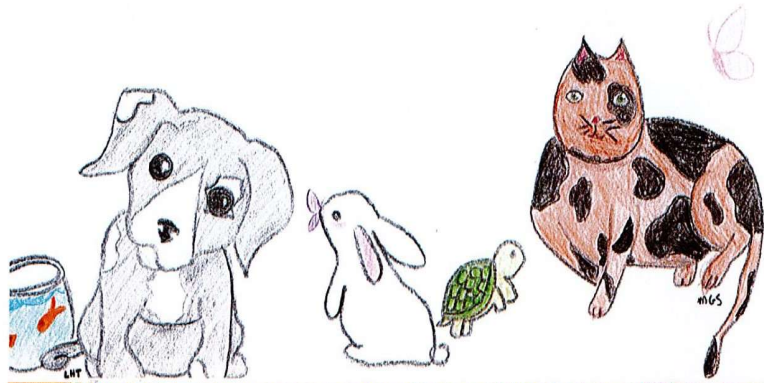




BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS



Woodbury North Green
3pm

OCTOBER
17

Join Us as we celebrate our animal companions!

All people and their pets are welcome!
Stuffed animals and pet photos are very welcome!

We will have snacks for pets and people. *Pets must be on a leash or in a carrier.*
Please join us even if you do not have a pet of your own.
This is a wonderful experience that everyone will enjoy!

More info at WoodburyUMC.net or at facebook.com/WoodburyUMCCT/

Woodbury United Methodist Church
4 Church Street Woodbury, CT 06798

Woodbury
United Methodist Church



Sunday, September 12, 2021

Woodbury United Methodist Church

September 12, 2021
16th Sunday after Pentecost
Rally Day

*Please stand as you are able.

WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

PRELUDE *Smile Sidewalk* Prophets
Matt Bodwell, Rod Carnes, Kate Keeler, and Sarah Kate Walkup

GREETING Pastor Michael Cobb

*CALL TO WORSHIP led by Joann King

Wisdom shouts from the streets.
Above the noisy crowd she cries out.
Will we take heed and listen to her voice?

Wisdom shouts her warnings in the street.
We have come to forsake our foolish ways.

Wisdom longs to pour out her Spirit on all flesh.
We will not shrink from her blessings.

Wisdom imparts holy knowledge to save us.
We will not shut out the lessons she teaches.

Let us worship in spirit and in truth.

*OPENING HYMN #57 (vs. 1-3, 5) *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*

For a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!

My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread thro' all the earth abroad
the honors of your name.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease,



WUMC Helping Hands Ministry

Vision Statement:

Provide an extended network of community volunteers for helping those with critical near-term needs, but without sufficient resources and families to whom they can turn.

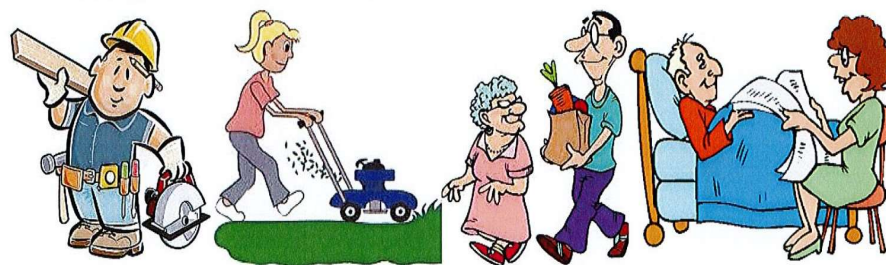
Examples of Types of Services:

- Handyman projects (e.g., carpentry, plumbing, electrical repairs, computer troubleshooting)
- Home upkeep (e.g., cleaning, lawn cutting, snow shoveling)
- Transportation and delivery
- Baby-sitting or respite care

Nominal Project Constraints:

- 100 total person-hours; 2 weeks
- \$200 cost of materials

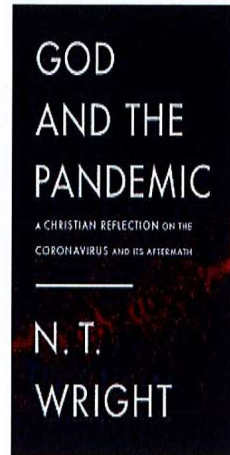
Please Contact: Woodbury United Methodist Church (WUMC) at WUMC@WoodburyUMC.net.



Woodbury UMC Adult Studies
Fall 2021

God and the Pandemic: A Christian Reflection on the Coronavirus and Its Aftermath by NT Wright

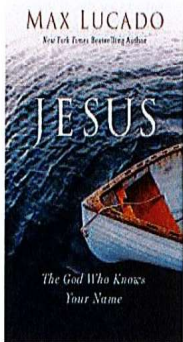
In *God and the Pandemic*, N.T. Wright uses both the Old and New Testaments to help Christians think through their reactions and responses to the pandemic. Offering spiritual guidance during a time of crisis, Wright helps readers reflect on scripture, prayer, and teachings from Jesus' life in order to think differently about disaster and how to react to it.



Gain insight on these questions:

- What should be the Christian response?
- How should we think about God?
- How do we live in the present?
- Why should we lament?
- What should we learn about ourselves?
- How do we recover?

Class will meet Sunday mornings before worship, starting September 19th, with details to come.



Jesus: The God Who Knows Your Name by Max Lucado

For thirty-three years Jesus felt everything you have ever felt. Weakness. Weariness. Sadness. Rejection. His feet got tired. And his head ached. He was tempted and his strength was tested. And you know why? Because in becoming human, Jesus made it possible for us to see God. His tears, God's tears. His voice, God's voice. Want to know what matters to God? Find out what matters to Jesus. Want to know what in the world God is doing? Ponder the words and life of Jesus.

Class will meet Tuesday evenings, 6:30-8pm, beginning September 21st, with details to come.

Books will be available in the church office by September 14th, and are readily available for online purchase. Please see Bud Behlman or Pastor Michael with any questions or to confirm your interest in participating.

'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace.

To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above,
the Church in earth and heaven.

WE SEEK GOD'S PRESENCE IN PRAYER

*OPENING PRAYER (unison)

led by Joann King

Eternal God, the heavens declare your glory, even as Wisdom proclaims your precepts to all people. Set our minds on the things that are above rather than things that are below, that when the journey becomes hard, we may have the courage to follow you to the end. Wisdom of the Ages, we yearn to forsake our foolish ways and embrace godly knowledge. Cry out in the streets once more, that we may hear your voice and drink deeply of your Spirit.

For we are tired of reaping the harvest of our schemes, and we are weary of eating the fruit of our ways. Bridle our lips, Gracious One, that our tongues may speak no evil and utter no falsehoods, but rather proclaim your glory. In your holy and righteous name, we pray. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

ANTHEM

Brighten My Soul with Sunshine

Joyce Eilers

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE (NRSV)

Old Testament Reading:

read by led by Joann King

Wisdom of Solomon 7:26 - 8:1

For wisdom is more mobile than any motion; because of her pureness she pervades and penetrates all things. For she is a breath of the power of God, and a pure emanation of the glory of the Almighty; therefore nothing defiled gains entrance into her. For she is a reflection of eternal light, a spotless mirror of the working of God, and an image of his goodness. Although she is but one, she can do all things, and while remaining in herself, she renews all things; in every generation she passes into holy souls and makes them friends of God, and prophets; for God loves nothing so much as the person who lives with wisdom. She is more beautiful than the sun, and excels every constellation o

the stars. Compared with the light she is found to be superior, for it is succeeded by the night, but against wisdom evil does not prevail. She reaches mightily from one end of the earth to the other, and she orders all things well.

*Gospel Reading: Mark 8:27-38

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

HYMN OF PREPARATION #408

The Gift of Love

Though I may speak with bravest fire,
And have the gift to all inspire,
And have not love, my words are vain,
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,
And striving so my love profess,
But not be giv'n by love within,
The profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
Our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide ev'ry deed;
By this we worship, and are freed.

Children & Youth Ministry News

Beginning **Sunday, September 26th**, we will be holding a Sunday School class at the back end of the North Green on the 4th Sunday of the month (September 26, October 24, November 28) while the weather remains good. Drop off will be at the check in on the Green. Beginning on Sunday, October 10th we will be doing a short local hike with a children's message beginning at 12:15 pm on the 2nd Sunday of the month (October 10, November 14, December 12) through December. Meet to caravan on the church lawn or meet us at our destination parking lot. Our first hike will be to the fire tower in Woodbury at the base of Orenaug Park.



Confirmation class with resume on Sunday, September 19. For more details contact Meg Temple.



Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

4 Church Street, Woodbury, CT 06798

(203) 263-4775 . www.woodburyumc.net

Find us on /woodburyumc & /woodburyumc

THE PRAYER CORNER

Continual prayers for those in both New Orleans and Haiti.

Outpatient rehabilitation: *Michael Etcheto*, grandson of *Barbara Etcheto*

Recovering at home: *Pat Kurtz; 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); *Donna Louise Burke*, friend of *Kathy Craig; Lou Calabrese* (husband of *Lynn Ramsden-Calabrese*)

Outpatient treatments: *Dave Brencher; Bob Asman; Dave Davison*, father-in-law of *Gary McClendon; Will Styblo*, nephew of *Jim Styblo* and *Catherine Mason* (Franklin, TN)



If you would like to send someone a birthday card, please see our website @ www.woodburyumc.net for this month's birthday listing. Reminder that we are placing flowers on the altar again so let us know if you want to sign up for a particular date.

SAVE THE DATES

Sunday, September 19 – Morning Bible Study – more information to follow, please see your Messenger and insert in the back of this bulletin.

Sunday, September 19 – Confirmation Class will resume. (see next page)

Tuesday, September 21 – Evening Bible Study, more information to follow, please see your Messenger and insert in the back of this bulletin.

Sunday, September 26 – Sunday School will resume. (see next page)

Sunday, October 10 – **Blessing of the Animals** will be held from 3:00-5:00 PM on the North Green. Many details are being planned for this event and more information will follow very soon.

Sunday, October 17– **Laity Sunday** - News to come regarding opportunities for youth

Saturday, November 13 – **Fall Clean-Up Day at WUMC** – please see your Messenger. Great way for students to get community service hours for school.

Sunday, November 28 - **UMC Student Day** - - News to come regarding opportunities for you & college student participation

SERMON

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

Sing praises to God with the mighty firmament, for truly the heavens are telling the glory of God. As we sing our praises, let us share from our abundance, to the glory of God.

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY

Spirit of the Living God

Vertical Worship

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Glorious God, your teachings are more to be desired than fine gold and precious silver; your blessings are more to be sought than all the jewels of the earth. May the gifts we bring before you today share your blessings with those in need. In Jesus's name, we pray. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE GO FORTH IN JOY

CLOSING HYMN #77

How Great Thou Art

O Lord, my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works thy hands hath made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;
Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
How great thou art, how great thou art!

When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; [Refrain]

But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,

That on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin; [Refrain]

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!" [Refrain]

BENEDICTION

As we go forth, may the words of our mouths be acceptable and true.
May the meditations of our hearts be loving and pure.

As we leave this place, may the actions of our lives be compassionate and just.
May the stirrings of our hearts be guided by God's thoughts and wisdom.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
In the name of Christ. Amen!

POSTLUDE *My Lighthouse* Rend Collective

Elements of this service may be taken or adapted from UMC Discipleship.org, reworship.blogspot.com, or the Abingdon Worship Annual 2021, copyright 2021 by Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

Woodbury United Methodist Church

4 Church St., Woodbury, CT, 06798 Church phone: 203-263-4775
Web Site: www.woodburyumc.net
Church e-mail: wumc@woodburyumc.net
Church office hours: Tuesday- Friday, 9 AM – 3 PM

Rev. J. Michael Cobb, Pastor
Cell phone: 203-512-1059
Pastor's e-mail: pastormichael@woodburyumc.net

Mark Davis, Lay Leader
Kathy Craig, Office Administrator *Chris Shay*, Director of Music

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.

Week of September 12, 2021

Visitors are warmly welcomed! If you wish to learn more about WUMC's ministries, please take a copy of our weekly newsletter, *The Messenger*, which is available on the table at the registration area.

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

Today is the 16th 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.

Today is also Rally Day Sunday, we hope you brought your backpack to be blessed. Everyone will receive a blessing from Pastor Michael plus a special gift as a keepsake for your bag throughout the year. As we begin a new year of school — or return to work after the more relaxed feeling that summer brings — this blessing offers us a fresh start and new energy as we approach the Fall. We begin the school year in prayer, so that those following academic pursuits may experience a blessed and fruitful school year. All are welcome to come up for a blessing!



Thanks to all those making special contributions to our worship service today: *Joann King*, Liturgist and Reader, *Christine Smith*, Greeter and Usher; *Matt Bodwell*, *Rod Carnes*, *Kate Keeler*, and *Sarah Kate Walkup*, Singers.

Please note: Livestreaming provides an opportunity for all of us to experience worship at the same time, either at home or in-person. Worshipers at home may join us by video on YouTube or audio-only by telephone broadcast. Video recordings of services are also archived on the church's website 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 "Sunday Morning Worship in the Sanctuary" and click the link for livestreaming. 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#.
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