



WOODBURY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

4 Church Street
Woodbury, CT 06798

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Rev. John A. Thomason, Pastor

Woodbury United Methodist Messenger

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Livestreaming Is Under Way!

Our first attempt since last spring to provide a livestreamed worship service was a success last Sunday. Livestreaming provides an opportunity for all of us to experience worship at the same time (10:30 AM), at home as well as in-person. Worshipers at home may join us by video on YouTube or audio-only by telephone broadcast. Video recordings of services will also be available for later viewing. Later phone broadcasts will no longer be 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#. Note that these numbers have changed from what was previously used. Please mute your phones to eliminate background noise.

December 13: Third Sunday of Advent



Advent Candle Theme: *JOY*

Pastor’s Sermon: *Rejoice Always*

**Lectionary Readings: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11; Psalm 126;
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28**

Liturgist: Levi Phillippe Advent Candle Lighter: Cody Cordova

Musicians: Matt Bodwell, Kate Keeler, Venetia Phillippe

Children’s Time: *Come to the Manger: Joy for Advent*, from SkitGuys

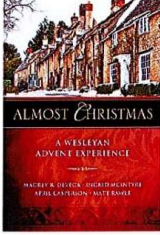
Led by Annabelle, Caroline & Jackson Cloud, Liam McGrath

IMPORTANT DATE

Advent Prayer Vigil: WUMC'S Prayer Ministry Team will host a time of meditation and prayer on Thursday, December 17, from 7:00 – 7:45 PM in the sanctuary. Readings and prayers appropriate to the Advent season will be provided for silent reflection. You are invited to afford yourself this opportunity to pray for our world, nation, and community, as well as your friends, family, and church. The usual safety protocols will be observed.

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)

Advent Study Zoom Meeting Link and other information is listed at the top of the church website for your convenience.

Visit: www.woodburyumc.net

Study Guides and Devotionals are still available at the church.

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.

Flower Opportunities

There is an opportunity for someone to decorate our altar area with flowers in the name of a loved one for **Sunday, December 27th** and on into the New Year. Our new floral chart is here and you can reserve a date by emailing or calling the office. The cost is \$30 and can be paid on line, dropped in the Sunday offering plate or a check can be mailed into the office. Please contact Kathy if you are interested in a particular date for your offering.



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: John 1:6-8, 19-28 John the Baptist Denies Being the Messiah

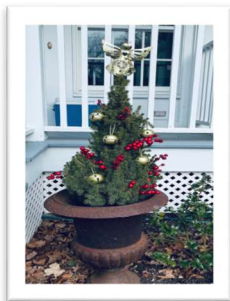
Children & Youth Ministry Programming

- Sunday, 12/13 Confirmation Class [at 6:30 pm](#).
- If you haven't already done so, feel free to pick up the **Advent-in-a-Bag** Sunday School series bags in the church office. Before you open bag three on Sunday, watch Meg's Sunday School video on the WUMC Facebook page on the theme of JOY. Don't forget to light the third pink candle of your own Advent wreath. Enjoy the crafts and items in the bag. If you finished the picture of PEACE, don't forget to send Meg a picture of it!

Kudo Korner

Thanks to *Theron Kissinger* and *Levi Phillippe* for their persistent efforts to provide worshipers with a quality livestreaming experience. The results are outstanding and deeply appreciated.

Thanks to *Lynn Cullen* for her donation of the little Christmas tree outside our office door and to *Venetia Phillippee* and *Theron Kissinger* for decorating the outside of the church on Main Street. We certainly stand out in a beautiful, peaceful way!



Ongoing thanks to our church's COVID Recovery Team, which continues to meet weekly to review the status of the pandemic and fine-tune our protocols for gathering in-person. Members of the team are: *Mark Davis*, chair; *Bud Behlman*, *Chris Shay*, *Rev. Paul Hibbard*, *Rae Ann Hockenberry*, *Catherine Mason*, *Venetia Phillippe*, *Meg Temple*, and *Pastor John Thomason*.

Thanks to last Sunday's worship leaders: *Rynn Naylor*, liturgist; *James Levario*, Advent candle lighter; *Carolyn Shay*, singer; *Tesu Beavers*, *Jack Lynch*, *Joey Lynch*, and *Ruby Lynch*, Children's Time.

The Prayer Corner:

Please remember persons in our church family who have tested positive for COVID-19 and are recovering at home: *Abby Cloud; Toby, Ed, and Liam McGrath; Grace Bower Richardson.*

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.*

Outpatient tests: *Bob Asman, Dave Brencher*

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

Recovering at home: *Gary McClendon; 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); 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: *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, Donna Louise Burke, friend 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!