



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, September 9, 2020



**Outdoor Worship**  
**9:30 AM, Woodbury North Green**  
**(Please note: Sanctuary Backup Site)**  
**Video Premiere: 4 PM**  
**Audio Playback: 6 PM**

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Sunday after Labor Day traditionally marks the return to our regular worship starting time of 10:30 AM. However, due to our unusual circumstances this fall, those responsible for preparation of the worship space and online video have requested that we continue meeting at 9:30 AM until further notice.

**The sanctuary is now serving as our backup place of worship in the event of inclement weather.** The sanctuary has been deep-cleaned and sanitized, and the best possible procedures for ventilation will be implemented. If it is raining on a Sunday morning, please come directly to the sanctuary for the worship service if you are comfortable doing so.

For those who choose not to join us in-person at this time, we fully understand and support your personal caution and care for others. Services (outside or inside) will continue to be recorded and made available on our website at approximately 4 PM on Sunday afternoons.

The options for accessing services electronically remain the same:

- Go to <http://www.woodburyumc.net> and click the link at the top left of the home page. Facebook and Instagram may also be used.
- **Audio only playback:** dial 701-802-5464; enter PIN with hash sign 659965#. Please mute your phones to eliminate background noise. This playback will be available at 6 PM.
- **Archived worship services** may also be accessed from the main pull-down menu.

## September 13: 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**Pastor's Sermon: *We Are the Lord's***

**Lectionary Readings: Exodus 14:19-31; Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21**

**Romans 14:1-12; Matthew 18:21-35**

**Liturgist: Barbara Etcheto**

**Singer: Vinita Chapman (Music Teacher, Mitchell Elementary School, Woodbury)**

**Please note: There will be no Zoom Fellowship Hour during the period when we are worshipping outdoors.**

## **SUMMER OFFICE HOURS CONTINUE: Tuesday-Thursday, 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

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### **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!
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## **Upcoming Events**

**Sunday, September 20** – *Rev. Paul Hibbard*, preaching

**Sunday, September 27** – Joint worship service with St. Paul's Episcopal Church; 9:30 AM, North Green; *Rev. Tuesday Rupp* (St. Paul's rector), preaching

**Sunday, September 27** – Annual Connecticut District Conference (virtual), 4:30 – 6:30 PM

**Sunday, October 25** – Joint Church Conference for Valley Parish congregations (virtual; time to be determined)

**Friday, October 30** – WUMC Church Conference (virtual), 6:00 PM

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## **Fall Women's Study 2020**

WUMC women (all ages welcome) - Please join us on Sunday mornings 8:45 to 9:45 am beginning on September 20 thru November 1. Location to be determined depending on current recommendations for possible in person meeting or Zoom / Google Meet.

The book being studied is *Grace: More Than We Deserve, Greater Than We Imagine*, by Max Lucado (available from Christian Book Distributors or Amazon)

For further information, please contact Jen Carnes at 203-206-6746.

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## **Children & Youth Ministry**

Back to School @ HOME RESOURCES for continued Christian Education are available on the church website & the following sites:

- <https://www.cokesburykids.com/free-resources/>
- <https://www.nyac.com/childrensministries>

NOTE: Children & Youth programming is currently "on hold" as we explore possibilities for alternative activities. We miss you all and wish you best of luck for your school year. We hope to see you all in Sunday school soon!

Thank you to all parents that participated in the Children & Youth Survey. Your input is greatly appreciated and helpful for informing decisions.

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## Kudo Korner

**Thanks** to last Sunday's worship leaders: *JoAnn Behlman*; liturgist, *Carolyn Shay*, singer.

### **MANY THANKS TO MANY 20 CHURCH STREET VOLUNTEERS**

WUMC was fortunate to be able to re-lease its 20 Church Street property in record time, which saved us lost income. More specifically, we were fortunate to have such a wonderful group of volunteers who made it all possible, including:

*Mark Davis* who practically lived at the house over the course of several weeks (and often late into the night) to make sure the entire interior and porch were prepped and painted....and he donated the paint and supplies. Mark was the Marathon Man!

*Ed McGrath*, who brought both bathrooms to "better than new" condition with meticulous skim-coating and painting.

*Rod Carnes* who donated his business time and expertise to clean the bathroom tile and grout, seal around the tub and toilet, and clean the kitchen floor...and thank you *Peter Craig*!

*Josh Harwood* was our Real Estate Agent. He was professional and proactive in finding us well-suited applicants; but more than that, Josh volunteered multiple days to paint doors and trim work.

*Alan Rego* who provided time, material, and expertise in replacing many electrical fixtures and safety devices.

*Barbara Rego* who spent an otherwise perfectly good Saturday on her hands and knees to scrape more than a few paint splatters from the floors. Barbara, we really did use drop cloths!

*Mike "Maestro" Boisseau* who brought his Ecuadorian-perfected painting skills to multiple doors at 20 Church Street.

*JoAnn Behlman* who prepped and painted multiple doors, washed cover plates and light fixtures, and provided late night refreshment.

*Art Oppel* and *Theron Kissinger* for replacing the screens and frames on the back porch.

*Jeff Hunt* who cut up the storm damaged tree in the backyard and brought his wood chipper to clear the limbs and debris.

*Joy Eusebio*, who helped Theron remove the cut up tree from the property.

*Toby McGrath*, who helped to review applications and interview applicants.

*Rick Richardson*, with whom we were able to consult with regarding lease-related legal questions.

*Jessie Lynch* and *Bill Wilhelms* coordinated the complications of escrow accounts and contractor payments.

Finally, *Liam McGrath*, who stopped by to provide supervision and quality control services.

Yes, we are fortunate...and speaking of good fortune, WUMC was blessed to have a wonderful family like the *Palmer*s call 20 Church Street home for 5 years. We wish them all the best as they move into their new house right here in Woodbury. Likewise, we welcome the *Purcell*'s as our new tenants. This is a homecoming of sorts for Tod, whose parents resided in Woodbury for years. Welcome to *Tod, Maria, and Kendra*.

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## The Prayer Corner:

**Inpatient rehabilitation:** *Angelina Vaiuso*, mother of *Karen Williams* (Bethel Health Care Center, Bethel); *Marie Petty*, aunt of *Kathy Craig* (Abbott Terrace, Waterbury)

**Recovering at home:** *Carol Hennessey*; *Gary McClendon*; *Paige LeBlanc*, mother of *Jessie Lynch* (Manchester, CT); *Dominic Vaiuso*, father of *Karen Williams* (Newtown); *Rev. John Esposito*, pastor of Gaylordsville UMC and friend of Pastor John (recovering from COVID-19); *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:** *Dave Davison*, father-in-law of *Gary McClendon*; *John and Jackie Fleming*; *Stephanie Galaburri*, friend of *Sandy Carbonaro*; *Will Styblo*, nephew of *Jim Styblo* and *Catherine Mason* (Franklin, TN)

**Homebound members:** *Florence Brown*, *Linda Bailey*

**Please continue to remember:** *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.**

❖ **SUMMER Office Hours continue thru September- Tuesday thru Thursday only 9 am – 1 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 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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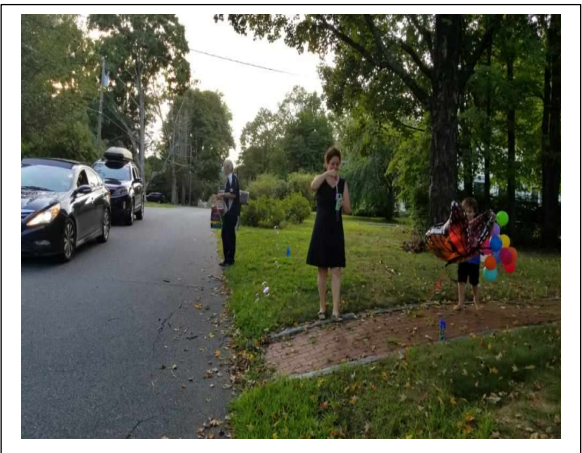
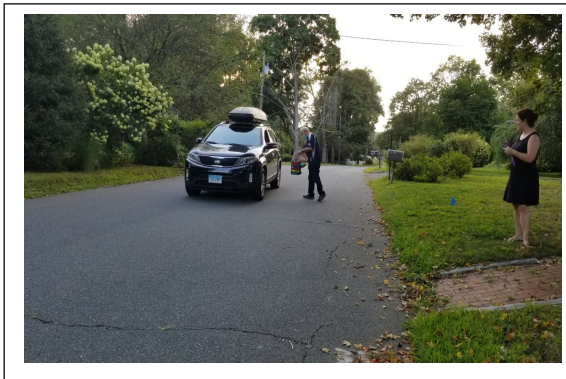
## **Thank you to the Birthday Parade Caravan Members!**

We tried to capture as many photos as we could – sorry if we missed you. Thank you to *Bud Behlman*; *Alicia Boisseau*; *Lynn & Dave Brencher*; *the Craig family*; *Mark Davis*; *Joy Eusebio & Brandy*; *the Flemings & Mic too*; *Pastor Jim Gregory* (Prince of Peace Church); *the Hibbards*; *Joann King*; *Rev. Sandy Koenig* (North Congregational Church – thanks for letting us gather in your lot too!); *the Lynch family*; First Selectwoman, *Barbara Perkinson*; *Rick Richardson & Kathy Bower*; *the Shays*; *Mr. & Mrs. Bob Taylor* (Community Services Council of Woodbury); *Meg*, *Lydia & Sam Temple*.

Thank you also to the Republican American Newspaper for covering our story in celebration of Pastor's birthday.









In case you didn't see the paper . . . .  
Pastor John was featured!!!!

6A REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN L M

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2020

## Congregation surprises pastor on his birthday

BY STEVE BIGHAM  
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

WOODBURY — Pastor John Thomason was at home preparing his 72nd birthday dinner Tuesday evening when the horns started honking.

He went outside to find members of his Woodbury United Methodist Church congregation and other friends parading down Church Street with balloons, signs and well wishes, all in salute of the man they say helped turn their church around.

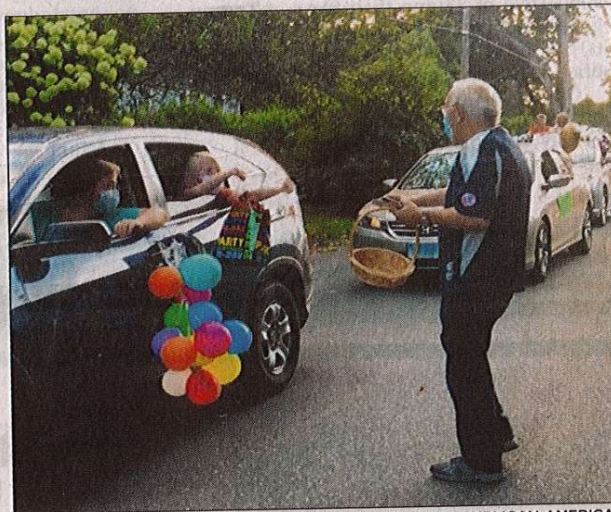
"I was grilling chicken in the back yard and all of a sudden I hear this insistent car honking and I absolutely had no idea what it was," Thomason said. "I was blown away. It was unexpected and much appreciated."

These days, large birthday celebrations and in-person church services are rare, so church office manager Kathy Craig organized the caravan as a way to say thanks, social-distance style.

Church bylaws mandate full-time pastors retire at age 72, meaning this will be Thomason's final year in Woodbury. Those who know him say they wish he could stay forever.

"It's the love we all have for him. Not only is it that we are losing him next year, but the church was in turmoil when he first came seven years ago and he has helped turn things around with the passion he brings for people," Craig said.

Upon his arrival in 2013, Thomason promised his congregation that he would be there for them and treat them as his own family. And, according to the church's Board of Trustees Chairman Theron Kissinger, he has fulfilled that promise, always there with sage advice and compas-



STEVE BIGHAM REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

The Rev. John Thomason greets a car driven by Meg Temple of Southbury, who is joined by daughter Lydia, in back seat, and son, Sam, not pictured, during a parade for the pastor's birthday.

sion, furthering the WUMC's mission statement that "love is spoken here."

Thomason has spent his days in Woodbury immersing himself in the lives of his congregation, attending youth sporting events, visiting people in the hospital and offering a light in times of darkness, including during the current COVID-19 crisis.

"To many, he is more than a pastor or a friend. He's like a father or a brother," Kissinger said. "My parents live in New Mexico, so he at times has been like a surrogate father to me and for many others."

And Thomason admits the pandemic has created challenges for the church, which like so many other churches across the country, has struggled to maintain a solid base of members. Kissinger says Thomason's stewardship goes beyond sheer numbers and that his presence and

compassion has brought an unprecedented level of "spiritualness and community."

Joining Tuesday's birthday caravan were Woodbury First Selectman Barbara Perkinson, fellow clergy members from around town, and Bob Taylor of the Woodbury Food Bank, where Thomason has spent hundreds of hours volunteering his time.

"Pastor John has been a tremendous help to the Woodbury Food Bank over the years," Taylor said. "He has always shown a tremendous caring and empathy for all the folks we serve and I consider him a good friend."

The pastor, a native of Texas, has 44 years of ministry experience and says leadership is something to be shared by all.

Thomason has two daughters, Kate and Beth, and a grandson Allen, who was by his grandfather's side as the parade passed on by.

# Mission & Outreach News. . . .

We are in need of volunteers for the Friday coverage on 9/18 & 9/25

Requested items needed:

Jelly – (grape & strawberry)

Chicken Rice Soup (not noodle)

Toothbrushes (all sizes)

Juices (all kinds and sizes)

Instant coffee (regular & decaffe)

Please contact Rev. Paul Hibbard @ (860) 488-7705  
if interested in helping with a shift.

Thanks in advance!



# **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!**

