



WOODBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4 Church Street
Woodbury, CT 06798

Website: www.woodburyumc.net

Office: (203) 263-4775 • Fax: (203) 263-5867

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Rev. John A. Thomason, Pastor

Woodbury United Methodist Messenger

Wednesday, November 25, 2020



Let's Pray Together on Thanksgiving Day at 10:00 AM

Pastor John will lead us in a brief time of meditation and prayer on the special day we set aside to thank God for God's care and provision for our lives. The prayer time will be posted on the church's website, <http://www.woodburyumc.net>, on Thursday, November 26, at 10 AM. You are encouraged to tune in at that time as an act of congregational unity and connection. The prayer time will also be recorded and archived for later viewing. Thanks to SPRC chair *Mike Boisseau* for suggesting this idea and to *Theron Kissinger* for recording and posting the telecast.

Please Join Us for Sunday Worship In-Person or Online

Our tech experts are still working to return us to livestreaming, which will enable all of us to worship at the same time (10:30 AM), whether in-person or at home. **Please note: our goal is to be livestreaming to the whole congregation by Sunday, December 6.** In the meantime, the services will continue to be recorded for broadcast on Sunday afternoons.

The options for accessing services electronically remain the same:

- **Video** (starting at 4:00 PM): Go to <http://www.woodburyumc.net> and click the worship service link at the top of the home page.
- **Audio playback only** (6:00 PM): dial 701-802-5464, enter pin with hash sign 659965#. Please mute your phones to eliminate background noise.
- **Archived worship services** may also be accessed from the main pull-down menu of the church website.

Advent, 2020

Advent marks the beginning of the new Christian Year. It is a season of four weeks including four Sundays. The term *Advent* comes from the Latin *adventus*, which means "coming." The season proclaims the comings of the Christ – whose birth we prepare to celebrate once again, who comes continually in Word and Spirit, and whose return in final victory we anticipate.

The liturgical color for Advent is blue, representing hope. The visuals in our sanctuary will include an Advent wreath featuring an outer circle of three blue candles and one pink candle (signifying joy), and a central white Christ candle which is illuminated on Christmas Eve. This year, our four Confirmands – *Matthew Shupenis, James Levario, Cody Cordova, and Zachary Cordova*, will light one of the outer wreath candles on each Sunday of Advent.

November 29: First Sunday of Advent

United Methodist Student Day

Advent Candle Theme: *HOPE*

Pastor's Sermon: *Where in the World Is God?*

**Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 64:1-9; Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9; Mark 13:24-37**

Liturgist: Garrett Walkup Advent Candle Lighter: Matthew Shupenis

Singers: Sarah Kate and Grace Walkup

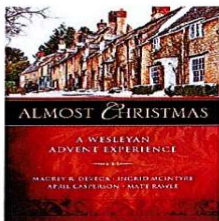
Children's Time: *Come to the Manger: Hope for Advent*, from SkitGuys

**Led by Bradyn Boisseau, Rowan Hope Boisseau
Mary Grace Styblo, Lydia Hope Temple**

United Methodist Student Day is observed annually on the Sunday after Thanksgiving. This day calls the Church to support students as they prepare for life uniting faith and knowledge. The special offering supports scholarships and loans for United Methodist college, university, and graduate students. An offering envelope will be inserted into Sunday's worship bulletin.

Advent Bible Study Fellowship for Adults

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL AND STUDY



Why not experience a little John Wesley this Advent season?

In *Almost Christmas*, author and pastor Magrey deVega encourages people to follow Christ wholeheartedly during Advent, connecting the Wesleyan heritage with traditional Advent themes of...

Love, Hope, Joy, Peace!

This 4-week Advent Study & Fellowship will be held on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 – 8PM beginning December 1st. You will be able to participate online or in person (in Fellowship Hall).

Almost Christmas Advent Devotionals will also be available as an additional resource for individuals and families.

Books will be available through the church office:

Study Book - \$11

Devotional Book - \$9

Inspirational Advent Fellowship – *priceless*

For additional information contact:

WUMC church office (203-263-4775); or,

Bud Behlman (203-206-9276; budbehlman@charter.net)

Stewardship Opportunities

Our members have received a mailing from Pastor John about a different kind of stewardship emphasis during this very different kind of year. A commitment card was enclosed requesting an indication of your financial support for WUMC during the upcoming year (regular pledge, special giving to pay down the church's mortgage, and giving to the COVID-19 Support Fund), as well as an invitation to participate in the new **Helping Hands** ministry to our community. Your prompt response would be very helpful. Please mail your card to the church office if you are unable to attend in-person worship. Thank you in advance for your spirit of generosity and service.



Helping Hands Service Corps.

Vision Statement:

Create an extended network of community volunteers for helping those with critical near-term needs, but without sufficient local 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

Please Contact: Mark Davis at mwd2010a@yahoo.com



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!

Children & Youth Ministry

@ HOME RESOURCES for continued Christian Education

- <https://www.cokesburykids.com/free-resources>
- <https://www.nyac.com/childrensministries>
- Scripture Reading: Mark 13:24-47 Jesus is Coming
- Family Craft: Thanksgiving Blessings & Gratitude. WUMC families of teens and children are invited to make a Tree of Gratitude together. See directions at <https://www.bhg.com/thanksgiving/crafts/thanksgiving-gratitude-tree-display/>

Children & Youth Ministry Programming

- **Sunday, 11/29: No Virtual Confirmation Class**
- Advent in a bag Sunday school series begins Sunday 11/29; if you did not RSVP for the four Advent bags, there are additional bags you are welcome to pick up in the office. Please watch Meg's Sunday school video on Facebook and then have fun with your family with the activities in the bag for the assigned week.
- **Outdoor activities for the Children, Youth & Their Families** to enjoy time together as a "Community of Faith"
 - **Hike Save the Date: [Sunday, November 29 @ Noon](#)** – WUMC's Next Children, Youth & Family

Thankful Prayer

Father, Father up above

Thank you, thank you for your love

Thank you, for my parents and my teachers too

I can see and I know these came from you

Father, Father up above

Thank you, thank you for your love

Thank you for my meals and my warm bed too

I can see and I know these came from you

Father, Father up above

Thank you, thank you for your love

Thank you, for my friends old and new

I can see and I know these came from you

Thank you Father

For your gifts to me

Amen



Hike: Location: Southford Falls -**All are welcome** – Children under 6th grade must be accompanied by a parent or adult caregiver.

Please contact Catherine Mason if you will attend at Catherine.mason02@outlook.com or [203-707-6571](tel:203-707-6571) cell/text.

Kudo Korner

Thanks to *Levi Phillippe* and *Theron Kissinger*, who are devoting many hours during Thanksgiving week to install new equipment designed to improve the livestreaming of our worship services.

Ongoing thanks to health care workers and other frontliners during the COVID-19 pandemic. It was a joy to have one of those frontliners, *Abbie Davis*, worshiping with us last Sunday. Abbie is a senior nursing student at UConn-Storrs. She works as a CMT at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford and also volunteers as an EMT with emergency units in Oxford and Manchester.

Thanks to last Sunday's worship leaders: *Kate Keeler*, liturgist; *Matt Bodwell*, *Rod Carnes*, and *Kate Keeler*, musicians/singers; *Rod Carnes*, Children's Time

The Prayer Corner:

Please remember our Confirmands: *Cody Cordova*, *Zachary Cordova*, *James Levario*, *Matthew Shupenis*; their adult leaders: *Catherine Mason*, *Meg Temple*, *John Thomason*; and their mentors: *Mike Boisseau*, *Mollie Cole*, *Rev. Paul Hibbard*, *Carolyn Shay*.

Home from the hospital: *Gary McClendon* (hip surgery on November 19 at St. Francis, Hartford)

Upcoming chemotherapy and surgery: *Mary Wilkins*, sister of *Barb Hunt* (Rochester, NY)

Please continue to remember relatives of *Rev. Betty Lines* who are seriously ill: niece *Sharon Parish* (hospice care in Idaho); and brother-in-law *Stephen Lines* (recovering from a stroke in Florida).

Recovering at home: *Ally Roche*; *Steve Thomas*; *Carol Hennessey*; *Paige LeBlanc*, mother of *Jessie Lynch* (Manchester, CT); *Dominic Vaiuso*, father of *Karen Williams* (Newtown); *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).

Outpatient treatments: *Jackie and John Fleming*; *Dave Davison*, father-in-law of *Gary McClendon*; *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), *Manny Gesh*, *Jane True*, *Blair Feller*, *Marilyn Bender*, *Ryan DeRidder and family*, *Laura & Stuart Brush*, *Janet Grant* (sister of *Betty Lines*).



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.

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.** 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. This is also important to keep track of any of our college students as well!!!

It's Time to order your Poinsettias for the Christmas Holiday
Monday, December 7th is deadline to order



Each Christmas season, our sanctuary is beautifully decorated with holiday trimmings and poinsettias. As the season approaches, we are now taking orders for the poinsettias, which may be in honor of, in celebration of, or in memory of one or more loved ones. A list of acknowledgments will be printed in the church bulletin on Sunday, December 20 and Christmas Eve.

Poinsettias are \$12.00 each. We encourage you to take your flower(s) home with you after the service on Christmas Eve.

You may order your flower(s) by filling out the form below, and placing it in the collection plate, or returning it to the church office accompanied by a check or cash for total amount (a folder marked Poinsettias Orders is available on the office mail station). All checks should be made out to **Woodbury United Methodist Church.** ***All orders must be placed no later than Monday, DECEMBER 7TH.***

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

In honor/celebration/memory of:

(If more space is required, please attach a separate piece of paper)

_____ Red poinsettia _____ Quantity
 _____ White poinsettia _____ Quantity



Please be sure to list all the necessary information so follow-up calls do not have to be made. Thanks!

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.

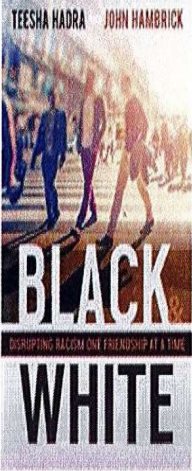
Love is Spoken Here!

News from NYAC:

Laity Celebration - Postponed

TEESHA HADRA JOHN HAMBRICK

Our Laity Celebration has been postponed until Saturday, January 16, 2021
10AM - 2PM



We will be studying the book *Black & White: Disrupting Racism One Friendship at a Time*, by Teesha Hadra & John Hambrick. We no longer have copies available at the Conference Center for purchase, but you may order a copy from one of these vendors: Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Christianbook.com, etc.

You may [register here](#). Note: because this will be a virtual event, there will be no registration fee.

If you have questions, you may contact Roena Littlejohn at 203-331-9653 or Roena.Littlejohn@nyac-umc.com.

You will receive a link to join the meeting a few days prior to the event.

"And over all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity."

Colossians 3:14 (CEB)

***Don't miss Bishop Thomas Bickerton's
address to the Laity at this special event!***

The Community Services Council of Woodbury



Santa's Workshop



needs your help to provide a fun holiday for the
children of local families in need
(Ages birth to 18 years)

**The following donations are requested for the
2020 Holiday Season....**



Stocking Stuffers

*Example: Small Toys & Games, Beauty & School Supplies,
Small Stuffed Animals, Action Figures, Cards,
Items that will fit into a stocking*



Warm winter clothing accessories (new)



Example: Mittens, Gloves, Socks and Hats

Wrapping Paper (sealed)

*Please note, for donations of larger gifts please visit New Morning Market
& the Woodbury Public Library where "Giving Trees" are displayed.*

Questions
203-510-9905

Caring for Bethlehem
Share Some Holiday Joy

Holiday Gift Tree

at True Value of Bethlehem

November 1 to December 12

**Join Caring for Bethlehem to
Provide a Gift for a Child this Holiday Season!**

1. Pick a card from the Gift Tree at True Value.
2. Purchase the gift.
3. Deliver the gift with the card attached to True Value.
4. Your gift will be delivered to a family in time for the holidays.

And Share the Joy!

Your gift will bring smiles this season.

Caring for Bethlehem

PO Box 5, Bethlehem, CT 06751

www.CFBethlehem.org

Friends@CFBethlehem.org