



## 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, May 6, 2020

Please join us for Sunday services!  
Remote playback begins at 10:30 am

- Archived on **Facebook**: go to [www.woodburyumc.net](http://www.woodburyumc.net), click on the direct link to recorded worship services or to the Facebook icon (no personal Facebook account is required).
- On **Instagram** go to woodburyumcct.
- **Audio only**: An audio-only playback of the worship service will also be broadcast via telephone at the appointed hour. You may listen to this broadcast by dialing (701) 802-5464. When prompted, enter the PIN with hash sign: 659965#. Please mute your phones to eliminate background noise.

**PLEASE NOTE:** We suggest that you get on the website a couple of minutes early so you will be ready to receive the playback when it starts at 10:30 AM.



May 10: Fifth Sunday of Easter, 10:30 am  
Mother's Day/Festival of the Christian Home

Held annually on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in May, **Mother's Day** honors all mothers, including women who serve a maternal role in our lives. This day is also observed by United Methodists as **Festival of the Christian Home**, celebrating the gift of Christian homes and affirming the Christian family in its wholeness.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, we will celebrate **Mother's Day** by seeing and hearing a Virtual Choir of children and youth during the Children's Time. Special music will be offered by *Kate Keeler*. *JoAnn Behlman* will serve as liturgist.

**Pastor's Sermon:** *Greater Works than These*

**Lectionary Readings:**

**Acts 7:55-60; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; 1 Peter 2:2-10; John 14:1-14**

---

# See and Talk to Your Church Friends! A New Format for Fellowship Hours

**From Mark Davis, Lay Leader**

Both remote FELLOWSHIP HOURS (Sunday at about 11:20 am and Wednesday at 7:30 pm) will now be offered by online video conference with the option for audio-only call-in.

Join Zoom Meeting URL/link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82364695207>

Or you can join via Zoom app or Zoom web portal with Meeting ID: 823-6469-5207 (no password).

Available audio-only call-in numbers are: (415) 762-9988 or (646) 568-7788. Follow the verbal prompt to enter the meeting ID: 823-6469-5207 followed by the # key. Simply press # key when prompted for participant ID.

WUMC members and friends are invited to use this forum to stay in touch, pray together, express joys/concerns, ask questions, and seek assistance.

---

## A Reminder about our Special COVID-19 Support Fund

The Church Council has created a support fund to assist persons who have been severely impacted by the economic shutdown related to the pandemic.

- If you **need financial assistance**, please contact Pastor John (845-707-5152). Requests and donations will be kept strictly confidential.
  - If you would like to **make a donation** to the fund, you can mail a check to the church office (write "COVID-19 Support Fund" on the memo line); or you can donate online through the Breeze link on our church's website (write "COVID-19 Support Fund" in the message box). Thank you!
- 

## Stay Up-to-Date on WUMC's Website

The *Messenger* is now being sent out by email as a link to the church's website rather than as an attachment. Please take a few minutes to browse the website for the wide variety of information it provides. The website will be increasingly emphasized as a means of communication for our church family, not only in response to the pandemic but as an ongoing resource for remaining current on WUMC's ministry and mission.

---

## Local Food Donations Still Needed

### WOODBURY FOOD BANK

The Food Bank is in continuous need of non-perishable foods to serve their clients during expanded hours. A picnic cooler is placed on the front porch of the church office between 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM each day to receive donations for the Food Bank. Please see the list of priority items needed at the end of this newsletter. Thanks to the WUMC's Mission and Outreach Ministry Team for spearheading this effort.

### REGION 14 SCHOOLS

The local school district is also collecting non-perishable foods at Mitchell Elementary School (weekdays from 12:00 – 1:00 PM) and at the Woodbury Middle School throughout the day.

---

# Need a Mask?

With the new requirement that everyone wear a mask when they leave their homes, don't fret if you don't have one. Simply reach out to *Anna* and *Christine Shupenis* and they will make you one. You can reach Chris at (203) 266-6895 or send your request to: [cshupenis@gmail.com](mailto:cshupenis@gmail.com). Thank you, ladies, for taking on this task.

---

## Children & Youth Ministry

Dear Families,

The whole Children & Youth Ministry Team wishes you well & can't wait till we begin coming back together in person. The committee recently met virtually. Here are some key "take-aways" from our meeting:

1. We're all challenged at this time so not everything will be perfect, it's ok.
  2. Come the weekend, the kids are done with virtual lessons & studying on the computer.
  3. We encourage all WUMC families to share the weekly online worship together and read the day's lectionary lessons.
  4. Lesson resources (this week's posted below with the complete list on website) for those of you able to go more in depth.
  5. Short Bible Story Videos are an easy way to quickly share the week's Bible lesson with your child. Be Well & Blessings to all
- WUMC Children & Youth Ministry Team

**Youth News:** Virtual Get-Together for WUMC Youth (6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup>): The team is exploring & trying to plan an online meet-up for our teens with parental approval & facilitation\*. Please watch for more information to come via email.

\*Note – Safe Sanctuary policies will be reviewed & reflect this new method of programming. For example; common guidelines for basic safety for online meetings with children & youth include meeting with 2 approved youth leaders minimum. No youth should be communicating 1 on 1 with church adults without a parent's name on file. For a virtual online meeting, youth should be located in "family" space of house with parent near & parent should occasionally pop into view to give leaders a wave. Online safety and etiquette should be discussed with the teen & parent prior to online meeting.

**Lectionary Based Bible Story:** (*John 14:1-14*) "I Am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life"

- <https://ministry-to-children.com/jesus-is-the-way-the-truth-the-life-lesson/>
- <https://sermons4kids.com/> (Sermon of the week: "Jesus is the Way")
- <https://youtu.be/xmZ8qqNjfwY> (Share Faith Kids Video "I AM' The Way the Truth and the Life - John 14")

**Mother's Day Lesson Ideas:** <https://ministry-to-children.com/mothers-day-lesson/>

**Lectionary May 10, 2020:** Acts 7:55-60 • Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 • 1 Peter 2:2-10 • John 14:1-14

*See WUMC Website under "Children & Youth" for more resources.*

**NOTE TO PARENTS:** Please email us information about your soon-to-be graduates or the special honors they receive.

---

## Methodist Conferences Postponed

The **General Conference** of the United Methodist Church scheduled for later this month in Minneapolis has been postponed until August/September 2021. The **New York Annual Conference** slated for this June has been postponed until at least September, when it will be held in a one-day format.

---

## Kudo Korner

**Thanks** to *Abby, Annabelle, and Jack Cloud* for leading the Children's Time during our remote worship service on May 3 . . . and to the members of the Virtual Choir who contributed their voices to the service: *Amanda and Abby Cloud, Kate Keeler, Joann*

*King, Venetia and Morgan Phillippe; Rick, Anna, and Grace Richardson; and Carolyn and Chris Shay* (who coordinated the unique recording).

**Thanks** to *Mike Boisseau*, who is ringing the church bell on Monday nights during the months of May and June. Mike is substituting for our regular ringer, *Rev. Paul Hibbard*, who has an engagement at Griffin Hospital in Derby on those evenings.

In March, *Mary Grace Styblo* learned that she had been selected to receive the WCSA Student Recognition Award sponsored by the Connecticut Association of Public Superintendents & the Western Connecticut Superintendents Association as one of Region 15 Regional School District's awardees. The award ceremony was to be held on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020. We congratulate and lift up Mary Grace for her years of accomplishment that led to being selected for this honor.

In recognition of her high standard of scholarship and a demonstrated commitment to professional and public service, *Elizabeth Styblo* was selected by her faculty and fellow scholars for membership in Lambda Pi Eta, the National Communication Association Honor Society, by the chapter at Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI. On March 27, 2020, Elizabeth has completed her junior at Western Michigan and is temporarily staying with her aunt in Illinois due to the closure of campus.

**Congratulations** to high school senior *Abby Cloud*, who was accepted simultaneously to the undergraduate program at St. Bonaventure University in New York State and also to the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine, a medical school in Pennsylvania. Your church family is very proud of you, Abby!

## FRONTLINERS. . .

Each week, as a regular feature of "Kudo Korner," we are recognizing "frontliners" – those who provide essential services to persons in a public setting during a high-risk time. We are honoring members of our church family (and their family members) who deserve our admiration and gratitude for their sacrificial service.

\*\*\*Four persons in *Carol Hennessey's* immediate family have continued working in highly interactive jobs: daughter *Jane Hutter* (direct support professional with challenged individuals); grandson *Michael Hutter* (grocery store in Bethlehem); grandson *Jon Hutter* (servicing homes and businesses for a water company in NW Connecticut; and Jon's girlfriend *Natalie Bruce* (a nursing home worker in Heritage Village, Southbury)

\*\*\*Three members of the family of *Bill and Judy Wilhelms* work in health care professions: *Kristine Schmalzer* (nurse at Waterbury Hospital); Kristine's daughter, *Maggie Schmalzer* (serving in a group home for brain-injured patients); and the Wilhelms' son-in-law, *Dr. Michael Miranda* (orthopedic trauma surgeon at Hartford Hospital). Michael is the husband of *Dr. Kay Wilhelms*.

\*\*Two members in *Kathy Craig's* immediate family, *Amber* and *Peter Craig*, are both working in the direct support of challenged individuals in residential living settings.

PLEASE SHARE WITH US THE NAMES AND GOOD WORKS OF OTHER FRONTLINERS!



---

## The Prayer Corner:

**In Remembrance of My Mother and All Mothers**  
from *Catherine Mason*

*Norma Louise Mason*  
August 21, 1943 - May 8, 1990

On this 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary and everyday our mother's love lingers sadly missed along life's way, quietly remembered... No longer in our life to share, but in our hearts and occasionally, seen through traits and talents of grandchildren never met. For what it meant to lose you only those who love you know. Faith gave us peace that you were reunited with our baby brother and then, our father in the everlasting life of heaven.



**Christian sympathy** is extended to *Kevin McCrystal* and *Therese Sotnik* in the death of Kevin's uncle, *Joe Zandri*, on April 30 in Newtown.

**COVID-19 patients in our church's extended family:** *Emily Bodwell* of Newtown, sister of *Matt Bodwell* (health care worker at Danbury Hospital); *Audrey Karraker* of Waterbury, daughter of *David* and *Larrie Karraker* (psychiatric social worker at Waterbury Hospital)

**Hospice care at home:** *Betsy Love* (and her companion and caregiver, *Larry Kaine*); *Paul Weber* (and her companion and caregiver, *Joy Eusebio* (Hardeeville, SC)

**Home from inpatient rehabilitation:** *Rev. John Esposito*, pastor of Gaylordsville UMC and friend of Pastor John (recovering from COVID-19)

**Inpatient rehabilitation:** *Marie Petty*, aunt of *Kathy Craig* (Abbott Terrace, Waterbury)

**Recovering at home:** *Dave Davison*, father-in-law of *Gary McClendon*; *Cordelia Ursone*, mother of *Rick Richardson* (Darien, CT); *Robert Ayers*, father of *Tacy Nettleton* (Woodstock, GA); *Carl Hinkle*, father of *Toby McGrath* (Greensburg, PA); *Donna Louise Burke*, friend of *Kathy Craig*; *Peter Gallagher*, father of *Jen Carnes* (Brookfield, CT); *Lou Calabrese* (husband of *Lynn Ramsden-Calabrese*); *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 members:** *Florence Brown*, *Linda Bailey*

**Please remember:** *Jailyn Sands*, student of *Kate Thomason Keeler*, in the death of her grandmother, *Marjorie Sands* of Queens, NY

**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.

## 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!!!

---

## PRIORITY NEEDS LIST FOR WOODBURY FOOD BANK DONATIONS

Soups, especially broths, chowders, pea soup, minestrone, vegetable, chicken combo, beef combo  
Pastas of all kinds, especially ziti, penne, linguine, fettucine, angel hair, rigatoni, bowties & lasagna  
Pasta sauces, all kinds  
Canned tomatoes, especially whole, diced, crushed & paste  
Canned carrots, canned mixed vegetables, canned peas & canned spinach  
Cereals & oatmeal  
Juice bottles & juice boxes/pouches  
Paper towels & napkins  
Toilet paper & facial tissues  
Canned fruits, especially fruit cocktail, peaches, pears & pineapple



Please note: Donations of bleach, sanitizing wipes & sanitizing liquid to maintain a clean & safe Food Bank environment for staff to prepare assistance packages are also appreciated.

A cartoon illustration of an open cardboard box filled with various colorful items, including books, a ruler, and containers. A yellow book and a blue container are placed in front of the box.

## Feeding the Community

**This week is a week of many “thankful” celebrations**

For the nurses in our congregation:

*Beth Buzzannco, Joy Eusebio & Pat McWhirt – we thank you!*



For our Sunday school teachers:

*Catherine Mason, Superintendent*

Elementary: *Leeah Joo; Jessie Lynch; Toby McGrath*

Middle School: *Paul Beavers, Jr.; Mike Boisseau; Mollie Cole; Meg Temple*

Safe Sanctuary: *Christine Shupenis*

**We thank you all!**



# **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***  
4 Church Street, Woodbury, CT 06798  
(203) 263-4775 • [www.woodburyumc.net](http://www.woodburyumc.net)