



WUMC Helping Hands Ministry



Vision Statement:

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



Examples of Types of Services:

- Handyman projects; Home upkeep (e.g., spring/fall cleanup)
- Transportation and delivery
- Family crisis support (e.g., child/elder/respice care, meals)
- Friendly visitor



Nominal Constraints:

- Short-term crisis support: 4-8 hours; 1-2 days
- Work projects: Ideally done in 1 day; up to \$200 for material cost
- Application approval predicated on resource availability and schedule



Please Contact: Woodbury United Methodist Church (WUMC) at WUMC@WoodburyUMC.net or (203) 263-4775.

Version 6: 21-October-2021

Woodbury

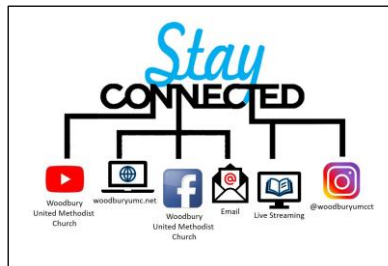
United Methodist Church



CHOSEN
HOME

First Sunday After Christmas

Sunday, December 26, 2021



Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

4 Church Street, Woodbury, CT 06798
(203) 263-4775 • www.woodburvumc.net

Woodbury United Methodist Church

December 26, 2021

First Sunday After Christmas—Chosen Home

*Please stand as you are able.

WE COME TOGETHER IN PRAISE

PRELUDE *Nativity Carol* F. P. O'Brien

GREETING Pastor Michael Cobb

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus said,

"This is my Father's house."

So come into this space
just as you are.

Come into this space
speaking your truth.

Come into this space
with your authentic self.

This is God's home.

This is our home.

Let us worship God.

*OPENING HYMN #249 UM Hymnal

There's a Song in the Air (v. 1, 3, 4)

WE SEEK GOD'S PRESENCE IN PRAYER

*OPENING PRAYER (unison) led by Rev. Paul Hibbard

Author God, Scripture tells us that when Jesus taught in the temple, all who heard were amazed. We want to be amazed too. We want to hear your word with new ears. We want to be unraveled and transformed by the truth tucked between those sentences. We want to be opened up by the hope in these holy pages. We want to be amazed. So as we read today, transport us

Discovering God's Vision for Your Life: You and Your Spiritual Gifts

Starting in January, we will be offering a congregation-wide study on discovering and understanding your personal spiritual gifts, and discovering ways of using those gifts in ministry.

The course will gather via Zoom on **Sunday afternoons, starting January 9th** and going through the end of February (taking off the two holiday weekends). Meeting time is being firmed up but will probably be **12:30 to 2pm**. This course will be taught by Rev. Maria-Pia Seirup, an ordained United Methodist deacon with decades of experience in Christian education.

Participants in Discovering God's Vision for Your Life will:

- Deepen their relationship with God
- Understand and celebrate the spiritual gifts God has given them
- Understand God's call for their lives and ministries
- Use their spiritual gifts to help meet the needs of others

The congregation will:

- Discover its members' spiritual gifts
- Mobilize its members for ministry according to their gifts
- Increase its sense of mission and purpose
- Enhance the quality and scope of its ministry

The course consists of 8 modules, adapted to be offered in six sessions:

- *What Does God Want Me to Do with My Life?*
- *Who Am I?*
- *What Makes Me Unique?*
- *Unwrapping Your Gifts Package*
- *Spiritual Gifts in the Spotlight*
- *Love Personified*
- *Your Calling*
- *God's Vision and Your Vision Coming Together*

Course materials will be available for purchase in the church office, with much more information to follow. Please see Pastor Michael with any questions.

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#.

THE PRAYER CORNER

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

Recovering at home: *Laura Brush; Lynne Brencher; 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); *Cindy Tedesco* and *Donna Louise Burke*, friends 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)

Please remember our Confirmands: *Annabelle Cloud, Cody Cordova, Zachary Cordova, James Levario, and Matthew Shupenis*

Homebound members: *Florence Brown, Linda Bailey*

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. The 2022 calendar is available in the Narthex on Sunday and posted in the office during the week.



to those early days in the temple. Open our hearts so we can hear your word like never before. We are listening. We are grateful. Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER (unison)

WE LISTEN FOR THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE Rebecca Hibbard
Gospel Reading Luke 2:41-52

HYMN OF PREPARATION #229 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*
Rebecca Hibbard, Morgan Phillippe

SERMON *Chosen Home* Pastor Cobb

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

HYMN / CAROL #224 UM Hymnal
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice (V 1, 2)

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

There are many things we choose in our lives. We choose what kind of car we want, where we want to live, the career path we prefer. We choose decaf or caffeinated, am or pm, today or tomorrow. We choose to read the book or see the movie, we choose dogs or cats, and we choose where we want to give our time, our energy, and our money. So today we are invited to choose this place, this community, this family of faith. Today we are invited to choose generosity, trusting that God can take whatever we give and use it for good. Let us give our tithes and our offerings now.

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY *Mary Did You Know* Lowry & Green
Venetia and Morgan Phillippe

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Gracious God, Your story is one that forever invites us to be our full selves, to take up space, to go where we feel called, and to allow this community to feel like home. So use these gifts to keep building your home here. With gratitude as tall as the ceiling, we pray. Amen.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER

WE GO FORTH IN JOY

CLOSING HYMN #236 *While Shepherds Watched* (V. 1, 6) UM Hymnal

BENEDICTION

As you leave this service, your service begins: Comfort the homesick. Open your doors to others. Seek sanctuary. Be brave enough to go home by another way. And remember that here in God's house, all are welcomed—so come back soon. In the name of our Foundation—God, Spirit, and Son— go in peace.

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

POSTLUDE *Good Christian Men Rejoice* arr. Held

Elements of this service may be taken or adapted from Adapted from a prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org. or UMC Discipleship.org. 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

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 December 26, 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 First Sunday after Christmas on the Christian calendar. Christmas is a season of praise and thanksgiving for the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ, which begins with Christmas Eve or Day and continues through the Day of Epiphany. The liturgical colors are white and gold.

Thanks to all those making special contributions to our worship service today: *Rev. Paul Hibbard*, Liturgist and Reader; *Meg Temple*, Greeter and Usher; *Rebecca Hibbard*, *Morgan* and *Venetia Phillippe*, and the *WUMC Choir*, Singers; *Theron Kissinger*, Audio Visual Technician.

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