

Woodbury  
United Methodist Church



Sunday, November 15, 2020

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**Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors**

4 Church Street, Woodbury, CT 06798

(203) 263-4775 • [www.woodburyumc.net](http://www.woodburyumc.net)

# Woodbury United Methodist Church

November 15, 2020  
24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

\*Please stand as you are able.

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## WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

PRELUDE *Benedictus* from *Messe Basse* Gabriel Faure  
Christopher Shay, organist

GREETING Rev. John Thomason

\*CALL TO WORSHIP based on Matthew 25  
from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020*

God calls us to use our gifts for the building of God's kingdom.  
**But we're afraid.**

Christ urges us to find our courage and not look back.  
**But our gifts seem so small.**

The Spirit offers us everything we need.  
**But what if we fail?**

Trust the gifts you have been given.  
**We will celebrate our gifts as we worship God this day.**

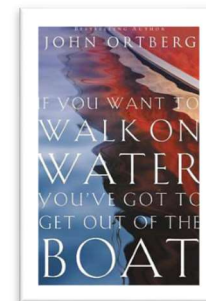
\*OPENING HYMN *Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service*  
Hymns sung by Anna Bower Richardson

\*OPENING PRAYER (unison) led by Anna Bower Richardson, Liturgist  
based on Matthew 25  
from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020*

**Faithful Steward, you bless us with gifts that are uniquely our own.  
We long to use the talents you bestow upon us to build your kingdom.  
We yearn to live with gratitude for all that you have done for us and  
the opportunities you place before us. Clear our vision, Holy One,  
and help us see the good we can do with the gifts and talents we have  
received. Amen.**

## Bible Study Fellowship for Adults

*If You Want to Walk on Water,  
You've Got to Get Out of the Boat*  
by John Ortberg



### Tuesdays, 6:30 PM, through November 24

This class is being offered both in-person in Fellowship Hall and remotely by Zoom and phone call-in. It's not too late for you to pick up a book and join the group study. Books are available at the church for a cost of \$11 each.

**Phone-in option:** Call 646-558-8656, meeting ID 838 4151 6435; passcode 405251381

**Online (Zoom) option:** <https://zoom.us/join>; meeting ID 838 4151 6435; passcode IWUMC2020

Please contact *Bud Behlman* with any questions at 203-206-9276 or [budbehlman@charter.net](mailto:budbehlman@charter.net).

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## Woodbury United Methodist Church

4 Church St., Woodbury, CT, 06798

Church phone: 203-263-4775

Web Site: [www.woodburyumc.net](http://www.woodburyumc.net)

Church e-mail: [wumc@woodburyumc.net](mailto:wumc@woodburyumc.net)

Church office hours: Tuesday- Friday, 9 AM – 3 PM

*Rev. John Thomason, Pastor*

Parsonage phone: 203-263-7575; cell phone: 845-707-5152

Pastor's e-mail: [johnthomason1948@yahoo.com](mailto:johnthomason1948@yahoo.com)

*Chris Shay, Director of Music*

*Kathy Craig, Office Administrator*

*Mark Davis, Lay Leader*

### Mission Statement

*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.*

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### Week of November 15, 2020

**Visitors are warmly welcomed!** We invite you to sign the worship register as it is passed during the announcements, or fill out a visitor's card provided by a greeter. If you wish to learn more about WUMC's ministries, please take a copy of our weekly newsletter, *The Messenger*, which is available in the narthex. Immediately following today's worship service, please join us for Fellowship Hour downstairs in Fellowship Hall.

**If you would like to become a member** of the Woodbury United Methodist Church, please speak to the pastor. Inquirers are asked to attend a two-session Membership Orientation class before joining the church.

**Today is the 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost** on the Christian calendar. The Season after Pentecost, also called Ordinary Time, begins the day after Pentecost and ends the day before the First Sunday of Advent. The liturgical color is green, symbolizing growth in Christ.

**Thanks** to all those making special contributions to our worship service today: *Anna Bower Richardson*, Liturgist and Singer; and *the Bower Richardson family*, Children's Time.

**Please note:** WUMC's worship services are recorded and archived on the church's website, [www.woodburyumc.net](http://www.woodburyumc.net).

**Altar flowers** are given this week by *Rev. Paul Beavers, Sr.*, "In loving memory of *Lillian Beavers*, a classy and loving wife, mother and grandmother."

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## WE SEEK GOD'S PRESENCE IN PRAYER

CHILDREN'S TIME

The Bower Richardson family

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

Rev. Thomason

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

Anna Bower Richardson

## WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READINGS

read by Anna Bower Richardson

Lessons for the 24<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

from *The Revised Common Lectionary*

Epistle Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 (*NRSV*)

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

\*Gospel Lesson: Matthew 25:14-30 (*NRSV*)

*The Parable of the Talents*

"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with

them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

HYMN OF PREPARATION

*Take My Life, and Let It Be*

SERMON

*Extreme Behaviors*

Rev. Thomason

## **WE RESPOND IN FAITH**

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

## **WE GO FORTH IN JOY**

BENEDICTION

Rev. Thomason

POSTLUDE

*Hornpipe*

Handel

