to participate.

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### WUMC Response to COVID-19 (also known as Coronavirus) from Mark Davis, Lay Leader

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and latest CDC and CT guidance, WUMC has taken several steps to do its part in slowing the spread of the virus and protecting the ones we love. As part of this effort, **all 'non-essential' meetings and events will either be held remotely or rescheduled/cancelled until further notice.** Committee chair persons or meeting organizers will communicate decisions regarding their respective meetings/events.

**WORSHIP SERVICES will be held remotely as long as deemed necessary at the usual starting time of 10:30 AM on Sundays.** Special **Holy Week services** will also be offered, and more specific information about them will follow in the days to come.

- **In-church attendance** is restricted to people who are needed to conduct abbreviated services to be live-streamed online via Facebook and Instagram.
- **To watch live or archived recordings of worship services** on Facebook, go to [www.woodburyumc.net](http://www.woodburyumc.net) and click on the Facebook icon. No personal Facebook account is required. On Instagram go to [woodburyumcct](https://www.instagram.com/woodburyumcct). For some reason, audio may be better when streaming to a cell phone than a PC. Instagram audio quality is better in general. Please contact Theron Kissinger via e-mail at [theronk@hotmail.com](mailto:theronk@hotmail.com) if you have any issues with either method.
- **Audio only** also will be provided via teleconference call-in for those who do not have computers or smart phone (203-633-3808 -- no PIN required) or for those having trouble hearing on Facebook or Instagram. For those using the call-in #, please ensure your phones are placed on mute during the service.
- To enhance the livestreaming experience, a **worship bulletin** will be sent via e-mail before each service, so remote participants can better follow along. Please feel free to provide suggestions for enhancing these remote services.

**A remote FELLOWSHIP HOUR is also being offered by phone** 3 times per week on Sunday at 11:45 AM and Monday/Wednesday at 7:30 PM (call in #: 203-633-3808, no PIN required). This will offer WUMC members an opportunity to stay in touch, pray together, express joys/concerns, ask questions, and seek assistance.

**Pastor John and Care Corps members will also be reaching out to all church members** to stay in touch and ensure that everyone is receiving the support they need. Please stay in touch with fellow members, bring forward any concerns or need for support, and pray for those affected, including health care workers that put themselves at risk. Please do not hesitate to call Pastor John (845-707-5152), Mark Davis (860-882-4427) or the WUMC office (203-263-4775) to seek assistance.

**More detailed information** regarding WUMC's initial response to COVID-19 can be found in the letter published via e-mail on March 13, 2020. Every effort will be made to communicate on a timely basis through multiple channels (*Messenger*, e-mail, phone, and WUMC's website and Facebook page).

**Additional general information and guidance** on COVID-19 can be found at the links list below. You can also call 2-1-1 for general questions related to coronavirus.

- [www.pddh.org/programs/covid-19-coronavirus.php](http://www.pddh.org/programs/covid-19-coronavirus.php)
- [portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus](http://portal.ct.gov/Coronavirus)
- [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html)
- <https://www.nyac.com/>

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## MESSAGE FROM WUMC FINANCE COMMITTEE

Some people have asked about **how to submit pledged or non-pledged contributions** during this time of remote services. This is important since cash flow for WUMC has been a challenge and will become more so if church members defer their giving until they can resume attending services in person.

We want to make sure everyone is aware that **automated electronic transfer of donations** can be easily arranged by logging onto the Church's secure website <https://woodburyumc.net/online-giving> and completing a registration form. The Finance Committee will be sending out a one-page letter via e-mail to provide information in the form of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), which may be helpful to you as you consider automated online giving. Additional questions can be directed to the church's Financial Secretary, Bill Wilhelms at [billwilhelms@gmail.com](mailto:billwilhelms@gmail.com).

**If you are finding that you are in financial difficulties** due to the pandemic, please do not let your pledge commitment weigh on you as an additional stress. But please let Toby McGrath or Joann King (Stewardship Committee) know of your situation and intentions regarding your contributions, the Finance Committee can adapt as best we can. If you are able to meet or exceed your pledge commitments, we would much appreciate your efforts to stay current, allowing us to continue to work together to answer God's call, despite being unable to be together physically.

**If you have not pledged this year**, but still plan to provide financial support to WUMC, please consider pledging now. As Pastor John highlighted in his "Life of the Church" message in mid-February, the number of pledgers and total pledged funds are down this year. While non-pledged support is equally valuable, pledged support allows the church to have better visibility to financial status and better ability to plan and make tough decisions.

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Thanks to *Catherine Mason* for putting together a listing of resources to use at home for children & youth in place of Sunday School and youth study.



### WOODBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

#### LIST OF ONLINE RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES HOME BASED WORSHIP, STUDY & "HOMESCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL"



***Note** – Parents or other caregivers please preview any online resources and as always monitor your children's usage of the internet. Local school districts and government agencies have online resources regarding safe internet use available. Here is another resource*  
<https://www.common sense media.org/privacy-and-internet-safety>

**WUMC ONLINE WORSHIP** broadcast live Sunday mornings - videos available through Facebook & Instagram - <https://woodburyumc.net/> or <https://www.facebook.com/woodburyumcct/>

**LENT & EASTER BIBLE STORIES– Videos & other resources from The Bible Society (UK)** (Excellent!)  
<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/landing/the-super-cool-story-of-jesus-video/> "Super Cool Story of Jesus"  
(Beautiful video about Jesus and his love for us. It leads into the Easter Story)  
[https://youtu.be/Aj0K\\_iUitGQ](https://youtu.be/Aj0K_iUitGQ) – "The Miracle Man" (Children's Video – Miracles of Jesus leading into Easter Story)  
[www.biblesociety.org.uk/content/get\\_involved/easter/2019/resources/script.pdf](http://www.biblesociety.org.uk/content/get_involved/easter/2019/resources/script.pdf) "The Miracle Man" Script – Reader's Theater Activity  
<https://youtu.be/ndtnZV-5QTo> "The Seriously Surprising Story" (Children's video of the story of Jesus & Jesus' followers as they travel on the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus)

<https://youtu.be/6le7FMpjgvs> “The Crucifixion & Resurrection” (Teens & adults - Lent & Easter)

**MARCH 22, 2020 – “JESUS HEALS THE BLIND MAN” - *Lectionary Based Bible Story Resources* - John 9:1-41**

<https://ministry-to-children.com/lesson-jesus-heals-a-man-born-blind-john-9-1-41/>

<https://youtu.be/69VrswH4sPk> - The Beginner's Bible – Video “Jesus and His Miracles” – (Overview of the miracles Jesus performed with different “miracle” Bible stories dramatized. For children)

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4793/worship-for-kids-march-26-2017> (Background information for adults on how to present the day's Lectionary scripture selections to children. Children's worship ideas that can be adapted for family devotional or study time.)

**MARCH 29, 2020 – “JESUS RAISES LAZARUS FROM THE DEAD” & “DRY BONES”**

*Lectionary Based Bible Story Resources*

“Jesus Raises Lazarus from Dead” *John 11:1-45*....

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/4822/worship-for-kids-april-2-2017>

<https://ministry-to-children.com/lesson-jesus-waiting/>

<https://ministry-to-children.com/the-resurrection-of-lazarus/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dca8SSxXCmM> Saddleback Kids

“Dry Bones” *Ezekiel 37:1-14* ....

<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/927/speaking-to-dry-bones> (Adult/teen background information)

<https://www.biblefunforkids.com/2015/05/cathys-corner-ezekiel-and-valley-of-dry.html> (At home children's ideas including crafts)

<https://youtu.be/OCtneZbJb3Q> (Dry Bone song - FUN!)

<https://youtu.be/-AhAdII3yAc> (Another song video)

**LENT: OTHER FAMILY & SUNDAY SCHOOL RESOURCES**

<https://www.rootedfamily.com/lifestyle/activities/simple-lent-activities-for-all-christian-families/>

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/2018-family-study-for-lent>

<https://ministry-to-children.com/lenten-bible-lessons-for-kids/>

<https://hopechapelsterling.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/lightsofeasterdevotional.pdf>

<https://blog.cph.org/teach/4-ways-teach-kids-lent> (Lutheran)

<https://www.rca.org/resources/family-activity-lent-making-pretzels-0> **Fun Family activity – make pretzels for Lent**  
(Historical background w/ family prayer suggestion & recipe. Ingredients needed: Water, flour, yeast, egg, sugar, Kosher salt with family, faith & fun!)

**GENERAL RESOURCES:**

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiM9mWNxTWpKY-V9Eb9TfkA> - The Beginners Bible

<https://ministry-to-children.com/> - Sunday School, Youth Study, Children's Sermons & more – currently posting ideas for churches & families in relation to “online”, “remote” children's ministry.

<https://www.cokesbury.com/9781501890895-Holy-Moments>

<https://www.amazon.com/Holy-Moments-Activities-Teaching-Children/dp/1501890891>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJmiKpQOgxXZaVGbV0Mvm8w> Cedarmonst Kids (songs)

**FAMILY MOVIES & ENTERTAINMENT:**

<https://www.pureflix.com/> On demand streaming service with family-friendly and Christian entertainment includes movies for all ages, kid's animated titles, documentaries, inspirational, and more. Free trial available

<https://dove.org/> The Dove Foundation is a non-profit organization that issues film reviews, ratings and endorsements of movies that it considers suitable for family audiences, and that bases said reviews on Christian values.

**BIBLE CRAFTS: (General)**

<https://ministry-to-children.com/sunday-school-crafts/>

<https://youtu.be/4YwRf0IU58>

<https://www.daniellesplace.com/html/bible-crafts-f.htm>

<http://www.dltk-bible.com/>

**THE REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY READINGS:** *(through March 28<sup>th</sup>)*

<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>

YEAR A

**SUNDAY LECTIONARY READINGS**

<b>Fourth Sunday in Lent</b> March 22, 2020	1 Samuel 16:1-13	Psalm 23	Ephesians 5:8-14	John 9:1-41
<b>Annunciation of the Lord</b> March 25, 2020	Isaiah 7:10-14	Psalm 45 or <i>Psalm 40:5-10</i>	Hebrews 10:4-10	Luke 1:26-38
<b>Fifth Sunday in Lent</b> March 29, 2020	Ezekiel 37:1-14	Psalm 130	Romans 8:6-11	John 11:1-45

**WEEKDAY LECTIONARY READINGS** *(through March 29<sup>th</sup>)* \*

Week of Sunday, March 15, 2020 -

- Thursday, March 19, 2020: Psalm 23; 1 Samuel 15:10-21; Ephesians 4:25-32
- Friday, March 20, 2020: Psalm 23; 1 Samuel 15:22-31; Ephesians 5:1-9
- Saturday, March 21, 2020: Psalm 23; 1 Samuel 15:32-34; John 1:1-9

Week of Sunday, March 22, 2020 -

- Monday, March 23, 2020: Psalm 146; Isaiah 59:9-19; Acts 9:1-20
- Tuesday, March 24, 2020: Psalm 146; Isaiah 42:14-21; Colossians 1:9-14
- Wednesday, March 25, 2020: *Annunciation of the Lord*
  - Psalm 146; Isaiah 60:17-22; Matthew 9:27-34
- Thursday, March 26, 2020: Psalm 130; Ezekiel 1:1-3, 2:8-3:3; Revelation 10:1-11
- Friday, March 27, 2020: Psalm 130; Ezekiel 33:10-16; Revelation 11:15-19
- Saturday, March 28, 2020: Psalm 130; Ezekiel 36:8-15; Luke 24:44-53

*Suggestion – Use these weekday Scripture selections as part of daily family devotional time*

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## March 22: Fourth Sunday in Lent

**Pastor's Sermon: *God's New Normal***

**Lectionary Readings:**

**1 Samuel 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41**

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## LENTEN ADULT STUDY

Our adult Lenten study of Adam Hamilton's book, *The Walk*, continues uninterrupted on Tuesday nights from 6:30 – 8:00 PM. Just dial the church's conference call number (203-633-3808 – no pin required) and you're in. Participation has been excellent! Please join us. Contact *Bud Behlman* or *Pastor John* if you need a book. Our next session on Tuesday, March 24, will focus on chapter 4, *Give*.

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# Children and Youth Ministry

The Children & Youth Ministry team encourages our families to enjoy time together with family devotional time, study, prayer, reflection & fun. A list of resources related to season of Lent and Easter has been prepared for @ home family study in place of our Sunday school and youth study over the upcoming weeks. This resource includes videos, lessons that can be adapted for home use, background information for adults, & family activities for lent, Easter & lectionary-based Bible stories for March. Many are appropriate for children with a few good for teens too! Please see the attached file. If you have comments, recommendations for additions or questions, or need assistance please contact Catherine Mason, 203-707-6571 or [catherine.mason02@outlook.com](mailto:catherine.mason02@outlook.com).

Our children & youth recently completed the *Unafraid* study in Sunday School and Youth Group. They hope to share their experience and new knowledge and insight with the WUMC congregation soon with a re-scheduled Youth-Led Worship Service. See the pictures on the next page from Sunday School and our recent WUMC Youth Retreat.



# Kudo Korner

*Josh Harwood* was pictured and featured in an article in the March 4 edition of **Voices**. The article announced that Josh has become an affiliated real estate agent with Drakeley Real Estate in Woodbury. He was cited for the "previous experience, determination, and extensive knowledge of the local community" that he brings to his new role. Congratulations, Josh!

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## The Prayer Corner:

**Congratulations** to *Andi Craig* and *Dave Markey* upon the birth of a baby daughter, *Alivia Marie*, on March 17 at Waterbury Hospital. Alivia will remain in neonatal ICU for the next few weeks. The proud grandmother is *Kathy Craig*!

**Congratulations** to *Jay* and *Rae Ann Hockenberry* upon the birth of a great-granddaughter, *Charlotte Teresa Clemente*, on March 10 in Ocean, NJ. The proud parents are *Adam* and *Jillian Clemente*.

**Christian sympathy** is extended to *Bud Behlman* and family in the death of Bud's cousin, *Wendi Drown*, on March 15 in Derby. A private funeral service will be held on March 20.

**We rejoice** that *Gary Williams* has been given a clean bill of health following recent radiation treatments at Yale-New Haven Hospital. Praise the Lord!

**In the hospital:** *Andi Craig*, (Waterbury Hospital)

**Home from the hospital:** *Todd Holtman*, friend of the *Lynch* and *Nettleton* families

**Home from inpatient rehabilitation:** *Carl Hinkle*, father of *Toby McGrath* (Greensburg, PA)

**Hospice care at home:** *Paula Girard*, mother-in-law of *Rynn Naylor*

**Inpatient rehabilitation:** *Cordelia Ursone*, mother of *Rick Richardson* (Greenwich Woods Rehab Center, Greenwich, CT); *Paul Weber*, friend of *Joy Eusebio* (Hardeeville, SC); *Robert Ayers*, father of *Tacy Nettleton* (Woodstock, GA); *Jimmy Rakiposki* (River Glen, Southbury); *Marie Petty*, aunt of *Kathy Craig* (Abbott Terrace, Waterbury)

**Recovering at home:** *Gary Williams*; *Dave Davison*, father-in-law of *Gary McClendon*; *Donna Louise Burke*, friend of *Kathy Craig*; *Peter Gallagher*, father of *Jen Carnes* (Brookfield, CT); *Lou Calabrese* (husband of *Lynn Ramsden-Calabrese*); *Abby Cloud*; *Jane King*, mother of *Stephen King* and mother-in-law of *Joann King* (Sarasota, FL); *Antonio Stillitano*, grandson of *Paul Hatch*

**Outpatient treatments:** *John* and *Jackie Fleming*; *Gerry Furlong* (Leesburg, FL); *Stephanie Galaburri*, friend of *Sandy Carbonaro*; *Will Styblo*, nephew of *Jim Styblo* and *Catherine Mason* (Franklin, TN)

**Homebound member:** *Florence Brown*

**Please continue to remember:** *Joy Eusebio*, *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, *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](http://www.woodburyumc.net) for this month's birthday listing. **This week's birthdays are:**

March 22	<i>Esther Lin</i>
March 27	<i>Abbie Davis</i>
March 28	<i>Joy Eusebio</i>
March 29	<i>Alex Buzzannco</i>

**Fellowship Hosts and Altar Flower Opportunities:** **THERE ARE MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR FLOWERS AND FELLOWSHIP FOR THE REMAINDER OF 2020.** This year's 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](mailto:wumc@woodburyumc.net). This is also important to keep track of any of our college students as well!!!

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Since the Easter service will be offered only remotely, the Worship Team is evaluating if we will be placing flowers on the altar. Watch for further information. Until such time, the selection and prices are listed below for your information.

Watch for the Easter Flower Order information coming out in your Sunday bulletin. . .

Deadline to order will be **Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>** and your choices this year will be:

. Due to various members having allergies to strong fragrant floral aromas, we have decided not to order hyacinth this year. We apologize in advance if this causes any inconveniences; we want you all to be comfortable when you are here for worship.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Easter Lily (\$10.00)**      \_\_\_\_\_ **Daffodils (\$8.00)**      \_\_\_\_\_ **Red Tulips (\$8.00)**

\*Please include below your acknowledgement; in honor of, in celebration of, or in loving memory of one or more loved ones. A list will be printed for the Messenger during Easter week.

**All flower orders must be paid in advance.** Simply fill out the form below, and return it to the church office accompanied by a check or cash for the total amount or mail it to; 4 Church Street, Attn: Kathy Craig, Easter Flowers. All checks should be made payable to Woodbury United Methodist Church. You can also visit our website @ [www.woodburyumc.net](http://www.woodburyumc.net) to order your flowers. Be sure to fill out everything needed. Thanks!

Please return all orders by **Sunday, March 29, 2020**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor/celebration/loving memory of: (please circle one):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **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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