



WOODBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4 Church Street
Woodbury, CT 06798

Website: www.woodburyumc.net

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

Email: www.woodburyumc.net



Rev. John A. Thomason, Pastor

Woodbury United Methodist Messenger

Wednesday, November 5, 2020



Please Join Us for Worship In-Person or Online

PLEASE NOTE: We encountered technical difficulties attempting to livestream the service last Sunday, so we returned to our default mode of recording the service for later playback. We hope all of you were able to access the service on the website on Sunday afternoon.

Our tech experts are still working to improve the livestreaming process so that all worshipers have the opportunity to worship together at the same time, whether they are present in the sanctuary or watching at home. In the meantime, you may access the services electronically in three ways:

- **Video** (starting at 4 PM on Sunday): 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 on Sunday): 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.

November 8: 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor's Sermon: *Living with Loss*

Lectionary Readings: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; Psalm 78:1-7;

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 25:1-13

Liturgist: *Venetia Phillippe*

Singers: *Venetia and Morgan Phillippe*

Children's Time: *Morgan Phillippe*

2020 Church Conference Highlights

PLEASE NOTE: Booklets containing all reports from the Church Conference are available upon request from the church office. Special thanks to *Kathy Craig* for compiling the materials and assembling the attractive booklets.

Thanks to all those who participated in WUMC's yearly **Church Conference** on Friday, October 28. A draft budget for 2021 was approved, along with a tentative slate of lay officers, ministry teams, and committees for the coming year. Three new Trustees were elected: *Alan Rego* (class of 2021), and *Lynn Cullen* and *Venetia Phillippe* (Class of 2023).

The Nominations Committee will continue to seek willing servants for key leadership positions, including Church Council Secretary and Membership Secretary. Additional members are especially needed on the Open Doors Ministry Team and the Staff-Parish Relations Committee. If you feel called to a particular ministry, please contact Pastor John or any member of the Nominations Committee: *Paul Beavers, Sr., Mark Davis, Rae Ann Hockenberry, Pat McWhirt*.

Confirmation Classes Begin Special Thanks to Mentors

Four WUMC youth – *Cody Cordova, Zachary Cordova, James Levario, and Matthew Shupenis* – participated in their first Confirmation class last Sunday, November 1. The classes are being conducted through Zoom and will extend for seven months. Confirmands are also completing weekly online assignments using Google Classroom.

A special welcome and thanks to the adult mentors who will be companions to the Confirmands on their spiritual journey: *Rev. Paul Hibbard* (mentoring Cody Cordova); *Carolyn Shay* (mentoring Zachary Cordova); *Mollie Cole* (mentoring James Levario); and *Michael Boisseau* (mentoring Matthew Shupenis).

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 !WUMC2020

Please contact *Bud Behlman* with any questions at 203-206-9276 or budbehlman@charter.net.

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!

Another Opportunity to Provide Support

My name is *Robert Jenusaitis* and I am *Joann King's* brother. I will be moving to the Woodbury/Waterbury area in the next few months and I'm looking for a room/apartment in exchange for work. I'm presently working for AARP as an associate for Salvation Army. In the past, I have done caregiving for the elderly and for people with special needs. I have also been a public school teacher for 13 years from 1988-2001. I have also been studying and practicing various kinds of wellness modalities for 25 years. I'm more than able to do yard work and I'm very decent cook.

I consider myself to be conscientious and respectful and I will present references upon request. I thank you for taking time to consider my request. Please contact me via my cell phone or email--360-821-9149hopelovenow@yahoo.com

A Message from the Prayer Ministry Team

While driving the other day, I couldn't help but be awed by the beauty of the changing leaves in Autumn. I thought about the seasons of our life -- infancy, childhood, youth, young adult, middle age and old age. There are other seasons too, ones of great joy or expectation, ones of anxiety, illness, sadness and loss.

The Bible tells us that through all of these times, we should "*Pray without ceasing.*"

WUMC has a very dedicated and active prayer ministry. We are praying for you, our members, for others we know and love as well as for people whose prayer requests have been shared with us, but whom we have never met. There are currently nine "prayer warriors" on our prayer team and as we receive prayer requests, we share them through emails and then we meet once a month in person to pray together and review all the prayer concerns we have received. The requests shared with us are CONFIDENTIAL and unless otherwise directed, are just kept among our group.

Christ instructs us to "bear one another's burdens," and I personally feel it is a blessing and a humble privilege to pray and to have this wonderful communication with our Lord!

I think that many of us have personally experienced the mystery and power and comfort of prayer and have felt a peace and support during difficult times.

There are prayer cards as you enter the church which can be placed in a special box there, or you can reach any one of us by email with a request. Pastor John, Rynn Naylor and I can also be reached by phone or text message. Our prayer team members are:

<i>Pastor John</i> – email at:	johnthomason1948@yahoo.com	phone:	845-707-5152
<i>Carolyn Shay</i> – email at:	1jerseygirl52@gmail.com	phone:	203-518-3177
<i>Rynn Naylor</i> – email at:	twerpiewicket@yahoo.com	phone:	860-417-9808

RaeAnn Hockenberry, Sherry Swanhall, Pat Kurtz, Martha Varnum, Diane Hibbard, and Mark Davis.

So, we welcome you to share your joys and concerns and to pray with us to our Lord and Savior, who hears all our prayers!

Carolyn Shay



A Message from the Mission & Outreach Ministry

FOOD BANK REQUESTS: The needs of the Woodbury Food Bank are never ending and continue to be high given the uncertainties of living in a time of a pandemic. Please considering bringing a donation to the church on Sundays if you are attending in person or drop in the cooler on the office porch during the week. Also, Paul Hibbard is willing to pick up donations at your home if that works better for you. You can call Paul at 203-405-1005 or email at paulgyl@aol.com.

Please consider donating from the list below:

Special holiday needs: Stuffing (bagged & "stove-top") • Canned & boxed potatoes (plain & flavored) • Canned yams • Gravy (jarred & canned • Brownie mixes • Cake mixes • Frosting Quick bread mixes • Baking chips (milk chocolate, semi-sweet chocolate, butterscotch) • Cookie mixes

Special general need: Soups, especially chowders, minestrone, vegetarian, pea, lentil, pasta & bean, Italian wedding soup, chicken combo and beef combo soups

Year-round general needs:

Juice bottles & juice boxes, canned chili, canned beef stew, canned chicken, canned hash, cereals & oatmeal, pancake/waffle mix & syrup, jams & jellies, paper towels, toilet paper, napkins & facial tissues

Thank you for your continuing support for our neighbors through the work of the Food Bank.

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> N

NOTE: Children & Youth Ministry Programming has resumed with a virtual Confirmation Class and active outdoor activities for the Children, Youth & Their Families so that we may enjoy time together as a "Community of Faith". Please see the notices below for Children & Youth Events as well as an upcoming Church wide event.

Confirmation: We are pleased to announce that a confirmation class will begin this Sunday, November 1. Please keep our confirmands in your prayers as they continue toward this milestone on their faith journeys.

Children & Youth Group Hike: Please join us for our next youth group hike on Sunday, November 8, just following the service (approximately between 11:45 a.m. and noon) at Whittemore Sanctuary off of Rt. 64. The hike will be led again by *Mark Davis*. All are welcome – Children under 6th grade must be accompanied by a parent or adult caregiver. RSVP to *Catherine Mason* or *Meg Temple* by Saturday, November 7 to attend.

Fall Clean Up & WUMC Harvest Festival: Youth and confirmands are encouraged to participate in the WUMC Annual Fall Clean Up on Saturday, November 14 at 9 a.m. Youth are also encouraged to bring canned goods at that time for a Thanksgiving collection for the Woodbury Food Bank. Bring a rake, shovel or gloves and your enthusiasm! After the clean-up there will be a brief Harvest Celebration of worship and praise led by Pastor John.

Annual Fall Clean-Up Time at
WUMC



Fall Clean Up
Saturday, November 14th

All members welcome

- Come for one or both fellowship opportunities
- Outdoors; masks and social distancing required

Fall Clean-Up – 9am to noon

- Many hands make light work
- Youth earn community service hours for school

Fall Harvest Celebration – 12-1pm

- Bring donations for Woodbury Foodbank
- Pastor John will preside over a brief service of Thanksgiving
- Donations may also be brought on Sunday

Fall Harvest Celebration

Mark your calendar - Saturday, November 14, 2020. Members of the Board of Trustees and anyone who would like to volunteer to participate in the **Fall Clean-Up Day** should plan on being at the church for a 9 AM start – until finished.

Leaves will be raked, windows will be washed and a variety of other necessities will be wrapped up for the winter months to follow. If anyone would like to help out, please bring your rakes, shovels, gloves and lots of energy. Come on down and see *Theron* for your clean-up assignment.

Clean-up volunteers will pause at **12 noon** and be joined by others from the church family for a **Fall Harvest Celebration**. Our members are encouraged to bring donations to the Woodbury Food Bank for dedication during a brief Service of Thanksgiving. Food donations may also be brought to the church on Sundays.

Stay tuned for further details about needed items for the Food Bank and our time of worship and fellowship.

Special Thanks to *Mary Grace Styblo* for our Fall Clean-Up & Fall Harvest Celebration Flyer.

Kudo Korner

Thanks to *Rynn Naylor* for her faithful preparation of the elements on Communion Sundays.

Thanks to last Sunday's worship leaders: *Rynn Naylor*, liturgist; *Vinita Chapman*, singer.

The Prayer Corner:

Please remember our Confirmands: *Cody Cordova, Zachary Cordova, James Levario, Matthew Shupenis*; their adult leaders: *Catherine Mason, Meg Temple, Pastor John Thomason*; and their mentors.

Home from the hospital: *Lawrence Rockhill*, father-in-law of *Linda Rockhill*.

Recovering from surgery: *Gary McClendon* (eye procedure on November 3).

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

Please continue to remember other 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).

Inpatient rehabilitation: *Angelina Vaiuso*, mother of *Karen Williams* (Bethel Health Care Center, Bethel)

Recovering at home: *Ally Roche; Steve Thomas; 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 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!!!

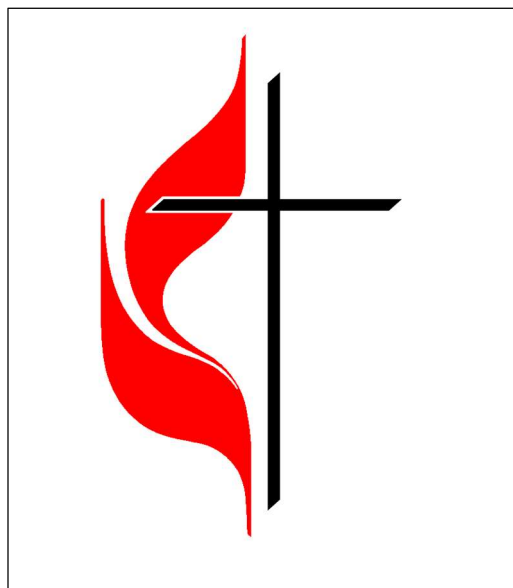
Mission Statement of the Woodbury United Methodist Church

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 the Connecticut District

Dear Friends,

The DS would like to bring your attention to the invitation below from Roena Littlejohn, Conference Lay Leader.

October 9, 2020

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who is first and foremost in my life. Please share this important announcement with your congregation.

ANNUAL LAITY CELEBRATION



**Rev. Alpher Sylvester,
Superintendent**

Connecticut District
20 Broadfield Road
Hamden, CT 06517
Phone: (914) 615-2227
CTdistrict@nyac-umc.com
Web site:
www.CTDistrictUMC.org

Saturday, November 14, 2020

Time of this virtual event 10:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.

New York Conference of
The United Methodist
Church

Study Book

We will be studying the book *Black & White: Disrupting Racism One Friendship at a Time*, by Teesha Hadra & John Hambrick. We have a limited number of copies available at the Conference Center for purchase, on a first-requested, first-mailed basis.

If you choose to purchase your own copy of the book (from Amazon, Cokesbury, Barnes & Noble, etc.), there will be no charge for the Laity Celebration.

If you wish to purchase a copy from NYAC and have it mailed to you, your cost will be \$15. **HURRY, ONLINE REGISTRATION BEGINS October 9, 2020!**

In the service of the Lord,
Roena Littlejohn, Chair: Board of Laity
203-331-9653

In Connecticut, After God, We Put People First!